

Mill Woods Mosaic

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The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational

This month:

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"Vicious poetry"



Poet David Poiras best describes his work as "vicious Native poetry", using humour, sarcasm and truth to defang stereotypes.

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United in Culture

The Edmonton Heritage Festival attracted thousands of visitors at the City's Exhibition Lands & Borden Park from Aug. 2 to 4. This year's festival had 66 pavilions, featuring countries and their culture from around the world. Next year, the festival will return to William Hawrelak Park which has been closed for rehabilitation since March 2023.

Photo: Colourful performance at the pavilion of Vietnam. More photos on page 9 of this issue.

Photo: Rob Hislop Photography

A different Battle of Alberta: "Forever Canadian"

A citizens' initiative in Alberta which started small a few weeks ago is becoming bigger every day and looks very promising now.

The campaign "Forever Canadian" was initiated by the former Progressive Conservative MLA, cabinet minister and deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk with the goal to gather at least 300,000 signatures for a petition from citizens who want to keep the Province of Alberta in Canada.

The petition asks the simple question, "Do you agree that Alberta should remain in Canada?"

The campaign has recruited already more than 10,000 volunteer canvassers who will collect signatures, and all signatures will be verified and submitted to Elections Alberta.

Since the petition was approved on July 30, people have been lining up at many events in Edmonton, Calgary and the rest of Alberta to sign the petition. "Forever Canadian" has 90 days (until Oct. 28) to collect 293,967 signatures – 10 per cent of all registered provincial voters – in order to present the petition to the Alberta Legislature.

In a recent interview, Lukaszuk said said that he would like to see one million signatures which would be more than one third of all registered voters in Alberta.

The group's goal is to persuade the provincial government to adopt a formal policy rejecting separatism without requiring a referendum.

Volunteers who want to help collect signatures can register on the website www.forever-canadian.ca. Eligible Alberta voters sign the petition **in person** with their



Alberta's former deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk, who initiated the "Forever Canadian" campaign, shakes hands with supporters.

Photo: Forever Canadian

name and address as they appear on the voter list.

If the threshold is met within the time limit, a referendum question can proceed.

"Forever Canadian" is a grassroots, non-partisan effort led by Albertans and supported by volunteers across the province, says Lukaszuk who has a history of successful campaigns. In 2022, he and former Alberta premier Ed Stelmach organized Canada's largest foreign aid shipment in an initiative to collect sup-

plies and ship them to Ukraine's war front to aid soldiers. They raised \$35 million worth of life-saving supplies. And in 2023, Lukaszuk organized a humanitarian shipment of three containers filled with life-saving medical aid, baby supplies and food for the children of Gaza.

More information about "Forever Canadian": www.forever-canadian.ca

Please read also Tom Monto's article about "the tale of two Alberta citizen petitions" on page 12 of this issue.



Green Shack – Free arts performances for kids in neighbourhoods

Throughout July and August, the Edmonton Arts Council partnered with the City of Edmonton Green Shack program to present Green Shack Shows, free arts performances for kids in neighbourhoods across Edmonton. Performers included an Indigenous hoop dancer, Japanese

Taiko drummer, a brass band, and more!

Left photo: The New Orleans-style Brasstactics perform in Holyrood
Right photo: A child participates in Genki Taiko drumming at Westmount

Photos: Edmonton Arts Council

Letters to the editor are welcome

We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications.

E-mail your letter to the editor of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*:
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Culture Days takes centre stage

September 1st kicks off Culture Days in Alberta with a month-long celebration of art, music, food, dance and more.

Communities across Alberta come together each year to celebrate Culture Days, which is packed with hundreds of free, family-friendly events. Last year, 247,000 Albertans attended events across the province that promoted awareness of, and accessibility and engagement in, arts and culture.

This year, to ensure even more Albertans have the opportunity to participate, Alberta's government has awarded \$380,000 in grants to support 111 organizations in 48 communities to host Alberta Culture Days events.

Albertans can also mark the month by visiting one of 20 provincially owned museums, historic sites and archives free of charge on Saturday, September 27 and Sunday, September 28.

"Alberta Culture Days is a month-long showcase of the creativity, diversity and spirit that power this incredible province," said Tanya Fir, Alberta's Minister of Arts, Culture and Status of Women. "From dance and culinary experiences to art and markets, communities come together and bring culture to life with exciting events in every corner of the province."

This year's featured organizations hosting three days of free events are:

- Association canadienne-française de l'Alberta - Régionale de Rivière-la-Paix, Falher

- FOHK Edmonton Community Association, Edmonton
- Sundre and District Historical Society, Sundre
- Indigenous Newcomer Education, Calgary
- Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge, Lethbridge

"Culture Days unites our community in celebrating the talent, traditions and unique creative spirit that define Alberta's culture," said Steven Foord, executive director of the Allied Arts Council of Lethbridge. "We are proud to partner with the province to present free, accessible events that spotlight local artists and bring people together."

Through Culture Days, Alberta's government is helping bring communities together and removing barriers so everyone can take part in Alberta's unique and diverse history.

For more information about Alberta Culture Days, visit the website: www.alberta.ca/alberta-culture-days

Bhoomi Tripathi performs with the Ananta Dance Academy at the "Dance of Culture" event hosted by the Fort Saskatchewan Multicultural Association as part of Alberta Culture Days 2024.

Photo: Fort Saskatchewan Multicultural Association



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Edmonton Mayoral Candidate



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The Mill Woods Mosaic publishes a variety of opinions.
Unsigned editorials express the view of the publisher.
Signed pieces express the views of the writers only.

Our Opinion

People Power in Alberta

Some politicians think that they can do whatever they want, because they were elected "by the people for the people." This phrase is famously from Abraham Lincoln's Gettysburg Address in 1863, where he used it to define the American ideal of government.

Well, here in Canada, we have a constitution, the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, which has to be respected by all politicians, whether they like it or not.

But Albertans are different. We are the "Uneasy Patriots" which was the title of a book about Western Canadians in Confederation, written and published in 1988 by David Kilgour, the former Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods. There seem to be more and more Albertans who want to separate from Canada, because they think that we are treated unfairly by the federal government in Ottawa. They probably have a point, but it's like being married: If husband and wife disagree on some issues, they should try to work it out instead of getting divorced.

The majority of Albertans want to stay in Canada, because they don't believe that separation is a good option. The citizen initiative "Forever Canadian" is collecting signatures for a petition to the Alberta Legislature, and many people are lining up to sign the petition, so – as the former Prime Minister John Turner said: "Let the people decide!"

A "Walk on the Wild Side" of Edmonton

When our daughter-in-law Jennifer visited us for a few days earlier this month, she wanted to go to the zoo in Edmonton, because she loves animals. She is a "farm girl" who grew up in rural Alberta with cattle and horses, wanted to become a veterinarian and has a Golden Retriever dog and two cats with her husband Alvin who is our son.

My wife Susan, who is from the Philippines, is not fond of pets, but I had some hamsters when I was a child in Germany and later a cat who immigrated with me to Canada in 1989.

So, when Jennifer visited us, we went to the Edmonton Valley Zoo with her. We had visited the zoo before, but that was many years ago, and it was interesting to see the new developments and improvements. The Valley Zoo, which is located in Edmonton's river valley, is a smaller zoo with about 350 exotic and native animals and houses over 100 different species. Some of the zoo's main features are the *Inner Zoo*, which was originally the Storyland Valley Zoo with emus, snowy owls, and burrowing owls; the *Makira Outpost*, a primate exhibit which focuses on housing lemurs and raising awareness of Malagasy wildlife conservation; *Nature's Wild Backyard* with the *Urban Farm* which is home to the zoo's farm animals which include juliana pigs, chickens, ponies, goats, baby doll sheep and rabbits; and

the *Arctic Wolf Habitat* with three Arctic wolves which is the largest habitat of its kind in Alberta.

When we visited the zoo, it was a warm and sunny day in August, and many of the animals were hiding in the

with her own kind. The elephant house at the Valley Zoo is currently closed due to Lucy's "retirement from public life."

Zoos have always been controversial, because some people think that wild animals should not be confined and displayed, but for many people zoos are the only opportunity to see many of these exotic animals live, because they can not afford to travel to the countries where these animals live in the wild and roam around freely. But, of course, zoos should make sure that these animals are treated well and don't have to suffer. A good example for proper management of animals is the treatment of polar bears at the Calgary Zoo. The zoo has invested millions of dollars over the years to improve the display of the polar bears and develop it into a sanctuary "where sad animals are happy" (*Alberta Views*).

Our visit at the Edmonton Valley Zoo reminded me of my childhood in Cologne, Germany, where I often went to the local zoo with my parents and saw many wild animals for the first time in my life. I remember how fascinated I was by the big creatures, like bears, lions, tigers, giraffes and elephants, but my favourite animals were the monkeys who were so active, climbing and jumping around in their display cages. I wanted to have my

**Arnim
Joop**

*From the
Desk of the
Publisher*



shady parts of their display areas, maybe because it was too hot for them in the sun. We were looking forward to see the Red Pandas, the Siberian Tiger and, of course, Lucy, the famous Asian Elephant, but they didn't show up when we were there.

Lucy is a female elephant who is from Sri Lanka and came to Edmonton at the age of two in 1977, so she is 50 years old now. She was a lot in the news, because animal rights activists think that an Asian elephant should not be kept in captivity in a cold country like Canada, and she should be moved to a sanctuary where she would be



Camrose County seeks data on agricultural damage from Richardsons ground squirrels. Farmers consider the squirrels, commonly known as gophers, as pests, because they feed on crops, grains, hay and seeds and have been tearing up agricultural land.

Cartoon by Susan Moshynski (www.bythebay.squarespace.com)

own monkey, but my parents didn't think that this was a good idea, because we lived in a small walk-up apartment, so I had to settle for a small hamster. Hamburg, where I studied at the university in the 1970s, also had a great zoo, the *Tierpark Hagenbeck*, which was founded in 1907 and is known for being the first zoo to use open enclosures surrounded by moats, rather than barred cages, to better approximate animals' natural environments.

Our visit at the Edmonton Valley Zoo was a nice experience. It was a sunny summer day in Alberta, and it was a pleasure to walk around the zoo, see the different animals, and watch many families with kids enjoying their "Walk on the Wild Side" of Edmonton.

We are lucky to have this zoo in Edmonton although it is rather small. It cost a lot of money to build and maintain such a zoo. It is through today's zoos that future generations will come to a greater understanding of the human impact on the natural world and be motivated to preserve it and reverse the damage already done. If you want to support the Edmonton Valley Zoo, make a donation to the Valley Zoo Development Society: <https://www.buildingourzoo.com>

Arnim Joop is the founder, publisher and editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic. He also publishes the *Albertaner* which is the only German language newspaper in Canada.

A Story Worth Its Telling

If you have not yet considered capturing, even in its most basic form, the story of your life or that of your family, I hope to encourage you to at least reflect on such an undertaking. For the sake of transparency and clarity, I should begin by cautioning that compiling such a narrative would require much effort. However, based on my experiences, the benefits would likely far outweigh the effort required by such a project.

People are motivated to record their history for a variety of reasons. Some write to gain fame or fortune, others to exercise bragging rights, inflict revenge, inform or educate, leave a legacy, and more. In my case, the process started years ago when my children expressed their frustration with my occasional story telling about my own or my family's experiences. They were dissatisfied with these snippets of information and wanted my stories to be laid out like a tapestry, which would then describe or explain their ancestors. It took me a while to warm up to this challenging task. Initially, I saw the narrated story as part of my legacy to my children and grandchildren. However, the outcome surprised me and far exceeded my expectations.

Let me be clear: narrating anyone's life, even one's own, is neither a quick nor an easy task. Invariably, our life is always intricately connected to a host of others such as family members, friends, associates, and even strangers whose actions impact us in ways we may not easily or readily recognize. However, the narration of our history has the potential of providing us with clarity, understanding, and perhaps recognition of the beauty of life, both ours and others. My effort certainly proved this to be the case.

At first, my task seemed straight forward and even mechanical in its unfolding. I started by performing basic activities such as collecting related documents (e.g., diaries or letters), reviewing photographs, interviewing family members, and compiling a list of relevant dates, events, names of people, locations, and the stories connected to them. Then came the most rewarding part: connecting these diverse bits of history and highlighting their significance to my family's narrative.

Initially, these disjointed stories appeared insignificant, confusing, even contradictory. Occasionally, my

effort required the skills of a detective in search of facts and patterns in an otherwise mixed-up scene. However, as my fact-finding effort progressed, I

Ron Kuban

Time Passages



started to see connections. My own memories and experiences began to combine with those of my parents, their family of origin, friends, and even strangers. Viewed together, they provided proof, as if I needed one, that I was not alone. My experiences were linked to and influenced by a community called family. As such, my history is not and could not be solely about me. It is clearly an extension of many other people whose impact on my being persists today.

One piece after another, the many stories and details I collected began to gel as a single theme, my own life within an extended family. The unfolding narrative provided me, as never before, with insight into who I am and what may have influenced me to become that person. That alone has been the most profound benefit of what I came to recognize as my labor of love.

Frankly, the purpose of compiling my family's history has evolved. The initial goal, to inform others about our family, is still important. However, I now also focus on the benefits this project has brought me. The research and the narration of the story has helped me recall the past with greater clarity. I have gained insight into my family members' behavior, the roots of my worldview, and the likely triggers for my own actions. More profoundly than before, I now recognize that my relatives, who were also influenced by their environment or experiences, did their best despite their frailties or shortcomings. This brought me peace of mind.

My story is still being written. Having shared it with other family members, I am now including their

perspective and stories within our family's expanding tale. Their input adds depth and breadth to the growing narrative. Ultimately, our combined effort should help inform members of our extended family about the history we share. In a way, it may also help future members of our family to understand who their ancestors were and what they experienced.

That said, I recognize that such project is not for everyone. Many reasons may prevent people from undertaking a similar task, including current time demands, other existing priorities, apprehension about writing or capturing one's history, and more. However, I firmly believe that each of us has a unique personal and familial history which would

be of interest to others. Failing to record it risks having it misrepresented by others or simply lost, forever. Therefore, I recommend you at least consider keeping a careful collection of your documents, such as certificates, key letters, papers, or diaries. Also, where possible, identify and protect your photographs or videos. Collectively these would help you or others describe your life. All in all, however, I still encourage you to write your story, perhaps starting in small incremental steps. You will be amazed by what you learn and the peace of mind it may generate.

Feedback is welcome at rkuban@shaw.ca

Ron Kuban is a long-time community volunteer and builder.





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Our Healthcare System in Crisis: The UCP's Reckless Mismanagement

Speaking with families across Edmonton-Meadows this summer, I hear the same urgent message: our healthcare system is breaking, and the UCP government's reckless choices are making it worse. From the highest measles rates in North America to charging for COVID-19 vaccines, Danielle Smith and the UCP are dismantling the public healthcare we all rely upon.

A Public Health Emergency Ignored

Alberta now holds a shameful record—more measles cases than the entire United States, a country with sixty-eight times our population. Over 1,300 Albertans have contracted this preventable disease, with more than 100 hospitalizations and 15 ICU admissions.

Dr. Lynora Saxinger of the University of Alberta calls it “a massive scale of spread.” The South Zone of our province remains under a standing exposure advisory, and real case counts may be far higher. This outbreak endangers our most vulnerable—especially babies and young children who cannot yet be fully vaccinated.

This crisis could have been avoided.

Jasvir Deol

MLA for Edmonton-Meadows



Instead of launching mass immunization clinics or ensuring infants have access to early doses, the UCP offered only excuses while children remain at risk.

Charging for Vaccines in a Cost-of-Living Crisis

In a move that defies both compassion and logic, the UCP is now charging at least \$100 for COVID-19 vaccines. Seniors on fixed incomes, healthcare workers, and struggling families must now pay out of pocket

for basic preventive care—right in the middle of an affordability crisis.

This is the same government that promised Albertans would never pay for essential medical treatment. Yet today, prescription costs are rising, and vaccines come with a price tag. People are being forced into the cruel choice between protecting their health or putting food on the table.

Quietly Dismantling Public Healthcare

While stoking political division with separation talk, the UCP is quietly eroding Medicare. Hidden deep within their 300-page Bill 55 are provisions allowing private, for-profit corporations to run our hospitals. This is not routine “housekeeping”—it’s a direct attack on public healthcare.

The turmoil is already visible: more than 425 healthcare workers reassigned to new agencies, experienced leaders removed, the Auditor General investigating procurement scandals, a former cabinet minister resigning over procurement concerns, and the former AHS CEO suing for wrongful dismissal after allegedly being pressured to approve overpriced private surgery contracts.

Fighting for What Matters

South Edmonton families deserve a transparent, accountable government that protects their health. Seniors should never have to choose between medicine and meals. As your MLA, I will continue to fight for free vaccines, accessible immunization clinics, strong protections against privatization, and the South Edmonton Hospital we urgently need.

The UCP’s mismanagement is costing lives and livelihoods: parents watching infants suffer with measles, seniors rationing prescriptions, families waiting hours in overcrowded emergency rooms. Together, we must stand against the dismantling of our public healthcare system and demand quality, accessible, and truly public care for every Albertan.

I urge all residents of Edmonton-Meadows and South Edmonton to speak up. Share your stories, raise your concerns, and write to my office at Edmonton.Meadows@assembly.ab.ca. Your voice matters—and together, we can demand better.

Jasvir Deol is the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Meadows and Official Opposition Critic for Infrastructure.

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MLA Jasvir Deol (right) along with caucus colleagues celebrating Pride at the town of Camrose, on July 31.

Photos: Office of MLA Jasvir Deol



Three MLAs at Canada Day celebration (from left to right): Jasvir Deol (Edmonton-Meadows), Gurtej Singh Brar (Edmonton-Ellerslie) and Alberta NDP Leader Naheed Nenshi (Edmonton-Strathcona).

**Discrimination and racism
have no place in our hearts,
our homes and our world.**

“I am YEG Arts” Series: Daniel Poitras

**Interview by Jamie Chapelsky
Edmonton Arts Council**

Poet Daniel Poitras best describes his work as “vicious Native poetry”, using humour, sarcasm, sincerity, story, and truth to defang stereotypes, racism, and complacency. Daniel’s words challenge audiences and pry open their minds to new perspectives. A longtime participant at open mic events, a featured reader, and with work published in several literary journals, Daniel is currently working with the monthly poetry reading series, *The Nightingale*, to bring poetry to the masses. In this month’s I Am YEG Arts feature, we spoke with Daniel about the themes he tackles in his poetry, who is inspiring him right now, his advice for aspiring poets, and what audiences can expect by checking out *The Nightingale* poetry series.

What drew you to poetry? What are some of the themes you like to explore in your work?

What initially drew me to poetry was a sense of being broken and lonely. In high school poetry was a big thing; everybody was writing diaries that rhymed, and we called it poetry. I’ve always taken to writing and I got into poetry because I was going to Grant MacEwan [now known as MacEwan University] and I met this wonderful professor named Jannie Edwards who is the reason for all this.

My favorite subject matter would be sadness and depression – just your general existential attitudes. I’m in a unique position growing up Native, but half-breed, which means that I wasn’t accepted by that culture, and I was accepted by this culture. It gave me a perspective that’s unique. Because of that I write a lot of my themes on Indigenous culture and the reaction to it. Typically, when you hear Indigenous poetry, it’s either in



Daniel Poitras performing as his character Dapper Dan at the Edmonton Poetry Festival.

Photo: Brenda Gunn

celebration of the culture or it’s mourning of the loss of it. Those are your two common themes. I do have a little bit of both of those, but for the most part, most of my Indigenous

poetry is confronting what people are saying about our culture. My work tends to center on what I’m calling “vicious Native poetry”. It tells what I’m trying to do.

And how do you think poetry as an art form lends itself to talking about some of these heavier subjects?

Essays and stories have a defined form: this is the format, this is how you have to write this thing or else it’s not that thing anymore. With poetry, there are forms, but we’ve spent a long time deconstructing those forms. It’s so open that anything can be poetry, and I think that’s the beauty of the form. For example, I could take, say, a police confessional and alter it, turning it into a heartbreaking poem. It’s a poem about real life and real struggles. You can take out a few lines, add a little imagery, add a metaphor or a little bit of simile and boom, you’ve got a great poem. I think that’s what allows poetry to be so subversive. It can fit into any space in any shape, at any time.

Who’s someone inspiring you right now, and why?

Currently, my favourite poet is Kim Mannix. She’s got a book coming out on October 28th called *Confirm Humanity*. It’s a great collection of poetry that has to do with her fears, her phobias, and like myself, we look at the darker side of life and ask, how can I make this art and how can I force that upon everybody else? She does that, just like myself, although I don’t pull punches. She masterfully moves into

Continued on page 8

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Daniel Poitras

Photo: Alexis Marie Chute

“My favorite subject matter would be sadness and depression”

Continued from page 7

the lines and in the spaces and out of the spaces so beautifully that you don't realize she's talking about the heaviest of topics. Her elegance and her way of delivering is so wonderful. When I read her poetry, the best way I can describe it is that it's like a gentle massacre.

Tell us more about *The Nightingale* poetry reading series. How did this series get its start and what can audiences expect at a *Nightingale* event?

Being a board member, the *Nightingale* was the brainchild of Jean-Jacques Chateauf. Jean-Jacques is an incredibly devoted and excitable poet. He does a lot of children's poetry, and he does that in front of adults, which puts him on a whole different level. He created *The Nightingale* I believe as an homage to the raving poets of the late 90s/early 2000s. That's important because it's hosted at the Kasbar Lounge, which is just below Yanni's Taverna Greek Restaurant, and it's where the Raving Poets originally started. The Raving Poets was a great open mic that had a live band that would vibe to whatever you were reading. Jean-Jacques has taken that idea and he does like a little music interstitial intro before everybody goes up. So, you could have Beyoncé's "Single Ladies" as you walk up to the mic. It feels a little like a club or wrestling event with the intros.

The event is easy-going and it's got that kind of bar/club feel, which I like because this feels like when I was in my 20s going to the bar, but I'm now in my 40s and the club ends at 9:00 pm and I can go home and be in bed. The atmosphere brings a lot of diverse and interesting poets. You never know what you're going to get, but you know you're going to have a good time.

What would your advice be to poets/writers looking to get their start in Edmonton?

My advice would be to find open



Daniel Poitras performing

Photo: Alexis Marie Chute

mics and go to all the open mics you mentally and emotionally can get to. It's where you're going to discover incredible performances that you may never see again. There are poets that I've heard perform that make the art form incredible, and then it breaks my heart to know that they gave up the art and they're not doing poetry anymore. But now that performance lives on in my head and in my heart. You don't get that unless you go to these open mics. The featured poets and the like are great to see but you know what you're going to get. The open mic is so raw and there's so much talent, love, and fear. Sometimes you'll get a poet two lines in, nerves get to them, and they have to walk off, and then with the encouragement of the crowd they come back up and finish the poem. There's some beautiful humanity in that.

Another piece of advice that is just as important is to respect the time. If it's two minutes, be two minutes, don't be five. Always keep your audience wanting more, because as an audience member we have an internal clock — we know when it's over two minutes, and by three minutes we've checked out and we're just waiting for the voices to stop so we can clap.

Tell us a little about what you're currently working on or hoping to explore next.

I am currently working on a manuscript I've been working on for 20 years. When I first got pulled into the scene by Jannie Edwards, I started writing poetry and it was Indigenous poetry because she would say write what you know. When I started writing poetry I was a very angry individual,

writing very angry Native poetry, challenging the status quo, challenging anybody that wasn't Indigenous. And over time I left the community for like a decade, I've come back and I'm now trying to rework all those old poems into something that I prefer today, where it's more sarcastic, with a little bit of sardonic humour to it, and it's less angry and more about illuminating the problem. There's a lot of Native humour that tends to skew a little dark because if you don't laugh, you cry. I have the contract from NeWest Press, so, in the year 2028 when all this is burned out and we're living by mutants and fires that are in barrels, I'll put my book out!

And what I hope to do in the future? Maybe steer away from some Indigenous poetry for a little bit and try to write something that isn't Indigenous-based and see how I feel about it.

Also, if you are a fan and want to see me perform, I will be participating in an event for Calgary's Stroll of Poets Festival (September 6–7). The event, Turtle Island Collective Presents: Dapper Dan & The Whole Damn Boondoggle, will be at Rosso Inglewood on September 7th at 12:15 p.m. Saturday is all open mic events, and Sunday is where the other events are happening which I'm part of. For anybody who's interested, come out to Calgary for The Dapper Dan Experience and all the other wonderful events with wonderful poets.

About Daniel Poitras

Daniel Poitras is a half-breed poet from the Paul First Nation. Currently residing in Edmonton, he writes vicious Native poetry. He has been published in *The Home and Away* anthology (House of Blue Skies, 2009), *The Malahat Review*, *Grain Magazine*, *The Polyglot*, in *Poetry Moves on Transit* program and has been a feature in the long-running Olive Reading series.

Want more YEG Arts Stories? We'll be sharing them here and on social media using the hashtag #JamYegArts. Follow along!

For more information about the Edmonton Arts Council, visit the new website edmontonarts.ca.

Provincial minister meets with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta

On Aug. 15, Minister of Indigenous Relations Rajan Sawhney issued the following statement following a meeting with Treaty 8 First Nations of Alberta:

"Today's meeting with Treaty 8 leadership was an important step forward in our ongoing work together. I want to thank Grand Chief Trevor Mercredi, Deputy Grand Chief Ramona Horseman, and all the Chiefs who joined us.

"These conversations are not always easy, but they are essential. They allow everyone at the table to listen deeply, speak honestly and build the kind of trust that leads to real progress. We reaffirmed our commitment to ensure

that their voices and all First Nations voices are not only heard but reflected in the decisions that affect their communities.

"We also looked at issues within the broader context of Canada's relationship with First Nations. Treaty 8 leadership brought forward concerns that reflect not only local realities but national challenges. The unique priorities identified today by Treaty 8 reinforce our commitment to working in partnership to advance those priorities.

"These meetings are part of a sustained effort to strengthen relationships and ensure we are meeting government-to-government with

Treaty 8 leadership. Alberta's government is committed to continuing these conversations regularly.

"This meeting also serves as a bridge to a more formal working agreement, laying the groundwork for deeper collaboration. Future meetings will continue to bring into focus shared

priorities and the working tables needed to advance them.

"Looking ahead, we will keep working together to turn dialogue into action. The path forward must be shaped by shared priorities, mutual respect and a commitment to long-term outcomes."

Letters to the editor are welcome

We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications.

Please e-mail your letter to: mwmosaic@telus.net



This stilt performer was entertaining visitors at the Pavilion of Barbados which is an island country in the Caribbean.

Photo: Rob Hislop Photography



Folk dancers at the Pavilion of Croatia which is a country in the Balkans.

Photo: Rob Hislop Photography

United in Culture – Edmonton Heritage Festival 2025

The Edmonton Heritage Festival attracted thousands of visitors at the City's Exhibition Lands & Borden Park from Aug. 2 to 4. This year's festival had 66 pavilions, featuring countries and their culture from around the world. The motto of this year's festival was "United in Culture." Next year, the festival will return to William Hawrelak Park which has been closed for rehabilitation since March 2023.



Dancers at Pavilion of Romania where Elephant Ears (deep fried dough topped with icing sugar) were a bestseller.

Photo: Uwe Weiz



The Pavilion of Palestine was very popular, probably because the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been in the news a lot.

Photo: Rob Hislop Photography



Volunteers Frank Friesacher (left) and Deano Papachristopoulos with delicious bratwurst at the Pavilion of Germany.

Photo: Frank Friesacher



Children performing at the Pavilion of Indonesia

Photo: Rob Hislop Photography

Parents and Grandparents Program intake opened in late July

As announced earlier in 2025, Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will accept up to 10,000 complete applications for sponsorship under the Parents and Grandparents Program this year. Starting on July 28, 2025, and over the course of approximately two weeks, IRCC will send invitations to apply to interested potential sponsors.

Anyone who submitted an interest to sponsor form in 2020 but has not yet received an invitation to apply is encouraged to check the email account they provided in 2020. They should make sure to check their junk and spam folders.

Due to the number of forms remaining in the pool of interest to sponsor submissions from 2020, IRCC will send invitations to apply to potential sponsors from that pool instead of opening a new interest to sponsor form.



Four generations: Susan Joop (right) immigrated to Canada from the Philippines in 1988 and sponsored her daughter Clarize and her mother Catherine, and her grandson Martin was born in Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta, in 1995.

Photo: Arnim Joop / MILL WOODS MOSAIC

Those invited to apply as part of the 2025 intake can submit their applications electronically through the Permanent Residence Portal or the Representative Permanent Residence Portal.

Those who are not invited this year may consider having their parents or grandparents apply for a super visa, which is a multiple-entry visa that is valid for up to 10 years. Super visa holders can stay in Canada for 5 years at a time, with the option to extend their visit by up to two years at a time without leaving the country.

For information on previous application intakes for the Parents and Grandparents Program, see the recently published intake report on our website, The Parents and Grandparents Program: Intake Report 2020 to 2022.

Alberta asks for “realistic immigration policies”: Minister Schow

Alberta's Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration Joseph Schow issued the following statement on Ottawa's decision to invite 10,000 parent and grandparent sponsorship applications.

“Alberta's government is deeply concerned by the federal government's recent decision to invite 10,000 new applications to sponsor parents and grandparents of newcomers at a time when provinces are already struggling to meet the demands placed on health care, education, housing and social services due to Ottawa's reckless immigration policies.

“Under the federal Liberal government, Canada's immigration levels



Minister Joseph Schow

Photo: Government of Alberta

have ballooned – almost two million newcomers entered Canada last year alone – without any regard for the provinces that are tasked with delivering frontline services. This latest move will only serve to further increase the unsustainable pressures on our hospitals, schools and housing markets.

“Alberta has a long history of welcoming newcomers who contribute to our communities and economy. While we respect the importance of family reunification, inviting large numbers of parents and grandparents into the country without proper coordination with provinces places disproportionate strain on already busy health systems. This creates serious concerns for both

Albertans and the newcomers themselves, who may not receive timely care if our system is overwhelmed.

“Immigration must be sustainable and aligned with provincial capacity and priorities. The federal government cannot continue to make unilateral decisions that ignore the realities on the ground.

“We are once again calling on Ottawa to respect its partnerships with provinces and territories, reduce total immigration to under 500,000 annually, and to give provinces more say in how immigration targets are set. Our systems need time to catch up before more pressure is added.”

Immigration crisis demands immediate action: Minister Schow

Minister of Jobs, Economy, Trade and Immigration Joseph Schow issued the following statement on Ottawa's loss of control over immigration:

“The federal government has lost control of sustainable immigration in Canada. Despite promises from Prime Minister Mark Carney to restore sustainable levels, Canada is on pace to receive more than one million new temporary and permanent immigrants this year, not including the almost three million temporary residents already in the country.

“Each year, the federal government sets immigration targets while provincial governments are responsible for the majority of supports including health care, housing and education. Unfortunately, the decisions regarding immigration targets are often made without proper consideration of provincial needs or priorities. When it comes to immigration, Albertans simply want transparency, honesty and

sustainability, all of which have been lost under this federal government.

“At the same time, it is estimated that there are up to 500,000 illegal immigrants currently spread across Canada, all of whom are benefiting from taxpayer-funded services. As the federal government determines immigration targets for next year, these illegal migrants are not being accounted for. This means that the numbers being reported to Canadians are inaccurate. These illegal migrants must be taken into account, as every province is feeling the pressure of Ottawa's mismanagement of the immigration system.

“Alberta has led the country in population growth rates, increasing by 4.36 per cent last year, ahead of Ontario at 3.21 per cent and B.C. at 3.02 per cent. Most of that growth has come from international migration, along with the highest levels of interprovincial migration in Canada. Employment, housing, health care and other public services

are under pressure due to Canada's open border policy, and the strain will only get worse if immigration is not brought under control.

“As Prime Minister Carney admitted in April, ‘the system isn't working.’ He must keep his promise to cap immigration and fix the system. Nowhere is the strain more obvious than in Alberta, where record population growth is being felt in communities province-wide. It is time to regain control of our borders, protect the services Canadians rely on, and restore trust in our immigration system.”

Quick facts

- Alberta's population growth in 2023-2024 led the country for the second year in a row at a rate of 4.36 per cent.
- Net international migration was the primary contributor to population growth in 2023-24, accounting for

71.2 per cent of the provincial absolute growth.

In 2023-24, Alberta was among the only provinces to see growth through interprovincial migration.

- 43,750 people moved to Alberta from other provinces in 2023-24.

- The only other provinces to see growth through interprovincial migration in 2023-24 were New Brunswick (2,803) and Nova Scotia (2,252).

- All other provinces saw decreases in interprovincial migration.

- Between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024, Alberta's population grew by 145,395 people through international migration.

This is an increase from the prior year's growth of 119,699 people through international migration.

More information about the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program: www.alberta.ca/alberta-advantage-immigration-program

New Superintendent for Edmonton Public Schools

At a special board meeting on July 30, the Edmonton Public Schools Board of Trustees appointed Ron Thompson as the new Superintendent of Schools, effective September 1, 2025.

The appointment is the culmination of a rigorous and comprehensive national search, conducted by the Board of Trustees.

“On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I am thrilled to share the appointment of Ron Thompson as Superintendent of Schools,” says Julie Kusiek, Board Chair for Edmonton Public Schools.

“Ron is a deeply respected and experienced educator who embodies the very best of Edmonton Public Schools. We are excited to have Ron lead our school division, continuing to champion the importance of public education and our commitment to student success.”

Ron brings an impressive 25 years of dedicated service with the Division in a variety of roles: teacher, assistant principal, principal and assistant superintendent of schools. His extensive journey with Edmonton Public Schools has provided him with invaluable



Ron Thompson is the new Superintendent of Edmonton Public Schools.

Photo: Edmonton Public Schools

able insights and a profound understanding of the community. This comprehensive background, coupled with his academic achievements – a

Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Education, and a Master of Education – makes him well-prepared to lead the Division forward.

Known for being a calm and caring leader, Ron consistently approaches challenges with thoughtful consideration, curiosity and genuine empathy. His unwavering commitment to improving student success is at the heart of his work, consistently applying a student-first lens to all decisions. He is a passionate advocate for public education and a strong relationship builder, qualities that are essential in fostering a collaborative and supportive environment for students, staff, and families. The Board is confident that Ron will continue to uphold the values of Edmonton Public Schools.

“I am deeply honoured and excited to be named Superintendent of Schools for Edmonton Public Schools,” said Ron Thompson. “Throughout my time with the Division, I’ve witnessed the unwavering commitment of staff and the incredible capabilities of students. Our strong community, including parents, volunteers and partners, are all key parts to our collective success. I am eager to build upon this foundation, supporting student achievement and working to make sure students are well-prepared for their journey ahead.”

Letters to the editor are welcome

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E-mail your letter to the editor of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*: mwmosaic@telus.net

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Tale of two Alberta citizen petitions – 1915 and 2025

The very unusual discussion we see happening in Alberta this year seems to be a repeat of what Alberta went through more than a hundred years ago. But the way the issue of Alberta separation is being handled now in 2025 shows the UCP government does not quite have a handle on things the way the Alberta government had in 1915 when it came to the issue of citizen-initiated legislation.

This year signatures are being gathered in the cause of holding a referendum on the question of whether or not Alberta should separate from Canada, or conversely whether or not it should stay in Canada. But the present government's Citizen Initiative Act and the way it has been interpreted confuses the process and makes a mockery of how a Direct Legislation law can operate. By comparison, the decisions of the Alberta Liberal government in 1915 shine as clear and reasonable behaviour by a government that seemed to want to provide an opportunity for the public to contribute meaningfully in law-making.

The big issue in Alberta in the 1910s was not separation from Canada but was how to deal with social problems caused by wide-open consumption of alcohol. Large and powerful organizations pushed for Prohibition, the outright outlawing of hard liquor, or at least the outlawing of the sale of alcohol.

The call for Prohibition was part of a wide range of social reforms that were pursued on the Prairies in the early 1900s. A key to them all was the ability of citizens to push reluctant governments to allow a public vote on issues that the government would avoid if possible. The ability to do this was secured in Alberta in 1913 with the passage of the Direct Legislation Act. It allowed a petition signed by enough people to force the government to either pass such legislation or hold a referendum on the question. This meant in 1915 that if 25,000 people signed a petition calling for Prohibition, the government would pass such a law or have to hold a referendum where voters had a clear choice of endorsing Prohibition or not.

What happened was straightforward. Twenty-five thousand people did sign a petition calling for Prohibition. The names were presented to the Alberta Legislature, and the names were checked and found that they were enough. The government did not pass the legislation. Instead a referendum was held, where a majority of votes voted in favour of Prohibition. The government took this as proof of public will and passed the Prohibition law that went into effect on Canada Day 1916.

The law was in effect for seven years, then was dropped, replaced by the government sale of liquor in government-owned stores. The Direct Legislation Act was repealed in 1958. Prohibition was the only law adopted in Alberta through a citizen petition.

Now we look at the situation in Alberta today.

A law allowing citizens to initiate legislation was brought back in 2021, under the name the Citizen Initiative Act. But importantly it is weaker than the old law – the 2021 law says "Electors can use the citizen initiative

process to have a legislative or policy proposal introduced in the legislative assembly or to have a constitutional referendum conducted." Having a law introduced is not the same as the government being required to enact such a law, as the old law actually

province asking people to sign a petition calling for a vote in the Legislature or in a referendum on the question "Do you agree that Alberta should remain in Canada?".

This is the pro-Canada petition fronted by former Alberta government cabinet minister and deputy premier Thomas Lukaszuk. This petition is meant to counter-balance cries for Alberta separation by the right-wing group Alberta Prosperity Project, which is trying to get started on its own petition based on the question "should Alberta separate from Canada?", exactly the same question just from the other angle. Its petition is stalled waiting for a legal ruling on whether breaking up

Canada is even allowed under the Constitution. The Alberta law allows only questions that are constitutional.

Meanwhile, Lukaszuk's question is constitutional because staying in Canada is constitutional, of course. But there is the chance that when it comes up for a vote, that a majority will vote not to stay in Canada, which would be no more constitutional than a vote to separate. Like they say, clear as mud.

Under Alberta's law, if a group can collect enough signatures, the next step is either to put the question to the Legislature (where it will either pass or not) or hold a public vote on the question (where it will either pass or not). If it goes to a public vote, the government can either abide by the vote result or not, at its will.

Lukaszuk has said he would prefer that the Legislature vote in favour of staying in Canada and the issue drops then and there to insignificance.

But let's say the government side-steps and it goes to a public vote, and a majority of voters say "stay in Canada."

Could the government still press on with the separation project? Yes, it could hold another referendum in five year's time.

Or it could pass a law endorsing separation in the legislature any time. Would the government pay a price for ignoring the public will? Not necessarily. There are a lot of loose connections between the voters and elected representatives under our present system. And no guarantees that a government that ignores the public will ever pay a price. A government does not even necessarily suffer defeat when it takes less than half the votes in an election. Just look at the 1993 and 2004 Alberta elections.

But it seems clear a vote in favour of Canada would take away much of the leverage that a threat of separation holds over Mark Carney's government in Parliament. So Premier Danielle Smith likely wants to postpone such a vote as long as possible if she fears a majority of people will vote to remain in Canada.

And even if the majority of people or a majority of MLAs vote in favour of separation, does she really want to be the one to split Canada asunder? Is she actually willing to deal not only with Alberta's existing thorny issues – such as healthcare and education costs and waiting lists, the opioid crisis in both city and rural areas, poverty and depopulation in farm areas, the fight for export pipelines for Alberta's oil – but also deal with national issues such as trade, immigration, border security, national defence, and the Employment Insurance and other federal government "social safety net" programs that would then be assumed by an independent Alberta.

Her government's confusing handling of the citizen initiative petitions this year may be proof that the UCP government is actually not ready to be the government of a country.

Tom Monto is an Edmonton historian and author of the blogsite Montopedia.

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Perspective**



forced.

And the number of signatures also has changed – and changed again. According to the law as passed in 2021, a petition bearing 20 per cent of eligible voters (about 13 per cent of Alberta's 4,685,000 population) was required to force government action. But then in May 2025, the government lowered the required number of names to just 10 per cent of votes cast in the previous election, which works out to about 4 per cent of Alberta's population. Still that is 177,000 votes – no easy job.

But worse than these, we see that any such citizen petition must have a clear question. But the idea of a citizen petition, as used in 1915, is that citizens call for something they want and then the government either enacts such or puts it to a vote. The petition should be an expression of public will taking a particular stand and calling for a change in government position.

So due to the way the law has been written and interpreted, we have the mind-boggling spectacle of hundreds of people scurrying around the

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Community Leagues – meeting each other and having some fun together

A neighbourhood might be the place you live, but a community is a place where you belong. Whether it's walking down your street and seeing familiar faces, stepping into a park to relax and play with your neighbours, or just finding a place where people know your name and you know your presence matters, community is about the things that make us feel connected, that make us feel at home. This September 20, Edmonton's annual Community League Day returns with a message for everyone, old or new: you're welcome here.

From pancake breakfasts and outdoor movie nights to block parties and barbecues, every year on Community League Day, Leagues across Edmonton host a variety of events that highlight the energy and diversity of their neighbourhoods. No two Community League Day events are exactly the same, but they all share the same goal: making sure every Edmontonian knows they have a place to belong.

"For over 100 years, Edmontonians have known the best way to get to know your neighbours, the best way to explore what the city has to offer, the way to get the most out of your neighbourhood, is to be a part of their Community League," said Laura Cunningham-Shpeley, Executive Director of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). "We really want everyone to have that experience. We want to tell them that, no matter what you're here for—whether you want to sit on the board or just share a cold drink with your community—we're here, and you're welcome to join us."

Founded in 1921, the EFCL supports Edmonton's 163 Community Leagues — the volunteer-run organizations that help make Edmonton's neighbourhoods such vibrant, connected, inclusive places. This year, the EFCL is hoping to underscore the importance of reaching out to Edmontonians who may not yet know about the League in their area, and encouraging them to become card-carrying members of



The members of Knottwood Community League celebrated the grand opening of their new community centre on Community League Day 2022.

Photos: Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues

their Community League. Edmonton has welcomed hundreds of thousands of new residents in the past few years, and whether they've come from outside the country, the province or just outside of city limits, they might not be familiar with Community Leagues — which are a one-of-a-kind, made-in-Edmonton institution for fostering community.

"Community League Day is our chance to say: 'This is for you,' our chance to show them who their neighbours are, what their neighbourhood is like, and how amazing this city can be when we all get together," says Cunningham-Shpeley. "I think one of

the really amazing things about Community Leagues is that you shape them as you participate in them: they're all a reflection of their communities, which means all you need to do is show up, and you're a part of it."

Because as Edmonton continues to grow and change, Community Leagues and Community League Day offer a chance to strengthen the roots that hold it together: neighbourliness, participation, and the simple joy of feeling welcome.

You can find more information, including a map of Community League Day events and how to find your local League, at CLDay.ca.



Community members dance at a Community League Day party.



One of the most popular spots at any Community League party: behind the grill!

Important addresses for immigrants and other newcomers

If you are new to Edmonton and don't know anybody, it can be tough to find a place to stay, a job, the right school for your children or good health care services, but there is plenty of help available.

Here are some of the main agencies specializing in helping immigrants and other newcomers in the Edmonton area:

Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers

11713 - 82 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 2V9
Tel. (780) 424-7709
Website: www.emcn.ab.ca

The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers offers a wide variety of programs for newcomers and helps immigrants to find a place to live, a job and English classes.

Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods

Suite 200, Tower II, Millbourne Mall
7609 - 38 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6K 3L6
Tel. (780) 462-6924
Website: <https://newcomercentre.com/program/settlement-information-orientation/>

The Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods offers many programs and services for immigrants, including settlement assistance, language and educational counseling, employment assistance, citizenship classes, English classes, computer classes, public speaking classes, and youth programs.

Changing Together Centre for Immigrant Women

3rd Floor, 9538 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 0T7
Tel. (780) 421-0175
Website: www.changingtogether.com

Founded in 1984, Changing Together is a non-profit, charitable organization operated by immigrant women for immigrant women. Its mission is to help Edmonton and area immigrant women and their families overcome personal and systemic barriers that keep them from participating fully in Canadian Society.

Catholic Social Services

8212 - 118 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 0S3
Tel. (780) 424-3545
Website: www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca

For more than 50 years, Catholic Social Services has welcomed immigrants and refugees to Alberta. The services are free and offered in both official languages and more than 50 other languages. In the Meadows, CSS runs a drop-in group for women of all ages and backgrounds. Participants connect through diverse activities like speaking English, sharing cultural experiences, learning to use computers and connecting with useful resources. The program, called Tea Connections, runs every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, in the room of The Meadows Community League on the 2nd floor of the Meadows Community Recreation Centre, 2704 - 17 Street. For more information, contact Raminder Dhindsa at raminder.dhindsa@cssalberta.ca or 780-391-3204.

Family Futures Resource Network

5704 - 19 A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1L8
Tel. 413-4521
Website: www.familyfutures.ca

The Family Futures Resource Network (FFRN) is a non-profit organization providing support to families and parents in the areas of early childhood education, child and youth, family and adult support and

parent education. The FFRN has three separate locations in Mill Woods: Millhurst Site (5704 - 19 A Avenue), Knottwood Site (1733 Mill Woods Road) and Millbourne Community Site (3756 - 78 Street).

Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative

9538 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 0T7
Tel. (780) 423-1973
Website: www.mchb.org

The Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative is a registered worker's co-operative with members from immigrant and refugee communities, providing culturally and linguistically relevant prenatal education, post-natal outreach, parenting support, family liaison and community development support to immigrant and refugee families.

Indo-Canadian Women's Association

9324 - 34 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5X8
Tel. (780) 490-0477

The Indo-Canadian Women's Association is a not-for-profit organization for enthusiastic volunteers committed to full participation of immigrant and visible minority women and men in economic, social and political life in Canada.

The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women

(formerly Multicultural Women & Seniors Services Association)
329 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 3Z7
Tel. (780) 465-2992

The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women (SCSW) is a non-profit, organization. The focus is to provide service and programs for immigrant women and senior men and women. Program goal is to promote and enhance the well-being and self-reliance of seniors and women especially those at risk and isolated before a crisis situation occurs. SCSW provides social support, information sessions, and skill building classes, home and hospital visits, as well as translation, and referrals to other service providers. It also offers family support and crisis intervention. For youth, there are Urdu and math classes and homework help, and there is also an Urdu library with more than 2000 books. The SCSW is open from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.

Youth Empowerment and Support Services

9310 - Whyte Avenue (82 Ave.)
Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 0Z6
Tel. (780) 468-7070
Website: www.yess.org

The Youth Emergency Shelter Society is a not-for-profit organization serving young people between the ages of 15-18 who are in crisis, at risk or homeless.

Alberta Employment Standards

Edmonton Office - Main Floor Sterling Place
9940 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2N2
Tel. (780) 427-3731
Website: www.employment.alberta.ca

Alberta Employment Standards is a provincial agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of employment standards in Alberta.

AES has publications available for temporary foreign workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under Alberta's employment standards and workplace health and safety legislation. These publications are available in Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish.

NorQuest College

10215 - 108 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1L6
Tel. (780) 422-2020
Website: www.norquest.ab.ca

NorQuest College is a public college offering many programs, including English as a Second Language classes and employment programs for immigrants.

Alberta Health and Wellness

Edmonton Office
Telus Tower North, Main Floor
10025 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel. (780) 427-1432
Website: www.health.alberta.ca

Alberta Health and Wellness answers any questions about health care and health care insurance coverage in Alberta.

Immigrant Access Fund Canada

45, 9912 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4M9
Tel. (Toll Free) 1-855-423-2262
Website: www.iafcanada.org

The Immigrant Access Fund provides micro loans to internationally trained immigrant professionals, trades people and skilled workers so they may obtain the Canadian licensing and/or training that will allow them to obtain employment in their field.

Other important phone numbers:

Edmonton Police Service

Emergency calls only 9-1-1
Police - Fire - Ambulance
Life & death, injury accident, crime in progress

Non-emergency calls (Dispatch) 780-423-4567
Report of suspicious activity, calls for assistance, advice, etc.

Poison Centre 1-800-332-1414

Hazardous Material Spills 9-1-1

Utility Trouble Calls Only:

Power Emergency 780-412-4500
Within Edmonton

Gas Emergency 780-420-5585
Edmonton & Area

Drainage Trouble 780-496-1717

Sewer Trouble 780-496-1717

Wastewater (odour hotline) 780-469-8176

Water Emergency Service 780-412-6800

The next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic will be published on September 15, 2025 The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, September 12, 2025.

Public inquiry into India's violence in Canada

A public inquiry into India's violence in Canada is the only way to ensure full transparency and restore broken trust, said the Sikh Federation (Canada) in a press release on Aug. 14:

"Sikhs across Canada continue to reiterate calls for an independent inquiry into India's transnational repression and violence as lawyers for the four men accused of murdering Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar appeared before the Supreme Court of British Columbia this morning.

"The Sikh community's long-standing demand for an independent public inquiry into the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar and India's broader campaign of transnational repression in Canada is a crucial next step while the criminal matter slowly proceeds through the courts. Canadians deserve to know the details of how a Sikh leader and a Canadian citizen was murdered in broad daylight outside his Gurdwara, in an operation that Canadian authorities themselves have linked to agents of the Indian state.

"This operation was part of a well-documented pattern of foreign interference, disinformation, and targeted repression carried out by Indian intelligence networks operating under diplomatic cover. Canadian intelligence agencies have confirmed this. And yet, successive governments have failed to act decisively. Instead, they have buried evidence, redacted intelligence assessments, and shielded India's culpability from public scrutiny in the past—choosing foreign policy expediency over democratic accountability.

"The situation is made worse by Prime Minister Mark Carney's decision this June to invite and host Narendra Modi at the G7 Summit in Alberta, followed by an agreement to reappoint High Commissioners and resume diplomatic services – without any acknowledgement of India's role in

Bhai Hardeep Singh's killing, nor any cooperation secured from Indian officials. The restoration of diplomatic ties with India, who is behind the politically motivated assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar, creates an ongoing threat to security, justice, and the rule of law in Canada.

"Sikhs in Canada call on the Government of Canada to commit to establishing a fully independent public inquiry into the assassination of Bhai Hardeep Singh Nijjar and India's broader campaign of transnational repression in Canada. This process must publicly disclose the nature and scope of India's clandestine activities, including how Canadian agencies and decision-makers responded to these threats prior to the June 2023 assassination."

Bhai Moninder Singh, National Spokesperson of the Sikh Federation (Canada) commented:

"While a successful prosecution of the culprits will bring a measure of limited closure to the Sikh community in Canada, criminal proceedings are not the only nor the most effective means to ensure transparency, accountability, and the safety of the community against ongoing threats from the Government of India and their agents. In October 2024 the RCMP clearly stated that a wave of violence in the form of threats, extortions, and assassinations was the work of agents of the Government of India and that threat to Canada and Canadians remains very real today. A public inquiry is necessary to objectively and transparently disclose all of the relevant facts in order to effectively protect Canadians from India and their campaign of violence on Canadian soil."

Sikh Federation (Canada) is a Sikh advocacy organization dedicated to empowering the Sikh community in Canada to advocate for dignity, justice, and self-determination.



Do you agree that Alberta should remain in Canada?

If Yes, please sign the petition.

For more information, visit www.forever-canadian.ca

What's up?

Community events in Mill Woods

- July 2 - Aug. 21 - Green Shack Shows 2025**
Free concerts and performances
More information: www.edmontonarts.ca/event/green-shack-shows-2025
- Aug. 14 - 24 - 44th Annual Edmonton International Fringe Theatre Festival** in the heart of Old Strathcona with more than 220 theatre productions in 40 venues featuring performances by more than 1,600 Artists from right here at home, across Canada, and around the world!
More information: www.fringetheatre.ca
- Aug. 22 - Draw for 50/50 Cash Raffle**
Mill Woods Seniors Association
Tickets available in person or over the phone
2nd Floor, 2610 Hewes Way NW, Mill Woods (above the Mill Woods Public Library)
Phone: 780-496-2997
More information: www.mwsac.ca
- Aug. 23 & 24 - YEGO LEGO Festival**
Mill Woods Town Centre
2331 - 66 Street NW, Mill Woods
Saturday, Aug. 23: 12 p.m. (noon) to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, Aug. 24: 11 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
More info: www.millwoodstowncentre.com
- Sept. 13 & 14 - 8th Annual Edmonton Filipino Fiesta**
Lodge Inn Conference Centre
15540 Stony Plain Road NW, Edmonton
Contact: yegphilippinefiesta@gmail.com
- Sept. 20 & 21 - Rummage Sale**
Mill Woods Seniors Association
Saturday, Sept. 20: 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday, Sept. 21: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Mill Woods Seniors Association
2nd Floor, 2610 Hewes Way NW, Mill Woods (above the Mill Woods Public Library)
- Oct. 18 - Craft Sale - Local Makers + Artists + Artisans**
Mill Woods Seniors Association
2nd Floor, 2610 Hewes Way NW, Mill Woods (above the Mill Woods Public Library)
10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
More information: www.mwsac.ca

Do you have a community event in Mill Woods to announce? Please send us the information, and we will include it in this community calendar in the next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic.
Tel. (780) 465-7526 or e-mail to: mwmosaic@telus.net
The next deadline is Friday, September 12, 2025.

Life is a story. Tell it well.



How do you want to be remembered?



South Side Memorial Chapel
by Arbor Memorial

8310 - 104 Street, Edmonton, AB • 780-432-1601 • www.southsidememorial.com

Do you have any story ideas for the Mill Woods Mosaic? Give us a call at 780-465-7526 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net

Mill Woods Mosaic