



# E A U A C NEWS

Newsletter of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

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

## Unique Projects brings Aboriginal Voice into Edmonton's History

By Pamela Cunningham

As part of the on-going effort to build a strong partnership between the City of Edmonton and the urban Aboriginal people, the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) and the Edmonton Community Services Department (ECSD) have engaged in a unique partnership that focuses upon the collection of Aboriginal oral histories from the Amiskwaci-waskahikan (Beaver Hills House) area of Edmonton. Locally, the area is now called the Rossdale Flats.

Reflecting the first time that an Aboriginal oral histories project has been conducted on any municipal lands within the City of Edmonton, the Rossdale Flats Aboriginal Oral Histories Project (RFAOHP) is expected to be complete in December 2003 with the final report submission scheduled for early 2004. The recorded and transcribed interviews of the various contributing Aboriginal Elders and community members will be donated by the EAUAC to the City of Edmonton

Archives. Archives staff will ensure that this valuable information is properly stored while honouring the requests of the interview participants regarding access, and will be made available to those interested in the history of the Rossdale Flats area. We hope that some of the local schools teaching Aboriginal history and culture will take advantage of this new piece of our history and present it to our children according to tradition.

The Rossdale Flats area has been identified as the site of Aboriginal activity and habitation for the past 8,000 years. More recently it has been the site of a number of important historical events associated with the fur trade, the exploration of western Canada, development of the City of Edmonton, and the creation of the Province of Alberta.

Throughout history, Amiskwaci-waskahikan was the location of much Aboriginal activity, and in later years Aboriginal and European interaction. It was a meeting place, a seasonal residence, a trading place, an

important ford and landing on the North Saskatchewan River. In the 1800s, the location was the site of various Northwest Company and Hudson's Bay Company Forts. Over time many important Aboriginal events have occurred and the essence of those events have been passed on in the traditional way. People from many different nations – Cree, Dene, Métis, Blackfoot, Sarcee, French-Canadian and Europeans of many countries – have been buried in the Rossdale Flats.

Pamela Cunningham, a volunteer member of the (EAUAC) Advisory Board, is managing the Oral Histories Project. Pamela is of Métis descent and has relatives buried in the Rossdale Flats. She is currently working on a graduate degree in Anthropology at the University of Alberta. Jacqueline

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# Message from the Chair

## Tan'si n'totemtik.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee is working hard to ensure that the concerns of our community find their way into city hall and, in general, throughout the city of Edmonton. We aim to build positive and productive relationships between Aboriginal organizations, city departments, private industry, and federal and provincial government agencies. These relationships will yield better opportunities for Aboriginal people, but also create positive outcomes for all involved.

Recently I've had the opportunity to attend a gathering called "the 3rd Annual Western Municipalities Aboriginal Networking Workshop" in Winnipeg. This was a gathering of six western Canadian cities that provide, or work closely with urban Aboriginal communities, services and relationship building to better serve their growing Aboriginal populations. I must say that I was very impressed with the dedication and creativity that each city has demonstrated toward its Aboriginal population. Equally, I was impressed with the wide ranges of opportunities that have been created for service delivery and the abilities to address emerging issues.

The City of Winnipeg provides us with an outstanding example of what can be done when the urban Aboriginal voice finds eager partners to work together to make a city a better place for Aboriginal people. The Aboriginal



Lewis Cardinal

Center is an example of how services can be centrally delivered and coordinated, everything from employment training programs to daycare to social agency service programs. The Thunderbird House is an example of how accessibility of cultural programming and expression can be a focal

point in the midst of a very busy city. In this way, the City of Winnipeg and the Aboriginal Council along with many other partners have worked together, not always easily, but have worked with the spirit of making things better. In the end everyone has come away a winner.

I feel that it is time for EAUAC and all of our partners in Edmonton to begin the process of working together in the spirit of peace and friendship to build something and somehow that will benefit our children and Elders. By 2016, StatsCan has projected that Edmonton will have the largest urban Aboriginal population in all of Canada. I must say that we are already feeling the growth and social pressures that this brings.

EAUAC is beginning processes of discussions and consultations with the city and the Aboriginal communities in the city about what that "something and somehow" may look like. We need you to help us clarify this need and vision. The future holds so much promise if we work together and also offers more of the same, or worse, if we don't. ✨

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Pelletier leads the team that will be collecting the oral histories. Ms. Pelletier's team includes Dianne Stretch-Strang, Melanie Poole, Sarah Pocklington, and Vivian Arcand. All have strong ties to the Aboriginal community and will ensure that the collection of the oral histories will be done in a manner that honors and respects the culture and traditions of those being interviewed.

The project gets underway in June and the interview team is still looking for Aboriginal Elders and others who may want to share their stories of Amiskwaci-waskahikan. If you are interested in sharing your story, or know of someone with stories of the area and who would like to become involved, please contact Pamela Cunningham by email at [eauac@aboriginal-edmonton.com](mailto:eauac@aboriginal-edmonton.com) or Laura Auger at Community Services Department at (780) 496-4936. ✨

## EAUAC NEWS

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**NIPIN • SUMMER 2003**

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**Edmonton** THE CITY OF  
COMMUNITY SERVICES

## ELDER'S PATHWAY...



### EAUAC Aboriginal Youth Awards Renamed after Elder Nellie Carlson

**Elder** Carlson is well known in the urban Aboriginal community for her leadership and involvement in Native Education for a very long time; the past 46 years. Her knowledge and involvement includes personal accounts of Residential schooling to advocacy of the current day "Awasis" - Prince Charles school and the former "Sacred Circle" - Aboriginal Education Programs developed for Aboriginal children in the Edmonton Public School District.

Elder Carlson is an Oral Historian who eloquently tells a story of her move to Edmonton in 1956 from her home community of Saddle Lake Reserve. Of her experience being identified as a "red-ticket" holder by the Canadian Government; a result of her marriage, many years ago, to a Metis man. With that, came her passion to help "right" the inequities of Aboriginal women losing their treaty rights through marriage to a non-status man; an early discerning practice of the Federal government. Her vast knowledge of her Traditional Cree history, land and Clan systems is also some of what Elder Carlson teaches young people at both Sherbrook School and Amiskwaciy Academy today. Nellie's message for students is to,

"use your energy wisely and put your efforts toward a worthy cause".

Elder Carlson has been previously recognized with the prestigious Governor General's Award in 1986, the second woman in Canada to receive this award. In 1989, the City of Edmonton also named "Carlson Close" a street in the Riverbend area after her for her participation on the Social Justice Commission and Aboriginal Mental Health issues.

The EAUAC recognizes the importance of honouring Aboriginal Leaders of the Aboriginal community in the City of Edmonton. Elder Nellie Carlson is a great candidate to hold in name, the Aboriginal Youth Awards. This award is given to four outstanding Aboriginal youth each year who demonstrate success or achievement in areas of, Leadership, Sport and Recreation, Academics, Volunteering, Cultural Activities, Dance, Art, Theatre, Music, Science, Environment or Computer Technology.

The National Aboriginal Day Kick-Off will be held on Tuesday, June 17th, 2003 in the City Room at City Hall at 12:00 Noon along with other events happening throughout the City. For more information about the awards please call (780) 496-4936 or see [www.aboriginal-edmonton.com](http://www.aboriginal-edmonton.com). ✨

## Big Brothers, Big Sisters... Big Fun!

By Angela Lamoureux

**Almost** four years ago, I first volunteered as a Big Sister. Today, I'm extremely thankful for the Little Sisters who have entered my life. My hope is that by giving you a glimpse of how rewarding my experience has been, you'll consider becoming a mentor and brightening a child's world – and yours!

My first match was with a seven-year-old girl who loved to play with Barbie dolls. Being a big kid myself, I thoroughly love doing kid stuff with my Little Sister every week. Our match ended after a year when my "Little" left Edmonton to move back to her home community.

After she left, I took a few months to be on my own until I was ready for another match. I'm happy to say that my current "Little" and I will be celebrating our three-year anniversary in September. She's now 14 years old and in grade nine. Initially we shared time together every weekend but as she grows up, this is changing. Try combining a teenager with an active social life and my busy work schedule! Sometimes we only see each other every two weeks, which works well for us. When we get together, we do things we both enjoy – skating and tubing in the winter, going to round dances, watching movies and dining out.

You might think that mentoring benefits the "Little" the most, but I would have to disagree. I find it completely enriching to see a young person grow and gain self-confidence. As a result of our friendship, my Little Sister – who's not so little now, she's as tall as I am – teaches me patience and humor. She makes me want to be a better person and set a better example for others.

I'm told that Little Sisters and Little Brothers tend to avoid violence, do better in school and steer clear of drugs and alcohol. Because they feel good about themselves, they positively impact their friends and families, their schools and their communities. These young people believe in themselves because a Big Brother or Big Sister believes in them. It's that simple.

Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or [bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org](mailto:bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org). ✨

# We Need Mentors Just Like You!

By Monica Walker

**Do** you remember someone who brought a little magic into your life when you were a kid? Now you can be that special person to a child.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the largest mentoring agency in Edmonton. Since our beginnings almost 30 years ago, we have become a respected leader in mentoring programs throughout Edmonton, Canada and North America. Many of our programs are partnerships with other organizations, including The Family Centre, Terra Association, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society, the Food Bank, and the Edmonton Public and Catholic School Boards.

## Braided Journeys

Many aboriginal students do not successfully make the transition from Junior to Senior High School. Having a mentor can help a young person overcome the barriers to completing high school and pursuing their dreams.

The Braided Journeys program matches adult aboriginal volunteers, on a one-to-one basis, with students in Grades 7 to 9 at Ben Calf Robe Junior High School and in Grade 10 at St. Joseph's High School. Volunteer mentors offer a sympathetic ear and cheer the kids on – in person, by phone or email. The student gains a new perspective on the world when their mentor expands their horizons and talks about the path they took to make a life for themselves.

## How Does It Work?

It's really simple. Mentors have fun with a kid doing stuff they already do or want to do – like playing sports, watching movies or cooking a meal. They might check out career fairs, register for the student's next year of school, see the mentor's workplace, tour post-secondary schools, visit museums, stroll through art galleries, attend powwows and round dances, watch a hockey game or just sit and talk. Sharing 30 to 60 minutes 2 to 4 times a month by phone, email or in person can show a kid you care. Believe in them and they'll see a brighter future.

Bring a little magic into the life of a young person and feel like a kid again! Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or [bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org](mailto:bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org). ✨

## Me? A Mentor?

**Yes**, you! You may not be a hero. You may not have a perfect job or live a perfect life. You may not look in a mirror and say 'now there's a role model for a young person.' You may be an ordinary person. That's all you have to be to be a mentor. Right now there's a young person who needs an ordinary adult just like you to connect once a week.

### How do I know we'll get along?

We get to know you first so we can find the best match for you – a kid who shares your interests, personality, time considerations and geography. We'll provide you with training, cheer you on and help you out if you need it!

### What's in it for me?

Most volunteers tell us they started out thinking they'll give something back, yet most end up saying "I get back more than I give."

Being a mentor is fun and rewarding. People who volunteer tend to be:

- Happy, healthy, fulfilled
- Conscientious, productive
- Stress-free with a positive outlook on life.

Children matched with mentors are more likely to finish high school and less likely to be involved in crime. They do better in life because of improved:

- Confidence, self-esteem, and sense of hope
- School performance
- Interactions with peers, parents, and teachers
- Social skills.

Mentoring benefits the mentor and their employer:

- Enhanced image in the community
- Helps attract future employees
- Contributes to the development of healthy children and a stronger community.

When an organization encourages its members to volunteer, it:

- Creates pride in the organization
- Boosts morale
- Strengthens work teams
- Increases job satisfaction.

An unexpected benefit for some organizations is that the mentors blossom and take on new job responsibilities and leadership roles – essentially mentoring their co-workers.

### Opportunities to Suit You

Being a mentor lets you reconnect with the joy of discovery and see the world through the eyes of a child. It can take as little as one hour a week doing one-to-one literacy activities as an In-School Mentor. A Big Brother or Big Sister shares a few hours every week with a kid doing things they both enjoy. Moms with Mentors match pregnant and parenting young women with female volunteers who offer support once a week, by phone, e-mail or in person. TEAM mentors have fun in weekly group activities. Be a mentor – bring a little magic into the life of a young person and feel like a kid again!

Getting involved is easy. Contact Big Brothers Big Sisters today at 424-8181 or [bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org](mailto:bbbs@bbbsedmonton.org). ✨

# 3rd Annual Aboriginal Municipalities Networking Workshop

**The** City of Winnipeg hosted the 3rd Annual Aboriginal Municipalities Networking Workshop this past May 21st to 23rd, 2003. The municipalities of Winnipeg, Edmonton, Calgary, Regina and Saskatoon gathered to share knowledge and information about ongoing urban Aboriginal municipal developments and programming. The workshop provided exchanges by the cities on how Aboriginal peoples and cities work together to provide better services to increase the quality of living for urban Aboriginal people.

Winnipeg is known for having the highest Aboriginal population in Canada and in taking the lead in providing a strong Aboriginal voice on urban developments and programming. That voice includes having an Aboriginal person - Councilor Vandal on City Council, the collaborative efforts of the Aboriginal business community, incorporating a community development model that works well for their fine city and the only Canadian City Council to adopt the Muskawchees Declaration to date.

Similar to Edmonton in 2002, the Muskawchees [musk-wah-cheechee] Declaration was used as the framework of this workshop. The Muskawchees Declaration is a document that was created in 2000 in the Treaty Six Territory at the National Recreational Roundtable on Aboriginal/Indigenous People to be used as a tool by everyone in providing direction. Four pillars of the Declaration are,

1. Inclusion (working together to provide a system that includes all people in a meaningful way),
2. Commitment (creating champions committed to ensuring active lifestyles for Aboriginal Peoples),
3. Capacity (focusing human and financial resources in order to assist communities programs and services) and,

4. Knowledge (building awareness and understanding of the benefits of traditional lifestyles and active living).

Some of Edmonton's current developments include, the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) who provide advice to City Council on issues of concern to Aboriginal citizens. They have created the Aboriginal Programs and Services Directory for Aboriginal Edmontonians and have advocated for the Rosedale Flats Aboriginal Oral Histories Project (RFAOHP). This year, the "Nikanihew" [One who leads] Aquatic Leadership Program a partnership with Canadian Heritage, Amiskwacyi Academy and the City of Edmonton have graduated 11 Aboriginal students as swimming instructors.

This workshop brought out The Canada West Foundation's Calvin Hanselmann, Senior Policy Analyst who presented their research information

on Shared Responsibility: Final Report and Recommendations of the Urban Aboriginal Initiative. If you would like more information, see [www.cwf.ca](http://www.cwf.ca).

Thank you to the fabulous Winnipeg hosts who provided opportunities to meet Aboriginal service providers, the business community and some of the political leaders. Invited speakers gave insight into the urban Aboriginal developments and programming. Our hosts arranged a fabulous tour for us to visit, the Aboriginal Centre, the Circle of Life-Thunderbird House, the Turtle Island Neighbourhood Centre, the Indian Metis Friendship Centre and the Manitoba Metis Federation where we met some of the local people, and an opportunity to see the plush landscape along Winnipeg's Red River. The beautiful old buildings gave us a sense of some strong history in Winnipeg Manitoba and a promise of partnerships for the future. ✨

## IAAW Honours Metis Woman for her Leadership

By Ilona C. Cardinal

**Val** Kaufman, a Metis of Dene descent, was recently honoured on May 8, 2003 at the Annual Esquao Awards organized by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women. Ms. Kaufman was honoured in the category of 'Leadership' for her role in the areas of Aboriginal Human Rights, homelessness in Edmonton and advocating for Aboriginal Youth.

She is committed to ensuring that an Aboriginal voice is represented in our community. Val Kaufman has participated with a number of projects and committees that directly concern Aboriginal people in Edmonton and

area. These include the Aboriginal Human Rights Committee, United Way Speakers Bureau, Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations and Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee. Currently, Val is Senior Program Manager with the Department of Canadian Heritage and is working on the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative a program that provides support to urban Aboriginal youth living in Edmonton and Calgary.

Val is also a founding member of the Alberta Aboriginal Artisans Arts & Crafts Society and actively seeks opportunities for Aboriginal craftspeople to market their products. In addition to her Esquao Award, Val was awarded the Commemorative Medal for the Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002 for her outstanding contributions with the federal public services and volunteer sectors in Canada. ✨

# 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 Youth 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**

## National Aboriginal Day Kick-Off & "Nellie Carlson Youth Awards"

City Room at City Hall  
Edmonton, Alberta

Tuesday, June 17, 2003

@ 12:00 Noon – 1:15 p.m.

For more information, call (780) 496-4936 or  
See Website: [www.aboriginal-edmonton.com](http://www.aboriginal-edmonton.com).

## Summer Round Dance

Canadian Native Friendship Center  
Edmonton, Alberta

Friday, June 20, 2003

5:00 p.m. Feast & 6:00 p.m. Round Dance

For more information call: (780) 479-1999

## Smudging the Streets in Honour of National Aboriginal Day

Saturday, June 21, 2003

Abbotsfield Recreation Centre  
3010-199 Ave, Edmonton, Alberta

*This spiritual event of smudging of the streets through East Edmonton will bring together Aboriginal Elders, youth, community service providers, educators and leaders. Respecting those whose lives were lost or injured as a result of violence. We hope to raise awareness of Aboriginal health and healing in our communities!*

Events begin at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Round Dance and Feast! Speakers will be representing Treaty 6, Metis Nation of Alberta, City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee. For more information call: Metro (780) 479-5290

**Father's Day**, June 15th

**National Aboriginal Day**, June 21st

**Canada Day**, July 1st

## Canada Day, Valley Zoo

Jazz up your Canada Day celebration at the Valley Zoo this year as we invite you discover Canadian musicians and nature. To celebrate Canada Day and the Valley Zoo's birthday, award winning Canadian jazz performer P.J. Perry will treat you to three open-air performances. Learn about Canadian species, make a craft, and enjoy a piece of the largest birthday cake in Canada. Leave your passport at home and experience Canada Day, the Canadian way. ■ Tues., July 1st ■ 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

## Welcome to Leisure Centres! We Offer:

- Swimming Lessons
  - Drop-In Aquafit classes
  - Recreational Swimming
  - Recreational dry land programs
  - Opportunities for the Disabled
  - Fitness Centres
  - Lane Swimming
- Call 496-Swim For INFO.,  
[www.edmonton.ca/leisurecentres](http://www.edmonton.ca/leisurecentres)

**ARKISE PÉSİM**  
(Wicked Month, January)

**MIKISIW PÉSİM**  
(Eagle Month, February)

**NISKI PÉSİM**  
(Goose Month, March)

**ÁYÉKI PÉSİM**  
(Frog Month, April)

**PINIWÁWE PÉSİM**  
(Laying Month, May)

**PÁSKÁWE PÉSİM**  
(Hatching Month, June)

**PUSKO PÉSİM**  
(Moulting Month, July)

**OHPÁHOO PÉSİM**  
(Flying Month, August)

**NOCHIHITOO PÉSİM**  
(Mating Month, September)

**KUSKUTINO PÉSİM**  
(Freezing Month, October)

**YÉKOPÉW PÉSİM**  
(Foggy Month, November)

**PAWÁSTUN 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.



# CAINAC NEWS



THE EDMONTON ABORIGINAL URBAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE • [WWW.ABORIGINAL-EDMONTON.COM](http://WWW.ABORIGINAL-EDMONTON.COM)

