

2022

VitalSigns®

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



VitalTopics



A LOOK AT

SYSTEMIC RACISM

IN EDMONTON



WHAT IS VITAL SIGNS?

Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual check-up initiative conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how the community is doing. This year we also focus on individual issues, via the Vital Topics, that are timely and important to Edmonton — specifically Systemic Racism. These topics appeared in many issues of Legacy in Action throughout 2022, and are also presented here — the full issue of Vital Signs 2022.

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Living in Edmonton 2022



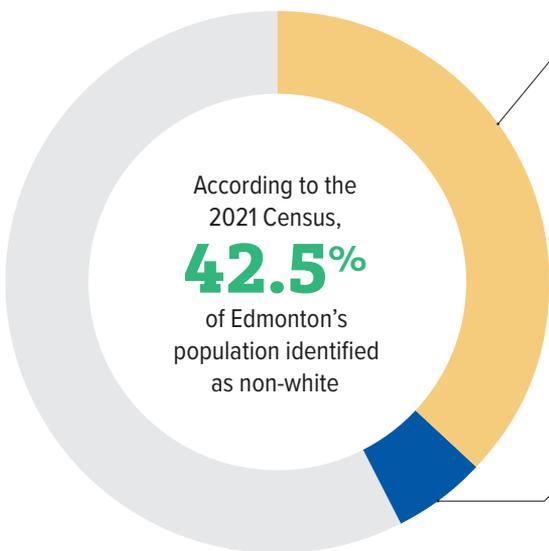
A look at the History of **Racism** towards **Indigenous & People of Colour** in Edmonton

Why look at history?

Systemic racism comes from ingrained beliefs that cultures different from our own are inferior and do not deserve the same rights and privileges. Canadian history tells the story of the laws and beliefs that led to the systemic racism we see in Edmonton today. Even when laws are undone, the systems and practices that came from those laws also need to be undone. To do this, we must first acknowledge it exists and then take action to eliminate discrimination.

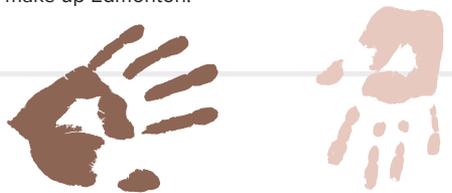
A note on research and language: This document uses the language and terms as reported in the original sources, and as such, may not reflect the language and terms people identify with and use in their daily lives, and may be offensive to some. Also, much of the available data has pooled cultures and ethnicities into categories such as 'Black' or 'South Asian.' We acknowledge the lack of desegregated data and the limits of what we can report. We recognize this does not fully represent the variety of cultures that make up Edmonton.

Demographics of Edmonton



37% said they are a person of colour:

East & Southeast Asia	145,480
South Asia	86,420
West Central & Middle East Asia	36,990
South and East Africa	26,255



Central & South America	21,365
Caribbean	13,200
Central & West Africa	12,255
North Africa	8,729
Pacific Islands	3,635

5.5% said they are Indigenous:

Métis	25,440	First Nations	22,840	Inuit	715
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33.4% of Edmontonians were born outside of Canada.

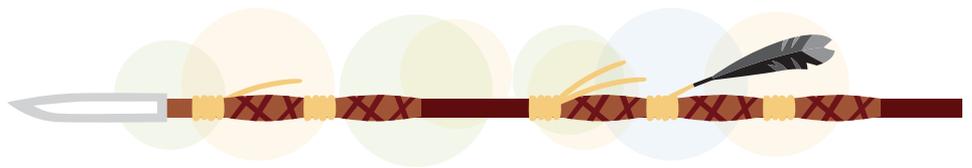
It is anticipated that by 2050, **50%** of the population will be **immigrants**.

Alberta welcomed **26,715 refugees** between 2015 and 2021 — **11,095** in Edmonton

The top 5 languages spoken in Edmonton (other than English or French) are: **Chinese, Tagalog, Arabic, Punjabi and Spanish**

Sources for these statistics are available at ecfoundation.org

Before it was 'Edmonton'



This region was known by other names: **amiskwacyi-wâskahikan**, meaning Beaver Hill House in Nehiyawewin (Cree); **kaghik-stak-etomo** in Niitsitapi; and **chaba hei** in Nakota.

The First People

Hunters roamed what is now Alberta beginning at least 13,300 years ago.

The Beaver Hills region was important for the Nehiyawak (Cree), Tsuut'ina, Anishinaabe (Ojibway/Saulteaux), the Nakota Sioux, the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot), the Stoney Nakoda, the Blackfoot and the Métis.

The river valley was important for food, medicine and materials for crafting tools.

Arrival of the Europeans

The arrival of fur traders imposed changes, including settlements that interrupted hunting grounds, and introduced devastating diseases like smallpox.

Enfranchisement began with the introduction of the Gradual Civilization Act of 1857, which granted Indian Affairs extreme control over status Indians.

Those who were identified as Indians under the Indian Act could not vote until 1961, unless they gave up their status.

The Indian Act

Although modified several times since 1876, it hasn't changed much. It authorizes the Canadian government to regulate the lives of registered First Nations People and reserve communities. It does not directly reference non-status First Nations people, Métis or Inuit people.

It is a part of the assimilation tactics the government forced on First Nations People that include imposing governing structures and regulating the right to practise culture and traditions.

Women and the Indian Act

Women were treated far less favourably than men in the Act.

- Originally, women were not allowed to vote in band elections, own or inherit property, and were 'property' of their husbands.
- Indian status ceased for women and her children if they married a non-Indian. Men who married non-Indians did not lose their status.
- Given enough marriages outside status boundaries, 'Status Indians' could disappear completely.

Métis Scrip

When the Hudson's Bay Company transferred the land it occupied to the Dominion of Canada, Métis families who settled in these areas were promised land. A scrip (a document worth land or money) was issued to the Métis to be traded in.

- Redeeming land scrip was complicated, had a lengthy legal process and government restrictions.
- Money scrip was transferable and easily redeemed. But the owner's name was not on the scrip, which could be easily stolen.
- Land scrip was non-transferable but it involved travelling great distances to get to a lands office. Families were forced to relocate on less prime land.

First Nations Near Edmonton

There are several First Nations reserves located in the Edmonton region including:

- Alexander First Nation
- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- Enoch Cree Nation
- Paul First Nation



Papaschase First Nation

In the late 1800s, the Papaschase First Nation was given a small portion of land near Edmonton (identified as Indian Reserve (IR) 136). Canada's Prime Minister, John A. MacDonald was petitioned by several prominent Edmontonians to move them from the area.

- From 1879 to 1886, the federal government failed to provide rations or relief to members of the Band who were suffering from starvation.
- Several members took scrip to keep from starving and lost their claim to the land even though they were told they could stay on their reserve even if they accepted it.
- After an illegal surrender of their land, the Crown quickly sold it.
- The band was dissolved, with the remaining members moving to Enoch.
- In 2002 the Papaschase filed a lawsuit saying "the government caused the dissolution of the Papaschase Band through breaches of Treaty 6 and its fiduciary duty to the band" but lost the claim in 2008.

The Papaschase Band still exists today.

Residential Schools

Did you know?

“The great aim of our legislation has been to do away with the tribal system and assimilate the Indian people in all respects with the other inhabitants of the Dominion as speedily as they are fit to change.”

— John A. MacDonald, 1887

Canada's First Prime Minister presided over the development of the residential school system.

An estimated 150,000 First Nations, Métis and Inuit children attended these church-run schools.

Abuse was common, including excessive punishment, physical abuse and sexual abuse.

Schools were overcrowded and children were malnourished, leading to tuberculosis and influenza.



An unknown number of children died at residential schools — as many as **7,000**.

Alberta had as many as **29 schools** — more than any other province.

Survivors received a formal apology from Prime Minister Stephen Harper in 2008.

Residential Schools Near Edmonton

- Edmonton Indian Residential School (1924-1968), also known as *Poundmaker* or *Edmonton Industrial School*, was located near St. Albert and was run by the United Church.
- St. Albert Indian Residential School (1873- 1948), also known as *Youville*, was located in St. Albert and was run by the Catholic Church.

The Sixties Scoop

This refers to the policies of child welfare authorities who removed numerous Indigenous children from their parents and placed or adopted them out to non-Indigenous families.

- The practice occurred well into the 1980s. Indigenous children are still overrepresented in the child welfare system today.
- Children lost touch with their family, culture and language and were made to feel ashamed of who they were.
- There have been long-lasting, intergenerational effects.
- Premier Rachel Notley delivered an apology in 2018.

Eugenics is the belief and practice that you can improve the human population through controlled breeding.

Alberta Sexual Sterilization Act

The legislation lasted until 1971 and was originally intended for patients in mental hospitals.

25%

of individuals sterilized were First Nation or Métis.

1,200

additional Indigenous women were coerced into being sterilized in the three years after the law ended.

Immigration to Canada



There are numerous local, provincial and federal laws that are not captured here.



Canada's Racist Immigration Policies

Canadian immigration policies favoured European countries prior to WWII. After that, Canadian employers required more labour and Canada opened its doors to other nations. However, many foreign individuals experienced a difficult time having their credentials recognized.

Timeline

1833

Slavery was legal in Canada until 1833.

1849

Chinese immigration started with the Gold Rush.

1877

The first known immigrant from Japan arrived in British Columbia.

1882

17,000 Chinese individuals arrive to work on the Canadian Pacific Railway.

1923

Edmonton city council passed a law banning Black people from swimming in city pools. Skating rinks also refused entry to Black people.

Chinese Immigration Act passed banning all Chinese immigrants until its repeal in 1947.

1911

A law is proposed by the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sir Wilfrid Laurier to ban Black persons from entering Canada. It did not become law.

1885

Chinese head tax began, which forced Chinese immigrants to pay \$50 to enter Canada, later raised to \$500

1928

Alberta passes the Sexual Sterilization Act (not repealed until 1972).

1938

Canada's first mosque, Al Rashid Mosque, opened.

1942

Japanese internment begins. After WWII, approximately 42,000 Arab immigrants came to Canada.

1951

The Canadian government adopts a new immigration policy with a quota system for admissions into the country.

Black Immigration

- Black fur traders arrived in the late 1800s.
- 1905 to 1911: Black pioneers settled in Alberta from southern U.S. states to escape racist laws.
- Changes to Canada's immigration system in the 1950s brought immigrants from the Caribbean, Africa and the Americas.
- More recently, individuals from East Africa, Central and South America came to Canada through policies like the Temporary Foreign Worker program, or as asylum-seekers.



Black Pioneer Communities in Alberta

In 1911, only 30% of Black residents in Alberta lived in urban centres like Calgary and Edmonton. Most lived in rural settlements:

- Junkins (now Wildwood) was the first to have a significant number of Black pioneers
- Other communities included: Keystone (now Breton), Campsie (near Barrhead), and Pine Creek, also known as Amber Valley.

Between 1910 and 1912, more than 1,000 Black pioneers crossed the border.

Anti-Black Racism in Edmonton

- Daughters of the Empire and the Edmonton Board of Trade campaigned to discourage Black Americans from coming to Edmonton.
- There was an active Ku Klux Klan presence in Edmonton. Cross burnings were supported by Mayor Dan Knott and some MLAs into the 1930s. The KKK held society status in Alberta until 2003.
- In 1922. Lulu Anderson sued Edmonton's Metropolitan Theatre because she was refused entry due to being Black. The court ruled against her.
- Racially-segregated schools existed in Alberta until the 1960s.

South Asian Immigration

Many diverse linguistic and cultural groups came from this region (including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, among others).

- By 1908, about 6,000 South Asians had arrived in Canada.
- The first South Asians who arrived in Alberta were **Sikh railway workers**. By the late 1920s, Alberta had several early farm settlements.

Filipino Immigration

- Began in 1946, but larger numbers did not immigrate until the 1970s.
- Before the 1970s, they were mostly female medical technicians, nurses or teachers.
- Filipinos have made up a sizable portion of the **Temporary Foreign Workers program** in more recent years.

Korean Immigration

Most Korean immigration was from South Korea.

- In the early 1960s, many who came to Alberta were professionals.

Latin American Immigration

- Latin Americans include people from many Central or South American nations.
- In 1973, about 2,340 Chilean refugees arrived in Alberta after the overthrow of the Allende government.

Vietnamese Immigration

- Prior to 1975, immigration from Vietnam was quite small.
- After the end of the Vietnam War, Vietnamese refugees arrived.

Chinese Immigration

- The Chinese Exclusion Law of 1923 halted immigration until it was repealed in 1947.
- In the 1960s, when immigration regulations relaxed, there was a significant increase in Chinese immigrants.

Chinese Head Tax

- Between 1885 and 1923, Chinese Immigrants had to pay a head tax to enter Canada. It started at \$50 but over time increased to \$500.
- It was the first legislation in Canada to distinguish immigration status on the basis of ethnicity.
- In 2006, the Canadian Government issued an apology to head-tax payers and the Chinese Canadian community.

82,000 Chinese immigrants paid nearly \$23 million in head taxes.

Arab Immigration

- 1891-1911: approximately 7,000 immigrants came from modern-day Syria and Lebanon. Early immigrants to Alberta mostly settled in Edmonton or Lac La Biche as part of the fur trade.
- By the 1930s, several Lebanese families were established in Edmonton.
- Since 2015, Canada has welcomed 44,000 Syrian refugees.

Japanese Immigration

- By 1914, 10,000 Japanese people had settled in Canada.
- The second wave of Japanese immigration did not begin until 1967, when immigration laws were amended.



Japanese Internment

In 1942, the War Measures Act was used to remove Japanese Canadians residing within 160km of the Pacific coast for reasons of “national security.”

- 20,881 people of Japanese ancestry (the majority born in Canada) were shipped to camps and farms away from the coast, in B.C., Alberta and Manitoba. Those who resisted were sent to prisoner-of-war camps in Ontario.
- The federal government sold their property and confiscated any funds they received while in a detention camp.
- After WWII ended, they were forced to choose between deportation to Japan or moving to a location east of the Rocky Mountains. Most chose the latter.
- In 1949, Japanese Canadians regained their freedom and restrictions were removed.
- Prime Minister Brian Mulroney apologized to Japanese Canadians in 1988.

Did you know?

The 1910 Immigration Act allowed the prohibition of immigrants “belonging to any race deemed unsuited to the climate or requirements of Canada, or of immigrants of any specified class, occupation or character.”

A Look at **Education, Income & Employment Inequality** for **Indigenous & People of Colour** in Edmonton

Racism even shows up as we research racism

— data has traditionally been used by people in power to obscure inequities and reinforce their privilege. Gaps in data are not accidental.



Stereotypes:

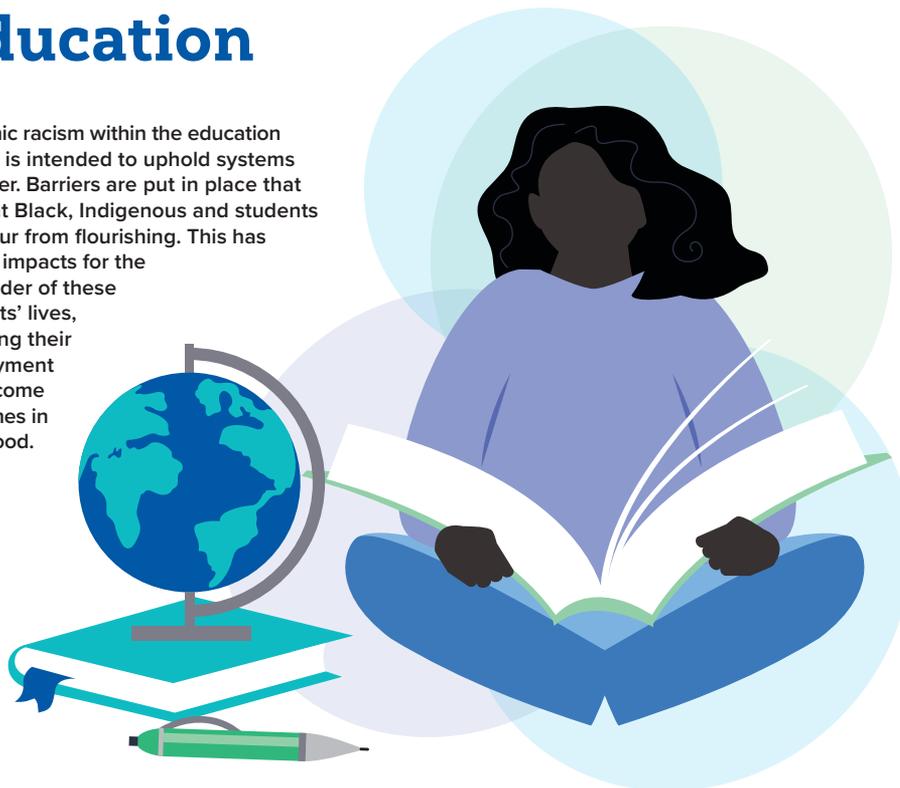
- The **Perpetual Foreigner** stereotype assumes minorities are foreign or “other” due to their connection with ethnic or racial groups, regardless of whether they were born in Canada or not. These folks are often not fully accepted into Canadian society.
- This racist stereotype is reinforced through research by grouping all immigrants under one term which falsely assumes that the experience amongst all generations of immigrants are the same. Lam, Q. K. (2021). *Forever Foreigners and the Myth of the Model Minority*.

Unconscious bias refers to the unconscious assumptions, beliefs, attitudes and stereotypes that humans have about different groups. Biases are ingrained in every part of western culture, and they are taught to us through various systems. These learned mental short-cuts affect how we perceive and respond to people. Unconscious biases prevent us from seeing fairly and accurately the information or the people in front of us.

Discrimination is unfair treatment — whether intentional or not — because of race, religious beliefs (including Indigenous spirituality), colour, gender (male, female or transgendered), physical disability, mental disability, marital status, age, ancestry, place of origin, family status, source of income or sexual orientation.

Education

Systemic racism within the education system is intended to uphold systems of power. Barriers are put in place that prevent Black, Indigenous and students of colour from flourishing. This has lasting impacts for the remainder of these students' lives, including their employment and income outcomes in adulthood.



Racialized students in Alberta schools experience:

- Microaggressions
- Being incorrectly placed in ESL programs
- Lack of staff diversity and representation of BIPOC in teaching and administrative staff
- Low expectations from teachers stemming from prejudiced assumptions
- Teachers and administrative staff downplaying acts of racism in schools
- Inequitable punishment against Black students
- Race-based bullying

These experiences have psychological, emotional, social, and mental impacts on students and parents including: anger, insecurity, low self-esteem, questioned identity, frustration, inferiority complex, and poor academic performance.

Coalition for Equal Access to Education, March 2022

School Experience

Note: It is acknowledged that the rates of racism recorded are subtler forms of racism that occur in curriculum, customs, or other historical biases ingrained in the school system were not recorded.

58%

of students in Canadian schools said they've **witnessed someone being bullied, excluded or insulted based on their race or ethnicity** in their school —

14%

said it happened to **them personally**

Indigenous and visible minority students are, respectively,

2 and 3 times

more likely to say they have **experienced race-based bullying**

21%

of students in Canadian schools said they **haven't learned anything at all about racism** in Canada throughout history

Of all students surveyed in Canadian schools:



One-third said they never learned anything about **slavery in Canada**



Half said they didn't learn of the **internment of Japanese Canadians** during the Second World War

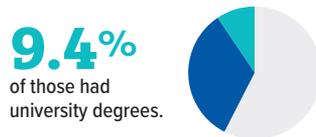


Three-in-five said schools didn't teach them about the **head tax on Chinese immigrants**

Indigenous People Living Off-Reserve



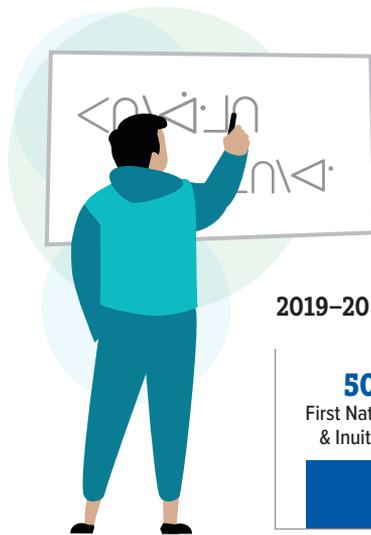
42.3% completed a post-secondary education,



9.4% of those had university degrees.



25% had less than a high school diploma (provincial average **-14.3%**). *Alberta, 2019*



Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada and School Legacy

- Legacies of the residential school system have had a significant impact on Indigenous people's educational outcomes today
- Residential schools were more focused on labour, education was substandard and living conditions were not conducive to learning
- A 2010 study of Indigenous parents and children living off reserves found that the high school completion rate of children of residential school survivors living on reserves is lower (28%) than for the children of those who did not attend (36%)
- Since 1973, the Government of Canada has claimed that it is committed to devolving control of education to First Nations people, but did not give the resources they needed to do so effectively — as such, Indigenous education on reserves is underfunded and lower quality than the rest of the province, and lacks cultural relevance

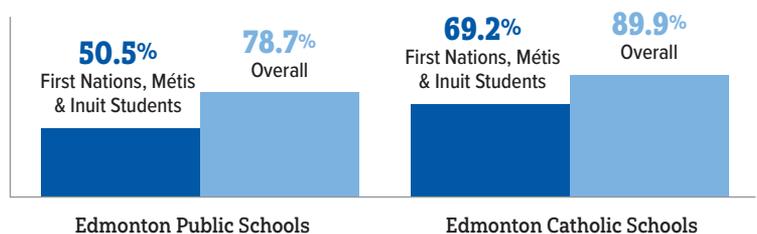
Myth Busting. Facts are:

- Indigenous Bands are allocated a limited amount of money to distribute to students to go to university — there is not enough money for each applicant
- Students need to maintain their grades, reapply each year and there is no guarantee of funding

"It was precisely because **education was the primary tool of oppression of Aboriginal people** and miseducation of all Canadians, that we have concluded that **education holds the key to reconciliation.**"

— Justice Murray Sinclair

2019–20 School Year Graduation Rates



New Curriculum

Indigenous leaders have criticized the UCP draft curriculum, arguing it was Eurocentric and perpetuated systemic racism, and that they were not properly consulted.

Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) takes steps to make holiday calendar more inclusive

The Edmonton Public School Board has decided to create holidays (days off school) to mark Diwali and National Indigenous Peoples Day in 2022–23 after a group of advocates called for the board to make its holiday calendar more inclusive, but this group still wants more.

"EPSB's existing holidays ... reflect colonial structures and entrenched privilege. Children from non-Christian religious groups are at a disadvantage."

— Islamic Family and Social Services



EPSB currently offers bilingual programming in the following languages:

American Sign Language, Arabic, Mandarin, French, German, Hebrew & Spanish.

Cree language instruction is also available.

Race data to be collected by EPSB

- Edmonton Public Schools has decided to start collecting race-based data on students, with the goals of dismantling systemic racism and racial discrimination
- The board will consult with Black, Indigenous and other racialized communities impacted by racism on how the data will be collected

School Resource Officers

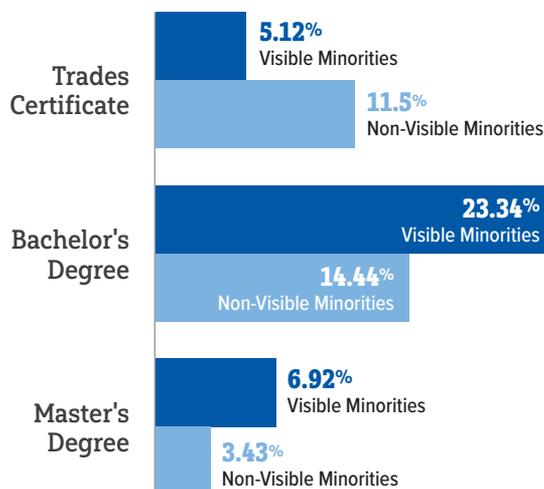
- As of May 2020, there were 26 School Resource Officers (SROs) in High Schools and Junior Highs
 - Edmonton Public Schools suspended their program in September 2020 and are currently reviewing the program
 - Edmonton Catholic Schools maintains a police presence
- Approximately **1,068** people were criminally charged between September 2011 to December 2021 and 20,963 students were labelled as offenders
- While Edmonton does not share race-based data, in the Toronto District School Board (2016/17):
 - Black students were expelled at a rate 3.3x their representation in the general school population
 - Indigenous — 5x
 - Whites — 0.77x

Edmonton SRO Research Project

- With SROs, school becomes a place where students are investigated, surveilled and charged by police officers
Edmonton SRO Research Project

School to Prison Pipeline: "Through disciplinary policies and practices, teachers and administrators criminalize children, and push students out of schools and into direct contact with ... the criminal justice system." *Black Action Legal Centre, 2022*

Highest Level of Education by Race/Ethnicity



Visible minorities refers to anyone who is not White or Indigenous, Statistics Canada

Immigrant Children

- The children of immigrants were generally more likely (43%) than those whose parents had been born in Canada (29%) to complete post-secondary studies
- 67% of children of immigrants from East Asia had university degrees, 56% of children from South Asia and 52% of children from North Africa
- Those from Central America (19%) and the Caribbean and Bermuda (24%) had lower rates Canada, 2016



Teaching and Racism

"Being a Black female teacher in Alberta has led to many racially abusive experiences that have made me want to stop teaching. Racism, especially at school, feels like an assault that leaves me humiliated and afraid" — *Gail-Ann Wilson, 2021*

- In Ontario's publicly funded school boards, racialized people are passed over for permanent contracts while the white teachers have a faster path to permanency. *Abawi, Z and Eizadiri, A., 2020*

Underrepresentation in Post-secondary Instructors

- Indigenous university professors made up just 1.4% of all university professors and 3% of college instructors. 5% of undergraduate university students are Indigenous
- 21% of racialized university professors are on par with growth in the proportion of the overall labour force
- 2% of University teachers are Black while the Black labour force is about 3.1% *Canada, 2016*

Education Attainment in Black Youth

- A study looking at Black youth in Canada aged 9 to 13 in 2006 were as likely as other Canadian youth to obtain a high school diploma (approximately 90%). But, less likely to attain a post-secondary qualification
- Only 51% of males had a post-secondary diploma 10 years later (62% for non-Black males)
- 34% of Black females had a university degree 10 years later (41% for non-Black females)

Educational barriers for Black Youth

- 94% of Black youth aged 15 to 25 wanted to get a bachelor's degree, but only 60% thought they actually could. *2016*

The Black Experience Project in the Greater Toronto Area

- 49% indicate they felt that being Black presented challenges not faced by other students
- 37% never felt accepted by their teachers, and 41% said that school was not a welcoming place
- Having more teachers who are Black is associated with more positive school experiences. But, most (four in five) were educated in high schools where either a few or none of the teachers were Black

Employment

Systemic racism in employment is intended to uphold systems of power. Barriers are put in place that make it hard for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour to do well economically.

Low-income Prevalence

Low income prevalence tends to **decrease** generationally:

14% of first generation visible minority immigrants live with low income, compared to

9.1% of third generation visible minority immigrants.

First generation **Arab immigrants** experience the highest low income rate at

34.3%

versus third generation **Arab immigrants**, who have a low income rate of

13.6%

First generation **Black immigrants** have a low income rate of

20.9%

Filipinos have the lowest low income rate —

4.6%

of first generation Filipinos live with low income, compared to

2.5%

of third generation Filipino immigrants.

2016

For every dollar a white male earns ...

White women earn **67¢**

Racialized men earn **78¢**

Racialized women earn **59¢**



Income Inequality

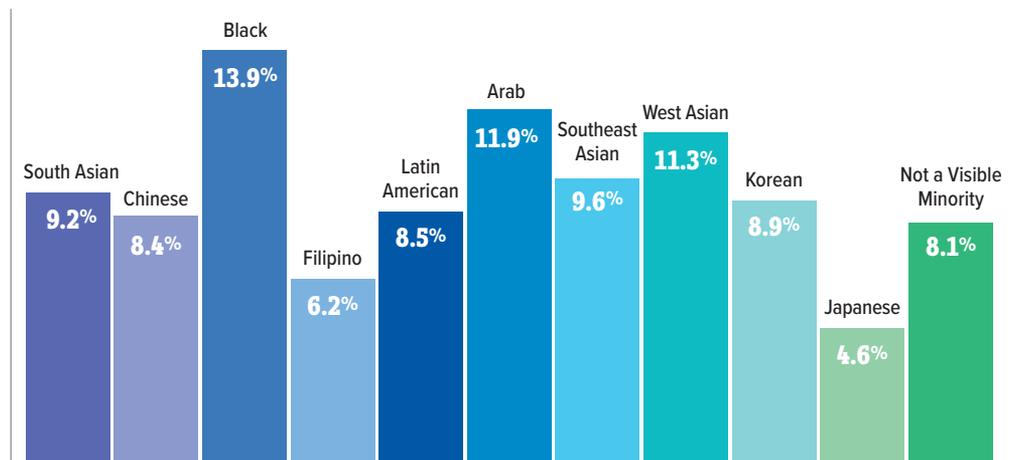
- Racialized Canadians make less than non-racialized Canadians.
- The biggest gap is in management occupations, where racialized Canadians make an average of \$82,364 and non-racialized Canadians make \$120,663.
- Racialized women managers made an average of \$67,420 and non-racialized men managers made \$177,122. 2016

Employment Inequities

- 50% of South Asian women intend to quit their current role.
- 60% of South Asian women reported their skills were underutilized — compared to 46% of all women.
- 59% of South Asian women say they sometimes feel out of place culturally at their job, compared to 35% of all women.
- 57% of South Asian women report feeling they are treated less fairly at work compared to peers, in comparison to 33% of all women.

Unemployment Rates in Edmonton (race is self-identified)

This data includes individuals of all levels of education and length of time in Canada.



Canada's Black Population: Education, Labour & Resilience

According to data from the 2016 General Social Survey, Black employees aged 15 or over were more likely than their counterparts in the rest of the population to report having experienced unfair treatment or discrimination at work in the 12 months prior to the survey.

- At the same time, 85% of Black women and 90% of Black men reported a high level of job satisfaction.
- 21% of the Black population aged 25 to 59 lived in a low-income situation, compared with 12% of their counterparts in the rest of the population. *Canada, 2016*

Further research from Toronto shows:

- About 70% of participants say that Black people are frequently treated unfairly because they are Black when seeking employment or work.
- One-third identified anti-Black racism in the workplace, whether explicit or an uncomfortable workplace culture.
- They cited negative experiences, such as having their level of competency questioned, dealing with racism and stereotypes, and having their qualifications overlooked or not recognized. *The Black Experience Project in the GTA, 2017*

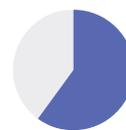
Anti-Black racism in the labour force

- A study conducted in Toronto used the same resume and cover letter with the following differences: whether the applicant had a White-sounding or Black-sounding name, and whether the applicant referred to having a criminal record in the cover letter.
- The results showed that among those with no criminal record, the "White" resume received three times the number of call-backs as the "Black" resume. When both candidates indicated a criminal record, the difference jumped to 12x. The "White" applicants with a criminal record still got nearly twice as many call backs as the "Black" applicants with no record.

Income and Wealth Equity



20.8%
of racialized Canadians live with low income.



60%
of racialized families are in the bottom half of the income distribution.

12.2%

of non-racialized Canadians live with low income.



47%

of non-racialized families are in the bottom half of the income distribution. *2016*



Indigenous Employment

Alberta has the fourth highest percentage (4.9%) of Indigenous peoples living off-reserve in the working age population.

- About 40% of them live Edmonton.
- The unemployment rate for this group was 11.2% (Canada overall — 5.7%).
- The average hourly wage for this group was \$28.84 (\$3.31 higher than national average for Indigenous peoples living off-reserve). *Alberta, 2019*

Indigenous people's economic inequities today are directly linked to **colonial processes of dispossession**, the **theft of land and resources**, and **taking away Indigenous peoples' traditional ways** of supporting themselves. *Yellowhead Institute, 2021*

Low-income Prevalence amongst Indigenous People

Indigenous people living in Edmonton have a low income prevalence rate of

18.4%

First Nations = 12.10%
Métis = 13.5%
Inuit = 8.7%

By comparison, **non-Indigenous people in Edmonton** have a low-income prevalence rate of

8.7%

Working During the Pandemic

- Racialized women work as nurses aides, orderlies, patient service associates and home support workers at nearly 3 times their share of the total labour force. *Statistics Canada, 2016*
- During the pandemic, accommodation and food services; information, culture and recreation; and wholesale and retail trade accounted for 80% of job losses in Canada.
 - Racialized women represent 25% of workers in these industries
- 30.2% of Indigenous women were in occupations ranked in the top quartile of COVID danger via proximity to others.

COVID-19 did discriminate: Labour force data sheds light on economic disparities during pandemic (2021)

Whitening of Resumes

- "Resumes containing minority racial cues, such as a distinctively African American or Asian names, lead to 30–50 percent fewer callbacks from employers than do otherwise equivalent resumes without such cues"
- Many people are forced to "whiten" their resumes — by changing their names, removing experience with racial cues — to improve their labour market chances

Kang, S. K., DeCelles, K. A., Tilcsik, A., Jun, S. (2016)

Immigrants Contribute to the Economy

An influx of

1,000

immigrant families translates to

\$84 million

in new household expenditures. 1,000 new families also generate

\$20 million

per year in municipal, provincial and federal taxes.

State of Immigration and Settlement in Edmonton Annual Report, 2021

Immigrants Start Small Businesses

12.2%

of small and medium enterprises in Canada were owned by visible minorities in 2017.

80.3%

of this group was born outside of Canada. *SME Profile: Ownership demographic statistics*

Newcomers to Canada are more likely to start a business that grows more quickly and creates more net jobs per enterprise than the Canadian-born population.

The entrepreneurial rate among newcomers is **more than double** the rate for people born in Canada. *Thevenot, S. (2019)*

Immigration Contribution to Canada

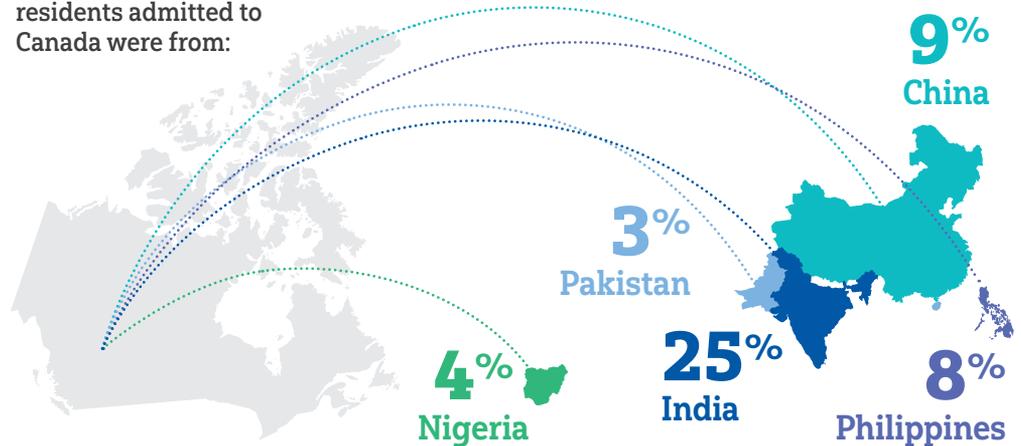
- Newcomers had a labour force participation rate of 83%. Refugees had a rate of 78% and economic immigrants 90% (vs. Canadian average 87%). *2019*
- The more time in Canada, the more income an immigrant makes:
 - Economic immigrants make an average of \$51,900 in the first year after arriving, but make \$74,000 at 15 years.
 - Refugees also make more money the longer they are in Canada, but still lag behind — \$21,100 in the first year, \$35,600 at year 15.
- 42% of refugees used social assistance in the first year since landing, and 25% in year 10.
- Only 2% of economic immigrants use social assistance — much lower than the 6% Canadian average.

Majority of immigrants are economic

- The economic immigration class is the largest source of permanent resident admissions, at approximately 58% of all admissions in 2019 (196,658 persons)
- 106,422 immigrants were admitted to Canada under the economic class in 2020

Permanent Residents by Country of Origin

In 2019, permanent residents admitted to Canada were from:



Credentials & Overqualification

In a Canada-wide study conducted with workers aged 25 to 49 with a university degree in 2006 and again in 2016:

- 29.3% of Immigrants experienced overqualification at least once, compared with 16.1% of non-immigrants.
- 33.8% of immigrant women and 25.3% of immigrant men experienced overqualification at least once.
- Nearly 10% of immigrants were persistently overqualified.

Working Without Status

Advocates estimate as many as 10,000 to 20,000 (former) Temporary Foreign Workers who have lost status are currently living in Alberta.

- Formal employment is closed off and these workers have to subsist through casual, informal, cash-based work through community networks and connections. These make them vulnerable to unsafe conditions such as not getting paid, being shortchanged and unsafe working conditions.

Luciano, M. and Foster, J. Parkland Institute, 2020



Vital Topic

Housing, Safety & Mental Health



Housing & Health Are Connected

Stable housing:

- gives people a sense of control that may reduce stress, and contributes to a sense of belonging within a neighbourhood and participation in one's community.
- People who are homeless are at much higher risk of a variety of illnesses and death than those who are housed. *Norman, T., & Reist, D. (2021)*

- Children living in housing need are more likely to exhibit a number of negative outcomes, including aggressive behaviours, diminished school performance, asthma symptoms and diminished overall health status.
- Unaffordable housing is linked to food insecurity and inadequate childhood nutrition. *Canadian Paediatric Society, 2019*

Housing Challenges of Black Canadians

- 20.6% of Black Canadians reported living in housing that is below standards
- 7.7% of white Canadians reported living in housing below standards

Below standards = housing costs more than they can afford and/or is crowded and/or requires major repairs.

Among Black Canadians:

- 12.9% were living in crowded conditions.
- 8.4% were living in homes in need of major repairs.
- 28.6% were living in unaffordable housing. *Government of Canada, 2016*

Immigrant Housing Inequality

- 72% of newcomer respondents across Canada spend more than 30% of their income on housing.
- 44% reported spending between 75% and 100% of their income on housing.
- 39% of refugees in Canada live in unsuitable and substandard housing.

Indigenous Housing Inequality

- 1 in 5 Indigenous people (19.4%) live in a dwelling in need of major repairs
- 18.3% of Indigenous people live in crowded housing

The proportion of First Nations people with registered or treaty Indian status who live in a dwelling that needed major repairs was more than three times higher on reserve (44.2%) than off reserve (14.2%). *Stats Canada, 2016*

Indigenous Homelessness

- There are 2,802 people experiencing homelessness in Edmonton
 - 59% of those who are unhoused identify as Indigenous *Homeward Trust Edmonton, April 2022*
- "Indigenous homelessness is not defined as lacking a structure of habitation; rather, it is more fully described and understood through a composite lens of Indigenous worldviews. These include: individuals, families and communities isolated from their relationships to land, water, place, family, kin, each other, animals, cultures, languages and identities. Importantly, Indigenous people experiencing these kinds of homelessness cannot culturally, spiritually, emotionally or physically reconnect with their Indigeneity or lost relationships." — *Thistle, Jesse, 2017*

Core Housing Need

- 40%** of renters in social and affordable housing are a visible minority, whereas they make up
- 32%** of renters in market housing and
- 23%** of owners.

Indigenous People Living Off-reserve

- 9.4%** of renters in social and affordable housing are Indigenous people living off-reserve, whereas they make up

3.8%

of renters in market housing and

3.1%

of owners. *Canada-wide, 2018*

Multigenerational Housing

- 20%** of Canadians were living in multigenerational housing (approximately). *Stats Canada, 2016 census*

Homeownership

72.61% of Canadians are homeowners. Some visible minority groups are less likely to be homeowners:

- Black: **44.50%**
 - Arab: **47.30%**
 - Indigenous Peoples: **49.57%**
 - Latin American: **50.83%**
 - West Asian: **56.35%**
- CMHC, 2021*

Property Values Vary By Race

- Japanese people had the highest property value — \$452,143
- Latin Americans had the lowest — \$382,387 *CMHC, 2021*

Experiences with the Criminal Justice System

Systemic racism in the justice system is intended to uphold systems of power. The RCMP and police services were originally created to control Indigenous peoples and capture slaves. Today, BIPOC people living in Canada are disproportionately targeted by the criminal justice system.

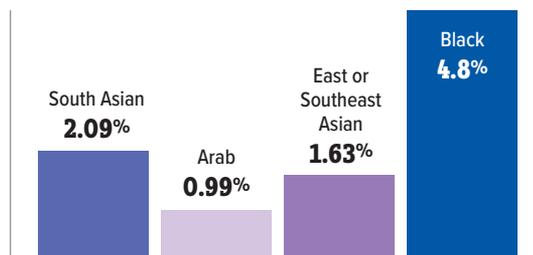
Systemic racism in safety both justifies and minimizes violence against BIPOC people living in Edmonton.

Custodial Admissions

Custodial admission refers to people who are sentenced, in remand and other custodial status admissions, including community-based sentencing.

Overrepresentation of Visible Minorities

15.5% of people admitted to adult corrections were designated as a visible minority. A snapshot:



Statistics Canada — Alberta, 2020/21

Overrepresentation of Indigenous people



A Primer on Restorative Justice

- **Restorative Justice (RJ)** is a way of addressing conflict and crime that enables the person who caused the harm, people who were affected by the harm, and the community to create a meaningful solution.
- Several studies have concluded that victims and offenders have high levels of satisfaction with the restorative justice process and outcomes.
- Restorative justice reduces recidivism (re-offending).
- Restorative justice is more flexible than the traditional court system and can be more readily adapted to meet the needs of participants, provide care and support, create dialogue and enable victims to take a more active role in decisions and outcomes. *Office of the Federal Ombudsman for Victims of Crime, Nov 2017.*

Carding

- “Street checks, also known as “carding”, occur when the police stop an individual to gather information from them without having the legal grounds to arrest or detain them.” *Black Lives Matter, 2017*
- Black Edmontonians are 3.6 times more likely to be street checked than white Edmontonians.

- Indigenous Edmontonians are four times more likely to be street checked than white Edmontonians.
- Indigenous women in Edmonton face the highest rates of carding at 6.5 times the rate of white women in Edmonton. *Black Lives Matter, 2017*
- In November 2020, Alberta banned “carding” but still allows “street checks” — critics have argued this won’t change anything, BIPOC living in Edmonton will still disproportionately be subjected to street checks.



In a study surveying Black people living in the Greater Toronto Area (GTA)...

87%

of participants stated that Black people living in the GTA frequently face unfair treatment in dealings with the police because they are Black.

79%

of Black male participants aged 25-44 reported they had been stopped in public places by police.

60%

reported being harassed or treated rudely by police.

Whereas only

39%

reported having been helped by police.

24%

reported that police had used force against them.

Negative experiences with police do not differ by economic status.

Safety

Community-based hate crime reporting

Project 1907 is a reporting centre that collects confidential, self-reported data on incidents of racism, hate and violence experienced by the Asian diaspora living in Canada.

- Incidents of hate and violence towards Asian people living in Canada can be directly linked to Canada's history of anti-Asian racism, which has been compounded by the reaction to the COVID-19 pandemic with some individuals blaming Asian peoples for the virus. *Project 1907, Racism Incident Reporting Centre.*

Across Canada, 943 reports of racism were received in 2021:

- 64% were submitted by women
- East Asians reported 51% of the incidents, Southeast Asian 17%, and South Asians 4%
- Verbal harassment was the most reported form of discrimination — 48%
- 48% of incidents occurred in public spaces



Hate Crimes

Canada-wide, police investigated fewer than 1% of hate crimes in 2019

In Alberta from 2020–2021, there were:

244

human rights complaints based on race/colour, accounting for 10% of all complaints.

156

were based on ancestry/origin, accounting for 6% of all complaints.

52

were based on religious beliefs, accounting for 2% of all complaints.

In Edmonton, there were

79

reported hate crime incidents, a rate of 5.4 per 100,000 population. *Statistics Canada, 2020*

Human rights complaints and police crime statistics likely severely underestimate the rate of hate crimes — many Black, Indigenous and People of Colour face barriers getting justice through these means. *Edmonton Centre for Race and Culture, 2018*

Edmonton has seen a rise in hate crimes targeting Black and Muslim women.

At least 15

attacks on Muslim women occurred in Edmonton and Calgary between December 2020 and October 2021.

Indigenous Homicide Rates per 100,000

Indigenous Males:
31.87

Non-Indigenous Males:
3.18

Indigenous Females:
5.07

Non-Indigenous Females
0.62

Stats Canada, 2019

Safety of Indigenous Peoples

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Peoples

- RCMP reported that 1,017 Indigenous women were killed between 1980 and 2012. Activists say it's closer to 4,000. *Tasker, 2016*
- APTN News' investigation identified more than 600 missing and murdered Indigenous men and boys in Canada since 1974.
- The stereotype that Indigenous men are violent, criminals and gangsters desensitizes Canadians from looking at these issues. *Guyot, Brittany, 2022*

Violence against Indigenous women

Indigenous women experience disproportionately high rates of violence and victimization — this is rooted in intergenerational trauma and the ongoing violence of colonialism in Canadian society.

- 56% of Indigenous women have experienced physical assault versus a third of non-Indigenous women have experienced physical assault (34%).
- Almost half (46%) of Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault versus 33% of non-Indigenous women have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime. *Statistics Canada, 2022*

Police Brutality

- In 2018, Calgary police officers were responsible for five fatal shootings — more than the Toronto, Vancouver, Ottawa, Winnipeg and Edmonton police combined.
- The Alberta Serious Incident Response Team has never charged a Calgary police officer in a fatal shooting. *CBC Docs POV*

Homicides

- Of the 656 homicide victims for whom police reported a visible minority identity in 2019, police reported 31%, or 206 victims, as visible minorities (44% of whom were identified as Black).
- Visible minorities represented 22.3% of the total Canadian population.

Health

Systemic racism in health services is intended to uphold systems of power. Inequalities in other spheres — including education, employment and housing — put BIPOC individuals at risk of more negative health outcomes. Systemic racism and racist attitudes also create barriers in places that prevent BIPOC folks from getting quality healthcare.

Indigenous Peoples and Healthcare

- Colonial policies — residential schools, outlawing Indigenous gatherings/ceremonies, etc. — lead to lasting, intergenerational effects on mental health, family relationships and Indigenous language and culture.
 - Limited access to healthy food choices
 - Inadequate living conditions
 - Substandard healthcare
- Interpersonal racism toward Indigenous patients from healthcare providers across healthcare settings *Indigenous Health Working Group. Health and Healthcare Implications of Systemic Racism on Indigenous Peoples in Canada Fact Sheet*
- Stereotypes such as the “drunken Indian” prevent access to care. *Chia, K. 2020*
- Indian hospitals, where treatment was substandard, negatively affected Indigenous people’s trust in the healthcare system. *Gerster, J. (2020)*

Indigenous Youth Mental Health

- From 2011 to 2016, the suicide rate among First Nations people was three times higher than among the non-Indigenous population.
- For Métis, the rate is 14.7 per 100,000.
- Inuit have the highest rate.
- Inuit males have a suicide rate of 109.3 per 100,000 population.
- For all groups, males have a higher rate than females.

Statistics Canada, 2011–2016

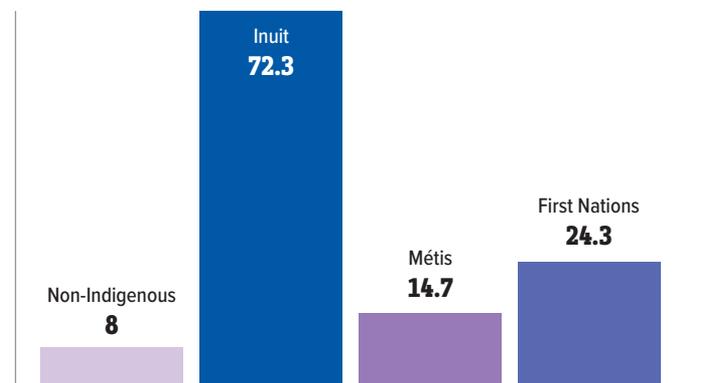


Birth Alerts

A “birth alert” is when a social worker flags an expectant parent to hospital staff — without the parent’s consent — because they believe the unborn baby is at risk. Hospital staff are then expected to let a social worker know once the baby is born.

- In B.C., there were at least 444 birth alerts issued between January 2018 and September 2019, and, in 2018, 58 per cent of birth alerts targeted Indigenous parents.
- Alberta formally abandoned the practice of birth alerts in the fall of 2019 — prior to this, birth alerts were not tracked. *Morgan, Brielle (2021).*

Suicides per 100,000 People by Indigenous Identity



“When immigrants enter a new culture, they need to deal with value systems, communication patterns, signs and symbols of social contact, and interpersonal relationship patterns, that differ from those of their home country and culture.

This negotiation, known as culture shock, can lead to stress and depression.”

— Salami et al, 2017

Mental Health of Immigrants and Refugees

- Immigrants were less likely to report getting mental health consultations (MHC) than their counterparts born in Canada.
- Established immigrants were more likely to get MHC than recent immigrants.
- Refugees were not more likely than other immigrants to get MHC, which indicates refugees may not have access to care that meets their needs. *Statistics Canada, 2021*
- “More than 50% of study participants strongly believe that discrimination and racism lead to mental health disorders, reduced self-confidence, and social isolation.” *Salami et al, 2017*
- A study of Canadians aged 45–85 found that 24% of refugees were in psychological distress compared to 13% of non-refugee immigrants and those born in Canada. *International Journal of Social Psychiatry, 2020*
- 15 to 18% of all refugees who come to Canada (about 4,300 to 5,100 people per year), require a formal mental health clinical intervention to help them address trauma, according to research by Immigrant Services Society of British Columbia. *BC Refugee Hub, 2021*
- Recent migrants were almost four times more likely to report better mental health than Canadian-born residents. *Salami, B. (2017)*

ACB (African, Caribbean, and Black) Mental Health

- Between 2001 and 2014, Black Canadian residents who had poor or fair self-reported mental health used mental health services 10% less than non-ACB Canadians.
- ACB people experience double the wait times for mental healthcare than non-ACB people.
- ACB youth are more likely to be diagnosed with depression, receive less treatment and have a six times higher risk of dying by suicide than white youth.
- The majority of ACB individuals (60%) would be more willing to see a healthcare professional if the professional was ACB.
- African immigrant and refugee families face barriers accessing healthcare due to adjusting to a new system, language barriers, and lack of social support.
- Lack of access to culturally safe care is another barrier to equitable access to healthcare for ACB people living in Canada. *Ribbon Rouge Foundation, 2021*

“Black people’s health is harmed in part because they live in a racist environment.

Any racism experienced during their interactions with the system impacts their access to future care.”

— Wellesley Institute, 2020



Black Youth Mental Health

Black youth face an increased risk of mental health issues and face barriers to accessing mental health support:

- High costs
- Lack of services within their community and feelings of discomfort with accessing services in predominantly white communities
- Lack of representation in mental health professionals and feelings that white professionals are unable to understand their unique experiences
- Lack of knowledge on how to access mental health service — they don’t know what exists, how to find services, or how to access services

Abortion Access

- Crisis Pregnancy Centers (CPCs) are anti-abortion organizations that offer prenatal services and counselling but provide inaccurate information about abortion or pregnancy options that interfere with people’s reproductive health decisions, including accessing abortions. In Alberta, there are five abortion providers but 28 CPCs. *Datta-Ray, M. (2022, June)*

Research out of the United States shows that:

- Black women are 4x more likely to have an abortion than white women. *Craven-Richard, M. (July 2, 2022)*
- Black women are 3-4x more likely to experience a pregnancy-related death than white women. *National Partnership for Women and Families. (2018)*

Black Canadians and Healthcare

Between 2010 and 2013...

14.2%

of Black Canadians of the age of 18 or older reported that their health was fair/poor, compared to

11.3%

of white Canadians.

Black patients were

22%

less likely than white patients to receive medication

Black Canadians reported significantly lower rates of heavy alcohol use and smoking compared to white Canadians.

Government of Canada (2020)

Diabetes among Black Canadians was

2.1 times

the rate of white Canadians

BIPOC communities are also more susceptible to chronic illness due to socioeconomic stressors *Chia, K. 2020.*

A Look at Civic Engagement



Civic Engagement describes the ways in which we participate in the political and social life of our communities to address social issues and make our communities better places.

Inclusion means acknowledging and valuing the differences in our society, recognizing barriers and actively seeking out different perspectives to determine how we may do things differently to benefit all members of our society.

Multiculturalism acknowledges different cultures — through things like enjoying ethnic food, fashion, or media — but live separate from them. There is little cross-learning, and little acknowledgment of power differentials.

Interculturalism is an ongoing process of mutual understanding, appreciation and acceptance for all cultures. It does not involve hierarchies. Interculturalism comes with an expectation of learning, shifting perspectives and adapting. Differences are both acknowledged and celebrated, and barriers are removed.

Inclusion

In 2022, 43.5% of Indigenous persons in Canada reported having a very strong or somewhat strong sense of belonging to their local community (compared to 47.2% of non-Indigenous persons). *Statistics Canada, 2022.*

In 2020:

- 75.2% of visible minorities felt a strong sense of belonging to their local community, and 86.5% felt a strong sense of belonging to Canada. Individuals of Arabic communities had the strongest sense of belonging to Canada at 92.5%.
- Visible minorities (54.2%) and non-visible minorities (54.8%) almost equally believed that people can be trusted, in general. Black people living in Canada have the lowest rate (35.3%) and Chinese people have the highest, 72.3%.

Statistics Canada, 2022

Newcomers and Inclusion

Many newcomers and immigrants experience discrimination because of their accent, skin colour and cultural differences, which affects sense of belonging and psychosocial integration in Canada. *Salami, B., 2017*

Immigrants enrich and strengthen our society in many ways. They bring cultural knowledge and traditions that enrich our communities, as well as bringing skills that enrich local knowledge and can lead to innovation. *City of Edmonton, 2021*

Religious Minorities and Inclusion

There has been a spike in violence against Black Muslim women in Edmonton, which has affected their feelings of belonging in the city. Participants reported that they feel proud to be Black Muslim women, but feel fear and exclusion in public spaces. *Fundira, M. (2022)*

Black Muslims also face exclusion and a lack of safety within Muslim spaces. The Anti-Racism Muslim Collaborative found this occurs through practices such as: Arab-led organizations not making space for non-Arabic speakers, lack of avenues to address racism and a belief of “we are all Muslims” which erases the specific needs of Black Muslims.

John Humphrey Center for Peace and Human Rights (2022). Anti-Black racism in Muslim spaces: community engagement sessions report.



To address the rise in Islamophobia in Edmonton, **Sisters Dialogue**, a non-profit organization, was set up to provide culturally safe spaces and supports for racialized Muslim women and girls.

Disability and Race



14.3%

of people aged 15 and older with a disability are also a member of a group designated as a visible minority:

Percent of people with a disability who are



Newcomers with disabilities are more susceptible to poverty, have a poorer quality of life and face greater difficulties accessing basic needs.

Tam, D. M. Y., Smith-Carrier, T., Kwok, S. M., Kerr, D., Wang, J. (N.D.)

2SLGBTQ+ and Race

There is an overall lack of data with this population, which makes the challenges they face invisible.

There is a lack of acceptance for Black, Indigenous and People of Colour individuals within the queer community, and many BIPOC individuals experience racism within the larger 2SLGBTQ+ community.

Dayal, P., 2022

Black, Indigenous and Asian families often live in extended family structures.



This acts as a barrier to access disability benefits or accessibility funds because they are tied to household incomes.

Sikand, M., 2021

Donations

Go Fund Me

March 2021 — taking a stand on Asian hate:

>\$7 million

was raised across Canada, Australia and the UK to respond to the surge in violence against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

\$157,050

was raised in May 2021 to support efforts to search residential school properties for missing children.



Immigrant donors give more on average than Canadian born donors.

Thomas, D. (2012). Giving and volunteering among Canada's immigrants. Statistics Canada

Of the nearly 165,000 pandemic-related GoFundMe drives created from March to August 2020 in the U.S., the average collected was just \$65, and four in 10 received no donation at all.

Digital fundraising tools reflect and may even worsen income inequality. Fundraising drives are shared with our social networks — but if friends, families and community members are in similar circumstances to the one that needs help, they may not be able to donate much.

Ovide, S., 2021. The Inequality of the GoFundMe Economy

There are many different ways to get involved in one's community ...

In 2020,

64.1%

of visible minorities were engaged in political activities such as: researching a political issue, volunteering for a political party, expressing views in a newspaper or writing to a politician, or signing petitions.

Black Canadians are the most involved at

70.1%

whereas only

47.9%

of Filipinos were engaged in political activities.

18.2%

of South Asian Canadians were a member of a humanitarian or charitable organization or service club.

21.4%

of Black Canadians were members in a school group, neighbourhood, civic or community association.

Statistics Canada, 2022

Voting

As of 2020, 82.3% of visible minorities voted in the last federal election, 79.0% in the last provincial election, and 65.6% in the last municipal election.

Individuals of South Asian descent have the highest voting rates – 89.8% in the last federal election, 88.9% in the last provincial election and 76.4% in the last municipal election. *Statistics Canada, 2022*



Representation in Edmonton's City Council

- Of all candidates running in mayoral, council, and school trustee races, 65% were white, 17% were South Asian and 10% were Black. *Black, M., 2021*
- Three out of 12 elected council members are BIPOC: Aaron Paquette (Ward Dene), Jennifer Rice (Ward Ipiihkookhanipiaohsi), and Keren Tang (Ward Karhiio).
- In 2021, Amarjeet Sohi was elected as Mayor of Edmonton, becoming the first Mayor of South Asian origin.

Representation in the Legislative Assembly (MLA) representing Edmonton

- Kaycee Madu — United Conservative Party, Edmonton Southwest.
- David Shepherd — New Democratic Party, Edmonton City Centre.

Representation in Members of Parliament (MPs) from Alberta

- Blake Desjarlais — New Democratic Party, Edmonton Griesbach. Blake is the first openly Two-Spirit person elected to the House of Commons.

Representation in the Supreme Court of Canada

- Michelle O'Bonsawin is the first Indigenous person to be nominated to the Supreme Court of Canada. *Aiella, R., 2022*

Representation in Public Office

- Mary Simon is the first Indigenous Governor General. www.gg.ca/en

Youth Voting

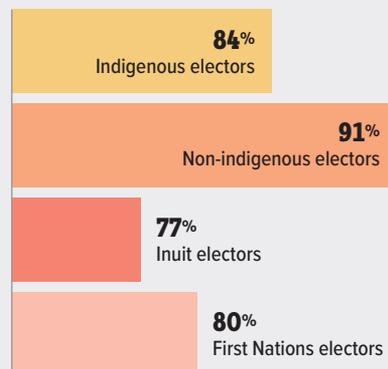
In 2019, 53.9% of youth aged 18-24 voted in the federal election.

- Youth electors tend to face barriers in getting registered, accessing polling places and proving identity.
- Youth tend to have less confidence and trust in the electoral process, and have lower levels of satisfaction in democracy and politics.

Elections Canada

Indigenous Voting Rates

In 2019, the following electors reported having voted in the Federal Election:



Indigenous Voters, 2019

Reasons for Voting (or Not)

Top 2 reasons for not voting:

- Among Indigenous populations: political reasons (42%) and everyday life or health reasons (38%).
- Among Canadian citizens by naturalization (10 years or less since immigration): everyday life or health reasons (45%) and too busy (29%)
- Among Canadian citizens by naturalization (more than 10 years since immigration): everyday life or health reasons (49%) and political reasons (35%).

Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey 2021

For many Indigenous people, participating in Canadian elections legitimizes the Canadian state, which has imposed settler colonialism on their territories, nations, and themselves, and as such, they choose not to vote.

Grassroots Organizations and Community Advocacy in Edmonton

Since many people have faced barriers advocating for change through institutional political processes, they often turn to community organizing and collective action to make change.

Examples:

Turtle Island Safer Spaces (turtleislandnyeg.com) supports businesses and organizations in their efforts to disrupt racism in their establishments.

Groups like **Hares Outreach** (Facebook.com/haresoutreach), **Water Warriors YEG** (Waterwarriorsyeg.com) and **Prairie Sage Protectors** (Facebook.com/prairiesageprotectors) engage in advocacy, street outreach and harm reduction to help their communities.

Shades of Colour (Shadesofcolouryeg.com) was founded by and for QTIBPOCs (queer and trans, Indigenous, Black and People of Colour) and offers support to individuals in the community.

Bear Clan Beaver Hills House (Bearclanpatrol.org) is a community-based initiative to help provide a sense of safety, solidarity and belonging to both its members and the community at-large.

Groups such as **YEG the Come Up** (Africacentre.ca/yeg-the-come-up), **1884 Fellowship** (Obvc.ca/1834fellowship) and **African Canadian Civic Engagement Council** (Accec.ca) aim to empower Black Canadians and youth in becoming involved in civic engagement.



In 2016:

Racialized artists made up

13%

of Alberta's artists, compared to

22%

of all Alberta workers.

Indigenous artists make up

4%

of Alberta's artists, compared to

5.1%

of all Alberta workers.

Immigrant artists make up

17%

of the artist populations, compared to

24%

of all Alberta workers.

Statistical Insights on the Arts in Alberta, 2016

Representation in the Arts

The Citadel Theatre

In 2019-2020:

- 90% of playwrights for Citadel Theatre productions were white and 10% were Indigenous.
- Under 10% of directors of Citadel Theatre productions were Black and there were no Indigenous directors.
- Over 20% of actors in Citadel Theatre productions were Black, roughly 5% were Indigenous and roughly 10% were People of Colour.

The Citadel Theatre. Inclusivity and Diversity Report, 2020

Art Gallery of Alberta

- Since 1996-2020, the Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art exhibition has not included any Black artists.
- In 2020, the Biennial was re-thought and now 13 of 39 artists are Indigenous and/or artists of colour and two of four curators are Indigenous.

Art Gallery of Alberta - Biennial of Contemporary Art Statement, 2020

- The lack of representation of Black Artists in this exhibition seemed to imply that Black artists do not exist in Alberta.

CanadianArt, 2020

The Indian Group of Seven

In 1973, the Indian Group of Seven created the Professional National Indian Artists Incorporation: Norval Morrisseau, Jackson Beardy, Alex Janvier, Carl Ray, Eddy Cobiness, Daphne Odjig, Joe Sanchez

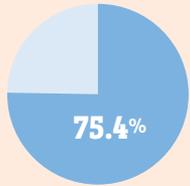
Poetry in Edmonton

Edmonton's Poet Laureate's role is to reflect the life of the city through poetry. Since 2005, five of nine poet laureates have been BIPOC: Titilope Sonuga, Nisha Patel, Ahmed "Knowmadic" Ali, Anna Marie Sewell, Roland Pemberton "Candence Weapon"

Local Art

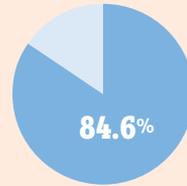
- Since 2017, **Black Arts Matter** is a festival dedicated to Black art.
- **OCICIWAN Contemporary Art Collective** (ociciwan.ca/about) supports the work of Indigenous contemporary artists and designers, engages in contemporary critical dialogue and fosters the awareness of Indigenous contemporary art practices.
- **I.A.M. (Indigenous Artist Makers Collective)** (iamcollective.ca) is an Indigenous arts collective that promotes authenticity over appropriation by providing a place for market goers to purchase authentic, local Indigenous art.
- **Whiskeyjack Art House** (whiskeyjackarthouse.ca).
- **Ribbon Rouge Foundation** (ribbonrouge.com) is a grassroots organization that facilitates social justice through the arts, with a focus on health equity.

Citizenship



In 2016, **75.4%** of immigrants who had been in Canada for 5-9 years became citizens.

Statistics Canada, Trends in the Citizenship Rate Among New Immigrants to Canada. (2019)



Five years after being admitted to Canada, **84.6%** of immigrants who first settled here had stayed in Edmonton.

Statistics Canada, Longitudinal Immigration Database, 2021

Edmonton had the highest retention rate for economic immigrants.

Refugees and Asylum Claimants

Between 1980 and 2017, Canada has welcomed

1,088,015

refugees.

Refugees have the highest uptake rate of citizenship among all categories of immigrants. *The UN Refugee Agency*

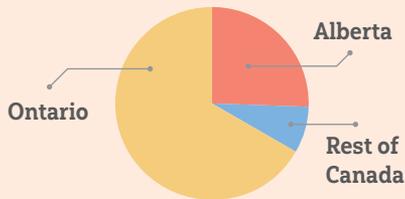
88% of refugees become citizens compared to

84% of Economic Class immigrants and

80% of Family Class immigrants.

Top 5 countries for 2017 asylum claimants: Haiti, Nigeria, U.S., Turkey and Pakistan

About two-thirds (66.8%) of refugees admitted in 2016 reside in Ontario while 7.7% reside in Alberta.



Statistics Canada, 2019, Asylum Claimants

Religious Participation

In 2019, **68% of the Canadian population reported having a religious affiliation**, and 54% said their religious or spiritual beliefs were somewhat or very important to the way they live their lives.

71% of people born between 1980 and 1999 **outside of Canada reported a religious affiliation**, compared to **59%** of their counterparts **born in Canada**.

Statistics Canada, Study: Religiosity in Canada and its evolution from 1985 to 2019

Decade for People of African Descent

As a result of community advocacy and organization, Edmonton signed on to the UN declaration to mark 2015-2024 as the decade to strengthen the economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights of people of African descent. *Junker (2022)*



Indigenous Spirituality

Spiritual beliefs vary widely within First Nation communities, but it is common to have creation stories. The role of supernatural beings and tricksters and traditional ways of life often intermingle with spirituality and religion.

European colonization forced Indigenous people to convert to Christianity. Today, we see hybridization of traditional and Christian practices or a replacement of traditional practices.

Canadian Encyclopedia, 2018. Religion and Spirituality of Indigenous Peoples in Canada

In 2011, 63.5% of Indigenous people identified as Christian, 56% of whom were Catholic. 4.5% of Indigenous people identified with traditional (Indigenous) spirituality.

Hayes, A.L. Indigenous and Settler Christianities in Canada

What is a Pow Wow?

- Pow Wows are cultural celebrations of pride which showcase drums, dance, regalia, food and crafts of Indigenous peoples and Nations all across Turtle Island.
- Pow Wows differ between communities — some are traditional ceremonies and some are a competition.

Did you know: Pow Wows and Sundances were made illegal by the Indian Act until 1951.

What is a Sundance?

- The Sundance is a sacred ceremony in which participants pray to the great spirit for healing.
- Participants go into a Sundance lodge and go without food or water for four days, dancing from sun up until sun down.
- Participating in a Sundance is very personal — people choose to dance for a variety of reasons — their own healing, the healing of a loved one, help with an addiction, for community. *Vienneau (2020). The Sacred Sundance. Say Magazine*

What are Sweat Lodges?

- Sweat lodges are used to cleanse and heal — sweating rids the body of toxins and negative energy.
- They create an opportunity to speak to the Creator, to share personal stories and to meditate on life.
- Sweat lodges are physically and mentally challenging — participating in a sweat can be very difficult but can be very rewarding. *Sweat Lodge, The Canadian Encyclopedia*

The First People's Church

Sacred Heart Church of the First Peoples is a church located in Edmonton that blends Indigenous ceremony, symbols and spirituality with Catholic liturgy. *Tait, C., 2022*



Mixed Reactions to the Pope's Apology

Many believed the apology to be sincere and heartfelt — and spoke to devastation wrought by residential schools. The apology gave individuals a chance to forgive and allow people to heal.

For others, the apology was not enough — they wanted actions. Examples include: committing to fulfil the Church's promise of financial compensation for damage done to students and their families, church records to be opened for research and for the Pope to reject the 'doctrine of discovery.'

Coates, 2022. Opinion: After papal visit, let's hope journey toward reconciliation continues

Cook, 2022. Hurts and healing: Papal visit stirs emotions of First Nation members in Alberta

Self-governance

Indigenous self-government is the structure through which Indigenous communities assert control over the administration of their people, land, resources and related programs and policies, through agreements with federal and provincial governments.

Traditional systems of governance had been dismantled under the Indian Act, but these systems are being reclaimed through Indigenous activism.

The Canadian Encyclopedia. Indigenous Self-Government in Canada

Civic Engagement and Indigenous Communities

Indigenous communities exist in a nation-to-nation or government-to-government relationship with Canada.

Indigenous peoples have the right to self-government and to enter into treaties, agreements, and other constructive arrangements with the Crown.

Indigenous people may get civically engaged with their Nation rather than the Canadian state through actions such as getting involved in the community, getting involved in the tribal council and helping move self-determination forward.

First Nations Communities in Alberta

Alberta has 45 First Nations within the province.

There are 140 reserves, which cover approximately 812,771 hectares of land.

Alberta has three Treaty areas: Treaty 6, Treaty 7 and Treaty 8.

Indigenous Peoples and Communities in Alberta. Alberta Health Services

Métis Settlements in Alberta

There are 8 Métis settlements in Alberta, comprising 512,121 hectares, home to approximately 5,000 people. Alberta is the only province in Canada with a legislated land base for Métis people.

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

"The National Inquiry's Final Report reveals that persistent and deliberate human and Indigenous rights violations and abuses are the root cause behind Canada's staggering rates of violence against Indigenous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA people."

The final report contains the truths of more than 2,380 family members, survivors of violence, experts and Knowledge Keepers. It recommends 231 individual calls for justice directed at governments, institutions, social service providers, industries and all Canadians.

BIPOC Athletes with Edmonton Roots

Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada

The TRC calls are intended to “redress the legacy of residential schools and advance the process of Canadian reconciliation”.

There are 94 calls to action

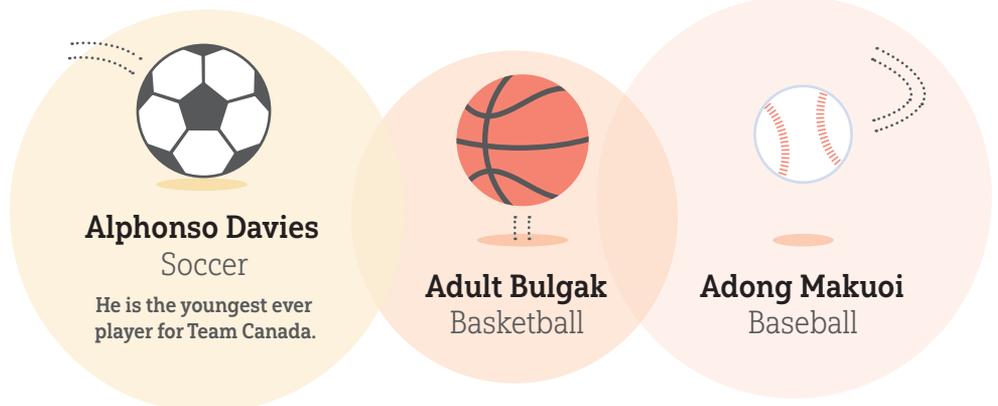
divided into major categories that governments on all levels and society in general can address.

UNDRIP

The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) was adopted by the United Nations in 2007 and guarantees the rights of Indigenous peoples to:

- practise their cultures, customs, religions and languages
- develop and strengthen their economies and social and political institutions
- be free from discrimination
- exercise self determination

Did you know: Initially, Canada voted against adopting it. Canada adopted UNDRIP in 2021.



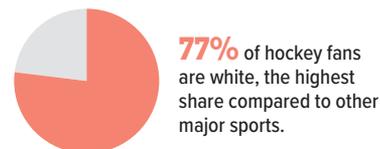
Racism in Sports

Black hockey players have reported experiencing racism within hockey, including racial slurs and taunts, unfair punishments and being made to feel like they don't belong.

Incidents are not taken seriously, and there are concerns that reporting racism will negatively impact a player's career.

Affordability and accessibility are also barriers to playing the sport.

Representation in Hockey



Did you know?

Lacrosse was invented by Indigenous peoples

Lacrosse was started in the St. Lawrence Valley by the Algonquins and was first known as stickball. The game was played for a variety of reasons, which include toughening up young warriors, but also for recreational and religious reasons.

Hockey also has Indigenous roots

Prior to hockey being known as Canada's sport, Mi'kmaq craftsmen made early versions of hockey sticks in the 1800s, which were used in the early days of the NHL.

Sports can Foster Inclusion

87% of newcomers reported that watching their children play sports or volunteering for their children's teams made them feel more connected to the community.

Sports help marginalized youth by:

- Teaching leadership and life skills that improve self-esteem and interpersonal skills
- Meet friends and role models
- Increase self-esteem and social skills

Vital Signs: Sport and Belonging (2015). Community Foundations of Canada

CALLS TO ACTION

- We are all treaty people: participate and engage in Indigenous-led events or workshops that strengthen your capacity to be an ally, such as Centre for Race and Culture, which offers various free initiatives and engagement opportunities, some of which are funded by ECF: cfrac.com/projects-initiatives/#indigenous-education
- Attend and engage in at least one community town hall
- Volunteer and support racially diverse grassroots initiatives and organizations

Vital Topic

Population (2021)
 1,010,899 people live in Edmonton.
 1,418,188 people live in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan area.

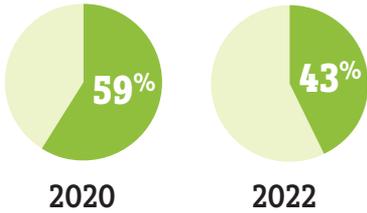
Living in Edmonton 2022

Living in Edmonton provides a broad snap shot of our community as referenced by statistical information. They represent basic demographic, social and economic information that defines how well Edmontonians are doing both from an economic and social perspective. This information is not disaggregated by race or cultural dimension but rather is a representation of Edmonton as a whole.



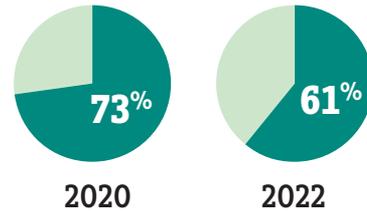
Quality of Life in Edmonton

Quality of life rated "very good" or "excellent"



- In 2022, 43% of Edmontonians rated their quality of life as very good or excellent. This is down from a rate of 59% in 2020.
- 78% of Edmontonians agree that there are adequate opportunities for sports and recreation in Edmonton.
- 71% agree Edmonton is a city that values the arts.
- Feelings of safety are decreasing. In 2022, 61% of Edmontonians felt safe in Edmonton, compared to 73% in 2020.

Feelings of safety



Leger, Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Green Spaces

- Edmonton has 6.2 hectares of parkland per thousand people, the second most hectares of parkland per population of cities over 500,000.
- Edmonton has nearly 1.5 times the average number of community gardens relative to its population, with 11 gardens per 100,000 thousand people.

Canadian City Parks Report 2021.

Edmonton Public Library

- 34,371 new customers signed up for a membership in 2020
- 5.5 million e-resources borrowed
- 1,067 attendees of makerspace classes and events
- More than 181,000 hours of in-house computer use

Edmonton Public Library (2022), Connecting Communities: Annual Report 2021.

Edmonton Transit System

- In 89 years of services, Edmonton buses have driven the equivalent of 1,043 trips around the world (LRT has done 177 trips).
- There are 121 regular bus routes and 57 on-demand buses
- In 2021, there were 31,554,322 riders, with 715,837 average weekly passenger bus boardings.
ETS 2021/2022 Annual service plan
- 14% of Edmontonians used public transport as their main source of transportation.
- 26% of those who identified as BIPOC used public transit as their main source of transportation (vs. 8% Caucasian). Leger, Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Edmonton is a Car-centric City

78% of Edmontonians use cars, either as a driver or passenger, as their main source of transportation.

Leger, Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Edmontonians have limited knowledge about the history of discrimination in Edmonton

18%

have no knowledge about the **history of slavery**.

21%

have no knowledge about **Japanese internment**.

18%

have no knowledge of **segregation**.

35%

have no knowledge about the **sixties scoop**.

35%

have no knowledge about the **Chinese head tax**.

Perceptions of Racism

74%

of Edmontonians who are **members of a minority group** reported that **racism is a problem in Edmonton**, compared to

58%

of people who are **not members of a minority group**.

45%

of BIPOC Edmontonians reported they had experienced or been a victim of racism.

58%

of Edmontonians agree that their **personal social networks are diverse**. *Leger, Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians*

Food Insecurity is a Persistent Problem in Edmonton

On average, in 2021, a person needed to use the foodbank 5.24 times compared to four times in 2020.

In March of 2022, Edmonton’s food bank served a record number of 30,082 people with a hamper – 11,851 of whom were children.

Edmonton Foodbank 2022 Updates.

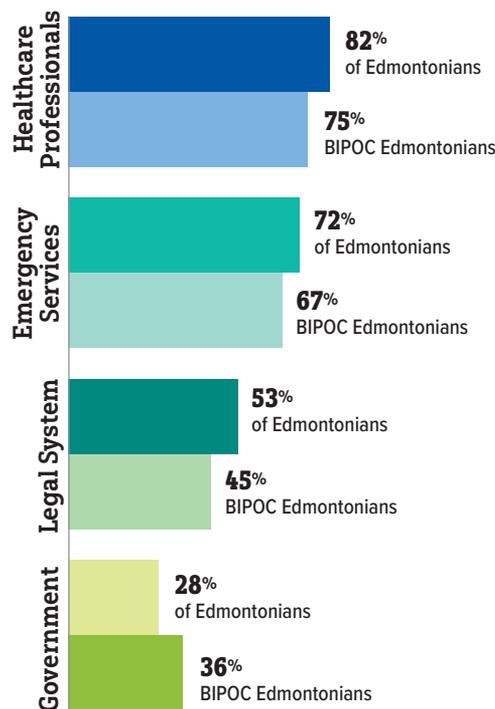
Single people make up the largest group of foodbank users at 48%.

Edmonton Food Bank. Beyond Food Revisited 2021.



Trust

Percent of Edmontonians who agree they can trust the following:



Leger, Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Opioids

In 2021, in Edmonton, 626 people died from opioid poisoning.

In Alberta, 74.8% of opioid poisoning deaths happened to males.

Edmonton’s supervised consumption sites had an average of 429 unique visitors each quarter.

Alberta Substance Use Surveillance System

Heavy Drinking and Smoking

A “heavy drinker” is defined as: men who report having five or more drinks, or women who report having four or more drinks, on one occasion, at least once a month, in the past year.

In 2020:

- In Alberta, 20.4% of males engaged in heavy drinking and 15.1% of females engaged in heavy drinking
- Those aged 18-34 were most likely to have engaged in heavy drinking (28.8% males and 22.4% females)
- 11.6% of men were daily smokers and 8.4% of women were daily smokers

Statistics Canada, Health Characteristics, Annual Estimates

211 Use

44,637 calls were made to 211 in Edmonton in 2021.

The most common needs identified were:



12,385

Basic needs, including housing and food

11,670

Organizational/ community services

8,242

Income support and employment

2,046 needs were unable to be met.

Community Belonging

57% of Edmontonians agree that there are opportunities for them to get involved in their community and 46% agree it is important for them to be involved in their community.

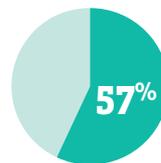
- This is a big drop from 2020, when 67% of Edmontonians agreed that there are opportunities for them to get involved in their community and 58% agreed it was important for them to do so
- 54% agree that their community is friendly and supportive
- 40% feel a sense of belonging with their community
- Alternatively, 22% feel socially isolated from their community

Leger. Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

There are opportunities to get involved in my community

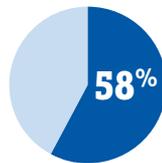


2020

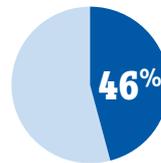


2022

It is important to be involved in my community



2020



2022

Volunteering and Charitable Giving

Volunteering

- Only 20% of Edmontonians reported volunteering 1-10 times in the past month (compared to 34% prior to the pandemic in 2019)
- 62% haven't volunteered at all in the past 12 months
- When people did volunteer, the most popular areas were:
 - 28% in their local community
 - 22% for education/school
 - 20% for sports/recreation

Charitable donations

- In 2019, 66% donated money to a charity or non-profit organization in the past 12 months – in comparison to 62% in 2022

Leger. Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Employment in Edmonton

In 2021:

- The employment rate was 64.1%. Males (68.3%) had a higher rate than females (60.0%)
- The unemployment rate was 9.0%
- Youth experience higher rates of unemployment — 17.3% *Statistics Canada, 2021*
- 53% of Edmontonians agree that there are adequate job opportunities in Edmonton
- 22% of people from minority groups disagree with the above statement — double the rate of those who are not in a minority group (12%)

Leger. Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

Low Income Rates

In 2020:

- 20.8% of Edmontonians lived in poverty (lived with an income under the CFLIM-AT threshold)
- Different families face different rates of poverty
 - Single parents experienced a poverty rate of 28.6%
 - Single adults = 23.4%
 - Couple families = 5.2%
- 12.3% of children (people aged 0 -17) lived in poverty in Edmonton *Statistics Canada, 2021*

COVID-19-related restrictions and lockdowns led to mass unemployment, however pandemic related benefits such as CERB, CSB, and CRB stopped many people from falling into poverty. These numbers may rise significantly once pandemic benefits run out.

Social Assistance Usage

In 2021:

- an average 21,611 households in the Edmonton Region received social assistance from Alberta Works each month
- an average of 24,386 households in Edmonton received AISH each month *Ministry of Community and Social Services, 2021*

Income Inequality in Edmonton

- In 2019, the median after-tax income of the top 1% was \$248,000 whereas the bottom 99% was \$38,900 *Statistics Canada*

Opinions about Poverty in Edmonton

- 77% of Edmontonians believe eliminating or reducing poverty will benefit society in general.
- 76% agree poverty is about more than money.
- 63% agree people live in poverty because of conditions beyond their control. By comparison, 23% believe most people living in poverty are responsible for their own condition.
- Only 25% of Edmontonians believe there are adequate initiatives in place to reduce poverty in Edmonton.

Leger. Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians

The Living Wage

A living wage is defined as the hourly wage that a primary income earner must make to provide for themselves, their families and reach basic financial security. It is more than a subsistence wage, it allows families to live with dignity and participate in their communities.

In 2022:

- The living wage was \$21.40 *Sheloff, S., 2022*

Affordability

- 47% agree Edmonton is an affordable city to live in.
- 60% of those who are BIPOC agree with this (compared to 42% of Caucasians). *Leger. Edmonton Vital Signs 2022 Survey of Edmontonians*

Homelessness in Edmonton

In the most recent quarter (April through June 2022):

an average of

2,704

people experienced homelessness each month. In the same quarter of 2019, only 1,513 people experienced homelessness.

1,493 were provisionally accommodated, 695 were unsheltered and 485 were emergency sheltered.

61%

of those experiencing homelessness identify as Indigenous.

Homeward Trust.



Housing

In 2021, the vacancy rate was

7.3%

The average rent for a two-bedroom apartment is

\$1,270

per month.

Households earning less than \$36,000 in the Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area can affordably access just

15%

of the total purpose-built rental units.

CMHC 2022. Market Rental Report.

In 2021, the average cost of a home (including single family homes, duplexes and row houses) was

\$387,110

Realtors Association of Edmonton. 2021

Edmontonians are finding it harder to find affordable housing — in 2021

36%

of Edmontonians said it was easy to find affordable housing, in 2022 only

25%

say so.

Pets

The most popular dogs licensed in Edmonton:

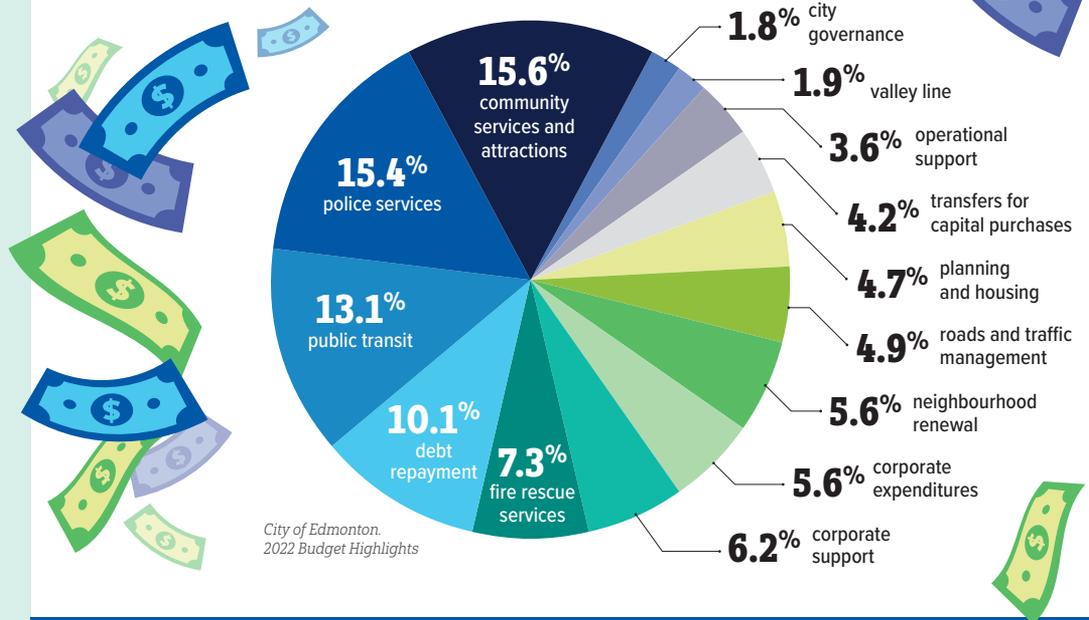
- Labrador Retriever (5,269)
- German Shepherd (3,681)
- Shih Tzu (3,382)

Most popular cats licensed in Edmonton *Data.Edmonton.ca*

- Domestic Shorthair (17,677)
- Domestic Medium hair (4,425)
- Domestic Long hair (2,049)

Almost half (43%) of Canadian dog owners said they welcomed a new dog into their family during the COVID-19 pandemic. *Rover*

Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?



How To Use This Report:

START CONVERSATIONS. TAKE ACTION.

If you or your organization is moved or motivated by what you read, use this report as a starting point for positive action.

ecfoundation.org

PASS IT ON. Share the report with your friends, colleagues, employees, students, neighbours, library, community center or an elected/public official at any level.

FIND OUT MORE. Learn about the many organizations working to improve our community and how you can get involved, too.

CONTACT US. We know about the issues of our community and the organizations working to improve them. If you would like to make a difference, we can help and guide you.

Start Conversations. Take Action.

- **Pass** on this report.
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- **Contact** us and help make a difference.

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VitalTopics

