Mill Woods OSCIC

Volume 13/No. 146

Tel. (780) 465-7526

The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational

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Action for racialized communities

Edmonton Police Chief Dale McFee has announced a commitment to action by the Edmonton Police Service to engage with the city's Black, Indigenous, racialized and underserved communities in improving policing and reimagining community safety and well-being. See article on page 7 of this issue. Photo: Chief Dale McFee (right) listens to community member Alain Intwali

Photo: Edmonton Police Service

PM: "Mental health services should be available for everyone"

On Oct. 10, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau issued the following statement on World Mental Health Day:

"For many of us, the issue of mental health hits close to home. Whether it's something that we personally deal with or something that we've witnessed a child, co-worker, friend, or loved one struggle through, Canadians face the challenges of mental health and see the crucial role that it plays in our lives every day.

Today, on World Mental Health Day, we have an opportunity to raise awareness about the importance of fostering open discussions around mental health, so we can fight stigma and help make sure everyone has access to the quality care they need. Mental health services and supports should be available for everyone, and this year, as Canadians deal with increased isolation due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, proper resources are even more important.

"To ensure no one feels alone during these challenging times, the Government of Canada is taking action to provide critical services to those most at risk, while helping all Canadians access mental health services. This spring, we announced an investment of \$240.5 million to expand capacity to deliver health care virtually, including the Wellness Together Canada portal that provides free access to mental health and substance use supports for all Canadians. We also dedicated \$500 million through the Safe Restart Agreement to address immediate needs and gaps in the support and protection of people experiencing challenges related to mental health, substance use, or

homelessness. And, as we build a fairer and more resilient Canada, Government will further increase mental health resources, so all Canadians get the care they need.

"The pandemic has disproportionately affected those who are more likely to experience its mental health effects, such women, racialized Canadians, Indigenous peoples, and children and youth. That's why the government has made investments to help Indigenous communities adapt and expand mental wellness services. We also provided funding for organizations to promote mental health in our communities and to tackle systemic challenges and barriers to getting support, including those faced by Black Canadians.

"In addition, we have supported women and children fleeing violence by providing funding to women's shelters, and have increased counselling resources for children and youth through funding to Kids Help Phone. All Canadians should be able to receive the care and services they need without facing barriers, and we are committed to continuing to ensure people have support in these difficult times.

"World Mental Health Day is also a chance to celebrate the people who are working hard to further make high-quality mental health care a reality around the world. We recognize the voices of those living with a mental health challenge, and their loved ones, whose stories lie at the core of our efforts to improve mental health care for all. We all have a role to play to create a culture where we can talk openly about mental health, and change attitudes that perpetuate discrimination against people experiencing mental health challenges. That starts with being kind to one another, and showing compassion and understanding for those around us - because you can't always see

"On behalf of the Government of Canada, I thank all Canadians who are caring for those dealing with mental health challenges. I also thank all those including my mother Margaret and my wife Sophie - who are open and brave enough to share their personal struggles, and who contribute to the public discussion around mental health. Together, we can be inspired by their dedication to the cause, and build a Canada where no one is left behind."



The Mill Woods Mosaic is now also on Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ Mill-Woods-Mosaic

Community effort recreates Kittlitz Park and Playground

The Kittlitz Park and Playground is the Spring of 2019, with the play-located at 2850 - 36A Avebue within ground completed in the late fall of the Wildrose neighbourhood on land formally homesteaded by the Kittlitz family. The playground was originally built in 1993, updated in 2001 as the wooden structures began to show their age. Several components had to be removed for safety purposes, leaving the playground not fully functional. The City's annual Greenshack program, continues to be held here, and was one of the busier playgrounds. Over the years this playground/park became a gathering place for the community where young and old came to visit and play.

In 2017 a playground committee was formed. This committee included volunteers from The Meadows Community League Board, a Wildrose area resident, and students from Father Michael Troy Catholic Junior High School. All wished to see this playground transformed and revitalized for

the community.
Using the tabulated results of 500 + surveys Father Michael Troy Junior High students collected, a playground design and colour scheme was selected. Additional items added to this space included more benches and picnic tables, trees, and a shade structure to provide residents more places to meet and enjoy the surroundings.

Demolition and construction began in

ground completed in the late fall of 2019. Landscaping and shade structure install were completed this past sum-

Due to Covid 19, The City of Edmonton had to shut all playgrounds down in March, this greatly affected the use of the new playground. Eventually with cautionary signs in place, families slowly started to visit

Kittlitz Park and Playground again.
The Kittlitz Park and Playground Redevelopment Committee would like to thank the following for their support and generous donations:

- The Meadows Community League Association
- · The Government of Alberta
- The City of Edmonton
- · Father Michael Troy Catholic Junior High School students for their many volunteer hours
- · Wildrose residents for completing the surveys

Without the shared vision and support of the groups noted above, this playground would not have been possible. It is a beautiful space for all to enjoy for many years to come.

The official reopening of the park will be on Thursday, Oct. 22 from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Submitted by The Meadows Community League Kittlitz Park and Playground Redevelopment Committee

Peace of mind

There has been a lot of talk about 'frontline workers" since this awful COVID-19 pandemic has started more than six months ago, and many of them have been called "heroes" and compared to the frontline workers during the Second World War when frontline workers were essential to support our troops abroad.

Now, many healthcare workers, police officers, firefighters and para-medics, but also many workers in grocery stores, restaurants and other businesses are our frontline workers who carry much of the heavy burden during this pandemic.

So far, Alberta had 20,000 cases of COVID-

19, but my family and I have been lucky so far not to be among them. My wife and I are trying our best to do our part, wearing masks all the time and avoiding crowds.

But recently, I had to see our family doctor for my annual medical check-up, go to the lab for blood and urine tests, and have an ultrasound done. These examinations and tests can not be performed over the phone, so I had to meet our family physician in person and show up at the lab.

When I arrived at the medical clinic, I found all the people working there following the guidelines from Alberta Health Services strictly. All of them were wearing not only masks but also protective shields, clothing and gloves, there was no crowded waiting room, and there were hand sanitizers everywhere. The same was the case at the DvnaLife Medical Labs in the Tawa Centre where they have a special service now which is called

"Save My Place." patients phone the lab before walking in, they will have a place reserved and don't have

to wait long.
I admire all the healthcare workers who have to wear all this protective gear all day and still manage to be friendly and courteous and still act professionally in spite

of all that additional stress.

We should never forget to thank these healthcare workers personally for their services. Without their dedication and perseverance we would be in more trouble.

And we should never take for granted that we have one of the best healthcare systems in the world here in Canada which gives us the luxury of peace of mind when we need it.



The new playground at Kittlitz Park in the Wildrose neighbourhood includes some new equipment which meets current safety standards.

Photos: The Meadows Comr



This plague was installed in 2001 at the Kittlitz Park and Playground to remember the Kittlitz family who lived and farmed in this vicinity after arriving from Poland in 1897.

Youth Enhanced Deployment model fills need for Edmonton youth and families

Change was in the air and the closure of educational facilities due to COVID-19 posed new problems for Edmonton Police Service (EPS) School Resource Officers (SROs) and educational staff.

As of mid-March, students were home, and teaching staff and adminis-trators were now faced with a new challenge: accommodating online learning.

Meanwhile, SROs were concerned. With children and adolescents isolated at home, reports of domestic violence involving or being witnessed by youth began to increase. Concurrently, instances of online sexual offenders attempting to lure and sextort children through various chat and live-stream-ing platforms were rising.

"Peer support groups and face-to-face services were cancelled, and support

by phone or online can be challenging for some youth," said EPS SRO Acting Staff Sergeant Emuel Chan.

"The school environment provides essential learning and access to com-munity supports and resources. It establishes routines, which are important coping mechanisms for youth. When schools closed, many of them lost a large part of their day-to-day activity, and more importantly, access to community supports they may not be connected to outside of the educa-

In response to the closures, the resource officers created the Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) model. The initiative enabled all 29 SROs to continue to provide their services to youth and their families while assist-



YED constables continue to work within the EPS Youth Support Branch under the existing YED model, with a city-wide focus on youth and their

Photo: Edmonton Police Service

ing school administration, as well as incorporate new levels of service.

The unit deployed the YED model at the start of April and found great suc-

"Our school resource officers saw a need and found a way to fill that need," Superintendent Chapdelaine of the EPS' Integrated Community Safety Division.
"The YED model was created to

serve the continuing needs of the youth who were no longer able to easily access school and community

resources they and their families had come to rely on.'

When the Edmonton Public School Board (EPSB) Board of Trustees endorsed the decision to suspend the SRO program for the 2020-21 school year while an independent review is conducted, the Service was disappointed but not discouraged.

In response to the announcement, the success of the YED model was modified so it could be carried forward with changes in response to the suspension of the EPSB SRO program.

Current EPSB SRO members are no longer based or assigned to specific schools and have now been deemed Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) Constables". YED Constables continue to work within the Youth Support Branch under the existing YED model, with a city-wide focus on youth and their families.

This is a service we see value in and wanted to be able to continue to provide for our Edmonton families," said Supt. Chapdelaine.

With this modified model the Service worked diligently to imple-ment, our constables are well positioned to continue providing an innovative, strategic and coordinated approach to maintain youth engagement, reduce calls that would otherwise go to patrol and continue to meet the needs of youth and their families across Edmonton."

The EPSB was consulted regarding the deployment of the YED model and understands that all calls for service to EPSB schools go through the EPS non-emergency line or 9-1-1 dispatch

From taking dispatched calls, - particularly ones involving youth complainants - attending to 'spiking' atrisk and high-risk youth according to EPS analytics, following up with vul-nerable youth identified through reviewed reports or other community partners involved with youth, attending schools for positive youth engagement opportunities, and responding to identified youth 'hot spot' geographical areas, these are just a few ways Supt. Chapdelaine says the YED constables have incorporated new levels of ser-

"Continuing to provide this service to youth allows our YED constables an on-going opportunity to foster relationships with families, helping them to navigate additional resources they might require such as mental or physical health checks, and continued emotional support.

> Submitted by Edmonton Police Service



ROTARY CLUB OF EDMONTON SOUTHEAST 866 Lee Ridge Road NW Edmonton, AB T6K 0R2

October 06, 2020

Thanksgiving is a time where friends and families come together to acknowledge what they are thankful for and to experience a sense of community through sharing a common meal.

For the past 8 years, the Rotary Club of Edmonton Southeast has had the opportunity through our partnership with Millbourne Laundromat owner and Leefield Community League to host a Thanksgiving dinner to those in need. We have previously provided between 800 to 1000 thanksgiving meals each year, and a sense of community for individuals in need during the holidays.

It is with heavy hearts that our Rotary club made the difficult decision to cancel our Annual Community Thanksgiving dinner in Millwoods due to Covid-19 as inperson gathering is not allowed. Instead, we partnered with the Earth Group Foundation in providing 50,000 meals to feed families in need in the Edmonton community. The Earth Group will also deliver meals to various homeless shelters in Edmonton in partnership with Edmonton Food Bank. Our club made the donation of \$5,900.00 to help financed the "50,000 meals" which will be distributed throughout the month of October in the spirit of Thanksgiving.

Graciously.

Victoria Ewert Club Administrator

Annual General Meeting Meadows Community League

The date for our virtual AGM has been set.

Date: October 24, 2020 Time: 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Have some extra time? Want to be more involved? Successful boards reflect the communities they represent.

The Meadows Community League needs you! Choose from a variety of board positions that are vacant or are up for election this year.

If you don't quite have the time to commit to a board position? We'd still appreciate your ideas and energy.

Join us for the AGM. We'd love to meet you online!

Check out our Facebook page or website themeadowscommunity.ca for details & the link to register.



Mill Woods Mosaic

The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast Published on the 15th day of each month

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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

What's in a name?

Edmonton City Council has approved Indigenous names for the city's new ward boundaries. All 12 of the Indigenous names proposed to city council as new names for city wards have been approved after councillors and Mayor Don Iveson voted nine to four in favour of the motion on Sept. 21. Iveson acknowledged that it may take Edmontonians some time to get to know which ward the new names represent and how to say them. However, he said, it's a learning opportunity.

Ward 11, which includes half of Mill Woods, will be named Karhiio which means tall, beautiful forest in the Mohawk language, and Ward 12, which includes the Meadows and the other half of Mill Woods, will be called Sspomitapi which means star person in the Blackfoor language and was given in honour of the Iron Creek Meteorite or the Mintou Stone.

Indigenous names are nothing new in Mill Woods. The aboriginal heritage of the area is already reflected in the names of numerous neighbourhoods, like Sakaw, Satoo, Meyokumin, Meyonohk, Tipaskan and Kameyosek.

However, it would have been nice to recognize some immigrant groups which have contributed significantly to the development and prosperty of our community.



Edmonton City Council has approved to rename the City's 12 wards, using Indigenous names. There was some opposition on City Council against this decision, and one of the arguments was that some of the new names are guite long, difficult to remember and hard to prounounce.

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

Dealing with writer's block

Way back in 2005, I wrote a book about the three years I spent working as a nanny-housekeeper in Singapore. It was an honest book that revealed my life, warts and all, up to that point. It went up to number ten in the bestseller list in Singapore within the week.

Filipino mothers working abroad friended me on Facebook or emailed me to say they appreciated my book because it gave a voice to their feelings and experiences about leaving their children in the care of other people. I heard from young people who told me a about their common concern: they didn't know how to treat their mothers when they came home, because those mothers had become strangers and these kids weren't sure if their mothers loved them.

Reading those kids' messages made me realize that like their mothers, I didn't have any idea what my own children were feeling, because they never said a word to me. I decided that I would, in my next book, write about the issue and try to help clear up the misunderstanding between these migrant mothers and their kids.

I was already living in Canada then. I had finished my three-and-a-half years of domestic work in Vancouver in 1992. I have moved around the immigrant and foreign worker communities as volunteer, activist, and paid staff. I have heard the same old stories in this new environment. I had witnessed successful re-unification of families but I had also seen failed sponsorships, estranged children, broken marriages. The price of dreaming.

Thirty-two years later, here I was, with so much to say, so many opinions

Crisanta Sampang

On Second Thought



to offer, but doing nothing. I'm sitting on several stalled projects. A film script to write. A documentary to shoot. A second book to work on. Suddenly I got scared that my time was running out. I really needed to get

But where to start? What to write? What can I say about nannying in a foreign country that I haven't written in my first book? Also, I've been living in Vancouver for decades now. I've been through a whole gamut of experi-ences. If I tried to write about all those years, I would run out of ink. The thought paralyzed me. My writerly

brain froze. Oh the pressure. I've been a slacker for too long.

I let the thought simmer for a while. I was determined to overcome the inertia I didn't even notice was holding me back. A heart attack two years ago is

no longer a valid excuse for not writing today. I read about authors who can churn out a novel in 30 days. I could maybe write 300 paragraphs in that length of time. How can I squeeze thirty years of life into thirty days of writing?

On the other hand, I told myself that if those people could do it, so could I. All I needed was to apply some Teutonic discipline. I knew it would not be easy, but I'm determined to try. I have zeroed in on German role models. (I have German friends

whose personal discipline and organization are legendary. I've also worked freelance for over ten years for a German boss. I never had to chase him for my paycheck. It just arrived like clockwork.)

I breached my mental barrier as soon as I had a plan in place. I would limit the scope of my book to the three-anda-half years that I worked as a live-in nanny, up to the day I received my landing papers. I would call it Maid in Vancouver. I would write for thirty days, as I had initially planned. I would write one thousand words per

I started writing 19 days ago, averag-ing 1,200 words per day for eight straight days. By the evening of the eighth day, I was totally exhausted. Burned out. Sick of writing. My shoul-ders were stiff from being hunched over the computer for at least 4 hours daily. That night, I had a nightmare. I dreamed that a huge black snake was chasing me around the house non-stop, until I finally confronted and furiously pounded it to a pulp with a piece of four-by-four.

I woke up happy. I've slain my demon. I took a break from writing on the ninth and tenth days, mainly going through what I have written and doing some light editing. I'm sure even Germans take a break.

On my 11th day, I wrote 318 words. On the 12th day, I did 472. After that, I'm back to writing a reasonable 700-

plus words a day.

I feel really good. Writer's block is so last week.

Crisanta Sampang is a Filipino-Canadian author and filmmaker who is living in Vancouver, B.C. She wrote the book Maid in Singapore in which she describes her experience working as a nanny.

Freedom's Twin Sibling

Throughout history, human beings have differentiated themselves from one another using numerous factors. These included: age, gender, race, religion, social affiliation, socio-

economic standing, geography, and nationality. Time and again, these factors have been used to curtail one of the most powerful of human desires - to have the power or right to act, speak, or think as we want without any restraint or hindrance. In short, freedom. Unfortunately, much blood has been shed through the ages to suppress, maintain, or reclaim independence.
The struggle for independence

is innate to and ingrained in each of us. Countless studies describe how human beings are imbued

with the conflicting inclination to sep-arate themselves from others. On the one hand, human beings model themselves on the beliefs or actions of others, while on the other they fiercely attempt to develop their own identity and pursue personal self-determination. This behaviour starts early in life. Consider toddlers and teens and you will see my point.

Understandably, the struggle for independence and complete freedom of action often leads to conflict. As noted below, this struggle is sadly based on the illusion of unrestrained freedom of action.

From their early stage of development and evolution, Homo sapiens instinctively recognized that their existence, even survival, was based on an interplay of two opposing needs. On the one hand, was each person's desire for independence of action, and on the other was their need for collaborative action leading to greater protection

and security.

However, the expectation of total freedom presented human being with a paradox. One person's complete independence of action invariably curtailed or interfered with another person's ability to exercise similar freedom. Predictably, the outcome produced conflict and over time, two general strategies were developed. One involved a tradeoff where individuals bargained or traded some of their desired freedoms in exchange for collective stability, security, and protecorganizations, procedures, rules, regulations and laws that have become the invisible web, which now binds our

Ron Kuban

Time **Passages**



societies together.

The other strategy was founded on an "Us versus Them" mentality, which framed the belief, or acceptance, that "our people" are entitled to certain rights and freedoms, to which "their people" are deemed less entitled. Slavery, oppression, repression, and numerous injustices illustrate the point. Time and again, history demonstrated that this approach produced persistent inequality, recurring conflict, countless deaths, and incalculable destruction.

The evils of the latter approach were decried many times through the ages. However, the need for change was formally and broadly acknowledged only after the end of World War II. On December 10, 1948, the United Nations General Assembly held in Paris proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which became a milestone document in the protection of human rights. The Declaration's first Article stated: "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood."

This Declaration was translated into more than 500 languages and its ideology was integrated into many national constitutions and laws. It also served as a valuable lightning rod in public dialogue relating to rights and freedoms. However, although it made a difference in advancing freedom through human rights, it clearly failed to address freedom's twin - responsibility.

Because, every action has a conse-

quence - especially on others our freedom of action must be bounded by our responsibility for those actions. Stated differently, in an increasingly crowded and interconnected world none of us can run about doing whatever we want because our actions could potentially disrupt the stability and security of our integrated society. Our unhin-dered actions could also encourage others to do the same, thereby flaunting social balance, wellbeing and stability. We would then be verging on the free-for-all days forcing individ-

uals to constantly fend for themselves. Given the enormous likely impact on our society, none would succeed!

Therefore, we need to think beyond rights and freedom and link them to the notion of responsibility. The matter was formally advanced by the InterAction Council, which is a group of recognized thinkers and world leaders. On September 1, 1997, after ten year of work, the Council advanced the Universal Declaration of Human Responsibilities, which is

thought-provoking and inspirational.

The Declaration's preamble starts by noting that "the recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world and implies obligations or responsibilities". Article 1 of its first section – Fundamental Principles for Humanity – notes: "every person regardless of gender, ethnic origin, social status, political opinion, language, age, nationality or religion, has a responsibility to treat all people in a humane way." The following sections address matters relating to Non-Violence and Respect for Life, Justice and Solidarity, Truthfulness and Tolerance, and Mutual Respect and Partnership.

Each of the two Declarations is important on its own. However, they become truly meaningful only when applied together; then, and only then, they present as a beacon to guide human existence without the strife. sorrow and destruction that continue to plague our history.

Dr. Ron Kuban is a long-term community volunteer and activist.

Thank you to all amazing teachers!

Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert

At Edmonton Catholic Schools, we are truly blessed to see generosity and love in every school setting both online and in person. This year's theme beautifully captures the heart-warming call to each of us to continue to be strong together in our commitment and the work that happens daily with students in the classroom, in

families, with our staff, our parishes and our communities as we safely come together in the great endeavor of Catholic education.

At the beginning of the vear, ECSD informed families there would be four opportunities within the school year to pivot from inperson to online or online to n-person learning. The Division needed to adjust that initial plan based on our experiences over the past weeks. several Edmonton Catholic School Division made the difficult

decision to ask parents to make a commitment to either online or inperson learning for the remainder of the 2020-2021 school year. The decisions that are made now will be in effect until the end of June 2021. These are challenging times and this decision was not made lightly by Division Administration.

The Edmonton Catholic School Division has an upcoming opportunity for parents and guardians. Please join the Board of Trustees for a virtual parent evening that will focus on COVID-19 and the effects on a child's mental health. Please go to our website http://bit.ly/ECSDParent Evening2020 to register.

Calling all Edmonton Catholic Schools student artists! The ECSD Board of Trustees needs your help in creating art-

work to be featured on our greeting cards. October 31, 2020 is the deadline to enter your original artwork for a chance to be one of up to 10 submissions chosen. If chosen, your artwork will be used on Division related greeting cards and also displayed in the Board of Trustees Boardroom. For more information go to

https://www.ecsd.net/ As well, I want to remind you that St. Theresa Parish is currently accepting registrations for the Sacrament of Confirmation for vouth in Grade 6 - 12. To register please go to https://sttheresa.caedm. ca/sacraments/confirma tion/

I want to thank all staff who make our schools a warm and welcoming environment and extend the same welcome to our students online. On October 5 we celebrated World Teacher Day. Thank

you to all our amazing teachers for the critical work they do each day. This month we also celebrate our custodial and maintenance workers and thank them for their commitment to ensuring schools are a healthy, safe and welcoming environment!

I hope all families enjoyed a wonderful and safe Thanksgiving with your loved ones. May this special season give you the opportunity to pause and celebrate the goodness of our God in your life!

I encourage open communication and welcome your input on educational matters. You can reach me at 780-231-6312 or laura.thibert@ecsd.net. You can also connect with me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @Laura Thibert



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John Turner - A gentleman statesman without equal

John Turner's peaceful passing at the age of 91 unleashed much praise from all sides of Canada's political, linguistic and regional spectrums. The myriad and often submerged challenges he faced in public life were mostly put aside and his honourable dealings throughout his political and professional career were celebrated.

Many memories surface from the almost 60 years we knew each other, including our first late supper meeting in Montreal in mid-1962. He was then in the midst of his first race for Parliament in the city - aided in data management by my sister, Jill - yet was the soul of courtesy on learning that the visitor from Prairie Canada was an active Progressive Conservative. Fortunately, the romance continued; they married the following

In 1968, after a vigorous run for the party leadership, Turner entered Pierre Trudeau's cabinet as Justice Minister. He added much-needed rights for the accused at trial and funded the first legal aid programmes of the provinces, ensured that high quality judges were appointed to courts across the country. and brought in the Official Languages Act, which while controversial to some has helped to maintain fragile national unity. He later cited his reforms as justice minister as the high-light of his political career.

Serving as Minister of Finance from 1972 until 1975, his challenges included the 1973 oil crisis, collapse of the Bretton Woods trading system, a global recession, soaring inflation and growing federal deficits. In 1975, he resigned from cabinet and as an MP on issues of principle and growing differences with Trudeau. In a 2013 interview, Turner confirmed his resignation from cabinet was a direct result of refusing to implement wage and price controls sought by Trudeau after the

Leaving politics from 1975 to 1984 to practise law in Toronto, he returned when Trudeau finally resigned and handily won the 1984 leadership contest over Jean Chretien on the second ballot. Days after becoming prime

David Kilgour

A Canadian View on World Events



minister, he obtained a dissolution of Parliament and began the election campaign, running personally for a seat in Vancouver's Quadra riding because he wanted to rebuild the Liberals in Western Canada.

The 1988 campaign was fought largely over a Mulroney-proposed free trade agreement (FTA) with the United States. Studying it carefully, Turner concluded it posed a major threat to Canada's sovereignty. His television debate success won many voters, but more than \$6 million in pro-FTA ads slowed his momentum. The NDP opposition to the FTA split the opposition votes to it. Although more Canadians voted for parties opposedthe Liberals won 83 seats; the NDP 43, the Tories were returned with 169 seats and implemented the agreement.

I simply don't know whether John foresaw the drastic consequences of NAFTA, which came into effect in 1994, for Canadian manufacturing, especially in the auto sector, because of the much lower wages in Mexico. A

party had campaigned against them in new book, *The Expendables*, by economist Jeff Rubin chronicles the sad tale of losing some 600,000 manufacturing jobs in Canada since 2000. It also notes that barely two in ten Canadian workers are still employed in making things. Roughly half of millennials, now the largest segment of

our labour force, have a second job to pay their bills, often

including student debts.

Turner announced he was standing down from the party leadership in May 1989, officially resigning in June 1990. He continued to represent Vancouver Quadra in the House of Commons for another few years before retiring in the 1993 election. Afterwards, he actively continued his dedication to democracy and the engagement of citizens in their institutions.

Turner's affection for young people was well-known, Indeed at his 90th birthday party he singled them out, along with his family, saying in part, "We don't inherit this country; we borrow it from our children ... (with young people) as the stewards of Canada's future, she is in good hands!" In short, as a gentleman statesman, he was without equal.



The Right Honourable John Turner

David Kilgour, a lawyer by profession, served in Canada's House of Commons for almost 27 years, representing southeast Edmonton. He was Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America and Asia-Pacific. He is the author of several books and co-author with David Matas of Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs.

This article was first published by The Sun Newspapers and The New Delhi Times

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. Send to: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, P.O. Box 92090, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton, Alberta, T6T 1N1; fax (780) 465-3140 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net.

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

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Mill Woods Mosaic



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Police commits to action for city's racialized communities

Chief Dale McFee has announced a commitment to action by the Edmonton Police Service to engage with the city's Black, Indigenous, racialized, and underserved communities in improving policing, and reimagining community safety and well-

The new strategy acknowledges current community concerns and calls for change, addresses racial injustice, and advocates for the need to work collectively to build, strengthen and repair police-community relationships.

"The murder of George Floyd launched a movement and a demand for action that required every police service in every city to look inward and ask themselves what path they wanted to take," says Chief McFee. "I am honoured to say that Edmontonians have chosen a path of equity and progress, and have called on EPS to help them build a better, safer community and a better world. Not every city can say they have done that, and not

every city can say they collectively chose a better path forward." Edmonton City Council held public hearings in June 2020 to better understand how Edmontonians viewed police. The comments at the hearings highlighted the tenuous nature of police relationships with marginalized communities in Edmonton, and that a segment of the population has historically not felt seen, heard or protected by police. Overall, the need for an equitable, restorative and ongoing approach came to the forefront.

In response, EPS is now moving forward with a commitment to action through community engagement, where safe spaces will be created for extensive conversations with communities, then EPS will work with these communities to implement the required changes as soon as possible.

As part of the ongoing engagement, EPS will also be introducing a new community advisory council, which will work directly with various areas of EPS on changes to policy, procedure and operations. The new Chief's Community Council will be guided by people who experience marginalization, racism and discrimination, as well as community and business partners, and allow for meaningful intercommunity collaboration and problem

EPS recently kicked off the first of its community engagement sessions, and the response from participants was both powerful and promising – not only in helping to build understanding and trust, but in providing new opportunities to discuss concerns and ways to work together.

Chief McFee adds, "We have heard from community members and our own employees, where our actions and interactions have not been positive. In order to be the good and just people we know ourselves to be, we must acknowledge some uncomfortable truths, and ask ourselves what steps we are taking to hold ourselves accountable. I believe in the Edmonton Police Service's ability and willingness to rise to this occasion. I believe we have dedicated professionals who genuinely wish to serve their community and make a positive impact.'

These engagement sessions will be



Police and community members together for community safety (from left to right): Christie Pace, EPS Superintendent Nicole Chapdelaine, Micki Ruth (Chair of the Edmonton Police Commission, Enyinnah Okere (Executive Director of the EPS Value and Impact Division), Stephanie Harpe, Shandoa Vivian-Bigstone, Alain Intwali, EPS Chief Dale McFee, Kari Thomason, Keli Tamaklo, Zaki Hirabe, Detective Mike Elliott (President of the Edmonton Police Association), and John McDougall (Vice Chair of Edmonton Police Commission).

offered across the city through 2021, and groups also have the option of hosting their own events. Those who do not feel comfortable sharing their stories in an open setting, or are looking for more information on the engagement process, can visit www.epsinput.ca to get involved in the conversations.

As the needs of Edmontonians change and the demands on the police service increase, how EPS operates and conducts business continues to evolve. EPS has already begun making changes to its organization through its forward-thinking Vision 2020 Plan to work smarter, partner with the community, and decrease calls for service by diverting people from the criminal justice cycle into the social supports they require.

"Being an antiracist and responsive police service is an incredibly multifaceted task, and we become both the driver and the subject of necessary social change," says Chief McFee.

"This requires equitable change in our own organization, our training, the kind of environment we provide in our workplaces, in the way our internal relationships work, the way we budget, and in how we build partnerships to drive progress. What is most important however, is how we establish and sustain our relationships with the community we are here to protect and serve, because we all want a police service that we can be proud of. We look forward to engaging with community members who are ready and willing to roll up their sleeves and work together towards solutions.





EPS is engaging with the city's Black, Indigenous, racialized and underserved communities to improve policing, and reimagine community safety and well-being.

Share your stories and work with police on meaningful changes for the future.

Join the conversation in person or online, register now at epsinput.ca.

UPCOMING LISTENING SESSION WITH CHIEF DALE McFEE

Tuesday, November 10, 2020

6:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Mill Woods Seniors & Multicultural Centre (Mill Woods Public Library, 2nd Floor) 2610 Hewes Way NW

Parent-Grandparent Program Reopens in 2020

When the Minister of Immigration announced details of the re-opening of the Parents and Grandparents Program on October 5, 2020, it was an announcement that many of our clients had been eagerly waiting for.

The program opened on October 13, 2020 and will remain open until 12 p.m. EST on November 3, 2020. During this three-week period Canadian citizens and permanent residents can complete an online form to indicate that they would like the opportunity to sponsor their parents or grandparents for permanent resident

Once the three-week intake period is complete, the government will randomly select sponsors and invite them to submit a complete sponsorship and permanent-residence application with a maximum of 10,000 applications being accepted. Selected individuals will have 60 days to submit their applications

The Parents and Grandparents Program is usually re-opened to interested sponsors at the beginning of each year, but this year the reopening of the program was significantly delayed. The reopening of the program was first postponed because the government intended to develop a new application intake process, and it was delayed again because of the government needing to prioritize other efforts in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The use of a random lottery system to select potential sponsors is a return to the process that was used in 2017 and 2018 and a change from the intake system used last year.

Readers may recall that in 2019, the Parents and Grandparents Program was a first-come-first-served all-out race by sponsors to fill out an online expression of interest form. moment that the form was put online at

the beginning of 2019, over 20,000 submissions were received almost immediately, and the form was quickly taken offline. This form-filling race left many potential sponsors disap-pointed as the program reached capac-ity in approximately 10 minutes.

> Nathan A. Po

Immigration Lawyer in Edmonton



Last year's experiment with a firstcome first-served system was itself a response to criticisms from frustrated potential sponsors that the random lot-"arbitrary" and "gambling with their lives".

Unfortunately, with the 2019 program reaching capacity so quickly after it was reopened, it was evident that the first-come first-served system caused even more significant problems as it clearly disadvantaged certain types of applicants such as those who lack computer skills, those who were unable to take time off work, or those who are not native English or French

This year's return to a lottery system reflects the government's recognition that a random selection is ultimately a fairer and more transparent intake system. I agree that a random selection is preferable and that it is a fairer way of selecting potential sponsors, but can also sympathize with unlucky individuals who are not selected year after year and who continue to see poor luck thwart their reunification with their loved ones.

While a return to a random selection process may not be welcome by all, the announcement of the

reopening of this year's Parents and Grandparents Program came with a couple additional pieces of good news for individuals who are hoping to sponsor their parents or grandparents.

Firstly, there has been an adjustment in this year's income requirements.

To be eligible to sponsor through the Parents and Grandparents Program the sponsor must usually show that he or she

earned the income" (ca "minimum necessary (calculated using Statistics Canada's Low Income Cut-off for the number of individuals in the family unit) + an additional 30% in the three consecutive tax years immediately preceding the filing of the application. For applications under the 2020 Parents and Grandparents Program, the income requirement for the 2020 tax year will be reduced so that it is just the Minimum Necessary Income this temporary reduction was made tin recognition of the impacts that COVID-19 may have had on sponsors' income or employment. Sponsors will still have to meet the normal income requirements (Minimum Necessary Income + 30%) for previous tax years.

The second piece of positive news is that the Minister's announcement mentions that next year's Parents and Grandparents Program will be signifi-

cantly expanded, with 30,000 new applications being accepted in 2021. While this year's cap is lower than previous years - likely a result of the late vious years – likely a result of the late reopening of the program and the department's ongoing processing capacity issues resulting from COVID-19. Next year's announced cap is a significant increase that seems to reflect this government's ongoing commitment to this category of immigration - in 2018 the cap was increased from 10,000 to 17,000 applications and in 2019 it was increased again to 20,000 applications.

Eligible sponsors who are interested in sponsoring their parents/grand-parents for permanent residence should be sure to fill out the online expression of interest form prior to this

year's deadline.

Unfortunately, the number of individuals who would like the opportunity to sponsor their parents or grandparents is always far greater than the number of applications accepted each year, so this process will no doubt leave many prospective sponsors disappointed. Nevertheless, with this type of random selection process, eligible sponsors interested in sponsoring their parents or grandparents have no choice but to dutifully put themselves in the pool each year and just hope that fortune will eventually favour them and the reunification of their families.

Nathan Po is a partner at McCuaig Desrochers LLP, a general practice law firm with Edmonton's largest group of immigration lawyers (www.mccuaig.com). This article is intended to provide general information only and should not to be relied on as legal advice or opinion.

IRCC speeding up processing for spousal applications

On Sept. 24, Marco E. L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, has announced action to speed up spousal application processing and help families build their lives together in Canada.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has increased the number of decision makers on spousal applications in Canada by 66%, to process spousal applications more quickly and reduce couples' wait times.

IRCC is leveraging new technology in a pilot to digitize paper applications so they can be processed more effi-ciently by IRCC employees working remotely and at various worksites. In addition to implementing facilitative biometrics measures, IRCC will be piloting, in the upcoming weeks, technology to conduct interviews with applicants remotely, in adherence with public health protocols.

With these initiatives, IRCC aims to

accelerate, prioritize and finalize

approximately 6,000 spousal applications each month from October until December 2020. Combined with processing to date, this rate will lead to about 49,000 decisions by the end of

this year.
COVID-19 has created uncertainty for Canadians who are sponsoring spouses for permanent residence. We will continue to search for innovative and compassionate ways to reunite families, while following the advice of our public health experts to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

"We understand that the last few months have not been easy for those who are far from their loved ones in these difficult times," said Minister Mendicino. "This is why we are accelerating the approval of spousal applications as much as possible. Our government will continue to find new ways to keep families together.

For more information about Canada's immigration policies, visit the website of IRCC at www.cic.gc.ca.



City introduces new measures to combat COVID-19

The City is introducing additional measures to contain the spread of COVID-19 and help protect the people of Edmonton, in response to the voluntary health restrictions introduced in the Edmonton Health Zone by the

"We continue to be concerned by the continuing increase in case numbers. We need all Edmontonians to adhere to the health precautions and practise them daily to prevent COVID-19 case numbers from increasing any further," said Interim City Manager Adam Laughlin on Oct. 15. "As the COVID-19 pandemic wears on, we will not let it wear down our resolve to protect our city, including our most vulnerable community members.

Dr. Deena Hinshaw, Alberta's Chief Medical Officer of Health, announced new voluntary restrictions in Edmonton last week. The City's response includes enhanced measures in recreation facilities, additional monitoring and enforcement of public compliance to health and safety rules, and adjustments to ETS service levels and cleaning protocols.

"While we haven't seen it reflected in case numbers yet, we trust Edmontonians are getting the mes-sage," said Laughlin. "Compliance with mask wearing is strong. I trust that Edmontonians will adopt the City's adjusted measures with the same spirit of shared responsibility. We've already heard from some sports organizations who are willing to help us spread the word about new protocols at arenas. By working together, we can tackle the rising case numbers and contain the spread of COVID-19."

Recreation Facilities

The City will make a number of enhancements to protocols and guidelines in recreation facilities and arenas.

- · There will be no spectator access in areas without designated spectator seating, such as field houses, gyms and most pools.
- · In facilities with designated, controlled spectator areas, like arenas, 25 percent of regular seating capacity will be allowed (up to 50 spectators, 100 in larger arenas). New capacity figures

have been posted to arena websites.

- · No social event rentals (parties reunions) or picnic site bookings will be allowed for the remainder of 2020 to discourage larger social gatherings.
- · Capacity for other indoor bookings and rentals, such as business meetings, has been reduced to 25 per cent of normal room capacity to a maximum of 50 people.
- · Increased security and crowd monitoring will be implemented at facilities to ensure safety protocols are being followed.

Edmonton Transit Service

New measures adopted by ETS include:

- · Adjustments to ETS service levels, including school service, to support physical distancing and gathering restrictions.
- Revised sales channels for low income transit pass sales that reduce the need for in-person contact.
- · Same-day cleaning and disinfecting of bus shelters located near schools when notified of a school outbreak.

Temporary Pandemic Accommodation

Preparations are underway for the use of the Edmonton Convention Centre as a temporary pandemic accommodation for individuals experiencing homelessness. People who stay at the convention centre will have a safe, warm place to sleep, receive daily meals and access storage, washrooms, shower facilities and culturally appropriate health, wellness and housing supports. The space is expected to open on October 30 and will scale up week by week to reach a 300-bed capacity and to provide a full spectrum of services.

The City is working with organizers of Camp Pekiwewin to ensure safe, suitable accommodation like the Edmonton Convention Centre for those staying at the camp. An end date for the camp is linked to the activation and full operational setup of the temporary pandemic accommodation.

For more information: edmonton.ca/COVID-19

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MP Tim Uppal criticizes Liberal government's "unprecedented spending"

In the 2019 federal election, Tim Uppal was elected as Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods. One year later, Uppal answers a few questions from the Mill Woods Mosaic, reflecting on the first year of his term in the House of Commons.

Mill Woods Mosaic: One year ago, you were elected as Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods. Since then, the COVID-19 pandemic has turned out to be the biggest challenge for the House of Commons and the Government of Canada. How do you rate the Liberal government's response to this crisis, and what would a Conservative government have done differently?

Tim Uppal: I would rate the Liberal government's response a 4/10. There are programs that we agree with and actually suggested – like the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy, which the Liberals originally proposed at 10% and we worked together to increase substantially to help Canadians through this pandemic. Justin Trudeau and this Liberal government must acknowledge and rectify a series of critical failures that led to the spread of COVID-19 in Canada and continue to cause confusion. These include:

- · Telling Canadians that there was no person-to-person spread of COVID-
- · Telling Canadians that border control measures and masks didn't work;
- · Sending critical supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) to China when we had a shortage;
- Abdicating responsibility for the pandemic to the provinces,
- Failing to develop new systems in Health Canada to efficiently review rapid and at home testing systems that our allies have already deployed;
- · And shuttering the federal early warning system for public health dan-

Conservatives were raising these issues and proposing solutions dating



Tim Uppal stands up for Edmonton-Mill Woods in the House of Commons. Photo: Office of Tim Uppal, Member of Parliament

back to January. Justin Trudeau and the Liberals have either been wrong or slow to act, and their failure has cost Canadians.

Mill Woods Mosaic: During your first year in Ottawa as MP for Edmonton-Mill Woods, you were the Official Opposition's Shadow Cabinet Minister for the Treasury Board. What

were the highlights of that assignment?

Tim Uppal: In my role as the Shadow Minister for the Treasury Board, I spearheaded the scrutiny on \$87 billion dollars in new spending. Since Justin Trudeau lost his majority last year, it was the first opportunity to debate on government spending, and the Liberals tried to ram through \$87 billion in new spending in just four hours. That's not how our democracy is supposed to work.

Additionally, I brought attention to the lack of funding for the Auditor General's office. Canadians deserve to know where their tax dollars are being spent, and I was proud to advocate on their behalf to ensure our top bud-getary watchdog has the funds to audit this Liberal government's unprece-dented spending.

Mill Woods Mosaic: On Aug. 18, Prime Minister Trudeau has asked the governor general to prorogue Parlia-ment until Sept. 23 - a move that shut down committee meetings on the WE Charity scandal. You were very critical of this decision, but when Stephen Harper was prime minister, he also prorogued Parliament. What's the difference?

Tim Uppal: Proroguing parliament is a part of the Westminster system and has been used by various governments across the world. The main difference is that this Prime Minister used it to avoid accountability and further investigations into his corruption and the WE Scandal, after already firing his Finance Minister.

Mill Woods Mosaic: On Sept. 8, the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, the Hon. Erin O'Toole, has announced his new leadership team, and you were assigned to serve as Caucus Party Liaison. What are your duties in this position?

Continued on page 11



Interview with Member of Parliament Tim Uppal

Continued from page 11

Tim Uppal: I am pleased to be the Caucus-Party Liaison, which ensures that I have a seat at the table with our new leader, Erin O'Toole, our senior leadership team, and our Shadow Cabinet. In brief, I am the link between our 121 Members of Parliament and our party, and ensure that we are doing everything in our power to ensure we're holding Justin Trudeau and the

Mill Woods Mosaic: What have you done for Edmonton-Mill Woods during your first year as MP for this constituency, and what are your goals for the remainder of this legislative peri-

Tim Uppal: Throughout my first year as the Member of Parliament for Edmonton Mill Woods, I have been working hard for the hard-working families in our riding who have been significantly affected by the economic downturn and the job-killing policies of this Liberal government. I have and continue to help many individuals and businesses with a wide variety of issues such as immigration, getting help during the COVID-19 pandemic, and other federal programs.

Mill Woods Mosaic: The opposition parties could bring down the Liberal minority government. When would you like to see the next federal election,



MP Tim Uppal and his family stop by the South Edmonton Common Farmers' Market, picking up an indoor garden arrangement.

oto: Office of Tim Uppal, Me

and what would be the advantages of having an early election?

Tim Uppal: I am not focused on an election, but on ensuring that the constituents of Edmonton Mill Woods get the help that they need to get through this pandemic stronger. We remain ready should this government force an election, and expect them to force an early election to avoid further scrutiny transparency, especially on the WE Scandal and the financial implications of their unprecedented spending prior to COVID-19.

Mill Woods Mosaic: In recent months, you have been quite visible in Mill Woods, meeting with constituents, although you are living in Ottawa with your family. How do you manage this commute during this challenging time of the COVID-19 pandemic?

Tim Uppal: I have a residence in Edmonton because Mill Woods is home to me - it's where I grew up and where I spend a substantial amount of time to meet with constituents on their issues and concerns. My children go to school in Ottawa because Parliament sits from September to June, which coincides with the school year. Members of Parliament are expected top be in Ottawa during this time, and it allows me to best represent your voices and concerns in the House of Commons.

Mill Woods Mosaic: You have been a Member of Parliament for a total of almost eight years, including seven vears for Sherwood Park. This is not a nine-to-five job. What's the best part of being an MP, and what's the worst

Tim Uppal: The best part is helping people with their issues, whether it be getting back to Canada prior to the COVID-19 outbreak, their immigration concerns, their longstanding issues with the Canadian Revenue Agencies, or other issues with the federal government.

The most difficult part is being away from family for so long, especially when travelling on weekends. It's something that all Members of Parliament deal with - missing your children's birthdays and hockey games definitely takes a toll.

Interview: Arnim Joop



Meeting the challenges of COVID

Healthcare teams work together to support patients and each other through the pandemic

By Jessica Hopley & Marguerite Watson

At one point during the COVID-19 pandemic, when a patient at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital had a baby, her partner was personally escorted to the cafeteria for meals and all-important cups of coffee.

"It was like a field trip," says Glenna West, unit manager, labour and delivery. "Spouses and partners couldn't move freely throughout the hospital due to COVID-19 restrictions, so staff rounded them up three times a day and took them to the cafeteria to make sure they were fed."

That's just one way the women's health teams at the hospital have risen to the challenges of COVID-19.

Glenna and Ashley Clare, assistant head nurse, labour and delivery, have seen their women's health teams respond to the challenges of the pandemic quickly while still providing excellent care. And though their patient loads haven't decreased, staff from different areas - postpartum, labour and delivery and neonatal intensive care - have come together to ensure patient safety.

"People are realizing their capacity and how strong they are," says Ashley. Similarly, Dr. Colleen Sweeney, who works in the emergency department at the Misericordia Community Hospital, has seen the difference that collaboration has made to staff's ability to respond to the pandemic, particularly during the COVID-19 outbreak at the hospital over the summer.

When the hospital was closed due to the outbreak, we were all very disap-pointed that our ability to look after patients was disrupted," says Colleen. The ER maintained a small number of team members to treat patients who walked in with a lifethreatening issue. And any patients who didn't need immediate stabilization were redirected or transferred via EMS to another facility depending on their case. Having great interdisciplinary relations with partners such as EMS was critical, and we couldn't have succeeded without their support.'



Health care teams work together in support of patients and each other through the pandemic.

Photo: Covenant Health

Teams have paid special attention to monitoring updates to government regulations and communicating them to staff and patients to ensure their safety and provide support. While Colleen's department has used regular emails, online platforms and Zoom and Skype meetings to distribute information and ask and answer questions, Ashley and Glenna's department has added team huddles to its routine to keep everyone informed.

Teams have also had to be nimble to ensure patients are able to connect with loved ones despite ongoing visi-tor restrictions. "We've gotten creative in helping patients communicate with their family when visitors aren't allowed in the hospital," says Colleen. Staff at both sites have assisted patients with virtual visits using video chat technology.
For Ashley and Glenna's department,

responding to the pandemic has meant changing many of its processes and educating staff about these changes. Clinical nurse educators are running simulations of isolation precautions and practicing with live patient volunteers, and leaders are helping staff practice the principles of donning and doffing personal protective equipment (PPE). Staff are also reaching out by phone to educate patients about process changes and to keep them upto-date on current visitation guide-

Managing the challenges of the pandemic has prompted staff to step outside their box and think critically about solutions, says Ashley. "Staff from all departments are bringing their thoughts to the table.

For example, when the Grey Nuns was running low on CaviWipes early in the pandemic, housekeeping staff came up with the idea of using another kind of wipes soaked in a high-level disinfectant.

"Without housekeeping coming up with that idea, we wouldn't have been able to maintain the clean environment that we need," says Glenna.

Throughout the challenges, staff and physicians have found time to support each other on a personal level. Staying connected has helped people deal with as mental and physical fatigue, says Colleen. "There's a lot of checking in, supporting each other in the stresses of wearing PPE, but also seeing how people's families are doing and realizing the challenges people have at home.

An outpouring of support from the community has also helped teams get through the difficult times. From offers of free coffee and food at local restaurants to donations of homemade masks to wear after work, the community response has been uplifting, says Ashley.

"I'm proud of all the support and positivity of every single person working in the hospital and out in the community. Everybody stepped up," she says.
"This is a reminder for us to show our kindness and do our best to take care of ourselves and each other."

Jessica Hopley is a Creative Services Specialist at Covenant Health, and Marguerite Watson is a Communications Advisor at Covenant Health.

This article was first published in The Vital Beat, a weekly newsletter published by Covenant Health.



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. Send to: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, P.O. Box 92087, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton, Alberta, T6T 1N1; fax (780) 465-3140 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net.



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20th Annual Interfaith Multicultural Celebration

Theme: Building Community in A Pandemic

Date: October 17, 2020

Finding a place to stay and getting a social insurance number

information about important things you may need to do and know during your first few days and weeks in Alberta. This information will help you settle into your new life. You will also find lots of useful information and links at Alberta's official immigration website, albertacanada. com/immigration.

Find a temporary place to stay

When you arrive, you will need a place to stay. If you cannot stay with family or friends, there are other

· Hotel or motel

You can rent a room on a day-to-day basis. Some hotels and motels offer lower rates by the week. The average cost per night for double occupancy (two people) in a hotel or motel in Alberta varies by location and season:

 Calgary - \$157.47 Edmonton - \$135.64 • Resort areas - \$232.32

Lethbridge - \$128.03

For more information about hotels and motels, call Travel Alberta at 1-800-252-3782 toll-free or go to the website at travelalberta.com.

· Red and breakfast

"Bed and breakfast" means a bedroom for rent in someone's home, on a day-to-day basis. The cost includes breakfast. Bed and breakfast rates for double occupancy range from \$79 to \$184 per night. Go to bbalberta.com for more information.

Hostelling International runs hostels in Edmonton and Calgary and in Alberta's mountain parks. Shared rooms start at about \$22 to \$32 per person and include the use of a shared kitchen. At hostels in Edmonton and Calgary, single rooms have card key access and shared rooms provide lockers, so vour belongings are secure when you are out. Go to hihostels.ca for more information.

· Post-secondary residences

Some Alberta universities and colleges offer temporary housing to non-

Welcome to Alberta

Important information for immigrants and other newcomers

students at varying rates per day. To find a university or college in your community, go to ae.alberta.ca and click on Post-Secondary.

Getting a Canadian social insurance number

A social insurance number (also called a SIN) is a nine-digit number used to administer Canadian government programs. You must have a social insurance number to work, to open a bank account and to apply for government benefits. Employers cannot legally pay you without this number.

Applying for a social insurance number

- You must apply in person at a Service Canada Centre.
- You will need to submit a primary document (an official document that proves your identity and status in Canada) such as your permanent resi-dent card or work permit. You must submit the original of this document.
- · If the name on your primary document is different from the name you use on other documents, you will need to submit a supporting document with that name. You must submit the original of this document.
- · For more information about applying for a social insurance number, you
- call Service Canada at 1-800-206-7218 toll-free (press 3 for information about social insurance numbers)
- go to servicecanada.gc.ca. Click on Social Insurance Number (SIN) under Our services and information.

For help finding a temporary place to stay, you can

- call 211 in Edmonton and Calgary for the Information and Referral Service. You can talk to a referral specialist who will help you connect with many non-emergency social, health and government services. This service is free, confidential and available in several languages.
- ask staff at an immigrant-serving agency.

Using your Social Insurance Number safely

- · Memorize your social insurance number. If you have a social insurance number card, keep it in a safe place. Do not use it as personal identification
- · Do not give out your social insurance number to people who do not need it.. Legally, you only need to give your social insurance num-
- your employer. Provide your number or show your proof of application to your employer.
- your bank or financial institution. Provide your number when you apply for an account.
- the government. Provide your number when you access programs and
- · If your have a social insurance number card and is has been lost or stolen, contact Service Canada.

Note: Social insurance number cards are no longer being produced. However, SIN cards that are not expired and are currently in circulation can still be used.

In the next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic, we will provide information about carrying identification and exploring your community.

Reprinted with permission from Welcome to Alberta: Information for Newcomers, produced by Alberta Employment and Immigration. Visit Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website at alis.alberta. ca/publications to view or order your copy (free to Albertans).

Welcome to Alberta: Information for Newcomers is also available in eight other languages (French, Spanish, Farsi, Arabic, Mandarin, Amharic, Dinka and Punjabi). Translations can be downloaded from the website of the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies at aaisa.ca/alberta.

What do you think of the Mill Woods Mosaic? What do you like? What do you not like? Send us an e-mail: mwmosaic@telus.net

Resources for Temporary Foreign Workers

Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan

www.health.alberta.ca

Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program

www.albertacanada.com

Alberta Temporary Foreign Worker Helpline

Call: (780) 644-9955 (Edmonton local calling area) or 1-877-944-9955 from anywhere in North America

Employment Standards

Call: (780) 427-3731 (toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Office

North Location

2nd Floor, 10242 - 105 Street Edmonton, AB

South Location

5th Floor, Century Park Place 855 - 8th Avenue S.W. Calgary, AB T2P 3P1

tfwadvisory.office@gov.ab.ca

To contact an advisor, call the Alberta Temporay Foreign Worker Helpline.

WCB Alberta

Call: Toll-free in Alberta 1-866-WCB-WCB-1 (1-866-922-9221) Outside of Alberta 1-800-661-9608

E-mail: contactcentre@wcb.ab.ca

www.wch.ab.ca

Occupational Health and Safety

Call: 1-866-415-8690

http://employment.alberta.ca

CANADA

Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Call: 1-800-242-2100

www.cic.gc.ca

Service Canada

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplace skills/foreign_workers/index.shtml

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 31.6

Tel. (780) 462-6924

Website: www.mwci-edmonton.net

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 nonprofit, 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

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 educa-tion, 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 Millhourne 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 notfor-profit organization for enthusiastic volunteers committed to full participation of immigrant and vis-ible 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 37.7 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-forprofit organization serving young people between the ages of 15-18 who are in crisis, at risk or home-

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

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 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

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, 2020. The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, November 13, 2020.

Edmonton Public Schools Provides Family Choice and Safety Measures

Edmonton Public Schools Trustee Sherry Adams

I would like to thank staff who prepared all summer to ensure that students and staff could return to a safe environment and that we can re-engage in the all-important task of educating our students. Our re-entry has been

well-planned, and the Board is proud of our Division's dedication and professionalism.

Federal funding, along with some extra provincial funding, is being provided and is intended to allow school authorities to address staffing needs, learning space adaptations, procurement of personal protective equipment (PPE). cleaning and safety considerations for schools and buses, students requiring specialized supports and online learning and teacher training.

We are committed to giving schools as much flexibility as

possible to address their local needs and support students as much as possible with the option of online learning. There are additional staffing costs required to support staff who are conducting our online learning option for students. The Division will use approximately \$2 million to support technology needs for online teachers and students. This will include purchasing a limited number of Chromebooks along with other technology supports. Our Division has directed \$4 million to support online delivery of K to Grade 9 curriculum including online instructional videos and accompanying plans and resources for subjects across the grade levels. An additional \$2 million will be applied to the development of high school online lesson plans and resources. There are currently 27 Divisions across AB using the EPSB online resources for K-9. Any parents needing guidance setting up and navigating technology at home for distance and online learning can access help at techhelp.epsb.ca.

Families have from now until October 19 at 4 p.m. to complete the Family Choice-Quarter 2 form on SchoolZone to indicate

their choice of in-person or online learning for their children. The second quarter runs from November 16 to January 2021. Families can visit epsb.ca to learn more about the quarterly system and for more details about online learning.

Approximately \$4 million is being directed towards infrastructure needs. This includes the rental and maintenance of portable sinks as well as increasing the amount of time ventilation systems are running. We are partnering with a medical company to provide same-day mobile COVID-19 testing for any Division employees who have COVID-19 symptoms. This will help shorten the amount of time it may take to receive a test and the amount of time staff are required to



We have already spent just under \$4 million on PPE, sanitation and cleaning supplies and we anticipate these expenses to continue throughout the school year. A big thank you to our incredibly dedicated custodial staff in our ward and throughout the Division! Now, more than ever, we rely on their work to clean and maintain our schools and buildings.

I would be remiss to not mention the teachers and all the staff who have worked extremely hard to meet the most challenging task we have faced in our Division. The creative and collaborative work they are doing is truly remarkable. Thank you to our parents and students for your patience and understanding in this trying time. This is an opportunity for all of us to work together as we manage the various challenges that COVID-19 has brought to bear on our daily lives. At Edmonton Public schools, we are all here for

Please feel free to contact me sherry.adams@epsb.ca or 780-429-8087. As always it is a pleasure to serve as your trustee



Trustee Sherry Adams

What's up?

Community events in Mill Woods

Many events in Mill Woods and the Meadows have been cancelled, due to the current COVID-19 health crisis. Many stores and restaurants were closed. but many businesses are reopening now although they have to follow strict guidelines issued by Alberta Health Services.

Some restaurants are reopening, at least for takeout and delivery, and some places of worship are starting to return to regular worship services but reminding members of their congregations that there are still some restrictions in place and physical distancing should still be practised.

The Mill Woods Recreation Centre and Meadows Community Recreation Centre are also starting to reopen. The rec centres are offering some programs. the arenas are open, but the swimming pools are still closed, and people have to register online. The fitness centre and gym at the Meadows Community Rcreation Centre are currently open, and outdoor fitness classes are also available. To

Edmonton Public Libraries are currently offering Library Express Checkout (in-person holds pickup and access Hits-to-Go). For more information, visit www.edmonton.ca or www.epl.ca.

book a time slot, visit www.edmonton.ca/reccentres.

Since Aug. 1, 2020, wearing a mask or face covering is mandatory in all indoor public place and vehicles. More at www.edmonton.ca/COVID-19.

The Mill Woods Seniors Activity Centre has started to reopen will fall programs underway and new safety procedures, including mandatory masks, increased sanitation, and health screening at entry. Register for courses at 780-496-2997.

> The Meadows Community League Annual General Meeting (online) Saturday, Oct. 24, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

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 13, 2020.

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



A new way to experience Daughters Day

Saturday, Sept. 26, was booked to see the ninth annual Daughters Day celebration at Edmonton's City Hall. Instead, thanks to the COVID-19 pandemic, people were invited to go to https://youtu.be/NUNfClPtk o and watch the program on YouTube.

"We are disappointed not to be able to gather in person to be part of this celebration of the achievements of Alberta women," says Daughters Day planning committee chair Dr. Vivian Abboud. "But this year people all over the world can join us and we are excited to introduce the Daughters of the Year to a wider audience.

The Daughters of the Year are chosen for both their personal achievements and the impact they have had in making Alberta a leader in gender equity. This year Cecilia Blasetti, Simran Dhillon, Maria Dunn, and Kathy King from Edmonton are being honoured, as well as Halima Ali and Angeline Goredema from Red Deer.

"Their achievements are diverse, but between them they have a significant impact, that is making a positive difference for many others," notes Abboud. "There were many nominations, and the selection of these six women speaks to how blessed Alberta is with talented and dedicated women.

In addition to comments by each of the Daughters of the Year, the 40 minute YouTube program includes a message from Kate Gunn. Gunn has recently retired from the City of Edmonton, where she worked over the years in leadership roles with initia-tives including the formation of REACH Edmonton, the Next Gen initiative, the formation of EndPoverty Edmonton, and Edmonton's Winter City strategy. Especially close to her heart has been the Edmonton's Women's Initiative, launched in 2014.

"We are learning that the pandemic creates greater challenges for women, but the inspiring example of women such as this year's Daughters of the Year reminds us that we all owe a great debt to the courage and determination of women. I am honoured to congratulate the six women who join 57 previ-ous Daughters of the Year making Alberta better, and urge all Albertans to join in moving from reflection to action in our efforts to give every woman full opportunity in Alberta" says Abboud.

Daughters Day is an initiative of Canadians for a Civil Society. This is the ninth year the event has been cele-brated. The 2020 Daughters of the Year were selected from nominees by a panel of four women - Dr. Jodi Abbott, Susan Arigo Dut, Susan Green, and Dr. Nhung Tran-Davies.

This year's Daughters of the Year are:

Halima Ali

Halima Ali supports immigrant and refugee women and their families to overcome barriers, achieve economic security and prosperity, develop their own leadership potential, and realize their dreams.

Coming to Canada as a refugee herself, she has been guiding the work of Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association since 2005, work that has seen her honoured as one of Red Deer's women of excellence. Under



Halima Ali



Cecilia Blasetti



Simran Dhillon



Maria Dunn



Angeline Goredema



Kathy King

her leadership, CAIWA grew from a one-person organization to a major immigrant-serving organization. She has guided research with Red Deer College to understand the economic barriers and issues of domestic violence in Central Alberta immigrant communities. The home instruction for parents of pre-school children program she developed is a first in Alberta.

Cecilia Blasetti

As Executive Director of Boyle McCauley Health Centre, Cecilia Blasetti is a leader in ensuring vulnerable Albertans who experience homelessness, addictions, mental health issues, poverty, and other social issues have access to supports and services tailored to meet their physical, mental, and social needs and respecting their dignity. Cecilia's leadership has grown the organization to allow pregnant women experiencing homelessness to access housing, and to improve access to primary health care for youth and Indigenous families. During the pandemic she has lead the initiative for a 24-7 shelter for those without a home to isolate when needed.

Simran Dhillon

Simran Dhillon is amplifying minority voices and advocating for changes in the community. Through her leadership, a not-for-profit organization supports disadvantaged youth to gain support to succeed academically. In collaboration with Edmonton Public Schools Foundation she helped create virtual summer programs for children affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. She has created two start-ups to create life-saving technologies. One is conducting clinical research on her innovation, FentaGone - a technology to reduce street-level drug overdoses. She is working in collaboration with United Way to create an online resource for individuals who need help navigating social services during the nandemic. Simran serves as a University of Alberta Students Union Councillor and member of General Faculties Council, and is Edmonton's World Health Organization chair.

Maria Dunn

Maria Dunn is a Juno-nominated storyteller through song who writes and sings about the resilience and grace of ordinary people. Throughout her songwriting career, Maria has supported and celebrated social justice and human rights activism. She has worked with Ground Zero Productions to develop and perform oral historybased video ballads sharing the stories of working people and climate justice through multimedia performances, including On The River (honouring Indigenous activist Chief Dorothy McDonald-Hyde), Packingtown (a tribute to North Edmonton's meatpacking workers and community), and GWG: Piece By Piece (inspired by immigrant women working in Edmonton's GWG garment factory). Maria has performed for events addressing cutbacks to refugee health care, peace rallies, and on picket lines supporting workers rights. She has written commissioned songs to celebrate community groups including Friends of Medicare, Public Interest Alberta, Edmonton Mennonite Centre Newcomers. and Alberta Federation of Labour.

Angeline Goredema

Angeline Goredema is committed to making the world a better place by being a positive role model for youth in Central Alberta, and leading human rights initiatives. She initiated the Human Rights Youth Conference, and makes presentations to students, promoting welcoming communities, and speaking out against bullying and racism. Angeline came to Canada alone as a refugee, and now is a young mother of three children. She has written a children's book called Living in Different Countries to encourage understanding, knowledge, and acceptance. Her position with HIV North as Program Manager creates opportunities to work with a variety of community stakeholders creating positive change. Angeline was part of the Global Young Leaders Conference.

Kathy King

As a mother and advocate of Missing, Murdered, and Exploited Indigenous Women and Girls, Kathy King has dedicated herself to addressing the national human rights crisis of MMIWG. For over forty years as a social worker she worked with government, health care, and community agencies. She has been a volunteer doing public education, workshops, and board work with organizations such as Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton, Victims of Homicide Support Society, and CEASE: Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation. Always concerned for poor and disadvantaged people, her involvement became more personal when her own teen daughter began to experiment with drugs, developed recurring psychosis, and disappeared from the streets of Edmonton in 1997. The website MissingCara.ca and Facebook page Missing Cara share her daughter's story and explore information about exploitation, trauma and healing. Kathy recently celebrated 25 years of marriage, and enjoys her eight grandchildren.