

Mill Woods Mosaic

May 15, 2023

Volume 15/No. 177

Tel. (780) 465-7526

The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational

This month:

Q & A for candidates

The *Mill Woods Mosaic* has asked questions, and some of the candidates for MLA have answered.

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The role of media

Arrim Joop talks about the role of the media in building a healthy multicultural society.

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Benefits of travelling

Travelling opens our mind and is a powerful tool to expand our worldview, says Ron Kuban.

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Palliative care

Life circumstances transform a caregiver into a palliative care advocate.

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Minority choice

How many votes does a candidate need to become MLA in Edmonton-Mill Woods? Tom Monto knows the answer.

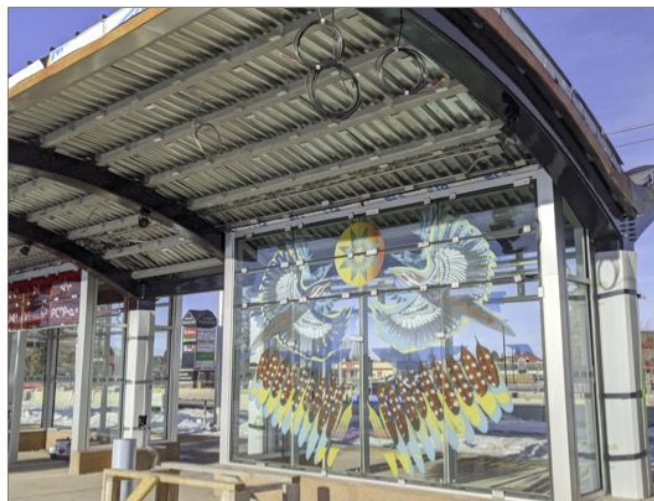
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Exciting Edmonton



Artist Cindy Baker thinks that Edmonton is "exciting in general." Jessica Telford interviewed the unique artist.

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"If the Drumming Stops"

The Valley Line Southeast LRT project is adding a splash of colour and texture to communities along the route thanks to the City's Percent for Art Policy, managed by the Edmonton Arts Council. The projects includes 13 different projects including art glass at five of the eleven stops and at the Davies Transit Centre. Photo: Art glass "If the Drumming Stops" at one of the stops in Mill Woods.

Photo: Reverb Communications

Government invests in settlement services for newcomers

Settlement services are key to setting up newcomers for success in Canada. They provide newcomers with the information and support they need to make informed decisions about their new lives in Canada before and after they arrive, which helps them successfully transition into their communities and find work faster.

On May 11, Marie-France Lalonde, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced over \$65 million in funding extensions to service provider organizations across the country to continue delivering important settlement services, including pre-arrival services, services for racialized newcomer women, and language training for newcomers in Francophone minority communities.

As part of this funding announcement, Parliamentary Secretary Lalonde announced that the YMCA of the National Capital Region, which will receive over \$1.2 million to continue delivering important pre-arrival services to new immigrants.

This funding extension will continue to support service provider organizations to deliver services to newcomers before they arrive in Canada. The YMCA offers a broad range of services abroad, which can be accessed online and in-person. Through pre-arrival service providers, newcomers are able to access important resources before coming to Canada, including information about the Canadian workplace, employment counselling and soft skills development.

Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada's pre-arrival services program maximizes the economic and social inte-

gration of newcomers by

- directly connecting clients with the information and services they need through a streamlined, easy-to-navigate process

- encouraging newcomers to apply for recognition of their foreign credentials before they arrive, if needed

- linking clients to federal and provincial settlement services in Canada

Investments in pre-arrival services are investments in the newcomers and families joining Canada's diverse communities, and they help them grow while strengthening Canada's economy. Further details on individual funding for service provider organizations will be announced in the coming weeks.

"Providing services to newcomers before they arrive in Canada is critical to successful integration," said Parliamentary Secretary Lalonde. "These services help newcomers make decisions about the life they want to live in Canada as early as possible in their immigration journey and help them contribute to the economy more quickly. This investment will allow Canada to continue supporting the needs of newcomers across the world."

"Deciding to move to a new country is perhaps one of the biggest decisions a person will make in their life," said Bob Gallagher, President and CEO of the YMCA of the National Capital Region. "We are thrilled to see the substantial investment made from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada into pre-arrival services. Investments like these allow the YMCA to continue providing specialized information and orien-

tation about the skilled trades, engineering and construction sectors, and help individuals ease their transition to Canada."

Quick facts

- The 15 service provider organizations with funding extensions for pre-arrival services serve clients in their country of origin and are based in British Columbia, Manitoba, Nova Scotia, Ontario and abroad.

- Canada has funded pre-arrival services since 1998. While initially only provided to refugees, services were expanded to include other categories of immigrants in 2001.

- In 2019, the adapted language training for francophone newcomers to francophone minority communities initiative, was introduced to support the Francophone Integration Pathway and provide training in French or English to Francophone and Allophone newcomers. The department currently funds six organizations that provide direct language training services to French-speaking newcomers who choose to settle in one of these communities.

- In December 2022, the Government of Canada announced up to \$5.8 million in renewed funding through 2025 for 10 projects supported under the Racialized Newcomer Women Pilot. This funding is in addition to the \$15 million over 2 years that was allocated in Budget 2021 to extend support for this pilot.

For more information, visit the website of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada: www.cic.gc.ca

Letter to the Editor:

"Hold candidates to account!"

I spent six hours on April 27 at Grey Nuns ER with a friend.

Thoughts: we are very lucky to be able to walk into a hospital and be seen, there is a lot to be grateful for. However, Alberta is much bigger than it was when that hospital was built and it is very apparent that the supports for the building, the staff, and the processes of healthcare have deteriorated beyond anything I recognize.

Having spent my youth hanging out with my maternal Grandfather doctor and maternal Grandmother nurse, followed by years of patient advocacy, I know where things were and where we are now. From Vegreville to Yellowknife, Cold Lake to Bonnyville, Drayton Valley to Leduc, and of course all four corners of Edmonton, I have seen a few highs and lows.

My friend was afforded all of the testing that one would expect and it was done in a relatively timely fashion, again, there is a lot to be grateful for. What we didn't receive was continuous care. There is not the capacity for it. The building is not designed for it given current usage numbers, the staff are not able to work toward it under current structures, and the process is being designed around all of the shortcomings not the patient.

There are no quick fixes. Election season is bursting out already and I want to put this out there now. Language is important, but listen to what is being said and what is not being said. Fear those who claim to have all the answers as much as you are leary of those who give half answers. HOLD CANDIDATES TO ACCOUNT! Don't let them off with

their elevator pitch, ask follow up questions, more than one. Get them to answer questions about fundamentals, not pie in the sky ideals.

The part that bugged me the most at the hospital was that it was not cleaned. It looked dirty, and not once in six hours did a cleaning staff come through to wipe or wash anything. They would not have been able to do much because it was packed but not even the attempt was being made. I want clean, efficient hospitals with supported and supportive staff. Every political party is going to tell me they want that for me too. My job is to figure out who do I believe will be accountable.

I used to tell be people to get out and vote. If you don't vote, you can't bitch. Now I don't care if you vote. If you are too stupid to exercise your right to vote, I don't want you at the polls anyway. But if you do vote, vote for someone that will work hard for Albertans. That means they will surround themselves with people who want to do the difficult work with them day in, day out, not just attend events and take pictures for Instagram.

The world will not come crashing down if one party is in and one party is not, that hasn't happened yet, because one party always has to win. What we need is people who want get in to work their asses off. Find people who surround themselves with hard workers, they will have the fortitude to follow through on their promises.

May 29th ... only time will tell.

Leigh Makarewicz
Edmonton, Alberta

Letters to the editor welcome

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

Please e-mail your letter to: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, mwmosaic@telus.net.



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VISIT OUR NEW STORE
at West Edmonton Mall, Phase 1, Level 2

French Pastry • Macarons • Specialty Coffee
Sandwiches • Party Tray • Customized Cake

Safer Streets in Ward Sspomitapi

Edmonton City Councillor Jo-Anne Wright

During my time as City Councillor, I've heard that street safety is a concern in our ward. In response, I've shared your stories and experiences with City administration and asked them how we can make improvements. I'm happy to report there's been exciting progress.

When we make our streets safer, we create more livable communities for everyone. That is why City Council reaffirmed our commitment to safer streets by funding Vision Zero work in our latest four-year budget.

One tool to improve safety is the Safe Crossings program. Careful consideration to assess and prioritize crossing locations is made using an evidence based process. This assessment includes community needs and feedback, equitable safety, future growth and existing infrastructure. For example, City staff determined that the intersection at 44 Street and 41 Avenue meets the criteria for an all-way stop and plan to construct the necessary curb ramp this year. This is just one of the nine crossing locations in our ward getting upgrades in 2023. In all, there are nearly 50 locations in Ward Sspomitapi that have been identified for upgrade as a result of the funding

approved in the 2023 - 2026 budget. Visit edmonton.ca/safecrossings to learn more.

Another tool we're using in our Vision Zero toolkit is through Street Labs. A community initiated Street Lab was installed in Silver Berry in October 2022 and the engagement



Coun. Jo-Anne Wright

period ended on April 23, 2023. City staff are now reviewing the results and determining what adaptable measures will have the greatest impact to improve street safety. Another Street Lab is scheduled to take place in Laurel later this year. You can find more Street Lab information and inquire about setting up a Street Lab in your neighbourhood at edmonton.ca/streetlabs

I want to thank residents for connecting with my office on this important issue. If you'd like to share your concerns about an unsafe crossing, please connect with 311, by phone, online or with the 311 App where you can download photos. With your continued help, our community is becoming a safer and more livable place for all its residents.

If you have any comments or concerns, I encourage you as always to reach out to my office at 780-496-8148 or jo-anne.wright@edmonton.ca

The MEADOWS COMMUNITY LEAGUE

Volunteer Info Session

May 30, 2023

Learn about opportunities

Meet other volunteers

Ask questions & sign up!



Residents of Larkspur, Silver Berry, Wild Rose



Register Now
May 30, 2023
5:00pm - 6:00pm

Meadows Rec Centre
2704 - 17 Street, Edmonton
2nd Floor, Community Room
info@themeadowscommunity.ca

Education should be a top priority for all political parties

Whether or not you have school-aged children, education is an important issue. In the throws of a provincial election, education should be a top priority for all of the political parties, big and small. To that end, Edmonton Public Schools has put forward a campaign for the provincial election, where we are inviting all of you to imagine what's possible for our public education system. This campaign has four main areas of focus: adequate funding, infrastructure that keeps pace with growth, availability of mental health supports, and taxpayer dollars going towards public education. For each of these areas of focus, there are questions that you can ask candidates along with supporting information for each question. These questions and information are outlined below.

Imagine what's possible when every public school student gets what they need to thrive

Until recently, the total education budget was frozen. The current formula used to fund education looks backwards rather than forwards and is insufficient for a growing school division like Edmonton Public. Funding isn't based on the actual number of students in our schools or their needs. From 2012 to 2020, according to the Fraser Institute, Alberta went from having the third highest per student spending in Canada to last. Questions

to ask candidates include:

- Edmonton Public Schools is facing rapidly growing enrolment. How will your party ensure every student gets

years or more, maintenance and renewal funding continues to decrease year over year. Questions to ask candidates include:

- How will you address the space shortage at Edmonton Public Schools?

- Over 70% of Edmonton Public's schools are 50 years old or older. How will your party provide adequate funds for the maintenance or replacement of these buildings?

Imagine what's possible when students receive adequate supports where and when they need them

The provincial government's Child and Youth Well-Being Panel looked into how the pandemic has affected young people. 8 of the 10 recommendations from the panel call for increasing access to support for young people. Educators are not mental health professionals, and giving students access to dedicated mental health professionals in schools means that teachers can focus on educating kids. Questions to ask candidates include:

- According to the Mental Health Foundation, 1 in 4 youth will be affected by mental illness. What is your party's plan to provide adequate, sustainable support for kids in public schools?
- Will your party commit to using healthcare dollars for mental health so schools don't have to use education

dollars that should go to classrooms?

- What is your party's plan to provide a coordinated approach between ministries that support the mental health of students (e.g. Health, Education, Children's Services)?

Imagine what's possible when public dollars go to public schools that welcome and support all students

An investment in public education means investing in community, accountability, and in choice for all students. Public schools welcome all students regardless of their abilities or socioeconomic background. Public schools are governed by publicly elected officials, who engage with community members on all decisions that affect them (budget, achievement results, etc.). Edmonton Public offers 25 alternative programs, including academic programs, arts and language programs, sports alternative programs, and faith-based programs. A question to ask candidates would be:

- What does "choice in education" mean to your party? Does "choice" to you mean choice within the public system; or choice of public, private, or charter schools

Through this campaign, Edmonton Public wants to highlight that public education matters. We are requesting your help to ensure that education is a top election issue during this provincial election. If you have questions, please don't hesitate to reach out via email at trustee.saadiq.sumar@epsb.ca or by phone at 780-429-8086.

Saadiq Sumar

Edmonton Public Schools Trustee (Ward G)



what they need to thrive?

- What is your party's plan to ensure children who need additional support get the resources they need?

Imagine what's possible when school construction keeps pace with growing student enrolment

During this past school year, EPSB proudly welcomed almost 4,500 new students and we are expecting a similar number for the coming school year. 4,500 students is enough to fill 12 elementary schools or 4 high schools. In the 2021, 2022, and 2023 provincial budgets, EPSB received full construction funding for only one school, which will add 950 seats. For a school division with 70% of schools aged 50

elections
alberta

How to Vote in the Provincial Election



Election Day is Monday, May 29
9:00 am to 8:00 pm

To vote, you must:

- be a Canadian citizen
- reside in Alberta
- be at least 18 years of age on Election Day

If you vote on Election Day, you must vote at the voting location assigned to you. All voting locations will be open from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

If you cannot vote on Election Day, you can vote at any advance voting location in Alberta from Tuesday, May 23 to Saturday, May 27.

To find your voting location, go to www.elections.ab.ca, see the "Where to Vote" card that was mailed to you, or call 1.877.422.8683 toll-free.

You do not need to be fluent in English to vote — our voting locations offer information translated into 27 languages. You may also bring someone to translate for you.

For more information, go to www.elections.ab.ca

Mill Woods Mosaic

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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

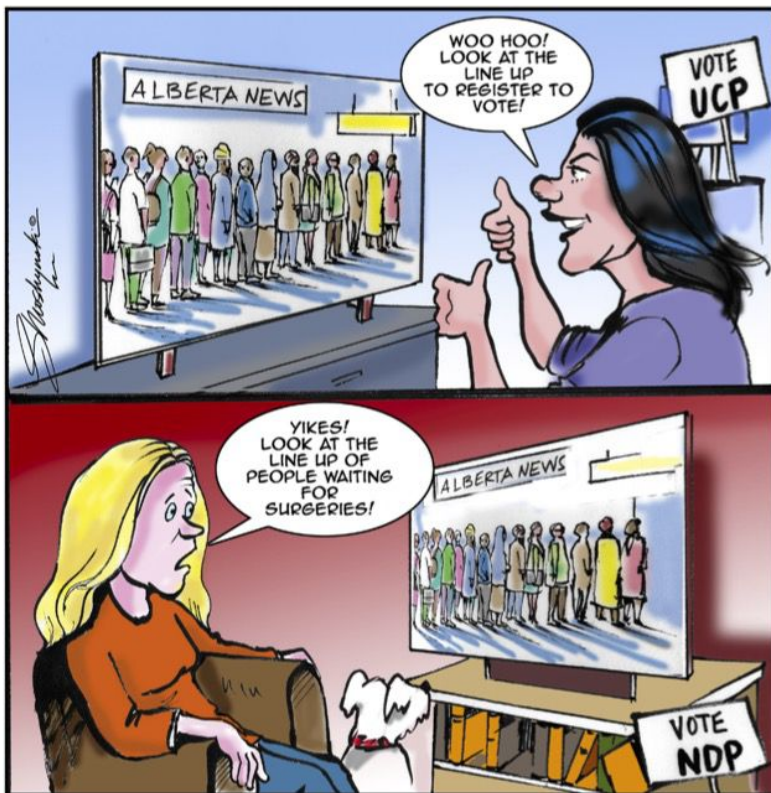
Candidates Missing In Action

Here we go again: There will be a provincial election in Alberta on May 29, and the *Mill Woods Mosaic* has reached out to all the candidates of the two major political parties in the three constituencies in southeast Edmonton, but two of them have not responded. We have sent the same questions to all six candidates (three of the United Conservative Party and three of the New Democratic Party) and offered to publish their answers in this issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*.

Two of the candidates of the UCP have chosen to ignore our offer, but all three candidates of the NDP and one candidate of the UCP have submitted their answers before our deadline.

The *Mill Woods Mosaic* does not endorse any candidates and wants to give all candidates equal opportunity to communicate their opinions on important issues, but two candidates of the UCP have decided to snub the voters in southeast Edmonton. This attitude is very telling. It tells us that these candidates don't care for the constituents of southeast Edmonton, and if they don't care during the four weeks of campaigning, it is not difficult to guess how much they will care if they are elected as MLAs on May 29.

The voters in southeast Edmonton should remember at the ballot box who returns calls and who doesn't.



The provincial election in Alberta is scheduled for Monday, May 29. Voters have a choice between Danielle Smith's Conservatives and Rachel Notley's New Democrats.

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

What is the role of the media in building a healthy multicultural society?

Last month, my friend Earl Choldin invited me to be one of the speakers in a course about Canadian Multiculturalism. Earl is a past president of the Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation which used to organize the "Harmony Brunch" every year to connect people from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds. The topic he wanted me to speak about was the role of the media in building a healthy multicultural society.

I accepted the offer enthusiastically, because I feel passionately about Canadian Multiculturalism and was happy to talk about the role of the media.

When I became a Canadian citizen in 1993, I received a letter from Gerry Weiner who was the Minister of Multiculturalism and Citizenship Canada at that time. He wrote: "Your Government is pleased that of all the nations of the world, you have chosen Canada as your new home. In making this choice, you have honoured your fellow citizens. As well, Canada is enriched by the energies, talents and cultural traditions you bring to this society."

I was deeply touched by this nice welcome letter, and became emotional. I was grateful that Canada gave me and my family the opportunity to start a new life here, and I was impressed that the Government of Canada regarded immigrants as an asset and not a liability. So, it became my goal

not to disappoint "my" Canadian government and to try my best to be a good citizen and contribute to the betterment of Canadian society.

During my first six years in Canada, I worked as a reporter for community

Arnim Joop

From the Desk of the Publisher



newspapers in southern Alberta, Fort Saskatchewan and Sherwood Park, and in 1995 I founded the German-Canadian newspaper *Albertaner* which I have been publishing monthly since then, and which is now the only German language newspaper in Western Canada (www.albertaner.ca).

And in 2008, I founded this multicultural community newspaper, the *Mill Woods Mosaic*, because I saw an opportunity to connect the different ethnic and cultural groups in southeast Edmonton.

So, what is the role of the media in building a healthy multicultural soci-

ety?

When I learnt more about Canada, I was amazed that multiculturalism has been official policy in this country since 1971. Through the Canadian Multiculturalism Act, the government encourages Canadians to take pride in their language, religion and heritage, and to keep their customs and traditions, as long as they do not break any Canadian laws.

I found this fascinating, because I was born and raised in West Germany which denied to be an immigration country, although it had millions of immigrants from Turkey and other countries, and for many Germans, multiculturalism was just a pipe dream.

When it comes to the media in Canada, there are two kinds of media: the mainstream media, which is mainly owned and controlled by big corporations, and the ethnic and community media which is mainly owned by small businesses.

When I started the *Mill Woods Mosaic* in 2008, one of my goals was to build bridges between the different ethnic and cultural groups. Some immigrant groups isolate themselves more than others and don't know much about their neighbours, and I thought that a multicultural community newspaper could play a positive role in this area, because we can learn a lot from each other.

And what is a "healthy" multicultural society? Canada is a great country, welcoming people from around the world, but it is not a perfect country. It is a work in progress, and it is up to us, the new citizens and the Canadians who were born and raised here, to contribute to the betterment of this multicultural society.

Leaders in Germany, Great Britain and France have said that multiculturalism has failed in their countries, but how can something fail that was never seriously considered in these countries? They could learn a lot from Canada.

"Diversity is our strength," said our Prime Minister Justin Trudeau whose father Pierre Elliott Trudeau "invented" multiculturalism when he was Prime Minister and announced in the House of Commons on Oct. 8, 1971 that the policies of bilingualism and multiculturalism would be implemented in Canada.

In the more than 25 years I have published and edited ethnic community newspapers, I have met so many interesting people from all walks of life who have inspired me, and I will be forever grateful for this wonderful opportunity.

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

The Benefits of Travelling and Reading

I recently flew home after a long trip away. Given that I have been flying for over 60 years this trip appeared similar to its many predecessors. Nevertheless, as on many occasions before, I found myself in awe, amazed by the impact which travelling has frequently had on my imagination and perspective.

Here I was, suspended well above the ground, watching diverse terrain glide past me. Mountains and rivers, prairies and farmland, forests and lakes were all part of a moving and colourful tapestry. Interspersed among them were settlements large and small, which illustrated diverse human habitation across the vast landscape.

In some regards, I was only a silent and an inconspicuous observer. But on another level, I experienced an awareness of things beyond myself, of aspects much bigger than me.

Predictably, as the scenes below changed with my passing over them, I could feel my mind wander. Reaching outward, it sought to observe, to truly see amazing aspects of the world which are often taken for granted, and just as often ignored. It helped me see, once again, the diverse nature of our physical environment, human dispersion across the land, and the dynamics between the two. That spurred me to wonder about the many facets of life and kept me occupied throughout my flight.

Such musings are valuable. They occur when we have few other distractions and when we are afforded a rare bird's eye view of things. They open our eyes and allow us to think beyond the predictable or the norm, and to discover new ideas or explore old ideas in new ways.

In fact, to one degree or another, all forms of travel provide this potential for musing. They take us away from the safety and predictability of our home life and its many routines. Travel propels us to places where geography, climate, people, language, customs, food, and many other facets are simply "different." When exposed to these differences, we are then provided with an opportunity to look at ourselves, our life, and all the things we consider normal, in a brand-new light. That is not to say that we must change due to that exposure. Nevertheless, the experience should give us a more profound sense of who we are in the context of a now much larger environment or community.

In other words, travelling has the potential to expand our worldview if,

and only if, we are open to the experience it stimulates. Some people are not comfortable or willing to do that. They travel to other places, interact with

Ron Kuban

Time Passages



people of other cultures, are exposed to other environments, yet expect these to be similar to what they have left back home. For whatever reason, they are reluctant to explore and perhaps adjust their worldview. As such, they shortchange themselves from growing, from becoming better versed in the large, complex, interesting, and diverse world we inhabit.

While travelling is a profound way to expand one's perspective, it may not suit or be readily available to everyone. Cost, time, or access may prevent some people from travelling. Thankfully, there is another, more affordable, and certainly more common way to broaden one's mind. Reading.

Human beings have long been entertained by stories or tales. Prior to the invention of the printing press around 1436, these stories were communicated only orally. However today, we can also access a seemingly unlimited array of books. Each book, in turn, has the potential to transport us mentally to other places, environments, or human conditions without us having to leave home. This allows us, even briefly, to look at things from another person's perspective. It invites us to travel figuratively and to discover places, realities, or ideas, which otherwise we did not realize existed. In doing so, it places a mirror before us to explore our own views or beliefs. It may also stimulate our imagination and help us to become more inventive.

The simple act of reading, regardless of subject matter or complexity, has been scientifically proven to stimulate our mind. The process through which we absorb the written narrative, strive to make sense of it, and then store it in our memory actually fires up the neurons in our brain. It makes us think.

The process demands courage and the

recognition that we can change or grow without losing ourselves in the process. Children do so automatically without much contemplation. For them the process of change is natural.

However, as we grow older, we seem to be burdened by what we have become, our beliefs, and our routines. These are held tightly in fear of us becoming unraveled and misplacing the parts of ourselves which we have carefully built over the years. That fear is misguided.

Viewed as a lifetime voyage, our existence is a journey of change. It often demands of us to look at things from different perspectives, select a choice from among many, and explore that choice until another is

required or seen as better. We cannot travel that voyage effectively by standing still, or by refusing to examine who we are and who we wish to become.

Travelling allows us to explore places that are different from what we call home, meet people that are unlike us, and experience diverse environments and cultures. It opens our mind and is a powerful tool to expand our worldview. Reading has the same potential. However, we must first be willing to think beyond our current self and be open to personal growth. As our children know intuitively, there is much value in being open to exploration.

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

Walking Together in Catholic Education Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert

We give thanks for the gift of Catholic Education, which has served nations for centuries by teaching students in their faith. This year, the theme of Catholic Education Week from May 15 to 19 in Alberta is: *Walking Together in Catholic Education*. In the province of Alberta, we acknowledge with deep gratitude and embrace with unwavering resolve the gift of publicly funded Catholic education.

We are grateful for the opportunity to provide a faith-based education to more than 180,000 students in Alberta and for the teachers, administrators, parents, students, priests, and parishioners who are committed to Catholic education. While the Alberta Bishops' commitment to Catholic education is resolute as they actively work to ensure the future of Catholic education, everyone has a role to play in sustaining the future of Catholic education. Religion and the Catholic faith are integral values in the education and formation of students. All are invited to wear blue in support of World Catholic Education Day on Thursday, May 18 to publicly promote and strengthen the gift of publicly funded Catholic education in our province.

This year, Edmonton youth were invited to share their work at a regional showcase at Lumen Christi Catholic Education Centre, to talk with visitors, educators, and politicians about how they are taking action to turn injustice toward justice. The *Be an Upstander* program empowers students to recognize injustice and use their strengths to create change. Held annually in Winnipeg at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights, the showcase amplifies student voices and work for human rights. There was 50+ students participating from three Edmonton

Catholic Schools; St. Pius X, Holy Family, and Sister Annata Brockman Catholic Schools. They spent many weeks learning about how they can take an action in their world to be upstanders themselves. Students presented on many topics, including houselessness in Edmonton, period poverty, self-esteem in boys, youth mental health, the link between food and environment, and more. Catholic tradition teaches that human dignity can be protected and a healthy community can be achieved only if human rights are protected and responsibilities are met. The *Be an Upstander* program brings this area of Catholic Social Teaching to life for students and is an excellent example of our Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, and Anti-racism Strategic Plan in action.

The theme for this year, *Let your Light Shine Forth*, beautifully captures the vocation of motherhood. Let us give thanks to God for all mother figures who wholeheartedly embrace the call to shine a light for all children towards a full life. We celebrate all those who embrace the role of mother in our lives, who have filled our lives with so much patience, kindness and joyful love.

I want to close by saying that I am committed to making decisions that are in the best interests of our students and I am very interested in engaging with members of our school communities. If you have ideas you feel will contribute to our collective success or questions about any ECSD educational topics, I welcome any questions or comments you have regarding educational matters and look forward to chatting with you. I can be reached at 780-231-6312, or by e-mail at Laura.Thibert@ecsd.net.



Trustee Laura Thibert

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GENE ZWOZDESKY SCHOLARSHIP

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SCHOLARSHIPS
AVAILABLE

Applicants must:

- Be graduating from Grade 12 in the given year
- Be an Edmonton resident that resides within the boundaries south of the Whitemud Drive NW and east of Gateway Boulevard NW in Edmonton.

Submissions will be evaluated on the following:

- Career goals and plans
- Community and volunteer service
- Scholastic achievement
- An understanding of MCARFA and the legacy of Gene Zwozdesky.

See "mcarfa.com" for additional information.

4540 - 50 street, Edmonton 780-461-9815
email - golf@mwgolf.ca



Gene Zwozdesky (1948 - 2019) served as a Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Mill Creek from 1993 to 2015, and was the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly from 2012 to 2015. He also served as Minister of Community Development, Minister of Education, Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Minister of Health. Zwozdesky has won numerous awards from cultural and arts organizations, as well as the 2005 Alberta Centennial Medal.

GENE ZWOZDESKY SCHOLARSHIP

Purpose of the Scholarship

The purpose of this scholarship is to assist graduating Grade 12 students to pursue post-secondary training.

Nature of the Scholarship

Two scholarships of \$1,500.00 each will be awarded.

Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be graduating from Grade 12 in June 2023.
- Be an Edmonton resident that resides within the boundaries south of the Whitemud Drive NW and east of Gateway Boulevard NW in Edmonton.

Selection Criteria & Procedure (maximum of 3 pages type written in total)

Submissions will be reviewed by a committee of MCARFA executives and will be evaluated on the following:

- Career goals and plans
- Community and volunteer service
- Scholastic achievement
- An understanding of how MCARFA has contributed to the Mill Woods and Meadows communities over the last 46 years.
- Short paragraph on the legacy of Gene Zwozdesky and his contributions to Alberta

Information for Applicants:

Please attach a short letter that includes (maximum of 3 type written pages in total):

- Your career goals and plans and intended use of the scholarship
- Your community and volunteer service
- Your scholastic achievements
- A short narrative on how MCARFA has contributed to the Mill Woods and Meadows communities over last 46 years.
- Short paragraph on the legacy of Gene Zwozdesky and his contributions to Alberta

**Deadline date for submission is 5:00 p.m.
on Thursday, June 15, 2023.**

See "mcarfa.com" for additional information.

**Email: golf@mwgolf.ca
4540 - 50 Street, Edmonton, Alberta, T6L 6P6
Phone: 780-461-9815**

"I am YEG Arts" Series: Cindy Baker

By Jessica Telford

Cindy Baker: a contemporary artist with an interdisciplinary research-intensive practice, working at the forefront of queer, gender, race, disability, fat and art discourses. From early on as a performance artist with what she describes as a "taboo body," body politics and fat liberation have been integral to her artistic practice. Cindy's next project not only pairs exceedingly well with some of her most-oft visited themes, it will also exercise her well-honed research chops. The Edmonton-based artist was recently recommended for the Coronation Recreation Centre public art project. Currently under construction, the Coronation Recreation Centre will serve as a community hub for central-north Edmonton that meets the leisure, health and wellness needs of residents of all ages. For the project, Cindy will create site-specific freestanding sculpture(s) for the facility's large exterior entrance plaza.

This time for the blog, we talked with artist Cindy Baker about her initial plans for her new public art commission and got the scoop on her solo show currently on at dc3 Arts Projects.

Tell us about yourself and your connection to Edmonton.

I'm a queer, fat, disabled, contemporary, interdisciplinary and performance artist based here in Edmonton. I was born and raised in Leduc, and I moved to Edmonton in the 90s to go to school at the University of Alberta, where I got a Bachelor of Fine Arts. And I worked at the Fine Arts Building Gallery, the Works Art & Design Festival, Latitude 53 Gallery, Harcourt House Artist Run Centre, and Metro Cinema. So, I was deeply involved in the arts community before I decided it was time to move away. I was away for several years but Edmonton's home to my family, my support system, all my networks of people, my communities, and I just couldn't stay away.

How did you get your start as an artist? Was it always plan A for you?

My parents were both teachers, so I always thought that I had to grow up to be a teacher too, but I always really wanted to be an artist. My mom's sister was an artist and I just idolized her and everything she did. And I was always drawing, painting, sewing, sculpting, crafting — doing crafts and art of all kinds. I never had a preferred medium, but I was just always making and working with my hands, so I always knew that no matter what I did for a living, I was always going to be an artist. I don't think I ever expected to make a living at art, but there is no way that I wasn't going to make art throughout my life.

Is there a narrative or discourse you find yourself returning to in your work?

I have a few major themes running through my work. To start with, the body, especially fat bodies and othered bodies are a major theme in my work.



"Things I've Forgotten", performance at Southern Alberta Art Gallery 2018

Photo: Jane Edmundson

As a performance artist with a fat body and — what I call a taboo body — I knew it was always going to be read into the content of my work, so very early on in my career I made a point to become involved in body politics and fat liberation, to really inform the work and enrich the content. Productivity is another theme running through my work, questioning and resisting the moral imperatives of body, health and self-care that imply there are good bodies and bad bodies. That to strive towards being a good little productive cog in the wheel is a moral good. Therefore those who can't, or who fail to be this really strident definition of productive from our work lives to how we enact self-care, are inferior humans and less worthy of care or social support. So that's one of the major themes I think that has run through my work in the last decade.

And there are a lot of beds in my art and not on purpose, that's just kind of how it goes, beds and relaxation and toys and leisure activities like hot tubs and tricycles and swimming pools. I just keep coming back to rest and that idea of resisting productivity in the name of privileging and honouring the body's needs and care for one another being just as important as self-care.

These are subjects that have become very topical in recent years, have you noticed a difference in the reception to your work?

I think my work used to be a bit ahead of the curve and now I think it's very sort of right in what's being talked about in the world right now, especially to do with self-care and these neoliberal impulses towards productivity. And the world falling apart has us all questioning what we should be doing with our lives and our time. I think, especially since the pandemic

started, we've all been rethinking what it is that we want to do with our time and our lives.

Tell us about the Coronation Recreation Centre public art commission that you've recently been awarded. What drew you to the project?

I'm really excited about it. I think the fact that the work will be connected to a leisure centre, which is also paradoxically basically a triathlon training facility, meshes so well with the themes I come back to again and again in my work. There's nothing leisurely about athletic training. It's work, and it should be valued as work, even if it's not the productive kind of capitalist labour that we've been taught to value. And on the flip side, I want to talk about leisure in a way that disconnects it from any need to perform, to perform work especially. I want to honor those who train and who engage in leisure activities as well, and those who can't or don't or won't, for any number of really valid reasons connected to bodies and time and desire and priorities and ability. Whether that's a body ability, financial ability, or what have you.

Is this your first foray into public art? Tell us about how it overlaps or differs from your overall art practice.

It's not exactly my first foray into public art, considering that my performance practice is often interventive and happens in public spaces, and is meant to be encountered by and engaged with by a general public. But it's definitely my first permanent public sculpture project. I don't consider myself a sculptor in the traditional sense, but I do make a lot of objects.

And in my object making practice, no matter how hard I try, I can't seem to stop making big things that really have a presence. So, I do feel like this project is a natural extension of my practice and hopefully a new direction for my practice to grow into.

Tell us about your interdisciplinary research-based approach. Will it be an important part of your creative process for this commission?

Yeah, I don't think any other project that I've done has put my research chops to the test as much as this one will. It'll be a really integral part of the creative process for this project. In research-creation practices in general, the research exists as much in the making as in engaging in traditional research methods. Which for me, and for this project specifically, means that all the making I've done in my practice to date exists as a body of research that's led me to this commission and will really inform and shape the work, and then in turn, the making of this work is its own research that will lead me to my next projects; be they new artworks, journal publications, conference presentations or incorporation into my university teachings. They're all one big whole in my work.

As you're working on this commission is it spurring on new ideas or potential new directions that you'll take from here in your practice?

As I develop the ideas for this project, I can see the threads coming out of other work that I've done. I don't think that that's unique, I think most artists have common threads that run through the work. But it's really interesting as I've grown and progressed in

Continued on page 8

Cindy Baker: "I think Edmonton is exciting in general"

Continued from page 7

my career. It used to be that things felt very individual and from one project to the next, I didn't necessarily see those threads, but now I really see them throughout all the work.

What does community mean to you and where do you find it? What will your community engagement approach be for this public art project?

Community for me is family, whether that's blood family or chosen family, social networks and support systems. Community is my stomping grounds, workplaces, and favorite haunts. So, I find community where I find my people and that's for me, artists, fat community, queer community, thinkers and lovers of culture. For this project, more than talking to geographic community, I want to consult with people and organizations that are attached to communities that are traditionally underserved by public art projects and by recreation centres too; people with reduced access to financial resources, people who feel disconnected from that kind of facility, queer people and disabled people, people with mental health concerns. All those whose various demographics put them into the categories of those who don't fit those definitions of moral good, as defined by their abilities or their bodies or their productivity.

Tell us about your current solo exhibit at dc3 Art Projects.

The show is called *Things I've Forgotten*, and it's part of an ongoing work about my dreams. I spent about 10 years collecting a journal of my dreams. I would wake up every morning and write down my dream from the night before, and then never look back on it again. After 10 years I decided to start rereading my dreams and I was fascinated by the fact that they were so old and had long been forgotten because even though I wrote them down, I would forget about them shortly afterwards, like I think most of us do. I would read these dreams and they would be completely new to me and were completely foreign. So, I got to experience them for the first time, but then slowly the memory of the dream came back to me, and I could see all the images vividly and hear the sounds and smell the smells. It was as though the dreams had really happened and I was remembering them as a memory and at the same time I was kind of going through having heard stories about this trauma that happened when I was a kid but not remembering it, and I thought what if by reliving these dreams and pulling them to the surface what if I could bring this trauma to the surface as well? So, it sounds a bit like it was meant to be therapeutic, but I'm an artist and nothing is quite so literal, so I went about this

project of working with my dreams to try and change myself as a person and see how I could be affected by this.

One of the works in the show is a collaboration by Scott Smallwood and me — he's a local audio artist — and together we recorded 20 different voice actors reciting my 10-year journal of dreams and created this really beautiful cloud of sound of all these overlapping voices, it's an 8-channel audio installation of all these overlapping voices. It's difficult to pick out any individual dream or any individual voice, but it does create this soundscape when you go in, that adds to the surrealness I think and beauty of it. It's very dreamlike.

What excites you most about the Edmonton arts scene right now?

I think Edmonton is exciting in general. I've only been back in a permanent way for a few years, but I think growth and change is what's most exciting to me. The arts scene here kind of feels like it's breathing and changing and growing and maybe that's exciting to me because I feel like I'm changing and growing too, which is exciting in its own way and makes me feel connected to Edmonton. I have to say that I love Edmonton cinema, theatre, festivals, music and dance, but my heart really belongs to visual and performance art. So, the galleries and the artists and the public art are what really grounds me to this city.

Want more YEG Arts Stories? We'll be sharing them here and on social media using the hashtag #IamYegArts. Follow along! Keep up with Cindy on Instagram, Facebook, or visit her website at <https://www.cindy-baker.ca>.

About Cindy Baker

Cindy Baker is a contemporary artist based in Western Canada whose work engages with queer, gender, race, disability, fat, and art discourses. Committed to ethical community engagement and critical social enquiry, Baker's interdisciplinary research-based practice draws upon 25 years working, volunteering, and organizing in the communities of which she is part. She moves fluidly between the arts, humanities, and social sciences, emphasizing the theoretical and conceptual over material concerns. Baker holds an MFA from the University of Lethbridge where she received a SSHRC grant for her research in performance in the absence of the artist's body; she has exhibited and performed across Canada and internationally. Helping found important community and advocacy organizations over the course of her career, Baker continues to maintain volunteer leadership roles across her communities.

This interview was first published on the blog of the Edmonton Arts Council: <https://yegarts.tumblr.com/>

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A better future for you and your family.



Jasvir Deol
Edmonton - Meadows



Rod Loyola
Edmonton - Ellerslie



Christina Gray
Edmonton - Mill Woods

Are you interested in policing?

Do you know a high school aged teen who is interested in exploring a career in policing? The Edmonton Police Service Youth Recruit Academy may be for them. From July 4 to 7, successful applicants will be exposed to presentations, police inspired fitness, and a behind the scenes look at EPS. Run by the EPS School Resource Officer Unit, students will get the chance to ask questions and hear personal stories from serving officers. Units like the Forensics Unit, Tactical Unit, K9 and

Air 1 will be part of the student experience. Youth recruits will experience a graduation on the final day for their parents to watch. Students who attend an Edmonton or area high school and have an interest in policing are eligible for applying. Past Youth Recruit Academy students have gone on to be EPS members. Deadline to apply is May 19, 2023. Applicants must be available for the full four days and have their own transportation. Apply online at edmontonpolice.ca/yra



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Embracing palliative care

Life circumstances transform caregiver into a palliative care advocate

By Ben Freeland

Bill Zheng was only 17 years old and in high school when he suddenly found himself in the position of being his mother's primary caregiver and health-care advocate. She had been diagnosed with decompensated cirrhosis (severe scarring of the liver) resulting from Hepatitis B. With his father working long hours to support the family, his grandparents unable to speak English and no siblings to lighten the load, it fell to Bill to help his mother — who suffered from schizophrenia and also spoke limited English — navigate the health system.

After his mother had spent half a year in hospital with no sign of improvement, Bill began investigating alternatives to the aggressive treatment she was receiving. When he heard in passing about palliative care, he took it upon himself to learn more and to eventually set up palliative homecare for his mother. His first meeting with the palliative care physician was a breath of fresh air, he says.

"All of a sudden, the conversation was about quality of life, about ensuring that the things most important to [my mother] were prioritized while care continued."

"In my mother's case, I knew that what she valued most was being at home and eating the kinds of food she liked, and I was able to advocate for that. While at the very end she had to be admitted to hospice, most of this time was at home. I'm happy that she got the kind of care I knew she wanted."

Bill's mother died in May of 2022, a year and a half following her diagnosis. The journey of being her caregiver led Bill to become an advocate for palliative care. Now 19 and a nursing student at the University of Calgary, he volunteers with the public panel for the Covenant Health Palliative Institute's Palliative Care Public Awareness project. He contributed his personal story to an online module called *Understanding Palliative Care* launched on the project's Compassionate Alberta website this month (compassionatealberta.ca).

Bill's story is one of incredible resolve and determination to do the right thing, as well as of the steep learning curve so many people face when dealing with a serious illness for the first time. He shared it in the *Understanding Palliative Care* module to spread the message that palliative care is beneficial to anyone with a chronic condition and should be made available to anyone who might benefit from it.

"Palliative care is a wraparound service that covers social services together with medical treatment," he explains. "It really takes into consideration a person's social situation — their family structure, personal con-



Bill Zheng's mother, Xiaojing Guo, relaxes at home during her period of home-based palliative care.

Photos: Bill Zheng

ducts, financial situation and so on. When we first entered palliative care, I had no idea what to expect, but the first question the palliative physician asked was, "What do you want to see at this very critical time, through end-of-life care?" And from that point on, we felt very supported — from pain management to developing a consistent schedule for hospital visits to transportation — on every level."

Bill also asserts that accessing palliative care shouldn't be viewed as giving up, noting that this view is particularly prevalent in his own Chinese culture, in which taboos around addressing end-of-life issues often result in patients continuing to undergo aggressive treatments when they have exceeded their medical usefulness.

"Palliative care is not a death sentence. It's patient-focused and patient-centred care that really values not just western medical interventions but also the values of the patient and their family and loved ones. It's not giving up. It gives you a better chance of living not only better but longer. And the earlier it's accessed, the better. In my mother's case, if I'd known more about palliative care beforehand, I would have pushed for it sooner, but I'm thankful she got the care she deserved."

Bill may have been thrust into a role that few teenagers find themselves in, but thankfully he didn't have to walk this road alone. He is grateful to the medical professionals and many others who helped him navigate this difficult time in his life.

"I had a lot of support," he says. "First of all, there was the hepatologist who introduced me to the idea of palliative care. There was the palliative care physician who talked me through the options. The palliative homecare nurse was the most loving, caring person you could hope for and was very much on top of everything in terms of referrals and forwarding information

my way. Thanks to her, we were able to do so much at home. I also had a grief counsellor, who helped me deal with the bereavement process."

He also notes that he received tremendous support from family friends and others within his own network.

"Transportation was a challenge because I didn't drive at the time, my father was unavailable and my grandparents couldn't drive, but thankfully I was able to get rides to and from the hospital from family friends. I was also able to crash at a family friend's house from time to time when I needed an escape from home. Also, all my teachers knew what was going on and were very supportive. I was excused from exams because of my mother's death."

This support, plus the knowledge that he had been a strong advocate for his mother, made the grieving process a lot easier than it otherwise would have been, he says.

"Thanks to my grief counsellor, and my own research, I understood anticipatory grief, and by the end, I had pretty much processed everything. The grieving process was made easier by the fact that I had been such a strong advocate — both for my mother and for myself."

About Understanding Palliative Care

Understanding Palliative Care is a multimedia learning module developed by the Palliative Institute to improve public understanding of palliative care in Alberta. Inspired by a public educational module created by the All-Ireland Institute of Hospice and Palliative Care, it features clips from interviews with three people who have personally benefited from palliative care.

Understanding Palliative Care was developed in consultation with palliative care specialists from nursing, medicine and social work, with feedback from the public panel incorporated. The module highlights four areas of support — physical, emotional, social and spiritual — that palliative care offers as well as the benefits of early palliative care, which can be received along with other treatments to cure or control a disease. Its messaging is overwhelmingly positive, with the goal of encouraging people to appreciate the benefits of this oftentimes poorly understood area of health care.

To access *Understanding Palliative Care*, visit the Compassionate Alberta website (compassionatealberta.ca).

Ben Freeland works as a Communications Advisor for the Covenant Health Palliative Institute.

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



Bill and his mother pose with Bill's acceptance letter from the University of Calgary School of Nursing.

**The next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic
will be published on June 15, 2023.
The deadline is Friday, June 9.**

Rod Loyola (NDP), Candidate in Edmonton-Ellerslie

Rod Loyola has served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Ellerslie since 2015. He was reelected in 2019, and is seeking a third term in the May 29 provincial election. Loyola placed third in the 2014 Alberta New Democratic Party leadership race, and he was the Official opposition critic for Infrastructure.

What is your education and work experience?

I graduated from the University of Alberta in 1999, with a Bachelor of Arts in Cultural and Economic Anthropology and History. Following that, I worked as an academic program coordinator for University of Alberta International. However, my career path shifted when I was elected as the president of the Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA), the union representing University of Alberta workers. As NASA president, I prioritized advocating for staff rights and well-being. Throughout my various roles, I have remained dedicated to making a positive impact, amplifying voices, and fostering an inclusive and thriving community for all.

What is your age and family status?

At 49, I am happily engaged, raising my two young boys in Mill Woods.

What have you done for the community of Mill Woods prior to running for office?

For over 45 years, I have called Mill Woods home. Before becoming an MLA, I co-founded the Mill Woods Artists Collective, highlighting our vibrant art scene. Additionally, I served as an Executive Board Member and President of the Memoria Viva Society, celebrating my diverse cultur-



Rod Loyola
Alberta New Democratic Party

al heritage. As Vice-President of the Knottwood Community League, I worked towards improving our neighborhood's quality of life, fostering inclusivity. My deep connection to Mill Woods drives my commitment to uplift the community, amplify its strengths, and address its needs.

The Grey Nuns Community Hospital, which opened in 1988, is not adequate anymore to serve southeast Edmonton. What should be done to improve the existing infrastructure and strengthen healthcare services in southeast Edmonton?

The Alberta NDP plans to address the pressure on Grey Nuns Hospital by building a new South Edmonton hospital. Despite population growth, Danielle Smith and the UCP have neglected the area, resulting in a shortage of over 400 beds. The UCP's delay in constructing the new hospital worsened the situation. Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP are dedicated to investing in public healthcare and prioritizing accessibility. I am committed, together with my colleagues, to establishing a new South Edmonton hospital and ensuring that over a million Albertans have access to family doctors, bringing accessible healthcare closer to their homes.

There is more homelessness and crime in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to help vulnerable people and make our community safer?

Addressing the challenges faced by houseless individuals requires collaboration between provincial and municipal governments. Significant investments are needed to equip cities with resources to tackle these issues. Danielle Smith and the UCP's disre-

gard for Edmonton's housing appeals is disheartening. I am committed to supporting Edmonton residents by prioritizing access to shelters and tailored programs, addressing homelessness, mental health, and addiction challenges. Together, we will create a compassionate and supportive environment.

Community leagues in southeast Edmonton do a lot of good work and offer many valuable programs for residents and their families, but many of their grant applications are denied. What should be done to improve support for community leagues?

Having been involved in community leagues, I appreciate their contributions and feel privileged representing an area with active leagues. To support community leagues, fostering communication between provincial and municipal governments is crucial. This collaboration ensures funding for hyperlocal programming and prevents grant denials. By facilitating this communication, we enable community leagues to provide high-quality programs for local residents.

There are not enough services for new immigrants and other newcomers in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to serve that part of the growing population better?

Insufficient services for newcomers is a pressing concern. Non-profit organizations assisting immigrants need additional funding to expand and enhance programs. Effectively serving the immigrant population requires the establishment of sustainable funding solutions. By providing resources to address their specific challenges, we can help facilitate the settlement process, including offering support for accreditation and professional recognition. Partnerships between government agencies, community organizations, and educational institutions will also support our growing immigrant population. By working together, we can create a supportive and inclusive environment.

What are other important issues?

Throughout this campaign, I have listened to my constituents and identified their key concerns: rising cost of living, healthcare system, and underfunded schools. A recent report highlighted the decline in purchasing power under Danielle Smith and the UCP, emphasizing the need to restore competitiveness and create well-paying jobs. Affordable daycare, specifically in Ellerslie, is a pressing issue, and I aim to achieve a \$10-a-day daycare pro-

gram. Expanding schools, including a new high school, is crucial for the community, and I will actively advocate for their establishment. These priorities drive my commitment to a brighter future for generations to come.

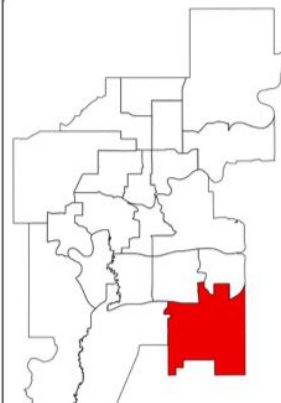
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The candidate for the United Conservative Party (UCP) in Edmonton-Ellerslie is Ranjit Bath. The Mill Woods Mosaic sent Mr. Bath the same questions, but he did not provide answers.

The only other candidate in Edmonton-Ellerslie is Angela Stretch who is running for the Wildrose Loyalty Coalition (WLC).

Edmonton-Ellerslie



Edmonton-Ellerslie consists of the south-east corner of Edmonton, with a blend of established and new communities. It includes most of the Ellerslie, Horizon, and Laurel community leagues, as well as the Pollard Meadows and Crawford Plains neighborhoods in the Southwood community league.



Ranjit Bath
United Conservative Party

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

Jasvir Deol (NDP), Candidate in Edmonton-Meadows

Jasvir Deol has served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Meadows since 2019 and is seeking reelection in the May 29 provincial election. Deol was the Official opposition critic for Multiculturalism.

What is your education and work experience?

I have worked in construction, driven a taxi, and then worked as an insurance broker and small business owner for a number of years.

What is your age and family status?

I am 53 years old and married with two sons.

What have you done for the community of Mill Woods prior to running for office?

I have been a community volunteer for years. I have been a board member in different non-profit organizations and community projects in my community. I have also organized community sports tournaments for years and engaged the youth in my community on various projects.

The Grey Nuns Community Hospital, which opened in 1988, is not adequate anymore to serve southeast Edmonton. What should be done to improve the existing infrastructure and strengthen healthcare services in southeast Edmonton?

We need the South Edmonton hospital built immediately. Construction of this hospital was to start in 2020, but the UCP delayed it, forcing families to continue to travel further and wait longer. The pandemic proved that Danielle Smith and the UCP cannot be trusted with our healthcare. This is why we need models like the Family Health Teams, which will allow Albertans to get the care they require



Jasvir Deol
Alberta New Democratic Party

when they need it at a one stop shop. From nurse practitioners to pharmacists, this model eases the burden on hospital ERs and ambulances and makes healthcare more accessible for Albertans across the province.

There is more homelessness and crime in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to help vulnerable people and make our community safer?

Housing is a human right; we cannot think of a plan to house our most vulnerable without factoring in mental health and the organizations that help with these issues. This is why we will expand support for mental health ser-

vices, while ensuring our shelters and organizations have the funds to continue helping our community. We must also further work to reform Alberta's income support and rental supplement programs.

Community leagues in southeast Edmonton do a lot of good work and offer many valuable programs for residents and their families, but many of their grant applications are denied. What should be done to improve support for community leagues?

When the UCP was elected, they cut many community grants, which in return, made it difficult for community leagues to receive the grants they require. I was a part of the exciting announcement which introduced the Hometown Alberta fund. This fund would release more grants for communities to upgrade sports facilities and other community infrastructure projects.

There are not enough services for new immigrants and other newcomers in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to serve that part of the growing population better?

During my time as the Official Critic for Multiculturalism, I spoke to many newcomers about how we can better support them in the workforce, and from those conversations, I heard about how the UCP government needed to improve transparency with timelines and reporting. For our newcomer community to flourish, the Alberta NDP and I are committing to improving the Alberta Advantage Immigration Program (AAIP). This means creating pathways so applicants can apply to programs that are applicable to them while also working on the foreign credential recognition through regulating the timelines and creating a six-month Credentialing and Immigration Task Force. We would further increase the access to low-interest grants for credential upgrading. In Edmonton-

Meadows, I know we have many internationally trained healthcare workers who face barriers to practice here, so the Alberta NDP and I will work towards increasing eligibility and access for our internationally trained medical graduates.

What are other important issues?

We need to invest more in our schools. Class sizes are too large, and our teachers and students feel unsupported under the UCP. An NDP government will commit to hiring more teachers and support staff and building 70 more schools across the province.

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For answers from the candidate of the United Conservative Party (UCP) in Edmonton-Meadows, Amritpal Singh Matharu, please see page 13.

Other candidates in Edmonton-Ellerslie are Corinne Benson of the Communist Party of Alberta, Christopher Khan of the Green Party of Alberta, and Klaas Werkema of the Wildrose Loyalty Coalition.


Edmonton-Meadows



Edmonton-Meadows is located in south-east Edmonton, with a blend of established and new communities. This district fully includes The Meadows, Burnewood, and Fulton Meadows community leagues, as well as the Minchau and Bisset neighbourhoods in the Ridgewood community league, and the Daly Grove neighbourhood in the Southwood community league, as well as the Aster neighbourhood.

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Mill Woods Mosaic



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Amritpal Singh Matharu (UCP), Candidate in Edmonton-Meadows

Amritpal Singh Matharu is the candidate of the United Conservative Party (UCP) for the constituency of Edmonton-Meadows. He was the candidate for the Alberta Party in the 2019 provincial election and was able to get 2,093 votes (10.21%).

What is your education and work experience?

I went through the public education system and completed my high school diploma from McNally Composite High School. I have a post-secondary degree from McEwan University in business (B.Com). I currently manage a business in the trades: TJ's Auto Brakes & Tires.

What is your age and family status?

I am 29 years old. My family has been involved in the community at various capacities, this includes both immediate and extended. I am engaged and my wedding is coming up later this summer.

What have you done for the community of Edmonton-Meadows prior to running for office?

I have been involved in different organizations either as a volunteer or organizing committee member. The most prominent event that most readers would know is the Edmonton Nagar Kirtan (Sikh Parade). Last year the crowd was well over 60,000 people, this is a logistical and time-sensitive challenge to plan and execute. My friend and I have done smaller projects to help those in need such as making and packing lunches for people in need, or organizing socks and undergarment drives for the Hope Mission.

The Grey Nuns Community Hospital, which opened in 1988, is not adequate anymore to serve southeast Edmonton. What should



Amritpal Singh Matharu
United Conservative Party

be done to improve the existing infrastructure and strengthen healthcare services in southeast Edmonton?

This is very true and why the UCP government committed funding for the development of a new South Edmonton Hospital in budget 2023. In fact in budget 2023 the UCP government allocated more funding to health care than any government in history. In recent months that same government hired 2,500 new doctors and nurses including nurses to take charge of patients arriving by ambulance allowing EMS crews to get back on the

road. This has virtually eliminated EMS code reds. The UCP and I are committed to ensuring Albertans will receive the medical care they need when they need it and that no Albertan will ever have to pay to see a doctor or for the treatment they need. As MLA for Edmonton-Meadows I will continue to advocate for the speedy advancement of the South Edmonton Hospital project.

There is more homelessness and crime in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to help vulnerable people and make our community safer?

The UCP has taken key steps to protect public safety and to assist those in need. These measures include the establishment of the Edmonton Taskforce to address crime and social disorder including the root causes. Your UCP government has made additions treatment both free and more readily available and increased support for those suffering from mental health issues. At the same time the UCP government has taken or committed to taking steps such as funding for 100 new police officers in Edmonton and Calgary and ankle monitors for dangerous offenders on bail. We have also demanded and continue to advocate that the federal government fix our revolving-door bail system that is allowing violent offenders back on the streets.

Community leagues in southeast Edmonton do a lot of good work and offer many valuable programs for residents and their families, but many of their grant applications are denied. What should be done to improve support for community leagues?

As MLA for Edmonton-Meadows I would work with community leagues to assist them with their grant applications and advocate for them.

Community leagues are an integral part of communities in Meadows and I would be honoured to support their work.

There are not enough services for new immigrants and other newcomers in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to serve that part of the growing population better?

It is important that government is accessible to the people it serves, as an MLA I would advocate for locally accessible services. One of the best ways we can help newcomers is by helping them have their foreign credentials recognised. I will enthusiastically advocate for streamlining the process of credential verification and recognition as we have recently done for nurses seeing 1,400 with foreign credentials approved to work in Alberta in April.

What are other important issues?

Affordability is an issue affecting all Albertans right now. The UCP has been successful in keeping inflation in Alberta to the lowest level in Canada, but we can't rest there. We need to protect Albertans from sudden price increases such as the cap on insurance rates and the fuel tax holiday. We have also helped families and seniors with affordability payments of 100 dollars per child or senior. We must continue to remain vigilant and I will advocate for government action to protect families in the event of sudden rate increases.

Contact information:

Website: amritpalsinghmatharu.ca
Email: info@amritpalsinghmatharu.ca
Twitter: twitter.com/MatharuAmritpal
Facebook: www.facebook.com/AmritpalForMeadows
Phone number: 780-700-6331
Campaign Office:
1934 - 38 Avenue NW, Edmonton

Prime Minister marks 100 years since the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau on May 14 issued the following statement to mark 100 years since the Chinese Immigration Act of 1923:

"The Chinese Immigration Act of 1923, also known as the Chinese Exclusion Act, was a dark time in Canada's history that has lasting impacts today. Along with the Chinese Immigration Act of 1885, which imposed a head tax on Chinese newcomers to Canada, the racist 1923 legislation almost completely prevented people from China from entering Canada for 24 years. It remained in place until its eventual repeal on this day in 1947. This systemic discrimination and racist policy separated loved ones, impoverished families, and reinforced prejudice against people of Chinese origin in Canada – scars that would endure for generations.

"Chinese communities in Canada deserved better – they still do. That's why, 100 years since this terrible legislation was enacted, we must continue to fight anti-Asian racism, violence, and hate. The Government of Canada is working to tackle an alarming rise in

anti-Asian racism. To help us address the unique needs of Asian communities, the Federal Anti-Racism Secretariat has worked with Asian community organizations to co-develop an official definition of anti-Asian racism and the federal government is investing in initiatives like the establishment of a national coalition to support Asian Canadian communities.

"Diversity is Canada's strength. As we celebrate Asian Heritage Month, we recognize the important contributions of Chinese communities in Canada to shaping our national fabric. From the late 1800s, when many Chinese immigrants came to Canada and risked and sacrificed their lives to help build the Canadian Pacific Railway, to today, as remarkable Chinese Canadians like Canada's 26th Governor General, the Right Honourable Adrienne Clarkson, serve our country in immeasurable ways, people of Chinese origin across Canada have shaped our history and they continue to make this a better country.

"As we reflect with regret on the shameful legacy of the Chinese

Exclusion Act, we recommit to learning from the mistakes of our past to do better today. Together, we will fight anti-Asian racism and all forms of intolerance, hate, and discrimination to build a stronger, more inclusive, and more equitable Canada for future generations."

Asian Heritage Month

On May 2, the Honourable Mary Ng, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development, issued the following statement:

"This year, we celebrate 20 years of taking the time to highlight the history, achievements, and contributions, past and present, of people of Asian descent in Canada while continuing our fight against anti-Asian racism.

"From being foundational to the building of our country for more than a century to employing thousands of Canadians in their small businesses today and supporting our communities as professionals, teachers, caregivers, and essential workers, Asian Canadians have contributed so much from

coast to coast to coast.

"We should all take time to learn more about Asian Canadian history and recognize the incredible contributions Asian Canadians have made and continue to make to our country. And while there is much to celebrate in the history of Canada's Asian communities, we must also recognize that this history has been painful at times and that Asian Canadians continue to be targets of racism and discrimination.

"Such incidents, no matter where they happen or what form they take, subtle or overt, have no place in our society. And yet during the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, we saw a worrying rise in racist behaviour against people of Asian descent.

"These racist behaviours and beliefs erode our greatest strength, the quality that is reflected in our communities and that drives the success of our businesses at home and abroad: our diversity.

"This Asian Heritage Month, join me in embracing our heritage, raising our voices, and standing together to speak out against discrimination in every corner of our country."

Christina Gray (NDP), Candidate in Edmonton-Mill Woods

Christina Gray has served as the Member of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Mill Woods since 2015. She was reelected in 2019, and is seeking a third term in the May 29 provincial election. Gray was Alberta's Minister of Labour from 2015 to 2019, and Official Opposition Critic for Labour and Immigration since 2019.

What is your education and work experience?

I have a Bachelor of Psychology degree from Concordia University of Edmonton and a Microsoft .NET Developer diploma from DevStudios. I have worked as a Developer, Instructor, Business Analyst & Project Manager for several small & mid-size IT systems development companies in the Edmonton area. I have been the MLA for Edmonton-Mill Woods for the last eight years, and I was the Minister of Labour, Minister of Immigration, and Minister responsible for Democratic Renewal in the last Rachel Notley government.

What is your age and family status?

I am 44 years old and married. My husband and I have lived in the Hillview community of Mill Woods for over 20 years.

What have you done for the community of Mill Woods prior to running for office?

I was a volunteer board member for the Woodvale Community League, helping with website design & participating in board governance. I was a member of the Mill Woods Crime-reduction Council. I was also a board member & board Chair for the Edmonton Transit Systems Advisory Board (ETSAB). I was also a volunteer phone call taker with the Distress Line.



Raman Athwal
United Conservative Party



Christina Gray
Alberta New Democratic Party

The Grey Nuns Community Hospital, which opened in 1988, is not adequate anymore to serve southeast Edmonton. What should be done to improve the existing infrastructure and strengthen healthcare services in southeast Edmonton?

The Grey Nuns hospital is currently seeing demand that is way beyond what it was designed for. Part of the problem is Danielle Smith and the UCP's decision to delay a new hospital in south Edmonton, which would greatly reduce the pressure on the Grey Nuns. An Alberta NDP government led by Rachel Notley would once again prioritize the new south Edmonton hospital, along with proper funding and supports for our Grey Nuns, resulting in better hospital care for everyone in Mill Woods and across greater south Edmonton.

There is more homelessness and crime in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to help vulnerable people and make our community safer?

The increase in crime during the UCP's time in office has been extremely noticeable. Danielle Smith and UCP cut all manner of supports for the most vulnerable in Alberta. The Alberta NDP will restore investment to programs that support the vulnerable, helping to keep folks in their homes and to reconnect those living rough, with a place to live. We will invest in teams that pair increased community policing efforts with the appropriate support workers.

Community leagues in southeast Edmonton do a lot of good work and offer many valuable programs for residents and their families, but many of their grant applications are

denied. What should be done to improve support for community leagues?

Our local community leagues in Mill Woods are some of the best in the city! I was proud to be an important link as your Mill Woods MLA to help get the Government of Alberta's share of the funding that built the amazing new Community League Hall in the Knottwood Community. To this day, Mill Woods Community Leagues benefit from the renovation funding from the last Rachel Notley NDP government. Recently, Rachel Notley and Meadows Alberta NDP candidate Jasvir Deol announced our Hometown Alberta plan, which would see an increase of \$150 million in funding for community infrastructure.

There are not enough services for new immigrants and other newcomers in southeast Edmonton. What should be done to serve that part of the growing population better?

There are many services available to newcomers across southeast Edmonton! The challenge is connecting folks with the right organization for their needs. To help do this, as MLA I have repeatedly hosted an event I call the "Mill Woods Resource Fair", where my office provides a space for support organizations to come together with the public and showcase their services. In the last Alberta NDP government, during my term as Minister of Immigration, we made improvements to the Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program, which helped to speed up immigration for the skilled workers that our economy urgently needed. We also moved the Service Alberta centre, to its current location at the Mill Woods Town Centre, to make it more accessible to all those who require its services.

What are other important issues?

This election is about the future of Alberta's public healthcare. On the one hand, Danielle Smith and her UCP want to keep tearing apart our public health system. Danielle Smith has spoken repeatedly about moving towards a private health care system, where you pay to see your doctor and worry about your health insurance. This would negatively impact every single family in Mill Woods. On the other hand, you have Rachel and the Alberta NDP, who are committing to reinvest in a renewed public healthcare system. We will connect over one million Albertans with a family doctor, and invest in Family Health Teams which would have doctors' offices with wrap-around supports. This is the choice - worse healthcare that costs you a ton of money, or a strong public healthcare system that helps you when you need it and without a bill at the end.

Another key issue I hear from folks is their fear that Danielle Smith and the UCP will do away with their CPP retirement funds. Danielle Smith has said repeatedly that she wants to take Alberta out of the CPP-this is dangerous and scary. Rachel Notley and the Alberta NDP understand that the CPP is a key part of every Canadian's retirement plan. We have promised not

to make any of the risky changes Danielle Smith wants to. Your retirement is simply too important to put at risk with the UCP and their bad decisions.

I'm excited to hopefully continue my work as your representative at the Alberta Legislature. Mill Woods has trusted me over the last eight years, and I work hard every day to repay your trust. Many of you will know, I go to great lengths to make myself available at my office and at as many community events as possible. I look forward to continuing our work together and with Rachel Notley back as your Premier, I know we will build a better future for Alberta together.

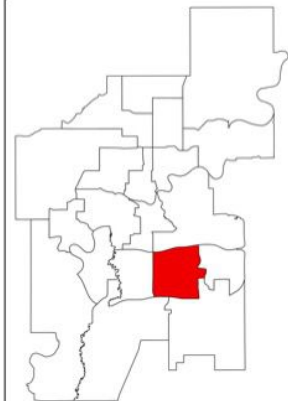
Contact information:

Website: christinagray.albertandp.ca
Email: christinagray@albertandp.ca
Twitter: twitter.com/ChristinaNDP
Facebook:
www.facebook.com/ChristinaNDP
Phone number: 587-520-3564
Campaign Office:
2 - 4217 - 23 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta, T6L 5Z8

The candidate for the United Conservative Party (UCP) in Edmonton-Mill Woods is Raman Athwal. The Mill Woods Mosaic sent Mr. Athwal the same questions, but he did not provide answers.

Another candidate in Edmonton-Mill Woods is Lisa Leaman who is running for the Wildrose Loyalty Coalition (WLC).

Edmonton-Mill Woods



Edmonton-Mill Woods runs from south of the Whitemud down to the Anthony Henday, its western boundary is Calgary Trail and the eastern boundary is mostly along 50 Street, except between 34 and 23 Avenue where it is Mill Woods Road East. Its many diverse communities include North Millbourne, Woodvale, Knottwood, Millhurst, Leefield, Lakewood, Tawa, as well as the Weinlos portion of Ridgewood.

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YODELING BY
Annette Schedler-Issler

Bavarian Costume & Accessory Booth
50/50 Cash Draw
GCCA Bar

Kaffee und Kuchen
Kids Activity Table
Dancing



What's up?


Community events in Mill Woods

- May 19 - 22** - Mill Woods Town Centre Summer Carnival with almost 50 attractions, rides, games, and delicious fair foods like freshly squeezed lemonade, elephant ears, and popcorn
2331 - 66 Street NW, Mill Woods
More information: www.wildroshowsa.ca
- May 20** - Rock Climbing at Vertically Inclined
8523 Argyll Road NW, Edmonton for members of North Millbourne Community League
2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.
Register: social@nmclinfo.com
- May 21** - Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan (Sikh Parade)
Starts from Gurdwara Siri Guru Singh Sabha (4504 Mill Woods Road South) to Gurdwara Millwoods (2606 Mill Woods Road East)
One Way Only
Noon - 5:00 p.m.
- May 29** - Provincial Election in Alberta
Voting places open 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.
For more information: www.elections.ab.ca
PLEASE VOTE!
- May 30** - Annual General Meeting
The Meadows Community League
Volunteer Info Session at 5:00 p.m.
Guest Speakers at 6:00 p.m.
General Meeting at 7:00 p.m.
Residents of Larkspur, Silver Berry and Wildrose can register here:
<https://TMCLAGMMAY2023.eventbrite.ca>
- July 1** - Canada Day Celebration in Mill Woods
sponsored by Mill Woods Presidents' Council
Mill Woods Park
71 Street & 23 Avenue, Mill Woods
"Our mission is to celebrate both our rich Canadian history and the diversity of the community with a FREE and inclusive event featuring multicultural performances, dance, music, fun and fireworks that is open to everyone."
More information: seedmonton.ca/canada-day
- 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, June 9, 2023.*

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**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***

Mill Woods member likely to be minority choice

As we approach the upcoming provincial election, you might be surprised to learn that for the last 44 years the MLA who represented Mill Woods has seldom been the choice of most of the voters. That sort of thing happens a lot under the election system that we have used since 1959.

Pick any place in the province. Chances are good a Social Credit MLA represented it all through the 1960s. At that time the SC party was winning almost all the seats. In 1967 for example it took all but ten seats in the Legislature although getting less than half the votes. You might be surprised to learn that the SC government's so-called "landslide victories" in the 1960s were produced by its adoption of an unfair voting system in 1959.

Previous to 1959, MLAs in Edmonton and Calgary were elected by Proportional Representation, where in each city almost all the votes were used to actually elect someone and the parties received their due share of seats. The SC government cancelled that and brought in First Past The Post in 1959. The government then began to get almost all the seats province-wide each time. With the change to First Past The Post, some parties with ten percent of the provincially vote or more get no seats at all or just a couple. Again and again Edmonton MLAs have been elected with the support of less than half the voters in their districts.

After the provincial district of Edmonton-Mill Woods was created in 1979, that was the experience in that district too, most of the time. In the last 25 years, only one MLA has been elected with more than half the votes. NDP's Christine Gray received 65 percent of the vote in 2015.

Every other time since 1998, the Edmonton-Mill Woods MLA has been elected with support from less than half the voters. In 2012, a Conservative took the seat with only 35 percent of the vote, barely more than a third of votes cast.

Since 1979, only five times was the Mill Woods MLA elected with the support of most of the voters. During almost all of the last 44 years, the majority of voters were ignored. The representative did not reflect their views. Under First Past The Post, voters are divided into 87 different districts and you can take a seat if you get more votes than any other candidate in a district. Voters outside the district cannot vote against you. And many votes that are cast elect no one.

When a district has just one member, that member just cannot represent the range of sentiment in the district. Sometimes a majority is represented, but quite often more than half, in most cases about half, and almost always more than a third of votes cast in the district do not elect that one member. With those sort of statistics repeated in every district across the province, the number of ignored voters is staggering. And results can be quite wonky as far as party representation goes.

But if say five districts were grouped together to elect five MLAs, and a fair voting system was used, almost all the votes cast in the district would be used to elect someone. And almost all the voters would be represented.

This is seen elsewhere. Many countries in the world use multi-member districts and fair voting.

Denmark uses multi-member districts, and the district members are elected based on party votes.

Ireland and Malta use multi-member

districts and Single Transferable Voting – where each voter votes directly for a candidate. This is in line with existing practice in the British Commonwealth. The use of multi-member districts and each voter having just one vote ensures that all large voting blocks have some representation and most votes are used to elect someone.

**Tom
Monto**

**A
Different
Perspective**



Would such a district be too large? Hardly. Edmonton's mayor, Amarjeet Sohi, represents all of Edmonton and he is just one person – although he does have the claim to fame of once serving as Mill Woods' MP. Despite this impressive background, I think it is safe to say that if that one person can represent all the city, surely five MLAs can represent one quarter of it.

Will Mill Woods lose their existence as a single-member district and become a part of something larger? Perhaps it is inevitable. Certainly there is growing discontent with the present system with its artificial definition of seats that are safe and seats where parties actually compete.

And there is discontent with how vo-

ters are pushed to vote for one of the two leading candidates who may not be the person they truly want to represent them. The upcoming May 29 election will be a strong case of this. Two main parties are fighting for supremacy. Any veering from the binary fight – by voting for say a Liberal or an Alberta Party candidate – would seem to abandon the best chance for local victory for the left or the right.

TV coverage is all about how the NDP and the UCP are fighting for Calgary seats. Edmonton and the rural seats are mostly thought to be uncontested. Nothing at all about how votes are cast by voters.

In 2019, did the NDP deserve to win almost all of the Edmonton seats, or the UCP deserve to win almost all the Calgary seats? The answer is no, but you would not know it from the way the upcoming election is being predicted. Once we lose the connection between our elected representatives and the voters – once the election machinery obscures the voters' sentiment – we have less accountability. Laws passed by the government are not likely to reflect the views of voters.

And there is another hint that this might be the last Alberta election held using First Past The Post. A Court Challenge is being pursued in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice on the question of whether the present unfair system is actually constitutional. Fair Voting BC and Springtide Collective for Democratic Society are pursuing this challenge. The challenge goes to court in September.

A ruling against First Past The Post is bound to eventually produce change across the country. Our Constitution gives each citizen equal political rights, but when a minority of voters

get representation while others don't, that is not equal treatment.

Alberta's May 29 election will likely be as unfair as past elections. Many MLAs will be elected with the support of a minority of the voters in their districts. Across the province, the party that wins the most seats will likely have the support of less than half the voters.

Edmonton-Mill Woods is regarded as a safe NDP seat. Gray's past status as a cabinet minister in Rachel Notley's government certainly does her credit. Last time she received more votes than the time before that.

But even if she is elected and even if the NDP gets say 44 percent of the vote province-wide, what will the next Legislature look like? With 44 percent of the vote, the NDP could get 50 seats – a strong majority – or it could get its present 24 seats – in Opposition.

Under First Past The Post, when it comes to the overall result, almost anything can happen. FPTP is not based on science but on 87 separate little battles. It is time we return to the system of PR used in the 1950s – the one that gave each party its due share of seats in the cities, the one the Social Credit government found so troublesome, the one they actually had no moral right to take away from Alberta voters.

It is important to get out and vote on May 29. Even if many of the votes cast will be ignored, you can't know your vote will be among them! So take a chance. It is all we have – for now.

Tom Monto is an Edmonton historian and author of Old Strathcona – Edmonton's Southside Roots and Protest and Progress – Three Labour Radicals in Early Edmonton. He is also author of the blog site <https://montopedia.wixsite.com/montopedia>

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Anahita's Republic – One story of the ongoing struggle for women's rights in Iran

Since the death of Mahsa Amini in September of 2022, protests against the Islamic Republic of Iran have swept the globe, raising awareness of women's plight in that country like never before; but the fight for women's rights has been going on for generations.

AuTash Productions brings a story of resistance and struggle to the Edmonton stage in what *Intermission Magazine* called a "biting and brave new play ... the ninety-minute drama packs a mighty punch." The *Toronto Star* dubbed *Anahita's Republic* "an intriguing new play offering an insider perspective into gender, power and freedom in contemporary Iran."

Anahita is a woman who refuses to wear the hijab and rules her own republic where she can live, dress, and speak as she pleases. To deal with the world outside of her compound, she controls the family business and the life of her brother Cyrus. One night, on the eve of an important secret meeting between progressive leaders, a young woman in a chador comes to Anahita's compound, carrying explosive secrets that might destroy everything Anahita has tried to build.

Written by Hengameh E. Rice, a writing team with one member born in Iran and one born in Edmonton. Directed by Brian Dooley, a nationally recognized dramaturg, actor, and director, and former head of New Play

Development for the Citadel Theatre. Developed with the support of Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre in Edmonton, Nowadays Theatre and Tarragon Theatre in Toronto, and many local Edmonton artists.

Anahita's Republic received its World Premiere in Toronto in March of 2023 at Factory Theatre in a production by Bustle & Beast Theatre.

AuTash Productions is an independent theatre based in Edmonton. In Farsi, the official language of Iran, Au Tash simply means "fire." Fire, like words and ideas, can play many different roles. It can burn away stereotypes, revealing the people behind them. It can also light the way to new understanding and appreciation for a part of the world rarely seen on Alberta stages. That's what Au Tash hopes their writing can do.

AuTash Productions wishes to acknowledge the support of the Edmonton Arts Council, the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, and the Canada Council for the Arts for this production.

For more information:
www.anahitasrepublic.ca

Actor Roya Yazdanmehr plays the role of Anahita in the play "Anahita's Republic."

Photo: AuTash Productions



ANAHITA'S REPUBLIC

جمهوری آناهیتا

MAY 19 – JUNE 4
2023

ONE STORY OF THE ONGOING STRUGGLE
FOR WOMEN'S RIGHTS IN IRAN

Since the death of Mahsa Amini in September of 2022, protests against the Islamic Republic of Iran have swept the globe, raising awareness of women's plight in that country like never before, but the fight for women's rights has been going on for generations.

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Backstage Theatre
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Tickets at <https://tickets.fringetheatre.ca/>
www.anahitasrepublic.ca



Important addresses for immigrants and other newcomers

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

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

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

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

Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods
Suite 200, Tower II, Millbourne Mall
7609 - 38 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6K 3L6
Tel. (780) 462-6924
Website: 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 non-profit, charitable organization operated by immigrant women for immigrant women. Its mission is to help Edmonton and area immigrant women and their families overcome personal and systemic barriers that keep them from participating fully in Canadian Society.

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

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

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

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

locations in Mill Woods: Millhurst Site (5704 - 19 A Avenue), Knottwood Site (1733 Mill Woods Road) and Millbourne Community Site (3756 - 78 Street).

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

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

Indo-Canadian Women's Association
9324 - 34 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5X8
Tel. (780) 490-0477

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

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

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

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

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

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

Alberta Employment Standards is a provincial agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of employment standards in Alberta. AES has publications available for temporary for-

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Other important phone numbers:

Edmonton Police Service

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

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

Poison Centre **1-800-332-1414**

Hazardous Material Spills **9-1-1**

Utility Trouble Calls Only:

Power Emergency **780-412-4500**
Within Edmonton

Gas Emergency **780-420-5585**
Edmonton & Area

Drainage Trouble **780-496-1717**

Sewer Trouble **780-496-1717**

Wastewater (odour hotline) **780-469-8176**

Water Emergency Service **780-412-6800**

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