



EAUAC NEWS

Newsletter of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

"Toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens of Edmonton."

Mother Earth's Children's Charter School

Friday, August 29, 2003 marked the beginning of the school year for the 145 children attending Mother Earth's Children's Charter School (MECCS) from kindergarten to grade eight. The families and children celebrated this opening with traditional ceremonies and cultural celebration performances. It has taken over two years for a group of parents, educators and committed community members to establish MECCS and receive Charter approval from Alberta Learning. These people sincerely believed that there are more effective and healthier means through which children should be educated.

The MECCS is open to any parents, Aboriginal and/or non-Aboriginal who believe that a traditional Indigenous approach to personal development and education is more suitable for their child(ren) than what is currently available to them. This approach is based on respect for Mother Earth, respect for all living things, and respect for one's self. In the MECCS program, teaching and learning approaches are based on the development of the whole child – mental, physical, social/emotional and spiritual. This approach is equally

First of its kind – A New Approach to Learning: Indigenous Charter School

meaningful and appropriate for all children. The Vision Statement for MECCS is to rediscover the gifts and potential of the children through traditional teachings and respect.

The approach to education and personal development that MECCS undertakes is based in the Medicine



Wheel teachings – which fully encompasses the physical, mental, social/emotional, and spiritual components of one's self. This, in itself varies from the current "mainstream" education approaches, as they remain focussed on the mental (academic) development of a child. To ensure the most effective program delivery and the maximum benefits to students, MECCS is also delivered in a cultural context. In addition, an enhanced curricula emphasizes traditional culture, including sports, lifestyle, skills and history. For more information, please contact the Principal Charlene Crowe at (780) 446-0760 or visit their Web site: www.MECCS.ca. ✨

INSIDE THIS EDITION...

Mother Earth's School.....	1
EAUAC Greetings.....	2
Elder's Pathway.....	3
Homeless Youth Project.....	4
Adventure Play.....	5
Annual General Assembly.....	5
Calendar.....	6
Upcoming Events.....	6

Message from the Chair

Tan'si and greetings!

It has always been the intention of EAUAC to create a better relationship with the City of Edmonton. Not a new relationship, since Aboriginal people have been here long before the formation of the city and have participated in the city's founding and growth, rather a stronger relationship that will set itself upon a foundation of mutual respect and commitment to work with Aboriginal people. EAUAC's commitment is to endeavour "toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal and citizens of Edmonton."

Furthermore, the City of Edmonton's 2003-2005 Corporate Business Plan identifies "a need to work with existing committees and organizations; examine issues, needs, opportunities and municipal roles and responsibilities to address the needs of Edmonton's Aboriginal citizens."

Today we step closer to that reality. Before us is an opportunity to set into action a corporate administrative charter for an Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord. This administrative charter will outline intent and processes in which we can develop and implement the Accord.

The administrative charter will provide us with common ground and



Lewis Cardinal

vision. It will begin the process in which EAUAC will work in partnership with the Aboriginal communities in Edmonton and the city itself to create a long and much needed relationship framework to address the immediate and deep-seated issues of concern.

The development of the Accord itself will go through a consistent and thorough process of consultation and participation of the Aboriginal communities in Edmonton. It will employ an Indigenous framework of consultation, perspective, and ceremony to engage in discussions and listening. Aboriginal Elders and youth will also be central to its development, as well as City departments and programs.

This Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord will be unique in Canada. It will be a far-reaching document that commits to processes and partnership between the Aboriginal communities and the City to address current and future needs of Aboriginal people in Edmonton, from education to employment and from social issues to housing, as well as bringing a clearer and stronger voice of Aboriginal people to the forefront. This fall we hope to have the charter in place within the City corporation and the approvals to begin a process. ✨

At a Native American gathering Arizona for the 1999 summer solstice, a Hopi elder said: "There is a river flowing now, very fast. It is so great and swift that there are those who will be afraid. They will try to hold on to the shore. They will feel they are being torn apart and suffer greatly. Know that the river has its destination. The elders say we must push off into the middle of the river, keep our eyes open and our heads above the water. See who is in there with you and celebrate. At this time in history, we are to take nothing personally, least of all ourselves, for the moment we do that, our spiritual growth comes to a halt. The time of the lone wolf is over. Gather yourselves: banish the word 'struggle' from your attitude and vocabulary. All that we do now must be done in a sacred way and in celebration. We are the ones we've been waiting for."

Meditations from the mat, Rolf Gates and Katrina Kenison, 2002 ✨

EAUAC NEWS

"Toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens of Edmonton"

NOCHIHITOO • FALL 2003

Editor:

Laura Auger

Contributors:

Lewis Cardinal, Chair
Rosalie Cardinal, Vice-Chair
Amanda Almond
Nora Fernandez
Rolf Gates & Katrina Kenison
Tanya Kappo
Treena L. Schmidt

Current Committee Members:

Lewis Cardinal, Chair
Rosalie Cardinal, Vice-Chair
Leonard Robinson
Gina Cosco
George Vass
Pamela Cunningham
Chris Andersen
Karen Bruno
Debbie Coulter
Angela Lamoureux
Robb Campre

CONTACT US AT:

Edmonton Aboriginal
Urban Affairs Committee
c/o City of Edmonton
Community Services
5th Floor Revillon Building
P.O. Box 2359

Edmonton, Alberta T5J 2R7
Phone: (780) 496-4936
Fax: (780) 496-4929

Web site:

www.aboriginal-edmonton.com

Edmonton THE CITY OF
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Elder Abuse

A Team Approach

By Treena L. Schmidt, Elder Abuse Intervention Team

The Elder Abuse Intervention Team is a collaborative effort between the City of Edmonton Community Services, the Edmonton Police Service and Catholic Social Services. This unique Team provides two main avenues of help: community development initiatives, and direct intervention.

The community development component brings together all sectors of the community for educational purposes and to focus efforts in addressing the issue of elder abuse on a broad level. Some of the many community-based initiatives are Edmonton Seniors' Safe Housing, Edmonton Elder Abuse Peer Support Program and a multidisciplinary Consultation Team of professionals from many sectors of the community.

The direct intervention component provides follow-up intervention for seniors who are experiencing abuse and neglect. Intervention strategies include developing safety plans, assisting with protection orders and court processes, providing emotional support, educating on family violence and making referrals to community resources. Currently, the Team consists of one Social Worker from Community Services; two members of the Edmonton Police Service and three Seniors Resource Coordinators employed by Catholic Social Services.

Abuse can take any of the following forms:

- 1. Physical Abuse:** including slapping, punching, and kicking;
- 2. Emotional / Psychological Abuse:** such as shouting, swearing, humiliating or withholding social contact;
- 3. Financial Abuse:** including misusing power of attorney, transferring of assets or property without the older person's knowledge, or theft;
- 4. Medication Abuse:** through withholding of medication or over medicating either on purpose or by accident;
- 5. Neglect:** by failing, whether willfully or not, to meet the older adult's needs such as basic care, food, shelter clothing, or mobility aids.

Some of the barriers that deter seniors from disclosing the abuse they are experiencing are: fear of reprisal or of being shunned by other family members; love for the abuser; hope that things will be different; acceptance of the abuse as normal; dependency on the abuser for care needs; language or cultural differences. Some indicators that may lead you to question if abuse is occurring in a senior's life are isolation or confinement; fearfulness; denial / rationalization; appearing withdrawn or depressed; outburst of anger;

physical injuries; a change in level of care. Most often those responsible for the abuse are people the senior loves and trusts – a spouse, common-law partner, sons or daughters, in-laws, grandchildren, other relatives, friends or unrelated caregivers.

In 2001, the most common abuse identified by the Elder Abuse Intervention Team was financially motivated and carried out through emotional attacks such as verbal putdowns, insults, cursing, and innuendoes. The Team has also seen physically abused seniors who had been beaten with fists, kicked, and struck with heavy objects. Since the Team's formation in 1998 over 1000 people have received help. Yet, it is our belief that many more seniors are experiencing abuse than have come to the attention of the Team. In fact the Statistics Canada General Social Survey reports that a minimum of 7% of seniors (65 year of age or older) experience some form of emotional or financial abuse by an adult child.

If we apply this figure to the senior population in and around Edmonton this equates to approximately 5600 seniors experiencing abuse at any given time. Clearly, elder abuse is a significant social issue that needs a continued community response.

If you are facing abuse or know of someone who is you can call the **Elder Abuse Intervention Team @ 477-2929**. If you suspect a criminal offence has occurred and police investigation is needed call the **Edmonton Police Service Complaint Line at 423-4567**. ✨

Homeless Youth Project (HYP)

By Amanda Almond

“Show them that you care. Show them that there are still people out there who care. I gave up a long time ago, but then, [my] group home, they switched my life around. They showed that they did care. All you need to do is show them you do care, and they’re not alone; there are people out there that are in the same situation, and they’re trying to turn their lives around too.

Best thing is to support them and guide them.”

Homeless Youth

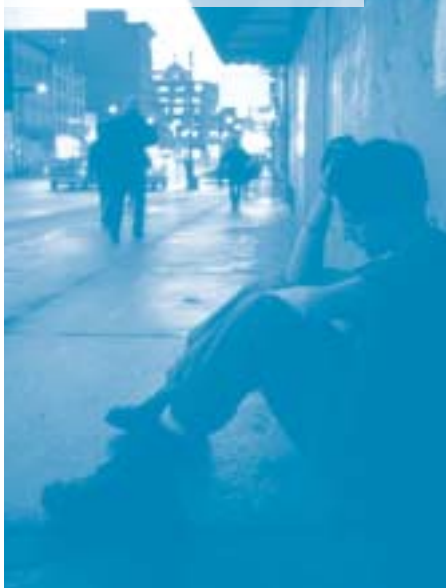


Photo: Jennifer Catron

Stretched resources, lack of understanding and a sense of helplessness can overwhelm those that want to help. The Homeless Youth Project (HYP) offers an innovative volunteer experience for those who want to work with youth who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

HYP is an initiative of the Social Support Research Program at the University of Alberta. Investigators Miriam Stewart, Linda Reutter, and Nicole Letourneau are interested in investigating new ways to support this vulnerable population. Trained interviewers visited drop-in centres, shelters, employment programs, alternative high schools and other organizations which served the homeless youth population. The interviewers spoke with agency staff that worked with homeless youth and with homeless (or previously homeless) youth between the ages of 16 and 25 years. The service providers were surveyed regarding available resources and types of support in the community. The homeless youth were asked about their preferences in receiving support and what they felt would help other youth in similar circumstances. From these interviews, a rough program framework was designed and presented to small groups of homeless youth, formerly homeless youth and service providers for feedback.

This collaboration led to the creation of a group mentoring experience for

youth. Group mentoring allows youth to approach mentors at their own initiative and within their own comfort level. HYP will offer non-judgemental positive support and opportunities to try new activities and meet new people. The choice of activities will be based on the youths' preferences and interests. A professional youth worker will be involved to support both the youth and the volunteer mentors. Volunteer mentors will include previously homeless youth and community members with an interest in youth homelessness.

Activities for the youth may include sports, drama, visual arts, or other recreational outings. Community members with an interest or skill to share with homeless youth are encouraged to contact the Social Support Research Program at 492-2425 or at ssrp@ualberta.ca.

HYP is proud to be a program created by homeless youth for homeless youth. Assistance from the community and other agencies who work with homeless youth was invaluable. We would like to acknowledge the Old Strathcona Youth Co-op, Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation (Kids in the Hall), Boyle Street Co-op, Big Brothers and Big Sisters Edmonton, Inner City Youth Housing Project, the Youth Emergency Shelter and the Alberta Mentoring Partnership for their ongoing guidance. ✨

Assembly of First Nation's Annual General Assembly

By Rosalie Cardinal

On July 15th, 16 and 17th, 2003 the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) held their annual general meeting in Edmonton at the Shaw Conference Centre to vote in the new National Aboriginal Leader. The candidates included the incumbent, Matthew Coon Come, Roberta Jamieson, current Chief of the Six Nations Reserve, and former National Chief, Phil Fontaine.

There were 576 Chiefs in attendance at the assembly this year to cast their vote along with approximately 3000 observers. The results of the first ballot were: Matthew Coon Come, the incumbent with 105 votes and 18%, Roberta Jamieson with 167 votes at 29% and Phil Fontaine 292 votes with 51%. The declared winner is required to have 60 % of the total votes. The Aboriginal Peoples Television Network (APTN) were onsite asking, "if all First Nation's people should be able to vote individually or should the vote be kept strictly up to the chiefs?" The overwhelming response of the poll was a whopping 99% "yes" to all First Nation's members each having a vote. The second ballot results were

Roberta Jamison winning 217 votes for 39% and 338 votes for Phil Fontaine at 61% and the win. Phil Fontaine was declared the Nation Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in 2003 and spokesperson for 637 First Nations across Canada.

Currently, the leading issue for the National Chief in 2003 is the First Nations Governance Legislation, Bill C-7. This bill was introduced to Parliament by Indian and Northern Affairs Minister, Robert Nault who wants the bill passed through Parliament despite the vast protest from the majority of First Nations peoples in Canada. Another pressing issue for the newly elected AFN National Chief is to deal with the Non-Insured Health Benefits – Consent Form. Initially this controversial consent form had a deadline scheduled for September 1, 2003 however, that date has now been extended to March 1, 2004.

Welcome to Phil Fontaine as the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations in the coming years. For more information about the new National Chief, please visit the AFN web site at www.afn.ca. ✨

Adventure Play in Edmonton

By Nora Fernandez

In September at **Alex Taylor School**, we will have the **Edmonton Adventure Play Centre**. The project is currently sponsored by Innovative Services (City of Edmonton) and KARA Family Support Centre. A number of organizations including, Assist Community Service Centre, Capital Region Housing Corporation, Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) and Metis Regional Council are involved in giving direction.

The project will be open to everyone. Its purpose: to meet the need for activity among children and young people, stimulate an interest for the social environment and creativity, and encourage contact, cooperation and tolerance between participating individuals.

We want to provide opportunities for physical activity in meaningful occupation. We want to stimulate senses and emotions, develop the use of different forms of expression and encourage creativity. We want to facilitate meaningful contact between children of all ages, abilities and cultures, between children and adults and favor democracy in practice. We want to develop awareness of ecological development and of the concept of healthy humans in a healthy environment.

Today, there are over 1000 sites for Adventure Play in Europe, Australia and Japan. We deserve one in Edmonton and we will have one running in September of 2003. Come and join us! For more information call Kim Sanderson at (780) 496-4925 or Nora Fernandez at (780) 478-5396. ✨



Upcoming Events

CITY OF EDMONTON PROGRAMS

The City of Edmonton offers many affordable recreation activities for everyone! For more information contact your local:

- Library 496-7000
- Swimming Pool/Leisure Centre 496-7946
- Free Public Skating and Shinny 496-4999
- Community Recreation Programs 496-2966

For more information about the Fee Reduction Program call the Community Services office in your area:

East 496-5860, West 496-7320,
South 496-1475, Central 496-7275

For General Community Services Information call: 496-4999

2003 Aboriginal Strategies Conference

October 6 - 8, 2003

The Coast Terrace Inn

440 Calgary Trail North, Edmonton, Alberta
1-866-495-2932

Email: information@aboriginalstrategies.ca

Web site: www.aboriginalstrategies.ca

Family Violence 2003 Annual Conference "Diverse Voices; Tools for Action and Change"

November 6 - 7, 2003

Mayfield Inn 16615 - 109 Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Martin Brokenleg,

Professor of Native American Studies

Augustana College, USA

Casey Gwinn, City Attorney of San Diego

Contact: Dorothy (780) 437-8013

Web site: www.diverse/voices.com

"Bannock & Tea"

Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC)

Thursday, November 13, 2003, noon - 1:15 pm

In the City Room at City Hall

Edmonton, Alberta

Web site: www.aboriginal-edmonton.com

Aboriginal Artisans Traditions Association National Arts & Crafts Show & Sale

November 28 - 30, 2003

Shaw Conference Centre, P3

9797 Jasper Avenue

Edmonton, Alberta

Contact: Martha Campiou (780) 970-7253 or

Val Kaufman (780) 444-4225

Aboriginal Education Conference - Strategies and Tools For Success

October 2 - 3, 2003

One Kingsway Avenue, Centre for Education,
Edmonton, Alberta

Hosted by Edmonton Aboriginal Education Council

Online information & Registration:

www.aec.epsb.ca.

Annual Recruitment Campaign

EAUAC is now recruiting for the 2004 term!

Application packages are now available online at <http://www.edmonton.ca/recruitment/>

The deadline to submit an application is September 30, 2003. Thank you for considering a volunteer position on one of the various Agencies, Boards and Commissions that are affiliated with the City of Edmonton.

www.aboriginal-edmonton.com

RKISE PÉSİM
(Wicked Month, January)

AMIKISIW PÉSİM
(Eagle Month, February)

DNISKI PÉSİM
(Goose Month, March)

NÁYÉKI PÉSİM
(Frog Month, April)

EPINIWÁWE PÉSİM
(Laying Month, May)

LPÁSKÁWE PÉSİM
(Hatching Month, June)

APUSKO PÉSİM
(Moulting Month, July)

COHPÁHOO PÉSİM
(Flying Month, August)

ENOCHIHITOO PÉSİM
(Mating Month, September)

EKUSKUTINO PÉSİM
(Freezing Month, October)

RYÉKOPÉW PÉSİM
(Foggy Month, November)

EPAWÁSTUN PÉSİM
(Drifting Month, December)

If you would like to include your community event or program please fax the information to (780) 496-4929 or call (780) 496-4936.



EAUAC NEWS



THE EDMONTON ABORIGINAL URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE • WWW.ABORIGINAL-EDMONTON.COM

