

Mill Woods **Mosaic**

October 15, 2025

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The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational

This month:

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Students deserve an education system that puts learning first, says a student in a letter to the editor.

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Adam North Peigan's role is to develop partnerships with Indigenous peoples in the province of Alberta.

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Multicultural Celebration

The Millhurst Community League in Mill Woods celebrated the ethnic and cultural diversity of our community with a colorful multicultural event on Community League Day (Sept. 20). The event included performances by ethnic groups and a large variety of food.

Photo: Talented 19-year-old Mexican singer Paul Moreno captivates the crowd with soulful rancheras and ballads.

More photos on page 13 of this issue.

Photo: Sangeetha Vasanthkumar

Protecting access and privacy rights of all Canadians

Canada's information and privacy regulators had a meeting that focused on critical access and privacy issues facing Canadians. Topics included cyber security, artificial intelligence and the risks of storing health information outside Canada.

Federal, provincial, and territorial information and privacy commissioners and ombuds with responsibilities under access and privacy laws have concluded their annual meeting in Banff, Alberta. The two-day meeting, hosted by the Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta, included discussions on a broad range of privacy and access to information issues, with a strong focus on emerging issues related to new technologies, such as the use of artificial intelligence (AI), cybersecurity risks and the protection of online data.

Online harms and the information ecosystem

Emily Laidlaw, a Canada Research Chair in cybersecurity law and Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law at the University of Calgary, presented on online harms and the information ecosystem, with references to AI, protection of children, mis/disinformation, freedom of expression and human-centric cybersecurity.

Protecting health information: The use of servers outside Canada

Information and privacy regulators in Canada play a role in the protection of

health information through ensuring compliance with health information laws and/or private sector laws. An emerging issue is the use of servers outside Canada to store the health data of Canadians. Michael Geist, Canada Research Chair in Internet and E-Commerce Law in the Faculty of Law at the University of Ottawa spoke to the meeting about the need to consider whether data localization should be regulated under privacy or other laws in Canada.

Cyber security challenges and opportunities for cooperative leadership

Cyber security is top of mind for privacy regulators as they continue to deal with massive data breaches caused by cyber security attacks. Daniel Couillard and Richard Larose, both with the Canadian Centre for Cyber Security (Cyber Centre), provided an overview of the roles and mandate of the Cyber Centre, Canada's federal technical authority on cybersecurity. This included insights from their National Cyber Threat Assessment 2025-2026 and a discussion of opportunities for mutual support.

The use of AI by administrative tribunals

Since their origins in the 19th century, the rationale for the use of administrative tribunals has been primarily to achieve more efficient and effective decision-making, which is a benefit that AI may provide. Paul Daly, Chair in Administrative Law and Governance at the University of Ottawa, shared his views

on the use of AI by administrative tribunals, describing potential advantages and disadvantages, and outlining a possible path toward appropriate uses of AI by these tribunals.

AI: A role in the delivery of health care

The use of AI in health care is rapidly advancing across the country and around the world. An emerging application is the use of AI scribes to record and transcribe physician conversations with patients. Ross Mitchell, a Professor in the Department of Medicine and an Adjunct Professor in Computer Science at the University of Alberta, and a Fellow at the Alberta Machine Intelligence Institute, provided an overview to the meeting of deep learning and recent applications to health care, including the use of AI scribes and how to consider privacy rights in this context.

Legislative updates & court decisions

Meeting participants discussed recent developments and expected changes to access and privacy laws across Canada, as well as a number of recent key court decisions with implications for access and privacy. This provided insights and understanding regarding trends and opportunities for legislative modernization in the context of the evolving legal landscape.

Continued on page 2

Kiwanis Top Cop Award for Constable Thomas Cleal

Cst. Thomas Cleal with Downtown Beats has been named the 2024 Top Cop by the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital.

"We're pleased to honour Cst. Cleal for being a champion for Special Olympics Alberta for nearly a decade – his incredible volunteer commitment to the community exemplifies what it means to be a Top Cop," says Beverly Levis, President of the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital.

Thomas was nominated by Stephanie Gulley, LETR Program Coordinator with Special Olympics Alberta, who wanted to recognize his true spirit of service.

"His unwavering commitment to individuals with intellectual disabilities shines through, and his impact on Special Olympics athletes is immeasurable," she says. "His passion for fostering acceptance and inclusion has inspired so many to get involved and ensures that no one gets left behind."

Thomas first got involved with Special Olympics Alberta in 2016, when he assisted a colleague with the Calgary Polar Plunge. Since then, he has helped carry the flame for the Law Enforcement Torch Run (LETR) and become one of its most dedicated champions.



Constable Thomas Cleal

Photo: Edmonton Police Service

Now serving as Vice Chair of the Edmonton Region LETR Operations Committee, he organizes major fundraisers such as the Polar Plunge, Cops, Pops and Pizza, and Free our Finest, raising awareness and vital donations so athletes with intellectual disabilities can train, compete, and thrive.

Alongside event planning, Thomas has dedicated his time as a coach and mentor – building meaningful relationships with athletes, inspiring them to push their limits, and sharing in their successes on and off the field.

Thomas' tireless efforts to improve the lives of others have strengthened bonds between law enforcement and the community. His passion, leadership, and commitment exemplify what it means to be a Top Cop – serving not only in uniform, but as a role model and friend.

"We are proud to have officers like Cst. Thomas Cleal who lead with heart and show us what it means to serve with compassion and commitment," says Police Chief Warren Driechel.

"His dedication to Special Olympics athletes, and to the community as a whole, is a reminder of the powerful impact police officers can have beyond the uniform."

In celebration of Thomas' community spirit, the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital is donating \$1,000 to the charity of Thomas' choice – Special Olympics Alberta.

For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital, please visit www.oilcapital-kiwanis.ca.

www.edmontonpolice.ca

Protecting privacy rights of all Canadians

Continued from front page

"Our offices work collaboratively year-round on issues relating to privacy and access to information," said Diane McLeod, Information and Privacy Commissioner of Alberta. "Our annual meeting offers the opportunity to spend time together in person to discuss emerging issues, share insights and experiences, and strengthen our joint commitment to protecting the access and privacy rights of all Canadians. The work of our offices is at the heart of some of the most critical issues facing individuals, communities, governments, organizations, businesses and society at large, many of which relate to the challenges of digital technology. Most of us live much of our lives online, and while this brings benefits, it also presents privacy risks. I am pleased that this year's meeting provided the opportunity for key discussions that focused on protecting privacy and providing access in the context of our changing world."

Through the OIPC, the Information and Privacy Commissioner performs the responsibilities set out in Alberta's access to information and privacy laws, the *Access to Information Act*, the *Protection of Privacy Act*, the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* during the transition period, the *Health Information Act*, and the *Personal Information Protection Act*. The Commissioner operates independently of government.

The next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic* will be published on November 15, 2025. The deadline is Friday, November 7, 2025.



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*Letter to the Editor:***Students Deserve a System That Puts Learning First**

**By Sam R., Graduated Student
Edmonton, Alberta**

Lately, everyone's been talking about the teacher strike – about class sizes and pay. But as a student who grew up in this system, I can tell you the real problem started long before Covid or any strike. Too many students have been suffering quietly for years in classrooms that don't make sure they teach them what they really need to know.

In elementary school, learning often felt impossible. My class was so chaotic that teachers spent more time managing behaviour than teaching. I remember kids throwing chairs and shouting while my teacher, exhausted, tried to keep things under control. It wasn't their fault – there were too many students that had exceptional needs and no other place they could be met.

By junior high, I was already behind. I didn't understand basic math, but I

was still moved ahead each year. In grade 11, I realized I didn't even know grade 2 math facts. I had to start over with flashcards, reteaching myself what I should have learned years earlier – not because I wasn't capable, but because the system never had time to make sure I actually learned.

Not even my parents knew how far behind I was. The marking system made everything look fine. When my math grade went up, my other grades fell because I was spending extra time just trying to catch up. Eventually, I started to believe I wasn't smart enough. It took me years – late in high school and after graduation – to rebuild that confidence and go back to the basics on my own.

I've now taken university-level math and English courses, but it took years of extra work to fill the gaps. Most students never get that chance. They stay stuck, frustrated and lost, not because they're lazy, but because the system failed to give them the foundation they needed.

That's why the focus needs to shift to what truly matters. We need to make sure teachers are able to teach basic skills well, making sure every student masters the important building blocks before being moved ahead. We need better communication between parents and schools, so families aren't left in the dark when their children start to struggle. And we need to be honest about the details of what's going on in class on a regular basis. How can we

expect kids to learn successfully in a room full of chaos where you constantly worry about your physical safety?

Education isn't just about contracts or classrooms – it's about lives. It's about giving every child a fair start and a safe place to learn.

This October, when you vote, please remember who education is really for – the students. Vote for change in education leadership. Vote for a system that finally puts students first.

Letters to the editor 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: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, mwmosaic@telus.net.

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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

Every vote counts

On Oct. 20, Canadians in Alberta will have the opportunity to vote for new mayors, city councillors and school trustees. In Edmonton, there are 13 candidates for mayor, 81 for the other 12 seats on city council, and about 50 for the Edmonton Public School Board and Edmonton Catholic School Board.

The 2025 municipal election will be the first election (in many years) featuring political parties and slates. Two have been formed: the Principled Accountable Coalition for Edmonton (PACE) and Better Edmonton (led by sitting city councillor Tim Cartmell).

The Mill Woods Mosaic does not endorse any candidates, following the good old tradition of community newspapers to be politically neutral, but let's make a few points. Voters should read the resumes of the candidates to find out if they qualify for these important positions. Every candidate promises to work for the people who voted for them or all voters, but what have they done in the past? Did they do any volunteer work or did they contribute in other ways to our community? And how did they finance their election campaigns? Did they accept big donations from businesses who expect something in return or smaller contributions from "ordinary people"?

Please vote on Oct. 20, because every vote counts.

The beauty of the Canadian Rocky Mountains

When I grew up in Germany, there was a popular song, "Urlaub, mach mal Urlaub" ("Holiday, take a vacation"). Germans love their "Urlaub", and one of their favourite destinations was the Mediterranean island of Mallorca with its beautiful beaches, warm climate and affordable prices. The island was flooded with German tourists, and the local restaurants and hotels catered to Germans with traditional German food, German beer and German entertainment. German tourists could even buy the popular German newspaper *BILD-Zeitung* at newsstands in Mallorca. In a way, Mallorca was more German than Germany, and that was one reason why I never travelled there, because what's the point of travelling to another country if I am only interested in my own culture.

My wife Susan and I, who immigrated to Canada in 1988/1989, didn't have many vacations since then, because we saved money for sponsoring Susan's two children and her parents and for down payment to have our own house. But we did a road trip from southern Alberta to Vancouver in 1994, visited Toronto twice and saw the spectacular Niagara Falls, and flew three times to California to attend Filipino high school reunions. Our last vacation was before the dreadful COVID-19 pandemic.

So, this year we decided to take a

vacation and chose to do a road trip to the Canadian Rocky Mountains and Beautiful British Columbia. Travelling to the U.S. was out of the question, because we don't feel welcome there since they have a president who likes

Arnim Joop

From the Desk of the Publisher



to toy with the idea of taking over Canada and gives us a hard time with outrageous tariffs and hostile rhetoric.

On the first day, we drove through the Rockies on the Trans-Canada Highway (Highway 1) to Golden, a small town in southeastern B.C. which is nestled in the Rocky Mountain Trench, also known as the Valley of a Thousand Peaks. It was a nice drive through the mountains, because it was a sunny day with a blue sky, and the highway is in very good shape – unlike the crappy roads in Edmonton with so many potholes.

There was not much to see in Golden,

so we proceeded to Yoho National Park on the second day and visited the pristine Emerald Lake and had a fine lunch at the Emerald Lake Lodge which has a nice restaurant. On the way to Emerald Lake, just off the Trans-Canada Highway, we saw the Natural Bridge which is a natural rock formation where the Kicking Horse River rushes through a natural arch formed by erosion.

At the end of the day, we arrived in Radium Hot Springs and were surprised that there were so many vintage cars cruising around this small village. We did not know that there was a big car show on that weekend, the annual Columbia Valley Classics Show & Shine with more than 1,000 vintage cars, and we were lucky to find a motel room, because there were so many visitors.

We are not car enthusiasts, but it was fun to see so many people enjoying themselves at that gathering. The whole place was in a party mood, cars were whizzing around everywhere, making a lot of noise, and in the evening, people danced in the streets to live rock music – all for free!

A bath in the hot water of the Radium Hot Springs (39 degrees Celsius plus) was very relaxing, and on the way back to the village, we encountered some mountain goats on the highway, who weren't bothered by anything.

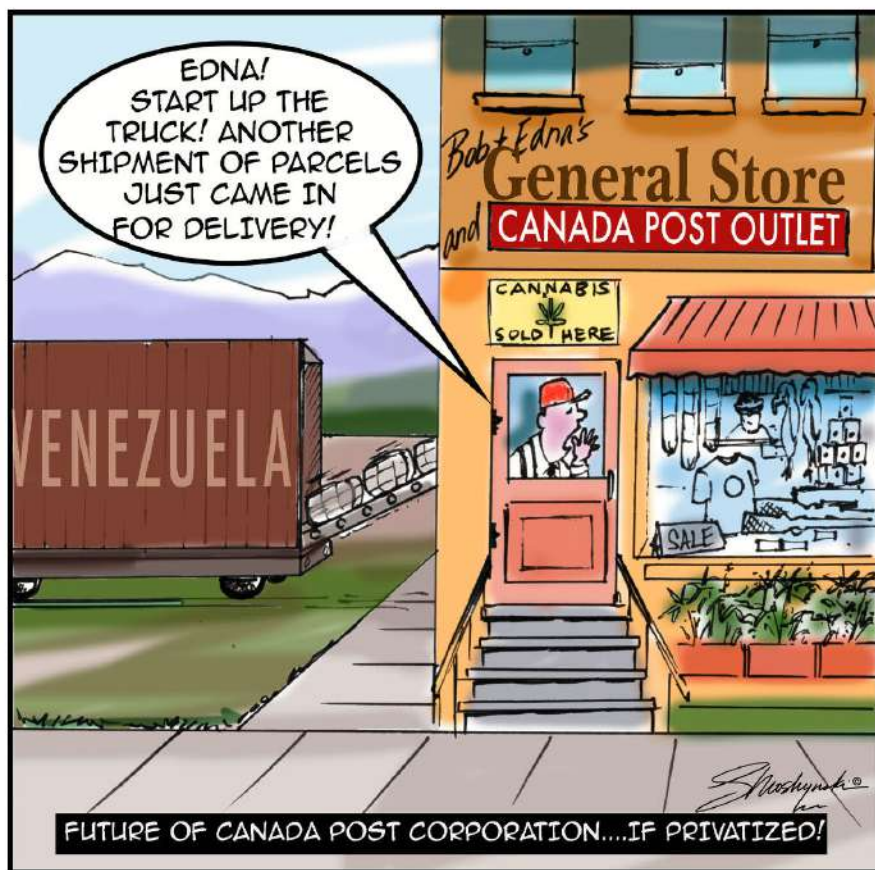
We ended up staying three nights in Radium and enjoyed the hospitality of that village with a friendly motel owner who liked to chat, cheerful waitresses at the small restaurants (nothing fancy but good food), and polite police officers who had their hands full with more than 1,000 cars, but most drivers behaved.

Before returning to Edmonton, we visited Invermere on the shore of Windermere Lake, another hot springs in Fairmont, and had dinner at a nice Greek restaurant on the main street of Banff.

It was a short vacation, but we enjoyed it very much. It was good to get away from the city for a few days and enjoy the beautiful Canadian Rocky Mountains in our backyard. We did not do any hiking or mountain climbing and did not encounter grizzly bears or other wild animals, but it was exciting and good for our souls to spend some time together in the natural environment of our precious Canadian National Parks.

We were happy to return to Edmonton which is our home since 1996, but we are already planning our next vacation, because there are still so many more places to see in our beautiful Canada.

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



FUTURE OF CANADA POST CORPORATION....IF PRIVATIZED!

Since Sept. 29, more than 50,000 Canada Post workers are on strike over contract negotiations. The Canadian Crown corporation has lost three billion dollars in the last six years, and some experts say that Canada should privatize its postal service, as it was done in the United Kingdom and Germany.

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

A Tourist's Perspective

I recently returned from visiting mainland Greece and a few of its islands. The trip was amazing, and the locals were welcoming, which made the trip particularly enjoyable. More importantly, however, were the insights I gained through my interactions with the locals who helped me better understand their lifestyle, their land, and its history. Indirectly, and rather powerfully, they also provided me with valuable understanding about us as people.

This trip was special, taken to celebrate a few key family events which occurred in the past year. That aside, it was not meant as an excuse to simply frolic about. I firmly believe that holiday travel, especially to a new or an unusual destination, clearly needs to be enjoyable but should also serve as a great learning opportunity. Let me be clear, I am not referring to a stay at an all-inclusive resort within some exotic destination. These facilities and their amenities are attractive to many because they are designed to provide a relaxing atmosphere in a foreign country. However, they are not likely to provide the necessary exposure to the locals or their land. This exposure best occurs through interactions with these people, on their own turf, to provide insight into their reality. When undertaken with an open mind, this experience could be both delightful and incredibly informative.

Long ago, when I first started traveling abroad, I made the seemingly common mistake of expecting the people living at my destination to mirror the lifestyle I was experiencing within my community, or to somehow mimic my so-called normal living environment and its routines. Clearly, that expectation was foolish and unrealistic given that I was intentionally visiting places where things such as language,

common attire, culture, lifestyle, topography, and even climate were unlike those I was used to at home. These unique aspects were the attrac-

try) as our home. We often welcome visitors, as long as they respect our land and its people.

This brings me to my next point: respect. On a few occasions, I observed behavior or routines that appeared bizarre within my Canadian mindset or lifestyle. I then had to remind myself that the land belonged to the locals and, in any case, I would soon return home to Canada where predictably some of our own practices may likely be considered as bizarre by visitors. Funny thing though, on occasions when I reflected on what initially appeared as strange behavior, I realized that it made sense given local conditions or requirements.

Then, there is the potential language barrier which could be daunting and limiting. Fortunately for many of us, English and French are commonly understood within the tourist or hospitality industry throughout much of the world. Yet, time and again, I found that knowing a few words of greetings in the local language made a difference. Why? Because when spoken by us in a foreign land it reflects our respect for the locals, recognition of what is vitally important to them, their language. Even when I garbled my words and occasionally slipped by using them incorrectly, I was rewarded with warmth. (That is something we should recall with meeting visitors to Canada

whose English is poor).

Much more could be said, but I want to close with an observation that is of a different nature. Throughout much of my trip I visited various forts and remnants of long-ago cultures and empires. For example, while visiting the Island of Crete I was struck by the many civilizations that conquered the island, survived for a while and were in turn decimated only to leave behind a small footprint of their existence. Visiting one castle or battlefield after another I wondered how many people fell to defend that small tract of land, for a relatively short period. The stones remained as a testament to their ingenuity, existence, and ultimate destruction. Crete is but one example. Across the world, there are countless indicators of lost civilizations, each of which contributed something to the collective fiber of us as a people. It left me sad and again reminded me how similar we are beneath our external dissimilarities.

Our fixation on the things that differentiate us from other people has, time and again, spurred us to humiliate and destroy them and their achievements. History proves that their loss is ours too.

Feedback is welcome at
rkuban@shaw.ca

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

**Ron
Kuban**

*Time
Passages*



tion drawing me to my intended foreign destination. Frankly, had my wish been to simply replicate my own living environment it would have made more sense to save time and money by staying home.

Each time I travel abroad, my goal is to explore my destination for its exotic lifestyles. Initially, I was not prepared for the stark differences I observed locally from what I was used to in Canada. However, in time I learned to embrace them and search for their meaning. My recent visit again left a powerful impact on me.

As on many others previous visits abroad, I noticed many similarities between Canadians and the people with whom I interacted locally. It was rather apparent that aside from the exterior differences, we were the same. We wanted to enjoy food, drinks, our family and friends, and to protect our home. Despite the ever-present grumbling about politics and economic conditions, we are all profoundly protective of our home, family or clan. We are proud of who we are, our heritage, and the community we belong to. We consider our respective land (or coun-

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LEARN ABOUT HATE CRIMES



The Meadows Community League presents:

an evening hosted by The Organization for the Prevention of Violence, in partnership with the Canadian Race Relations Foundation and the National Canadian Chiefs of Police - Hate Crime Task Force.

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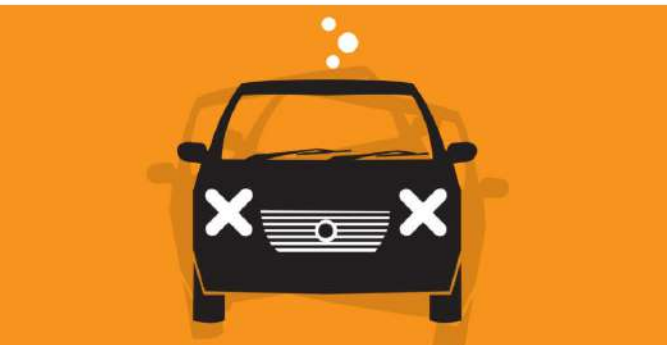
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Standing with Alberta Teachers: Protecting Public Education for Our Kids' Future

Hello, readers of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*!

I want to thank you for taking the time to read this local publication and stay engaged with community news. The *Mill Woods Mosaic* plays an important role in keeping South Edmonton residents informed, connected, and empowered to speak up on the issues that matter most to our families. Across Edmonton-Ellerslie, I've spoken with countless parents, educators, and students who share one concern: our classrooms are under pressure like never before. The strain is real – and the recent teachers' strike has highlighted just how fragile our public-education system has become.

Alberta's teachers are dedicated professionals who want to be in their classrooms every day, supporting students, inspiring curiosity, and building confidence. But when conditions reach a breaking point, when funding fails to match enrolment growth and supports are cut – the system stops serving the very children it is meant to help.

Over the past several years, we have seen significant growth in the student population across Edmonton and throughout Alberta. Yet, instead of

Gurtej Singh Brar

**MLA
for
Edmonton-
Ellerslie**



increasing investment, the UCP government's approach has left schools scrambling. This has put enormous strain on teachers, parents, and school boards, forcing them to make do with less even as demands increase.

Teachers' calls for fair workloads and proper classroom supports aren't just about contracts, they're about safeguarding the quality of education for every child. It's about ensuring that our kids have the time, attention, and resources they need to succeed.

As your MLA, I believe the path forward requires respectful dialogue and real investment. The government must work with teachers, not against them, and prioritizes smaller class sizes and safe, inclusive learning environments.

Instead of confrontation, Alberta needs collaboration, honest discussions about funding formulas, class-size caps and inclusive education. Teachers, parents, and students must all be part of that conversation. Teachers deserve working conditions that allow them to focus on teaching, mentoring, and inspiring the next generation.

Strong schools create strong neighbourhoods. They attract families, boost local economies, and build social cohesion. Investing in education is not a cost, it's an investment in Alberta's future workforce, innovation, and civic life.

To all the parents, teachers, and students who have reached out to my office – thank you. Your stories and

insights guide my work every day at the Legislature. Education is the foundation of opportunity, and it is our shared responsibility to protect it.

Together, we can ensure that Alberta's children continue to learn, grow, and thrive in classrooms that reflect our province's values of fairness, respect, and opportunity for all. By working collaboratively and keeping the focus on students, we can rebuild a strong, sustainable public education system that serves families across Edmonton-Ellerslie and throughout Alberta.

Public education has always been a cornerstone of our province's success. With proper funding, respect for educators, and community involvement, it will continue to be the foundation on which Alberta builds its future.

Gurtej Singh Brar is the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Ellerslie.

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MLA Gurtej Singh Brar on Sept. 22 at the Alberta Legislature with students protesting the UCP government education policies.



MLA Gurtej Singh Brar on Sept. 11 with a constituent at the BETTER TOGETHER town hall in Sherwood Park.

Photos: Office of MLA Gurtej Singh Brar



MLA Gurtej Singh Brar on Aug. 28 with a constituent at the BETTER TOGETHER town hall in Edmonton.

Edmonton art receives national award

Edmonton's public art collection has received new national recognition. On October 7, 2025, two of Edmonton's most playful public artworks, *A Mischief of Could Be(s)* and *UGO* by Edmonton's Red Knot Studio (Erin Pankratz and Christian Pères Gibaut), were awarded the Creative City Network's (CCN) Legacy Award at the 2025 Creative City Impact Awards in Kingston, ON.

CCN's Public Art Legacy Award recognizes a Canadian municipality that has demonstrated visionary leadership by supporting an excellent program and process that led to a successful public art project or program. The award highlights the power of public art to enhance connections between people, place and culture.

"It is an honour to receive the CCN award for *A Mischief of Could Be(s)* and *UGO*," says Renée Williams, Executive Director of the Edmonton Arts Council. "This piece is truly magical, representing freedom, play, imagination, and community connection. The Edmonton Arts Council is honoured to have participated in this project working alongside Erin Pankratz and Christian Pères Gibaut and the City of Edmonton."

"We're incredibly honoured to receive this national recognition," says artist Erin Pankratz. "We poured our hearts into creating artworks that are open, imaginative, and alive with possibility. Both pieces grew from the imaginations of children and the spirit of play, extending an invitation for people of all ages to engage their own creativity. To see that vision recognized through the Creative City Impact Awards is deeply meaningful."

Consisting of five standing sculptures, *A Mischief of Could Be(s)* in Churchill Square draws inspiration from how children interpret and



A Mischief of Could Be(s) by Red Knot Studio in Churchill Square

Photo: Jody Bailey

imagine the world through play. The tree-like forms suggest the idea of a magical forest, while inviting other interpretations, such as tentacles, snakes, arms, or stalagmites. *UGO*, the companion piece in Centennial Plaza, presents a fantastic creature that seems to have come from a collage of children's imaginations. Both sculptures spark curiosity, encouraging active and imaginative play.

These artworks were the first child-friendly focused public art projects in the City of Edmonton created under the guidance of the Child-Friendly Initiative that is based on the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. Since the completion of this artwork, child-friendly public artworks have become a priority for the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Arts Council, making multi-generational

friendly spaces now part of the selection criteria for new public artworks.

In recognition of this award and as part of the Edmonton Arts Council's 300 @ 30 celebrations – commemorating 30 years of the Edmonton Arts Council, and the addition of the 300th public artwork to the City of Edmonton Public Art Collection – art lovers were invited to Churchill Square and Centennial Plaza on Oct. 11 for a celebration of these fantastical artworks, and the public was invited to join Mayor Amarjeet Sohi for a special proclamation from the City of Edmonton, meet the artists from Red Knot Studio, and enjoy a fun-filled afternoon with live music, treats, and roving circus performers.

More information about the Edmonton Arts Council:
www.edmontonarts.ca



UGO by Red Knot Studio in Centennial Plaza

Photo: Arsan Buffin



David Turnbull, Edmonton Arts Council Public Art Director at the Creative City Impact Awards.

Photo: Edmonton Arts Council



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Celebrating immigrant impact in Alberta

Twenty-six Albertans have received a 2025 Alberta Immigrant Impact Award for their contributions to making Alberta the best place to live, work and raise a family.

Alberta is a welcoming province whose success is built upon the contributions of its people. Newcomers and immigrants play an important role in Alberta's cultural heritage, economic success, and overall strength. To celebrate this, Alberta's government has awarded 26 Albertans with the 2025 Alberta Immigrant Impact Award, recognizing the outstanding contributions of foreign-born Albertans who help shape and strengthen the province through their leadership, innovation and community service.

"Congratulations to all the nominees and recipients of this year's awards," said Muhammad Yaseen, Alberta's Associate Minister of Multiculturalism. "Your commitment to uplifting those around you and making Alberta a better place for everyone is truly commendable. Your passion and dedication inspire us all, and your contributions are deeply valued, appreciated and celebrated."

In response to a province-wide call for nominations in April, Albertans submitted inspiring stories of immigrants from all walks of life who have made a lasting impact – socially, economically and culturally – on communities across Alberta.

"Alberta has welcomed me and my family and provided opportunities I could have never imagined," said Sally Zhao, recipient, Alberta Immigrant Impact Award and president and CEO, The Immigrant Education Society (TIES). "I am honoured to receive this award, which encourages each newcomer to Alberta to find ways to contribute to their community, build up others around them, and find opportunities to be a leader."

Each award recipient is an Alberta resident who has contributed to communities across the province. The eight award categories recognize and celebrate the diverse impact of these Albertans, from career and academic achievements to leadership in Alberta's rural communities. To qualify, nominees must have been born outside Canada but now be permanent residents or Canadian citizens.

The awards, first presented in 2022, represent the Alberta government's ongoing commitment to supporting multiculturalism and diverse heritage.

Immigrants make up more than 20 per cent of Alberta's population and are key drivers of the province's prosperity. Their skills and perspectives strengthen the workforce, spark entrepreneurship and enrich Alberta's cultural fabric.

The recipients of the 2025 Alberta Immigrant Impact Award are:

Arts and Sports Award

Farhad Sheikhtavan is a Senior Soil Laboratory Researcher with dual Master's degrees, a certified Professional Agrologist, and a registered Canadian soccer coach. In Calgary's Persian community, he leads inclusive



Muhammad Yaseen, Alberta's Associate Minister of Multiculturalism (second from left in the front row) with the recipients of the 2025 Alberta Immigrant Impact Award.

Photo: Government of Alberta

soccer and karate programs for immigrant and low-income families. Through volunteer leadership, Farhad fosters teamwork, fitness, and belonging, building bridges across cultures and strengthening community well-being.

Ritika Anand is a creator, educator, and advocate transforming lives through arts, wellness, and empowerment. As founder of the We Women Foundation, she uplifts marginalized women and youth in Alberta and India through film, dance, meditation, and public speaking. Proudly rooted in Alberta, Ritika mentors youth and reimagines wellness through art, embodying resilience, compassion, and transformation.

Career and Academics Contribution Award

Ahmad Raza Khan Rana is Technical Director at Integrity Products & Supplies Inc. and a Doctoral Researcher at the University of Central Florida. He's secured over \$2 million in research funding, driven innovation in Alberta's industrial sector, and supported Indigenous employment initiatives. His global recognition in corrosion research and contributions to international standards reflect his leadership in Research and Development.

Georgios Georgiou is a professor in the Faculty of Education at the University of Alberta and a leading scholar in literacy research. With over 200 publications and 12,000+ citations, his work has shaped Alberta's literacy landscape. He developed province-wide screening tools and interventions for K-3 students,

ensuring strong foundations for lifelong learning across the province.

Gordana Radan is CEO of Calgary Catholic Immigration Society, the largest immigrant-serving agency in the Prairies. A refugee turned sector leader, she oversees 500+ staff and 2,000 volunteers. She pioneered nationally recognized employment programs for newcomers and was named a Top 25 Canadian Immigrant in 2024. Gordana continues to champion newcomer success across Canada.

Siu Ming Kwok is a Full Professor of Social Work and Associate Director of the School of Public Policy at the University of Calgary. His scholarship bridges research with real-world impact. He serves on the United Nations commission of the International Federation of Social Workers and has led both provincial and national social work regulatory bodies in Canada.

Professor Oluwabukola Salami is a Tier 1 Canada Research Chair in Black and Racialized Peoples' Health and a Full Professor at the University of Calgary. Immigrating at 16, she's led over 90 funded projects influencing national policy. She founded Western Canada's first university-based Black Youth Mentorship Program and continues to advance Black health equity across Canada.

Entrepreneurial Spirit Award

Lorephil Toledo is a resilient entrepreneur who founded CanaJan Inc., now Primekey Management Inc., specializing in cleaning and property management. Arriving in

Canada with no money and no English, she built a thriving business with 17 staff serving hundreds of clients. Lorephil continues to uplift fellow immigrants, turning challenges into opportunities through service, grit, and community support.

Piyush Sawhney is a third-generation entrepreneur who expanded his eco-friendly cell phone repair business from one store to 35 across four provinces. Publicly listed on the TSX-V in 2025, it became Canada's largest chain of its kind. Honoured with multiple awards, Piyush exemplifies resilience and innovation, especially during the pandemic, and inspires newcomers through his leadership.

Priscilla Lee is a visionary entrepreneur and founder of Innerlogue Therapy & Psychology in Calgary. Since 2023, she has grown it from a solo practice to a team of over 15 professionals. Her clinic offers inclusive, multilingual, and culturally sensitive mental health services, reflecting her deep commitment to accessibility, community care, and mental wellness for all.

Inclusive Workplaces Award

Celio Friteche is President of JBS Food Canada, bringing 26 years of industry experience. Since immigrating in 2015, he revitalized the Brooks beef facility, now supporting 3,300 jobs and 500 producers. Known for hands-on leadership and integrity, Celio leads with purpose, strengthening Alberta's economy and championing inclusive growth in the protein sector.

Continued on page 9

Award recognizes immigrants' contributions to Canada

Continued from page 8

Jae Hun Shim is a respected Calgary lawyer and founder of Shim Law, established in 2014 to reflect diversity, equity, and inclusion. His firm offers services in over 20 languages, supporting clients with language barriers. Jae has sponsored non-profits and guided newcomers through complex legal processes, fostering trust and access to justice across communities.

Immigrant Excellence Award

Bryan Mwaka is a passionate advocate for equity and inclusion whose lived experience as an immigrant and former refugee informs his work with the Mustard Seed and Edmonton Police Service. Through initiatives like Historical Trauma Training, he fosters empathy, reshapes policing practices, and builds bridges toward safer, more inclusive communities across Alberta.

Jayanta Chowdhury is an Economist currently serving as Station Manager at RED FM 106.7, part of the Multicultural Broadcasting Corporation. He is also an ordained religious minister involved in social advocacy, supporting Albertans facing challenging circumstances.

Natacha Bordier is a bilingual communications specialist whose leadership has enriched Alberta's francophone and multicultural communities. Through her work with Alliance Française Calgary and volunteer efforts – from mentoring newcomers to supporting the Special Olympics – she fosters language learning, connection, and belonging. Her energy and dedication continue to inspire across cultures and generations.

Noreen J. Sibanda is a Zimbabwean-born mental health clinician, supervisor, author, and sessional instructor. As co-founder and Executive Director of the Alberta Black Therapist Network, she leads efforts to destigmatize therapy and expand access. Noreen develops anti-racism curricula, mentors clinicians, and is a sought-after speaker featured across media platforms for her transformative work.

Dr. Riad Tarrabain, B.Sc., D.C., M.D., is a healthcare professional and entrepreneur with over two decades of service to Albertans. Through his musculoskeletal and rehabilitation centers, and community programs, he provides compassionate care while championing diversity and immigrant success. Actively volunteering with non-profit organizations, he fosters cultural understanding, youth development, and interfaith engagement, leaving a lasting impact across Alberta.

Dr. Sally Zhao is President and CEO of The Immigrant Education Society (TIES), where she began as a volunteer English as a second language tutor in 2005. With a PhD in education, she



Award recipient Natacha Bordier (middle) with her guests.

Photo: Government of Alberta

now leads TIES as a cornerstone of newcomer support. Sally champions inclusion and empowerment while serving on key boards advancing mental health, education, and integration.

Small Community Enhancement Award

Bharti Kuliya has been a dedicated community leader in Drayton Valley for 35 years. She's championed adult literacy, multiculturalism, education, and sustainability. From founding the GO GREEN initiative to supporting seniors and international students, Bharti's impact is far-reaching. As an Educational Assistant and Sunday School Teacher, she continues to nurture community well-being with heart and purpose.

Liubov Nykolyshyn is a Ukrainian medical doctor with a PhD in physiology and a passionate volunteer in Fort McMurray. A former lecturer in Ukraine, she's provided unwavering support to Ukrainian newcomers since 2022. Her compassion and leadership have strengthened the local community, offering hope and connection to those rebuilding their lives in Canada.

Immigrant Women's Impact Award

Adeola Adekugbe is the Founder and Executive Director of Ruth's House, a non-profit offering culturally responsive shelter and support to African immigrants affected by domestic violence. A survivor turned leader, she transforms lived experience into healing and hope. With compassion, courage, and cultural intelligence, Mama Dee mentors, advocates, and inspires lasting change across Alberta's immigrant communities.

Noor Al Henedy is a trailblazing community leader and advocate for equity and justice. As the first woman elected Chair of Al Rashid Mosque, she leads inclusive governance and educational initiatives. Her work in interfaith dialogue, anti-racism, and

and solidarity, advancing healing, equity, and belonging across Alberta.

Young Leader Award

Arriving in Canada alone eight years ago, **Dr. Anastasiia Stepanchuk** is now a neuroscientist and founder driving impact across disciplines. From Alzheimer's research to scent-based engagement trials and newcomer support, she transforms resilience into innovation. Anastasiia's journey reflects the power of perseverance and the potential of young leaders to spark meaningful change.

Arijit Lodha is a fourth-year medical student at the University of Alberta and a rising leader in neonatal research with 11 peer-reviewed publications and accolades from global bodies. Born in Melbourne, Australia and raised in Canada, he blends his Rajasthani heritage with service—leading youth initiatives, volunteering locally and abroad, and mentoring young immigrants through cultural programs across North America.

Hamza Echchoujaa is a dynamic student leader at Mount Royal University, now completing his final year in nursing. He leads the Men in Nursing Club, the Public Speaking and Leadership Club, and the Muslim Students' Affiliation. Through inclusive initiatives and advocacy, Hamza empowers students to lead with compassion, courage, and community spirit.

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Adam North Peigan leads work for Indigenous wellness and reconciliation

By Peter Rybar
Social Media Advisor
Covenant Health

When Adam North Peigan returned to his community at age 18, he thought he was finally coming home. Instead, he found himself parachuted into what felt like a war zone filled with poverty, substance abuse and housing conditions unlike anything he'd experienced in the White foster homes where he'd spent his entire childhood.

"I experienced culture shock like you cannot imagine because I had adapted to living in White homes my whole life," Adam says. "Coming home should have been filled with excitement and enthusiasm, but for me it wasn't. I was very scared throughout the whole process."

Today, that same man who once felt like a stranger in his own community now leads Covenant's focused work in Indigenous wellness and reconciliation. As the organization's first-ever lead for Indigenous health development and community engagement, Adam brings his lived experience as a Sixties Scoop Survivor to help transform health care for Indigenous Peoples across Alberta.

Adam's journey to Covenant began three years ago when he worked briefly as an Indigenous care liaison at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital in Mill Woods. Even during that short stint, he saw the potential for something bigger.

"During that time, there was really not much going on within Covenant to address Indigenous health on a large scale," Adam says. "I saw the potential for Covenant to one day develop capacity for Indigenous health and meaningful partnerships with Indigenous communities across Alberta."

When he left that role, Adam told senior leaders, "When you're ready to go down that road, give me a call."

The call came in late 2023. The organization was ready to make Indigenous wellness a strategic priority, and it needed someone who could build the program from the ground up. Adam was the natural choice.

"This is a new project for Covenant," he says. "My role is to develop partnerships with Indigenous peoples in the province of Alberta – First Nations, Métis and Inuit – and really foster and nurture those relationships."

The project launched with a Pipe Ceremony attended by Covenant's entire board and executive leadership team at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital, which was a powerful symbol of the organization's commitment to doing this work right, says Adam.

"This whole project has been grounded in Ceremony, and that's really important to me."

Since December 2024, Adam has been traveling across Alberta conducting engagement sessions in Edmonton, Lethbridge, Calgary, Rocky Mountain House and beyond, listening to Indigenous communities about their healthcare experiences and needs.

"We've had probably about seven or eight engagement sessions so far, and we're going to continue that journey," he says. The goal is to compile what the facilitators hear into an Indigenous



Adam North Peigan speaks at an Indigenous health engagement session.

Photos: Peter Rybar/Covenant Health

health plan that will guide Covenant's approach to improving service delivery.

One of the biggest challenges Adam faces is Covenant Health's identity as a faith-based organization, given the Catholic Church's role in residential schools.

"Because Covenant is a faith-based organization, we know the history of residential schools and the colonization of our people," Adam says. "A lot of our residential school Survivors were victims of spiritual, mental, physical and sexual abuse at the hands of the Roman Catholic Church."

Rather than avoiding this reality, Adam has insisted on addressing it head-on. In response, in June 2025, Covenant's board unanimously endorsed a Statement of Commitment to Reconciliation. "It acknowledges the harms of the past, makes amends and maps out what needs to happen moving forward," Adam says.

Adam's personal journey, from a

child removed from his community to a leader working to heal those very wounds, brings unique credibility to his work.

"My lived experience enhances the position because what I bring to the table is a lot of compassion for the need to address reconciliation," he says. "It allows me to empathize with participants who come out to our engagement sessions."

When Adam sees Indigenous people struggling with addiction or homelessness, he doesn't see failure. He sees the ongoing impacts of colonial policies.

"When I see our people, my first thought is maybe that person is a residential school Survivor, maybe a Sixties Scoop Survivor, maybe they've been intergenerationally impacted," he says. "That's why they are the way they are. We're not bad people; we're people who have suffered oppression."

As Sept. 30 approached, Adam had a clear message for Covenant staff and

all Canadians: wear an orange shirt, attend community gatherings and commit to learning.

"It's my hope that everybody within Covenant will don an orange shirt to acknowledge the harms of residential school, especially those who didn't make it home," he says.

Adam's advice for meaningful reconciliation is simple but profound: "Be willing to listen to those stories as hard as they are and then do something about it. It could be something very simple, like going home that night and sharing what you heard with three or four people."

Adam has an ambitious but clear goal. He aims to address the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's Calls to Action No. 18 through 24, which focus specifically on Indigenous health.

"At the end of the day, my goal is really to do what we can in our corner of the world to improve the lives of our people when it comes to Indigenous health," he says. "It's all about improving access to quality health care."

The work isn't easy, and Adam knows it will take time. But he's optimistic about Covenant's commitment and the support he's received across the organization.

"I'm truly grateful that Covenant has been willing to go down this road," he says. "So far, it's going very well. Everyone seems to be excited and jumping on board that, yes, it's really happening within Covenant."

This story was first published on the website of Covenant Health: <https://covenanthealth.ca>. Covenant Health is one of the largest Catholic health care providers in Canada, employing over 15,000 staff, physicians and volunteers in 17 facilities in 12 communities across Alberta in cooperation with Alberta Health Services, including Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Misericordia Community Hospital, and St Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton.



Adam North Peigan and Elder Dr. Francis Whiskeyjack prepare for the Pipe Ceremony held at St. Joseph's Auxiliary Hospital in Edmonton.

Covenant Community Health Centre — Lakewood now open

The Community Health Centre — Lakewood opened in September 2025, marking a major milestone in improving publicly-funded healthcare access in southeast Edmonton. This new innovative facility is the first phase of the larger Covenant Wellness Community, a model that delivers community-based services for seniors' care, primary care and mental health care. The first clinics within the Community Health Centre — Lakewood are now seeing patients with more slated to open in fall 2025.

"The Covenant Wellness Community model will transform how people access care by placing integrated health and social support at the heart of community life," said Patrick Dumelie, President and CEO of Covenant. "We are excited to open this facility and usher in a new era of health care in southeast Edmonton and around the province with more Covenant Wellness Communities."

Designed with both technology and patient comfort in mind, the Community Health Centre — Lakewood will house health-related services, a primary care centre and several outpatient clinics and services transferred from the Grey Nuns Community Hospital. Planning is underway to add an urgent care centre while construction has started on the development of a residential tower in partnership with the Rohit Group.



The new Covenant Community Health Centre is located at 7319 - 29 Avenue NW, north of the Mill Woods Recreation Centre.

Photo: Covenant Health

Relocating select services to the Community Health Centre — Lakewood will relieve pressure on the Grey Nuns Community Hospital by providing the necessary space to build additional capacity, allowing for more focus on emergencies and acute patient care.

Key features of the 190,000 square-

foot Community Health Centre — Lakewood include:

- Services relocated from Grey Nuns Community Hospital including cardiac rehabilitation, the Centre for Diabetes Care, medical and surgical clinics, a nutrition clinic, preadmission clinic and a seniors' clinic
- Mental health supports such as

Community Geriatric Psychiatry programs and outpatient mental health services

- Primary and specialty care including a primary care clinic, a hearing clinic, a sleep clinic and a pharmacy, diagnostic and laboratory services and allied health professionals such as chiropractors, physiotherapists, counsellors, optometrists, dentists and denturists

- Community spaces including food retailers, a conference and education centre, community meeting rooms and public spaces featuring community art

For more information, visit CovenantWellnessCommunity.ca

Covenant is a community of organizations — Covenant Health, Covenant Care, Covenant Living and Covenant Foundation — working together to serve Albertans with compassion and dignity. We care for people at every stage of life at 29 sites in 16 communities across the province, providing acute care, continuing care, mental health supports, hospice care and seniors' housing. Rooted in relationships, we walk alongside those we serve, honouring each person's story, values and needs — body, mind and soul.

Learn more at covenantcanada.ca.



Health care close to home

Located just minutes from the Grey Nuns Community Hospital and Mill Woods Town Centre, Covenant Wellness Community — Lakewood is designed to meet the needs of one of Edmonton's fastest-growing and most diverse communities.



Discover the bold new vision for health and wellness in your community at CovenantWellnessCommunity.ca

Covenant
Wellness Community

2025 teachers' strike – Largest strike in Alberta history

We are now in the midst of the largest strike in Alberta history, with 51,000 working people staying off the job. Although Alberta has seen major strikes by coal miners, loggers, and meatpackers in its past, this record-breaking strike is being done by teachers, who the average person would not expect to be engaged in major strike action.

And it is exceptional – it is the first major strike by Alberta teachers since 2002. A review of the 2002 strike and past job actions by teachers gives us an idea of what we might expect, if history is any guide.

In 2002, the teachers' union, the Alberta Teachers' Association (ATA), met with Premier Ralph Klein, and he showed signs of flexibility. But soon after that, other government officials dealt heavy blows to the teachers, blows that took years to heal.

And if today's ATA meets with Premier Smith, it is not likely that she would intercede to settle the strike to the satisfaction of the teachers. It is perhaps more likely the government will stop negotiating with teachers and simply use its power to order them back to work, as is currently being discussed in the media. It is widely accepted that governments need to take action when emergencies rise. But for the government to refuse teachers' demands, leaving them no recourse but to strike, then proclaim an emergency and order them back to work without compromise seems high-handed.

Meanwhile, teachers are professionals and want to act that way. As such, the ATA is directing that they not participate in picket lines, but instead they hope to get their point across by their withdrawal of services and by rallies at the legislature, such as the monster rally on October 5th.

Anyways picket lines are not necessary – the government has announced that schools are closed with all teachers locked out so no fear of strike-breakers.

The use of strikebreakers actually happened in the ATA's first strike in 1918, when Edmonton high school teachers staged a strike. Untrained replacement teachers were brought in, and in some cases students locked the new teachers out of their classrooms. Chaos reigned. The Edmonton school board quickly recognized the value of skilled teachers and extended courtesies to the teachers and their union, ending the strike.

Unlike that farcical First-World-War strike, the 2002 teachers' strike involved teachers at scattered points across the whole province. It was said to be the largest strike in Alberta up to that time. About 21,000 teachers – two-thirds of ATA members – stayed home for three weeks. The issues were the same as today – the need for more government money to address too-large class sizes and need for pay raises to keep up with inflation. Negotiations stalled between the ATA and the government, who controlled the teachers' salaries. The government then used its emergency powers to order the teachers back to work, on the grounds that the strike was causing an emergency. The ATA appealed this law, and in March a judge ruled that the strike was producing inconvenience but not

an emergency. The ruling gave the teachers the right to simply hit the picket lines once more. But ATA officials instead met with Premier Klein, who by then had been premier for ten years and seemed amenable to compromise.

**Tom
Monto**

**A
Different
Perspective**



But despite the attitude Klein presented, the government minister responsible for education brought in anti-union legislation that the ATA president called "one of the most draconian pieces of labour legislation in Canadian history." The bill banned teachers from striking, imposed an unfair arbitration process, took away teachers' pre-existing rights to firm limits on hours of work and class size, and more.

Teachers then stayed at work but refused to do the voluntary work that they usually did, such as coaching sports teams and organizing graduation events. This aroused complaints from parents of children who were denied the usual add-ons. By April the government negotiators offered terms that were acceptable to the ATA. Larry Booi, the ATA president at the time of the strike, said teachers showed they "were prepared to stand up and pay a price if necessary and to show they would not be bullied."

And teachers are paying a price for the strike. ATA members in the 2025

strike won't receive their usual pay and not even any strike pay.

Like in every strike, all sides are hurt. The strike is affecting the education of about 750,000 students in 2500 public, Catholic and francophone schools.

Parents are affected too as they scramble for childcare. And even the government side too may suffer – more on that below.

And it seems the whole fight is actually unnecessary. Alberta isn't a poor province and the government could financially support public education and the province's teachers, without having to be forced through such a damaging strike. This year the Alberta government had a \$1B surplus and charges taxpayers

one of the lightest tax burdens in Canada, but Alberta spends less per student than many other provinces. The ATA is warning "A lack of funding has resulted in record-high class size and insufficient resources to support student needs."

Doctors, nurses and teachers are saying the healthcare and education systems are in crisis and urgently need extra funds. But the government will not open its purse strings. Is it that the government doesn't care, or is it that they are listening to voices whispered in their ears – voices from oil companies and other private interests that tell them to concentrate on corporate needs?

The United Conservative Party government seems to have a built-in antipathy toward social services (serving people's needs). The party's core backers likely believe money would be better spent pushing the agenda of oil companies and right-wing lobbies that don't see value in public healthcare and education but instead want to see

more government services privatized and profit-driven.

The government's promise of 3,000 new education assistants (EAs) as the population grows is insufficient when ATA calculates that 5,000 new EAs are required now even without population growth. This is due to the classrooms of today's schools containing a diverse blend of students. Three thousand new EAs may sound like a lot, but with 2,500 schools across the province, that means only about one new EA per school. And each school has many classrooms.

Will the UCP government pay a price for helping cause a strike that upsets the lives of millions of Albertans, as the teachers' strike is doing?

We can look back at the 2002 teachers' strike and its aftermath. You might think that Ralph Klein's government would have been punished at the polls when the next election came around. But that did not happen.

It is true Klein's government received hundreds of thousands fewer votes in 2004 compared to the previous election. His government's drop in popularity was clear. It received less than half the votes cast in 2004. Some of the government MLAs lost their seats. But still Klein's Conservatives were re-elected with a massive majority in the legislature, taking three-quarters of the seats. Klein did resign as premier in 2006 but that was only when his popularity among even party members stalled.

So it is possible our present premier and her UCP government will avoid paying a price for its skinflint attitude toward Alberta's hard-working teachers – under our present election system anyway – if the 2025 strike is any guide.

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

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A visible reflection of reconciliation in action

Edmonton Transit Service (ETS) and Edmonton Aboriginal Seniors Centre (EASC) have unveiled the newest art-wrapped ETS bus, featuring a design inspired by conversations with local Indigenous seniors. The bus wrap stands as a visible reflection of reconciliation in action and the importance of amplifying Indigenous voices. The design incorporates vibrant colours and images, including sweetgrass, gathering places and teepees, each representing knowledge and teachings shared through the conversations with Indigenous seniors. This bus will enter regular ETS service immediately. It will serve routes across the city and be available for community charters.

Photo: City of Edmonton



Millhurst Community League celebrates multicultural diversity

What an unforgettable Community League Day at Millhurst Community Hall! The Multicultural Celebration on Sept. 20 was only possible because of the incredible performers, exhibitors, volunteers, sponsors, and community members who came together in the true spirit of unity. From vibrant performances to engaging exhibits and the warm energy of the volunteers, every contribution helped create a celebration that truly reflected the beauty of our diverse community in Mill Woods.

Photos: Sangeetha Vasanthkumar



Indigenous performers from Nimihitowin by CK. From left to right: Raven Cardinal (Women's Traditional), Dakota McGilvery (Men's Northern Traditional), and Chantelle Saddleback (Women's Jingle).



Edmonton Kun Seng Keng team captivated families with an interactive performance showcasing Chinese Southern-style Lion Dance.



The Azerbaijan Cultural Society of Edmonton performed a traditional dance titled "The Arshin Mal Alan" (The Fabric Peddler).

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 November 15, 2025 The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, November 7, 2025.



Daughters of the Year 2025

On Sept. 20, ten Alberta women were honoured as "Daughters of the Year" for making a difference in their communities. The annual award was created by the Canadians for a Civil Society. Photo (from left to right) – Back Row: Kyla Fisher, Saniya Ghalehdar; Middle Row: Rehma Khan, Tatiana Meneses-Sab, Theresa Stanley, Stella Igweamaka, Kathryn Luu, Anurika Onyenso; Front Row: Judy Lederer, Carrie Anne Doucette.

Photo: Dan Hempel

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

What's up?

Community events in Mill Woods

- 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
- Oct. 20** - Municipal General Election in Alberta
Vote for the new Mayor of Edmonton, City
Councillors and School Board Trustees
Voting Stations open from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.
More information: https://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton-elections
- Oct. 21 & Nov. 18** - Stained Glass: Sun Catcher
Discover the Art of Stained Glass: Create Your
Own Sun Catcher in a Guided Workshop!
Millhurst Community Hall
5811 - 19a Avenue NW, Mill Woods
6:30 - 9:00 p.m.
More information: www.millhurst.ca
- Oct. 25 & 26** - Artisan Halloween Alley Market
Mill Woods Town Centre
2331 - 66 Street NW, Mill Woods:
Saturday 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
More information: millwoodstowncentre.com
- Oct. 26** - 2nd Annual Ridgewood's Spooky Soiree –
A fun Halloween event for the whole family
Ridgewood Community League
3705 Mill Woods Road East NW, Mill Woods
12:30 - 3:00 p.m.
More information: www.ridgewoodcl.org
- Oct. 31** - Halloween Haunt & Hunt
Mill Woods Town Centre
2331 - 66 Street NW, Mill Woods
3:00 - 6:00 p.m.
More information: millwoodstowncentre.com
- Nov. 14** - Wire Christmas Ornaments Workshop
Millhurst Community League
5811 - 19a Avenue NW, Mill Woods
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
More information: www.millhurst.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, November 7, 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***