

Vital Signs®

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how our community is doing with a focus on a specific topic. This year we are looking at belonging and social isolation and the communities that are at risk.

Community foundations across Canada and internationally are reporting on how their communities are doing and how Canada is doing overall.

WHO ARE WE?

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) is the fourth-largest community foundation in Canada. ECF helps stimulate change and community growth by supporting donors and granting in the following areas: community and social services; arts, culture and heritage; health and wellness; education and learning; environment; recreation and leisure; and social enterprise.

Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan, social research organization. Established in 1940, ESPC conducts research and analysis into a wide range of topics, particularly in the areas of low income and poverty. The council's publications and reports provide the public and government with current and accurate information to support informed decision-making.

BELONGING

- is important to the mosaic of Edmonton.
- is personal involvement in a system or environment in which a person feels an integral part of that system or environment.

When we feel we belong, research shows:

We are healthier:

Belonging to social groups and networks is as important to our health as diet and exercise. People with strong support networks tend to have a lower prevalence of mental illness and better overall physical health.

Sustained employment improves:

Extensive support networks provide better opportunities for sustained and secure employment.

Social inclusion improves:

Belonging is a common indicator of how well someone has integrated into society, and helps build social cohesion within a country.

Neighbourhoods are safer:

As connectedness among people in communities increases, so does neighbourhood safety and a sense of community pride.

Life has more purpose:

When people have a stronger sense of belonging, they perceive life to be more meaningful.

Contributions of time and money increase:

People who feel they belong are more likely to volunteer, donate to the community, and be involved in community governance.

Children learn better:

Belonging is a key element for early childhood education across Canada.

Culture and identity flourish:

Indigenous communities that have maintained their culture and self-governance feel more community continuity and individual identity.

Public health improves:

When more people feel connected to others in their community, individuals report higher levels of positive mental health and seek out health services they need when they need them.

Participation in society increases:

Belonging to a community, region or country influences identity and the extent to which citizens participate in society.

Communities bounce back after emergencies:

Communities in which there are many social connections are more resilient during emergency events.

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VITAL DEFINITIONS

VITAL Information:

COMMUNITY: A group of people with diverse characteristics who are linked by social ties, share common perspectives, and engage in joint action in geographical locations or settings.

INCLUSION: The process of improving participation in society for people who are disadvantaged, through enhanced opportunities, access to resources, voice, and respect for rights.

SOCIAL ISOLATION: A low quantity and quality of contact with others, including number of contacts, feeling of belonging, fulfilling relationships, engagement with others, and quality of network members.

LONELINESS: A subjective feeling of being alone, disconnected, or alienated from people, places, and things.



In a 2017 Leger poll:

62% of Edmontonians feel that they can have the company of others when they want it most of the time or always, while **41%** of Edmontonians feel that they are a part of a group or community most of the time or always.

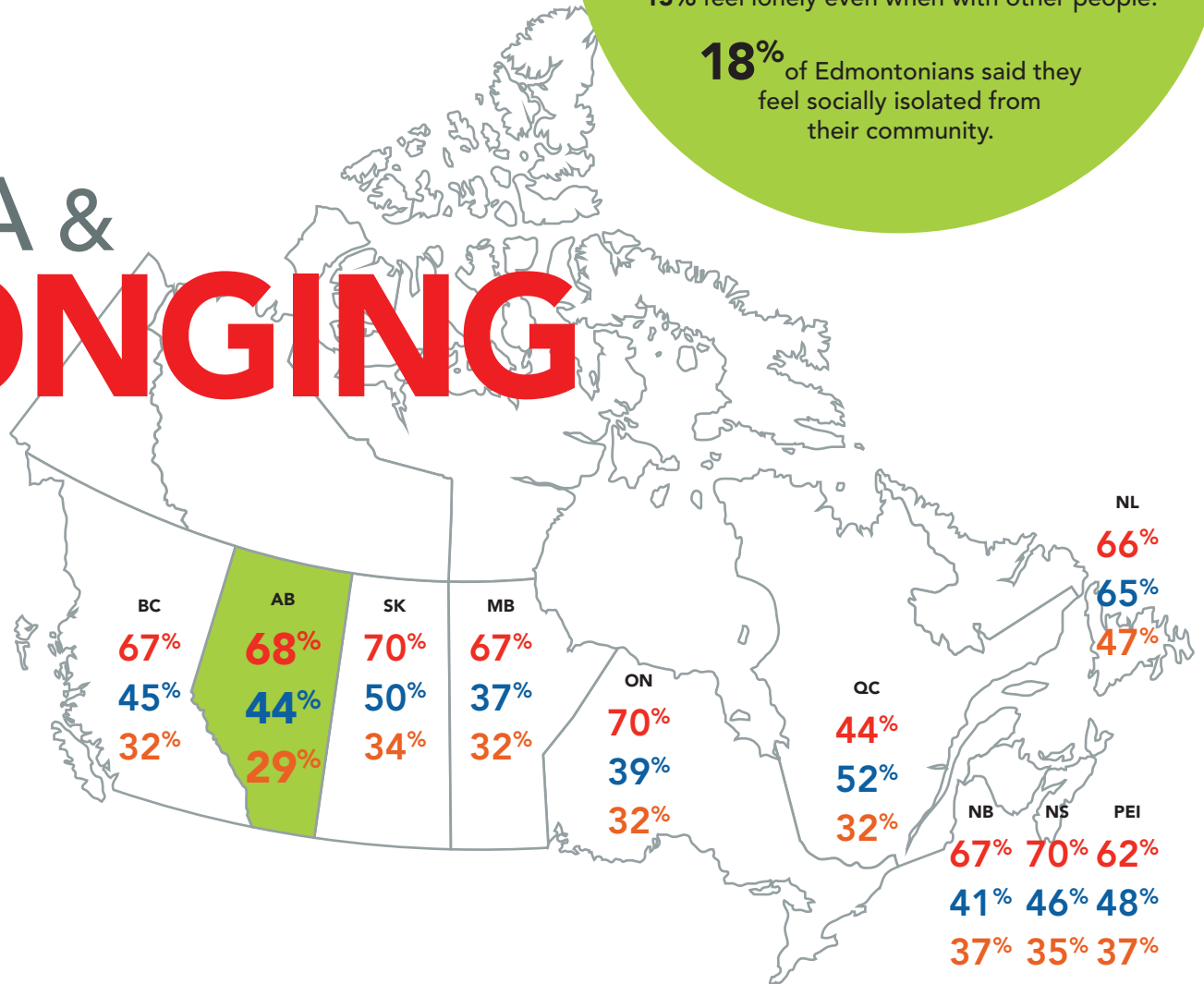
15% of Edmontonians said that most of the time they feel that they are not close to anyone and **13%** feel lonely even when with other people.

18% of Edmontonians said they feel socially isolated from their community.

CANADA & BELONGING

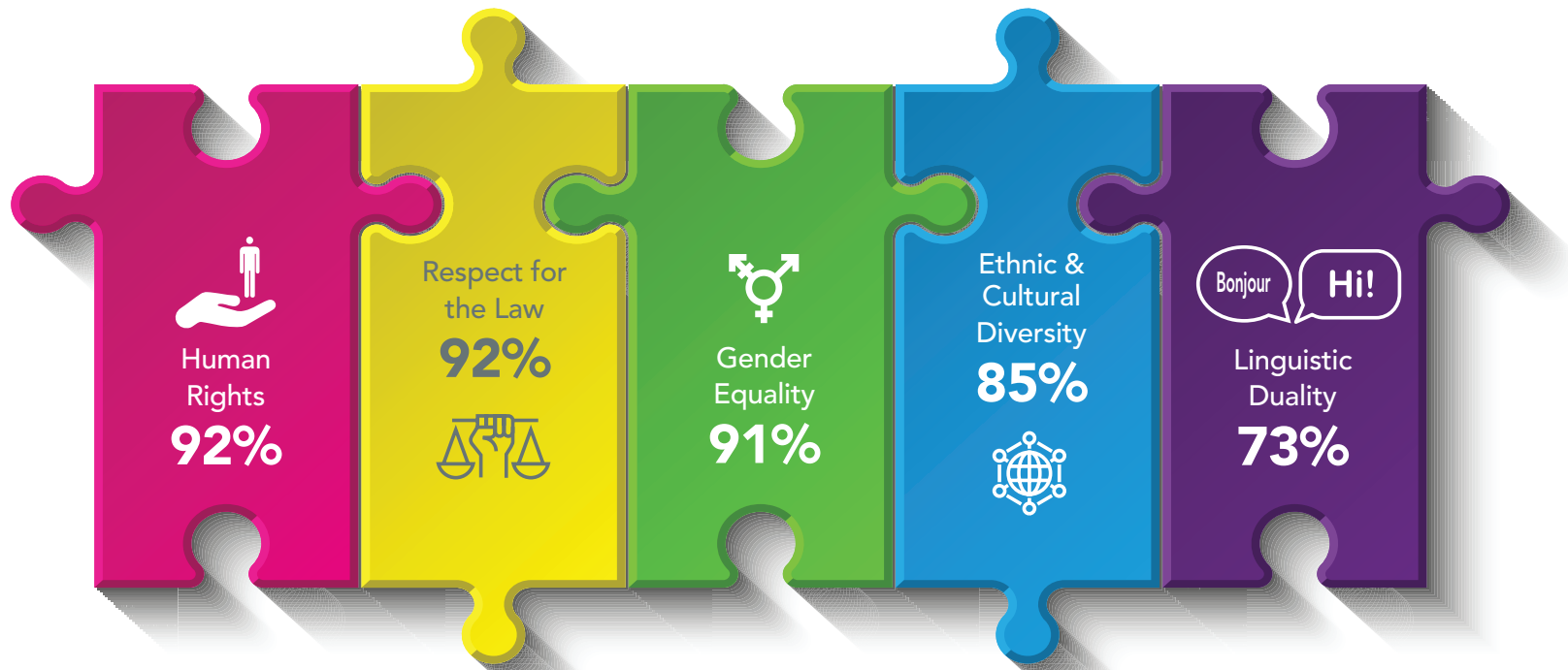
SENSE OF BELONGING TO:

-  CANADA
-  PROVINCE OF RESIDENCE
-  COMMUNITY



SHARED CANADIAN VALUES

Shared values are basic components of identity that help express a nation's character. In 2013, the overwhelming majority of people believed that Canadians collectively share the values of:



CANADIAN PRIDE

87% were proud to call themselves Canadian

61% said they were very proud



It has been said that national pride is the emotional or sentimental dimension of a country's identity. In general, feelings of national pride have been linked to allegiance and dedication toward one's own country.



Overall, Canadians reported a high sense of pride.

(The analysis of pride in being Canadian excludes respondents who said they were not Canadian citizens.)

Unless otherwise stated, "Edmonton" refers to Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA). The Edmonton CMA includes the City of Edmonton, the City of St. Albert, Parkland County, Strathcona County (including the Hamlet of Sherwood Park), Sturgeon County, Leduc County, and all incorporated urban centres and First Nations located within the boundaries of those counties.

EDMONTON AS A WELCOMING PLACE REDUCING SOCIAL ISOLATION

ECF VITAL Work

The **Edmonton Artists' Trust Fund (EATF)** is a joint project of the Edmonton Arts Council and Edmonton Community Foundation and is designed to invest in Edmonton's creative community and to encourage artists to stay in the community. The funds are intended to offset living and working expenses, allowing the artists to devote a concentrated period of time to their artistic activities, career enhancement and/or development. This year, with funds from the Eldon & Anne Foote Fund for Excellence, awards were doubled.

ARTS & CULTURE

In a 2016 Culture and Tourism Survey of Albertans:

85.3% OF ALBERTANS FEEL THAT THE ARTS ARE IMPORTANT IN THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THEIR COMMUNITY'S QUALITY OF LIFE.

81.5% OF ALBERTANS BELIEVE THAT IT IS IMPORTANT FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO CONTINUE FUNDING THE ARTS.

FESTIVALS

Festivals can enhance an individual's sense of belonging by encouraging the development and celebration of diverse identities.

According to "todoCanada," there are more than 100 festivals hosted in Edmonton on a yearly basis. Basically, there is something for everyone.



IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

78% of Edmontonians agree that Edmonton is a city that values the arts.

EDMONTON PRIDE FESTIVAL

Edmonton's Pride Festival celebrates gender and sexual diversity with an annual parade and festival and year-round community outreach.

- more than 50,000 attendees and 357 volunteers, featuring 24 events, 98 parade entries, and showcasing 69 nonprofit organizations (2016).

EDMONTON FOLK MUSIC FESTIVAL

Edmonton Folk Music Festival is a four-day festival run for the past 37 years.

- consistently sold out of tickets the last 26 festivals. The festival has 2,700 volunteers (2016).

THE EDMONTON HERITAGE FESTIVAL

The Edmonton Heritage Festival is a three-day event to sample delicious food, see creative performances, and experience world cultures.

- 71 pavilions, representing 100 unique cultures, and featuring 25 separate stages (2016).

EDMONTON FRINGE FESTIVAL

The Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival has become the largest fringe theatre festival in North America.

- 850,000 attendees, more than 1,000 volunteers and 1,600 local and international artists (2016).

EAC FESTIVAL SEED

The Edmonton Arts Council supported 39 festivals in 2016 with funds totalling \$1,591,200 including seven new and emerging festivals funded through Festival Seed grants:

Edmonton Clown Festival:	\$5,000
Edmonton Latin Festival:	\$13,000
Edmonton Short Film Festival:	\$6,000
India Film Festival of Alberta:	\$4,800
Sand on Whyte:	\$5,300
Ukrainian Traditional Wedding Festival:	\$4,000
Yule Ave: A Merry Christmas Festival:	\$3,000

SPORT

Being part of a group physical activity is an excellent way to foster a sense of belonging.

91.4% of Albertans surveyed feel that organized sport is important to the quality of life in their community.

23.3% of Albertans have participated in an organized sport in the past year.

The most popular sports are:
Hockey (24.9%),
Soccer (21.5%),
Volleyball (13.3%)



THE LEISURE ACCESS PROGRAM (LAP) is a program granting low income citizens access to various sport, recreation, and leisure centres across the city.

2011 **363,723** 2016 **698,870**

IN THE SAME TIME PERIOD, OVERALL VISITS TO EDMONTON'S LEISURE CENTRES GREW FROM 3.3 MILLION TO 5.8 MILLION.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

83% of Edmontonians agree there are adequate opportunities for sports and/or recreation in Edmonton.



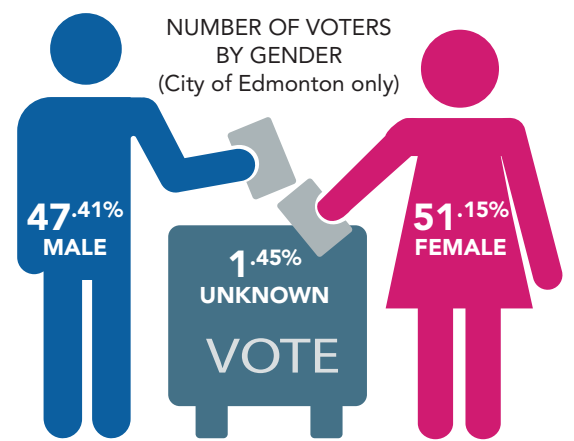
POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

Voting is a sign of being connected to the community.

MUNICIPAL VOTER TURNOUT (City of Edmonton)
2010 **33.4%** 2013 **34.5%**

PROVINCIAL VOTER TURNOUT (City of Edmonton)
2012 **54.37%** 2015 **57.02%**

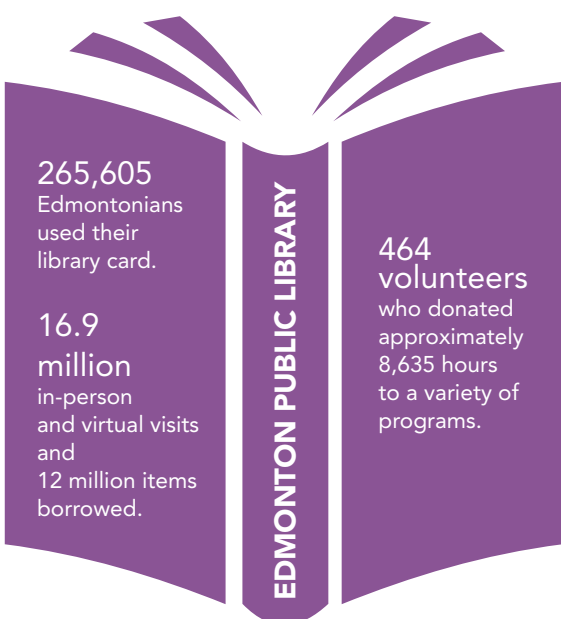
GENDER PROFILE OF VOTERS FOR 2015 ALBERTA ELECTION



AGE PROFILE OF VOTERS FOR 2015 ALBERTA ELECTION (City of Edmonton only)

8.14%	17.40%	15.83%	18.36%	18.98%	19.78%	1.51%
18-24	25-34	35-44	55-54	55-64	65+	Unknown

ACCESS TO INFORMATION



IN 2016, COMMUNITY LIBRARIANS HAD 959 MEETINGS WITH COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS AND COMMUNITY MEMBERS AND SETTLEMENT SERVICE WORKERS ASSISTED **1,338** NEWCOMERS.

ACCESS TO TRANSIT

LOW INCOME TRANSIT PASS

In 2016 the Ride Transit Program began offering cheaper transit passes to low income city residents.

REGULAR ADULT MONTHLY PASS COSTS **\$94.25**

LOW INCOME PASS COSTS **\$35.00**

To be eligible the income thresholds are:



PATH (Providing Accessible Transit Here) provides a free monthly pass to individuals who are homeless or are at high risk of homelessness in order to attend school, seek work, housing, medical and other social services. This is accessible only through social agencies that serve these individuals.

GROUPS WITH HIGH RISK OF ISOLATION

Why is social inclusion important? Individuals and groups experience barriers to participation when they face challenges such as: prejudicial and discriminatory attitudes; lacking access to affordable housing; experiencing homelessness; high rates of domestic violence and homicide; high levels of poverty and other challenges.

These barriers can inhibit people from participating in their communities, forming meaningful social relationships, and feeling a sense of belonging.

VITAL Information: **INTERSECTIONALITY** is the interconnected nature of social categorizations such as race, class, and gender as they apply to a given individual or group, regarded as creating overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination or disadvantage.

POVERTY

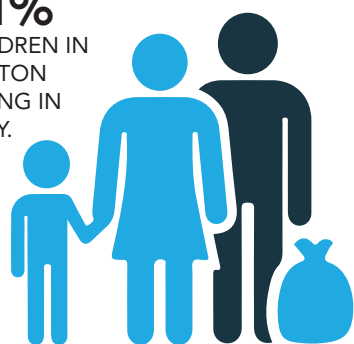
LOW INCOME = POVERTY

Those with income below the low income cut-off (LICO) were:

- 2.31 times less likely to report a sense of belonging to their community.
- 1.59 times more likely to report a feeling of social isolation.

As of 2015, 11.8% of families and 10.5% of individuals in Edmonton are considered to be living in poverty.

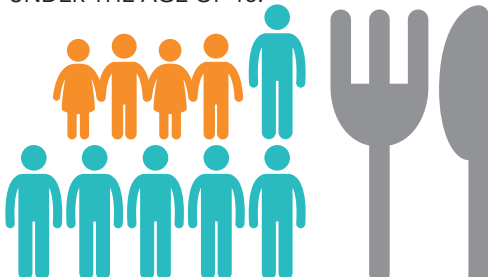
15.1% OF CHILDREN IN EDMONTON ARE LIVING IN POVERTY.



EDMONTON FOOD BANK USERS:

- 47% of those surveyed run out of money by the second week of the month and 70% have no funds by the third week
- 34% of respondents said they have skipped meals so their children could eat, 20% of respondents said that they or a family member did not eat for 2-5 days.
- After paying rent, 53% of respondents said food is the first thing they give up.
- 69% of food bank clients pay market rent and 17% live in subsidized housing

MORE THAN **40%** OF CLIENTS AT THE EDMONTON FOOD BANK ARE CHILDREN UNDER THE AGE OF 18.



FEEDING CHILDREN

- Edmonton's Food Bank provides 47 schools with more than 40,616 healthy snacks each week as part of the School Snack Program.

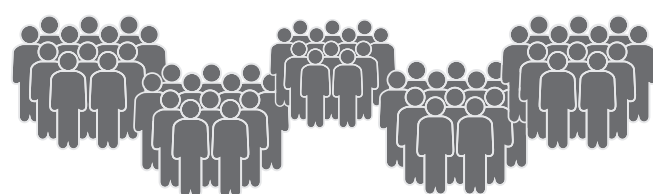
HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Approximately 20,000 Edmonton households live in extreme Core Housing Need. This means that an individual earns less than \$20,000/year and is in a household that **SPENDS OVER 50% OF ITS INCOME ON RENT.**



SOCIAL HOUSING

As of July 28, 2017, the waitlist for Capital Region Housing is **4,965** households.



NEW CANADIANS

Newcomers that connect with others from their home country during resettlement can provide a "cultural anchor" and can help them feel accepted, secure and at home.



REFUGEES

Between January 2015 and May 2017, 10,640 refugees were resettled in Alberta, 79,615 across Canada. Edmonton resettled 4,340 refugees.

In the first three months of 2017, Canada accepted refugee claims from 124 separate countries. As of March, the countries from which the most pending applications originated:

Nigeria	1,463
China	1,409
Turkey	1,179
Pakistan	1,048
Somalia	707
Syria	476

EDMONTON'S MANY LANGUAGES

Top ten languages spoken (other than English or French) in the City of Edmonton are:

45,895

CHINESE (including Cantonese, Mandarin, Hakka, Min Dong, and Min Nan) (5.0% of Edmonton's population)

32,355

TAGALOG (Filipino) (3.5%)

26,425

PUNJABI (2.9%)

16,695

ARABIC (1.8%)

مرحبا

¡HOLA!

16,565

SPANISH (1.8%)

HALLO!

9,380

GERMAN (1.0%)

9,125

UKRAINIAN (1.0%)

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

47% agree that newcomers and 57% agree that refugees in Edmonton often face discrimination.

7% of Edmontonians feel uncomfortable or out of place because of their religion, ethnicity, skin colour, culture, race, language, accent, gender, or sexual orientation *most of the time or always.*

54% of Edmontonians agree that racism is a problem in Edmonton.

您好!

Kamusta

ਸਤ ਸ੍ਰੀ ਅਕਾਲ

नमस्ते

8,010

HINDI (0.9%)

cześć!

8,100

POLISH (0.9%)

xin chào!

8,645

VIETNAMESE (0.9%)

Здравствуй

9,125

UKRAINIAN (1.0%)

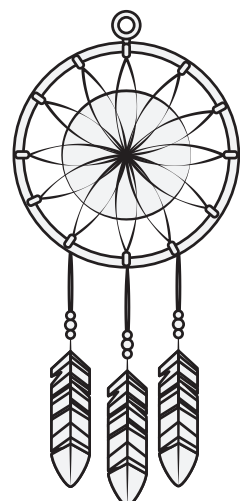
ECF VITAL Work

Recreation for Life Foundation - \$10,605

Recreation for Life Foundation, which raises funds for Alberta Recreation and Parks Association, was granted \$10,605 for Healthy Child Development in Indigenous Communities. Working alongside local leaders in Edmonton and Alberta, Recreation for Life will enhance the quality of sport and recreation programs in Indigenous Communities using the High Five program. High Five ensures leaders and instructors have the tools and knowledge to create positive experiences for children by building healthy relationships and providing active play opportunities.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Through colonial policies such as the residential school system and the Sixties Scoop, Indigenous children were forcibly removed from their homes, forced to assimilate into Canadian society, and subjected to abuse. The experience of being disconnected from their cultures, traditions, lands, stories, families, and communities continues to impact Indigenous families and communities today through intergenerational trauma.



According to the First Nations Regional Health Survey (Alberta):

- **51.5%** of adults reported their health as 'non-thriving.'
- **32.8%** of adults reported occasionally experiencing anxiety or depression.
- **54.7%** of adults believed that traditional spirituality was very important.

HOMELESSNESS

According to the 2016 Point-in-Time Homeless Count in Edmonton:

- **51%** of the homeless population counted identify as Indigenous, while they only account for 5.3% of the City of Edmonton population.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL: **72%** of Edmontonians agree that Indigenous people in Edmonton often face discrimination.

NEW MOTHERS

Up to **15%** of Canadian women experience depression following childbirth, also known as postpartum depression (PPD). PPD may affect a woman's daily functioning, ability to care for her infant and overall quality of life.

While psychotherapy and social support groups are the traditional way of combatting PPD, there are alternative support options like:

- online social support groups can provide easily accessible and timely support, overcome geographical barriers, facilitate open discussions of health concerns and reduce social isolation
- telephone-based support provided by a mother recovered from depression has proven to be an effective means of lowering PPD rates and symptoms.





ECF VITAL Work

CRIPSiE (Collaborative Radically Integrated Performers Society in Edmonton) offers opportunities for people who are excluded from most mainstream dance activities. It was granted \$30,547 to bring Alice Sheppard, one of America's leading integrated dancers, to choreograph. She also offered a three-hour public inclusive dance workshop, and a public lecture about race, disability, and dance. ECF funding has ensured local artists were compensated for their time and expertise.

PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES

Persons living with a disability can face discrimination when a facility or service cannot fully accommodate their needs.

- Persons with disabilities experience poverty levels almost twice as high as those without.
- Approximately half of children with disabilities in Canada do not have access to needed supports, aids, and devices to assist with communication and independent living.
- Almost 60% of working age adults with disabilities are unemployed or are not a part of the labour market.
- Rates of violence and abuse against people with disabilities, especially women, are among the highest of any group in the country

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE (2012)

7.4%

THOSE PERSONS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES IN ALBERTA

5.6%

FOR THOSE WITHOUT

EXPERIENCES WITH AISH

Currently, the AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped) monthly benefit is \$1,588 per person, with additional benefits available for dependents. Recipients report:

- 47% are unable to afford the costs related to their disability
- 50% are unable to afford food and special diet needs
- 52% are unable to afford transportation
- 62% are unable to afford clothes and footwear

ALBERTA WORKS AND AISH CASELOADS, NUMBER OF CASES

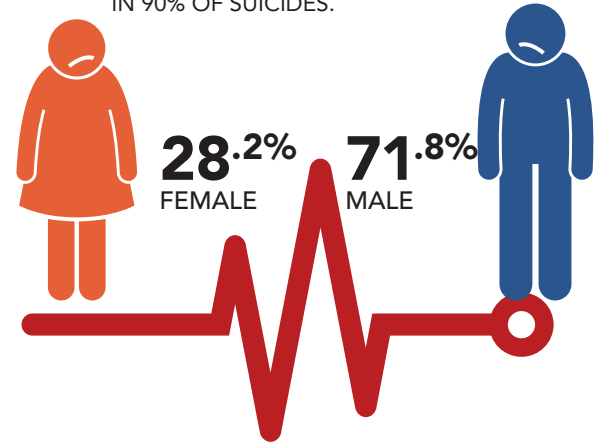
	Alberta Works	AISH
2016	45,428	53,590

Between 2005 and 2016, there has been a 59.3% growth in Alberta Works cases and a 67.4% growth in the number of AISH caseloads.

SUICIDES & MENTAL HEALTH

In 2014, Edmonton Zone had 170 deaths attributed to suicide, split 71.8% male and 28.2% female.

MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES ARE PRESENT IN 90% OF SUICIDES.



IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

51% of Edmontonians agree that people with disabilities in Edmonton often face discrimination.

SENIORS

Social connection and participation are protective for older adults' physical and mental health. Social participation and a varied social network can reduce loneliness, depression, generalized anxiety, and cognitive impairment.

AGING POPULATION

Percentage of the population aged 65+ (2016):

VICTORIA	VANCOUVER	EDMONTON	CALGARY	SASKATOON	REGINA	WINNIPEG
21.1%	15.7%	12.3%	11%	12.8%	13.6%	15.4%



The National Seniors Council says there are common factors that increase the prevalence of social isolation among seniors. Some of these include:

- being 80 years of age or older;
- being a woman;
- being an immigrant;
- living in a rural or remote area;
- having health issues;
- lacking access to affordable housing, care options, or transportation;
- being LGBTQ;
- having low quantity and/or quality of relationships.

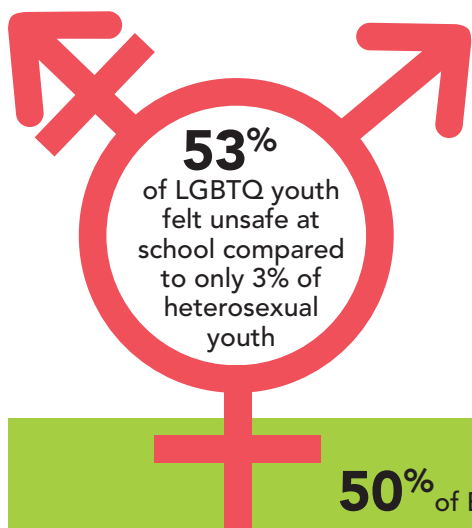
SENIORS FEELING CONNECTED

A survey of Edmonton seniors conducted by the Pan Edmonton Group Addressing Social Isolation (PEGASIS) found that:

- **9%** of respondents reported that they participated in meaningful activity less than once per month, or never.
- **17%** of respondents reported that they do not feel connected to friends.

50% of Edmontonians feel Edmonton is a senior-friendly city.

42% of Edmontonians agree that seniors in Edmonton often face discrimination.



LGBTQ

The health outcomes of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) individuals are negatively impacted by the discrimination and harassment they can experience on a daily basis.

There are 2,310 same sex couples in Edmonton. (304,735 couples of all orientations in Edmonton)

LGBTQ YOUTH (ALBERTA)

- **44%** of LGBTQ youth reported having thoughts of suicide compared to 26% of heterosexual youth
- **50%** of LGBTQ students reported participating in self-harming behaviours compared to 35% of heterosexual youth

LGBTQ LEGAL

In 2015 a bill passed allowing Gay Straight Alliances in any school where students requested one. Alberta has also outlawed discrimination based on a person's sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

50% of Edmontonians agree that the LGBTQ community in Edmonton often faces discrimination.

MAKING EDMONTON HIS HOME

Story by Elizabeth Bonkink



ADEBAYO KATITI

Adebayo Katiti, 23, is a competitive swimmer, soccer player, and activist from Uganda who attends church and is working on becoming a life guard – and he is a transgender refugee. He is part of a rising group of refugee claimants in Canada based on gender or sexual orientation.

According to Erick Ambtman of the Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN), "Over the past year we have seen a significant increase in the number of refugee claimants coming to EMCN for help. Historically, we would see one or no refugee claimants a month, now we see 10 or more, and approximately a third of them are seeking asylum because of their sexual orientation." Canada was the first country to issue gender guidelines for refugees fearing gender-related persecution, setting a precedent for other countries.

The International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association's (ILGA) report on State Sponsored Homophobia, released in May 2017, says that 72 states criminalize same-sex activity and the death penalty applies in eight countries. It is important to note that the report refers to 'states' rather than countries because in some countries local or regional 'morality' laws will be present.

Uganda is one of these countries. According to the

ILGA, Pride Week in Kampala, Uganda's capital, was violent and many were arrested by the police – including Katiti. "Police raided a pride event I attended and I was arrested."

After arriving in Edmonton to compete in the International Gay and Lesbian Aquatics Championships, his picture was shown on Uganda TV, effectively outing him. "I got messages from my family saying that they would kill me." That is when he decided to claim asylum in Canada.

He was granted refugee status on Nov. 16, 2016 and is now considered a 'protected person.' His claim was successful because he had the emails from family as well as other documentation to show persecution. For many claimants in this category it is difficult to meet the burden of proof that they are fleeing from violence and human rights abuses on the basis of their sexual orientation. Often LGBTQ individuals have little proof because they fear persecution in their home country, so they have not told anyone their orientation, do not keep photos, and may have never ventured into a relationship.

Since gaining refugee status Katiti says he has some mental health issues dealing with the threats from his family. "I have a sister that is bisexual that I worry about." He also misses his mother, "I was very close to her. I worked around the house with her. I spent a lot of time with her."

Finances are also a concern. "You have to pay the costs associated with a refugee claim and you don't have a work permit. You need to get where you need to go when you can't get a transit pass. You have a small amount of money but you need to have food, clothes, basic necessities, getting that is hard to do. All of this brings more stress." He now works as an attendant at one of the City's recreation centres.

He has also faced discrimination. "I was attacked

(verbally) on the bus," Katiti said. The incident concerned him because he felt there was nothing he could do about it; no charges could be laid. He has wariness toward police from his experiences in Uganda and then felt even more helpless that nothing could be done about the verbal altercation.

He has also had difficulties with a roommate who told him 'to go back to where he came from.' Even with the help of a social worker, it has been difficult to find a place to live that he can afford and in which he feels safe. "I have moved a lot," Katiti said, stating he would really like to find a place of his own. "Sharing doesn't feel safe." He says the racism he has experienced has been more about the colour of his skin than his gender, however. "There are a few racists. That could happen anywhere."

Even though he has experienced challenges, he says he still would have chosen Canada. "I received a lot of help. There are nice people in Canada and because of them I am still living," he said. Katiti enjoys living in Edmonton and says he is settling in thanks to those who helped him. "I have a lot of help. I am surrounded by people from everywhere. I have friends that are queer, from my church, from the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers, work, people are all around me."

Katiti says eventually he wants to do something to help others like him and is working to organize a group he calls "Rights for All LGBTQI+" that will raise awareness of issues for those claiming refugee status on the basis of sexual orientation. It will help individuals gain access to rights and help them settle once they are here. He wants to reduce isolation.

On his one-year anniversary of being in Canada his plan was to have a party to thank everyone who has helped him – a guest list that included 400 people. "Edmonton is home. Thank you to this city because of the opportunities I have seen."

LIVING IN EDMONTON

EDMONTON IS STILL THE YOUNGEST CITY:

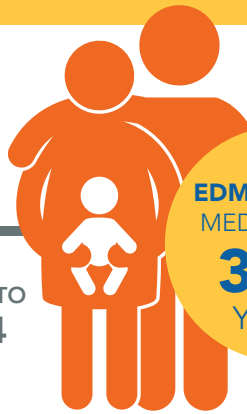
Edmonton's median age in 2016 was 36.3 years – **THE YOUNGEST OF CANADA'S SIX LARGEST URBAN CENTRES.**

CITY OF EDMONTON POPULATION (2016):

932,546

MEDIAN AGE:

CALGARY 36.6 TORONTO 39.4



EDMONTON'S MEDIAN AGE:

36.3 YEARS

EDMONTON METRO AREA POPULATION (2016):

1,321,426

OTTAWA-GATINEAU 40.1 MONTREAL 40.3 VANCOUVER 40.9

ECF VITAL Work

Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton (SACE), which provides specialized sexual assault services aimed at prevention and recovery to those who have been affected, was granted \$55,035 for a marketing campaign. Crisis support services for victims of sexual assault were expanded and marketing materials were updated to ensure those affected by sexual assault are aware of services that exist for them. The campaign raises awareness and builds a shared vision of ending sexual violence in the community.



POVERTY

EDMONTON LOW INCOME RATE

IN 2015, **10.4%** OF THE TOTAL POPULATION (135,240 PEOPLE) LIVE IN LOW INCOME.

Of this, 15.1% (44,590) are children living in low income, a slight increase from 14.9% in 2014.

EDMONTON MEDIAN AFTER-TAX INCOME

In Edmonton (2015) the median after-tax income:

- Low income families - \$12,000
- All families - \$62,300.

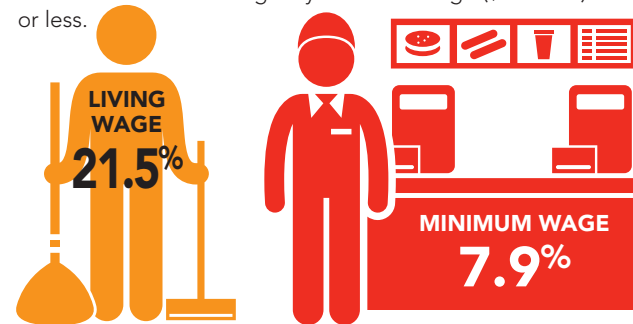
EDMONTON HAD THE 2ND HIGHEST MEDIAN AFTER-TAX INCOME, SECOND ONLY TO CALGARY, OF ALL MAJOR URBAN CENTRES IN CANADA.

EDMONTON 2017 LIVING WAGE

Edmonton's living wage for 2017 is \$16.31/hour (family of four) to maintain a modest standard of living.

LOW-WAGE WORKERS

- Of the 650,000 workers in Edmonton 21.5% of them make the Living Wage of \$16.31/hr or less.
- 7.9% of those are making only minimum wage (\$13.60/hr) or less.



CRIME

Despite the overall downward trend between 2005 and 2016 (a reduction of 25%), the crime severity index in Edmonton CMA has trended upward between 2015 and 2016. The crime severity index in 2016 is 105.72.

SEXUAL ASSAULT RATE PER 100,000 OF POPULATION (2016)

WINNIPEG	95.77
EDMONTON	70.71
MONTREAL	44.51
VANCOUVER	43.35
CALGARY	43.27
TORONTO	42.98

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

89% of Edmontonians say they feel safe in their homes (up from 86% in 2016). 80% of Edmontonians say they feel safe in their community, and 72% said they feel safe in Edmonton (in general).

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

64% of Edmontonians agree that poverty is a significant problem in Edmonton, only 40% feel there are adequate initiatives in place to reduce poverty.

HOUSING

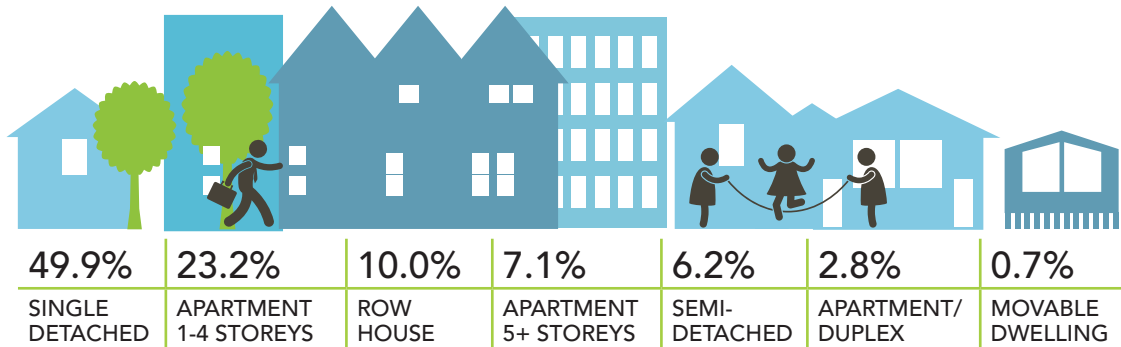
HOMELESSNESS IN EDMONTON

According to Edmonton Point-in-Time Homeless Count (October 2016), there are 1,752 people experiencing homelessness in the City of Edmonton.

UNSHeltered HOMELESS: **24%**
 SHeltered HOMELESS: **42%**
 PROVISIONALLY ACCOMMODATED: **35%**

HOW EDMONTONIANS LIVE

The most common private dwelling structures in City of Edmonton (2016) are:



RENTING	2014	2015	2016
Average Rent	\$1,180	\$1,259	\$1,229
2 Bedroom	1.7%	4.2%	7.1%
Vacancy Rate			

Despite the vacancy rate increasing by 2.9% (more rental units available in the city), rent has only dropped an average of \$30 per month from 2015 to 2016. The vacancy rate and the unemployment rate show a close correlation.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

32% of Edmontonians say it is easy to find affordable housing in Edmonton.

EMPLOYMENT

EDMONTON'S UNEMPLOYMENT RATE

2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
4.7%	4.8%	5.1%	6%	7.4%

THE UNEMPLOYMENT RATE IN EDMONTON AS OF JULY 2017 IS **8.5%**.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

Only **51%** feel that there are adequate job opportunities in Edmonton.

ANNUAL AVERAGE OF EI BENEFICIARIES

Winnipeg	7,776
Regina	2,178
Calgary	28,087
Edmonton	27,388
Vancouver	17,727



EDMONTON FOR THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF 2017 IS **27,033**.

PUBLIC TRANSIT

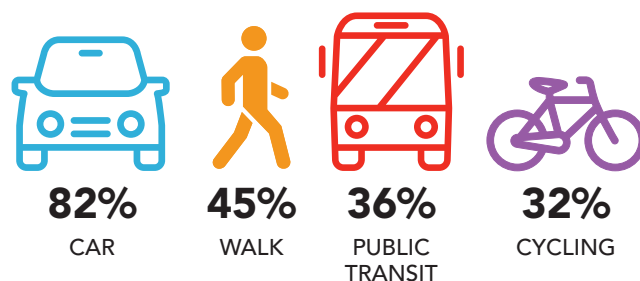
RIDERSHIP

SINCE 2006, ANNUAL TRANSIT RIDERSHIP HAS GROWN BY **51.7%** IN THE CITY OF EDMONTON, BUT THERE HAS BEEN A STEADY DECREASE IN THE PAST 3 YEARS.



2014	89,283,008
2015	88,721,062
2016	87,170,418

IN A 2017 LEGER SURVEY EDMONTONIANS FEEL THAT THESE METHODS WERE AN EASY MODE OF TRANSPORT



IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

76% of Edmontonians said their primary mode of transportation in Edmonton is by car. This has remained fairly consistent since 2014.

15% use transit and **6%** walk.

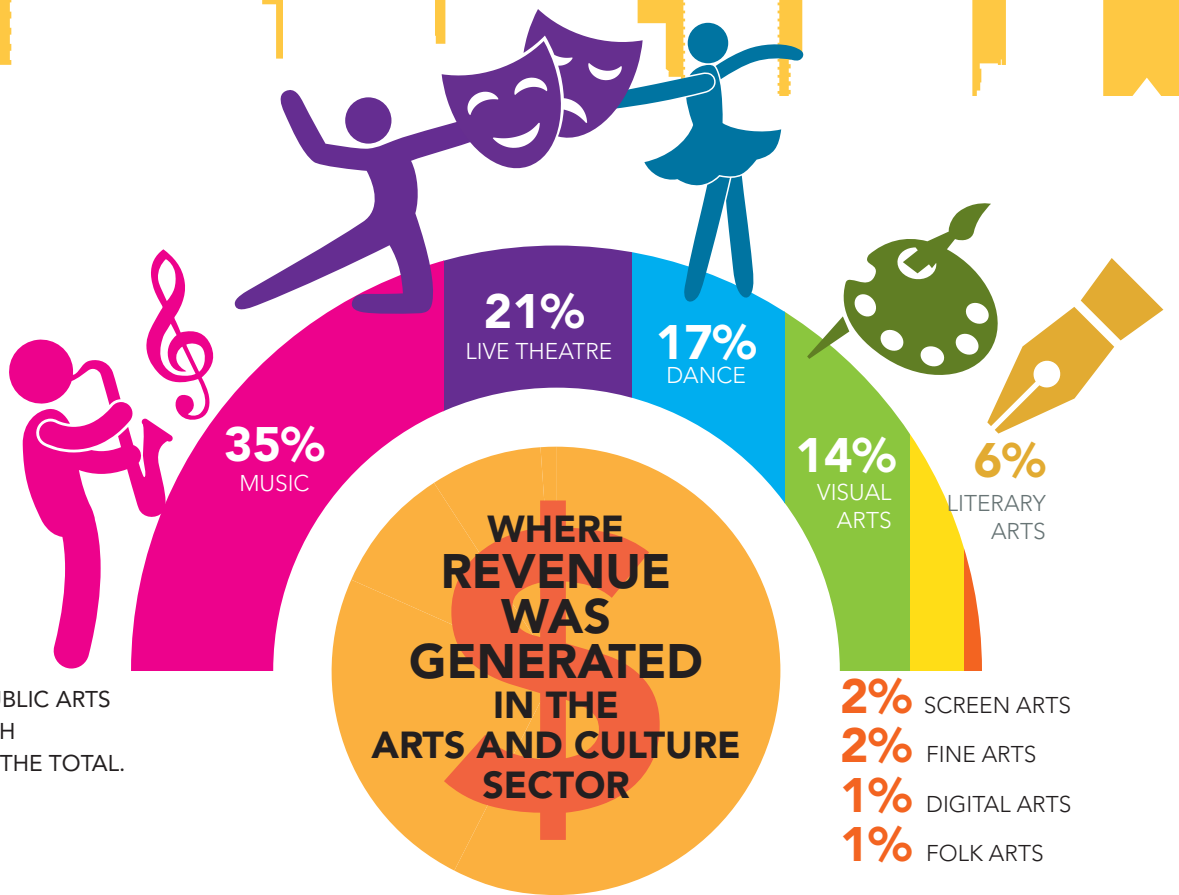
Only **2%** of Edmontonians said they bicycle as their primary mode of transportation.

ARTS & CULTURE

MAKING A FINANCIAL IMPACT
\$105.5 Million in 2016 –

TOTAL REVENUE RECEIVED BY ARTS ORGANIZATIONS IN THE PROVINCE:

- 57% was earned revenue (e.g. sales, admissions, workshops, classes, and other).
- 24% Government and foundation support
- 9% corporate sponsorship
- 8% fund-raising
- 1% gaming revenue



MORE THAN **3.9 MILLION** PEOPLE ATTENDED PUBLIC ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS IN EDMONTON LAST YEAR, WITH ATTENDANCE AT FESTIVALS ACCOUNTING FOR 61% OF THE TOTAL.

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

61% of Edmontonians feel their quality of life is very good or excellent. This has fallen slightly from 67% in 2014.

87% feel Edmonton is culturally diverse.

78% feel that Edmonton is a city that values the arts.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS IN EDMONTON

In 2015 in Edmonton, **\$445,650,000** in total charitable donations were made, a growth of 4.3% from 2014.

This does not represent donations for which a charitable receipt was not issued.

PERCENTAGE OF CHARITABLE DONORS BY INCOME GROUP IN EDMONTON

Income	2015
Less than \$20,000	3%
Between \$20,000 - \$39,000	16%
Between \$40,000 - \$59,000	20%
Between \$60,000 - \$79,000	18%
Income of \$80,000 or more	43%

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

69% of Edmontonians said they donated money to charity or non-profit in the past 12 months. This is down from 80% in 2014.

EDUCATION

HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION RATES

3-year	Edmonton CATHOLIC School Board	Edmonton PUBLIC School Board
2015	83.7%	72.3%

IN A 2017 LEGER POLL:

80% of Edmontonians agree that it is important to have a post-secondary education.

PARKS & CULTURE

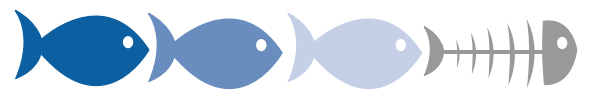
GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT OF CULTURE

THE GDP OF THE CULTURE INDUSTRIES IN ALBERTA WAS **\$6.5 BILLION** IN 2014, A GROWTH OF 19.4% SINCE 2010.

NATIONAL PARKS ATTENDANCE, ALBERTA

From 2015-2016, there were 7,444,379 visits to Canadian National Parks in Alberta, an 8.4% increase.

In 2017 as part of the Canada 150 celebration, national parks had free admission. As of July 2017 PARKS CANADA WAS REPORTING A 9% INCREASE over the July previous. Alberta has the busiest National Parks and Banff is bracing for a 25% increase this year.



POOR NEWS FOR CANADA'S WILDLIFE

About one-half (451) of the 903 mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and fish species studied across Canada have declined in numbers between 1970 and 2014. Of the remainder of the species studied, 45 were stable and 407 had increased.

- MAMMALS DECLINED AN AVERAGE OF 43%.
- AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES LOST AN AVERAGE 34% OF THEIR POPULATIONS.
- FISH POPULATIONS DECLINED BY 20%.
- GRASSLAND BIRDS DROPPED 69%, AERIAL INSECTIVORES (SUCH AS SWALLOWS AND MARTINS) FELL 51% AND SHOREBIRD POPULATIONS DECLINED BY 43%.

THUMBS UP / THUMBS DOWN EDMONTON

ACCIDENTAL ATTRACTION

In the spring of 2017 a sandy strip of land appeared along the south side of the North Saskatchewan River close to downtown. The "Accidental Beach" was a result of the construction of a weir for the LRT Bridge, causing a temporary disruption to the river. When the bridge is complete in a couple of years the weir will be removed and normal flow will continue, essentially washing away the beach. In the meantime, the Accidental Beach became the surprise hit of the summer. In fact, you can even find it on Google Maps!

Edmontonians are flocking to the beach, which is not easy to access. But not to be deterred, someone tied a rope to help folks get down the steep hill to the beach, and another carved temporary stairs.

Whether the beach stays permanently is in the hands of the Federal folks who are looking out for fish and wildlife affected by the river's flow. If it does stay, here's hoping it keeps the name "Accidental Beach" which is fitting and embodies its humble beginnings.

GREENER GOATS

Almost 200 goats are the City of Edmonton's strangest new employees. The goats consume 75 different weeds, each goat eating approximately 10 pounds of weeds per day in Rundle park. They are on the job from July until September along with a shepherd and several herding dogs. Goat poop is not a problem apparently as it acts as a natural fertilizer.

Curious Edmontonians who want to see this for themselves will be invited to "Meet and Bleats" (nice pun, City of Edmonton) to learn more about the eight different breeds of goats.

But, no kidding around... There are rules in place to keep goats and humans alike safe; don't feed them or pet them (without permission from the shepherd), and keep your pets on a leash.



CYCLING CYCLONE

Two words: Bike Lanes.

Like them or not, they are here and drivers and pedestrians alike will need to get used to them. \$7.5 million was spent to provide seven kilometres of separated lanes through some of the City's downtown streets.

They will provide greater safety to cyclists who use them, and may encourage more downtown shopping. Some even suggest that it will benefit everyone in the long run if they too bike to work (health benefits, less costs, less congestion).

The opposing team feels that \$1 million per kilometre is pricey, and begrudge giving up parking and driving lanes. Many wonder if the lanes will be used in winter.

Ultimately the proof is in the pudding.

DIAL M FOR EDMONTON

Edmonton's getting a reputation and, man, is it killer... We have, again, earned the dubious distinction of Murder Capital. As of September 20, 2017, **38 homicides** have occurred this year, and that is not likely the final number. And unfortunately, this is not unusual, in 2016 we had 47 murders to Calgary's 33. In fact, Edmonton has consistently higher homicide incidents than Calgary. While experts say there is nothing to worry about and we have no reason to live in fear, it does make you pause. What is going wrong in our City when this trend has been higher for more than a decade than the other major city in this province? Edmonton and Calgary are rivalries in many respects but this is not a contest that our city should want to win.

Total Homicides, Actual Incidents, Edmonton and Calgary:

	Calgary	Edmonton
2012	19	33
2013	24	27
2014	32	40
2015	40	38
2016	33	47



WAYS TO **REDUCE** SOCIAL ISOLATION

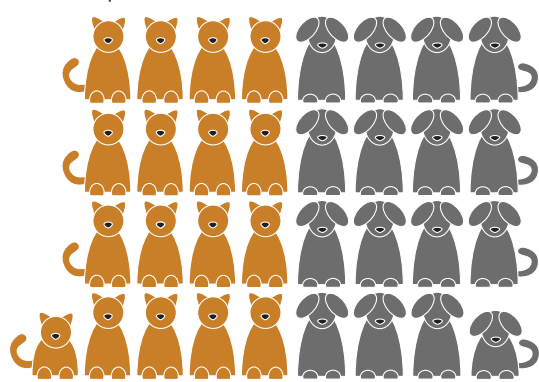
Five things to do when you are feeling alone:

- 1 Go out by yourself.** Call it a solo date if you want, but doing things by yourself will keep you involved without waiting for others. Things to do solo: go to a movie, enjoy dinner out, go shopping, enjoy a festival, or play 'tourist' and visit the local sights; the list is endless.
- 2 Join a club or online community.** Follow your passion and join a group of similarly minded individuals whether in person or online. Try Meetup.com where you can meet up in person with others who have common interests. There are also several on-line communities that are of a particular profession – check out yours.
- 3 Try a little exercise.** Whatever you enjoy doing – dancing, walking, running, going to the gym – will provide health benefits to both your body and your mind. Check to see if there is a local league or sports team you can join.
- 4 Create your own adventure.** Go somewhere you haven't gone before. Just take a random trip whether by car, bus, train, or simply walking. Find somewhere new and discover what it has to offer.
- 5 Take a class or learn a new skill.** Learn a new language, take a cooking class, discover the world of photography, or augment your work skills. Discover the joy of learning and meet others with the same interests. Low on cash? Check your local library for free classes.

PETS

In addition to the physical health benefits of pet ownership, pets may reduce feelings of loneliness and be a significant source of social support for their owners.

City of Edmonton has more than 40 off-leash areas where you can meet other pet owners.



167,000 + 158,000 = 325,000

THAT'S A LOT OF FUR THERAPY!

CONSIDER THE PAWSIBILITIES.

An experiment found that researchers with a dog were more than 30 times more likely to be approached and engaged in conversation with strangers than those researchers with nothing at all or a stand-in prop.

VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering enables people to connect to the causes, organizations, community groups or events they consider valuable while building relationships throughout the community.

VOLUNTEERING FOR THE CITY OF EDMONTON

City of Edmonton had 14,000 volunteers who contributed over 200,000 hours in programs like Capital City Clean Up, Community & Recreation Facilities, Edmonton Valley Zoo, Master Composter Recycler, Fort Edmonton Park, and many others. (2016)

VOLUNTEERING TO REDUCE SOCIAL ISOLATION

Edmonton Meals on Wheels is a charity that provides hot meals to the elderly or those with disabilities. The program reduces social isolation by providing opportunities for the volunteers to connect with the clients.

62,911 Number of hot meals delivered

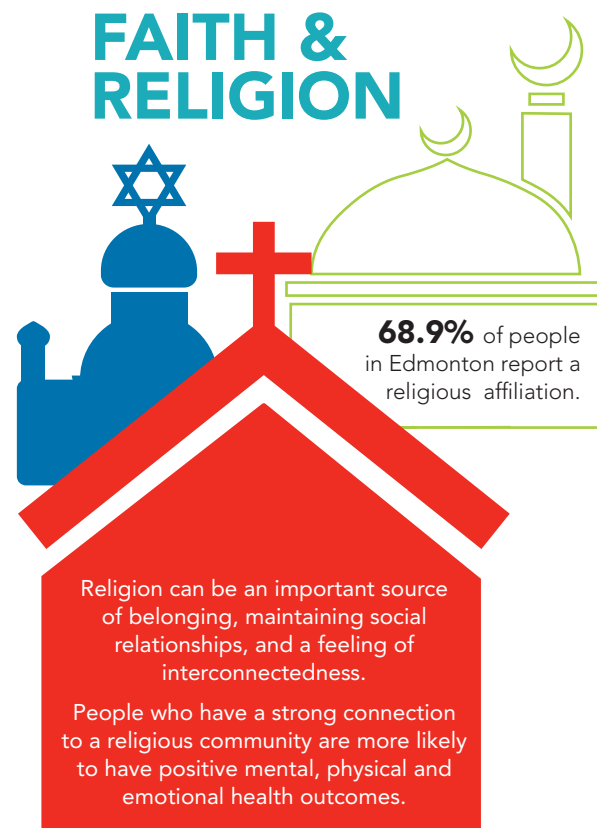
50,137 Number of volunteer hours

86% Percentage of volunteers that feel they're making a difference in someone's life (2016).

VITAL Information:

JULY 9-14, HABITAT FOR HUMANITY ran the Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter Work Project, which involved the building of 75 homes in Edmonton and Fort Saskatchewan. This made up half of the 150 homes Habitat for Humanity plans to build in celebration of Canada's 150th. It is Habitat for Humanity's largest single build to date, involving contributions from 14,000 volunteers.

FAITH & RELIGION



VITAL Information:

EDMONTON FEDERATION OF COMMUNITY LEAGUES began 100 years ago and is possibly the first system of its kind in North America. In 1917, George M. Hall, introduced the basic concept in his neighbourhood (Jasper Place) – today it is called Crestwood Community league.

The league guidelines ensured it was all-inclusive, regardless of class or

ethnicity, open to men and women, and did not have any affiliation with any political party or religious order. Its mandate is to provide civic advocacy on behalf of its community, plus develop social and recreational opportunities and infrastructure. Today there are 157 community leagues registered in the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues.

For more info go to: www.efcl.org.

ABUNDANT COMMUNITIES EDMONTON – Story by Elizabeth Bonkink

In the city you are surrounded by people, but that doesn't mean you know any of them. In fact, social isolation has become a focus for the City of Edmonton. The program, "Hello, How Are You?" utilizes Buddy Benches as well as encourages Edmontonians to reach out to a friend, a neighbour or just a passerby to say "Hello, how are you?"

"The Campaign was initiated because the City recognized that people may be experiencing isolation or feeling lonely. We know that this has a significant negative impact on our quality of life," said Chelsey Anseeuw, Social Planner from Community Inclusion and Investment, Citizen Services.

Abundant Communities Edmonton (ACE) is another such program. Inspired by the book "The Abundant Community" by John McKnight and Peter Block, Edmontonian Howard Lawrence undertook a pilot project called the Abundant Community Initiative in 2013 to help people create more connections among neighbours through shared activities and interests. The project relies on Block Connectors to reach out to neighbours and find out their interests, Neighbourhood Connectors to co-ordinate the information, and Community Leagues to provide neighbourhood resources and support systems.



TIM STENGER

Tim Stenger, a semi-retired software developer and long time Highlands resident, started to feel isolated. "Society values independence, the individual, and that strength. If we don't connect, our social and emotional needs are in danger, we become isolated," said Stenger.

In 2012 he set out to get to know his neighbours, "I knew my neighbours by name but not much more." He invited a few over to get to know each other.

In 2013 when Lawrence initiated the project in the Highlands neighbourhood, he approached Stenger to become Block Connector. "It was obvious I would do this," said Stenger as part of the program is gathering neighbours together just as he was doing. He also volunteers his time on the database to support the initiative.

The Block Connector role isn't solely events, it also involves talking to people about their vision for the neighbourhood and to find out activities they are interested in. "This part did not come normally for me, I am not an extrovert. It takes effort. I was stepping out of my comfort zone, but this was a benefit for me," said Stenger. The interviews, which are about 20 minutes in length, are optional. Stenger also says he is surprised how much people are willing to share, "I think 'my gosh, would I share this?' People are open, honest, and vulnerable to share themselves. I am inspired by them."

Not everyone participates however, "You have to honour their wishes if they don't want to share. Some are happy to share and some not." Stenger does say that on his block 100 per cent say yes to connecting in some way – survey, attending events, or just chatting.

Lawrence works with the Block Connectors to help them approach neighbours. "Howard is the expert on nuances on how to interact. One of the things he talks about is to 'use a friendly knock'," said Stenger.

"Before [ACE] I had not met the neighbours across the street. Now, we have a conversation rather than a 'hello' or 'goodbye'." Soon the get-togethers expanded to include the whole block. "Two doors over I met a couple who had been there 30 or 40 years," said Stenger. "Everyone would come."

Information gathered from surveys is passed on to the Block Co-ordinators who enter it in a database. If there is enough interest in a topic or activity, there is a possibility for the Community League to organize a group. In Highlands, several groups have formed as a result including a lawn bowling group, a new-moms' group, and soccer and hockey teams.

Lawrence tells us that since inception there has been a shift in priority for Block Connectors from data collection first, to relationship building. "Listening to your neighbours, their vision for neighbourhood, pastimes, and gifts, happens after getting to know one another on the block. So really it is trust building first."

The champions of ACE say that ultimately people are more invested in, and more emotionally attached to, their neighbourhood. One of the goals of ACE is that it makes safer, stronger, and more inclusive communities. Stenger agrees saying, "Neighbours can 'be aware' if something is going on."

According to Anne Harvey, ACE Project Manager at City of Edmonton, there are 34+ neighbourhoods involved and an additional 50+ interested and inquiring for more information. "We have experienced a steady increase in interest and then involvement since ACE's beginnings in 2013." In addition there are now several other municipalities that have, inspired by the efforts here in Edmonton, replicated the ACE processes and resources and are running their own similar initiatives. Some of these cities include Red Deer, Okotoks, Banff, Sarasota, Palm Springs and more.

Stenger says he has great hope that the initiative will grow. "If this would happen through all the neighbourhoods, the impact would be great." In his opinion, if ACE is successful it will no longer be needed. Everyone would look out for each other and neighbourhoods would be more open and friendly. "It's good. That's about all I can say."