

Mill Woods Mosaic

June 15, 2023

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Tel. (780) 465-7526

The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast

Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational

This month:

Happy Canada Day!

Canada Day will be celebrated in Mill Woods with a news sponsor for the fireworks.

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Good things

Arnim Joop talks about wait times for surgeries and his good experiences with handymen.

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Body and Soul

Ron Kuban has two spaces which offer him peaceful solitude – his backyard and his home office.

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Speeding up Process

IRCC is using Advance Analytics and Automation to speed up the process for immigration applications.

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Matter of chance

Tom Monto shares his thoughts about the results of the provincial election in Alberta.

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Inspiring Artist



"The goal is to inspire, and that's why I teach," says Indigenous artist Heather Shillinglaw. Read interview with her.

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Colorful Parents Day Out

Parents Day Out is an opportunity at Mill Woods United Church for parents and children to play together in a safe environment. Mill Woods United Church, located at 15 Grand Meadow Crescent in the Greenvue neighbourhood, is an inclusive place of worship where all people are welcome, no matter what their ethnicity, faith or sexual orientation is. For more information, visit the church's website at millwoodsunited.org.

Photo: Mill Woods United Church

All three NDP MLAs in southeast Edmonton reelected

The three Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLA) of Alberta for Edmonton-Ellerslie, Edmonton-Meadows and Edmonton-Mill Woods were reelected in the provincial election on May 29.

Rod Loyola and Christina Gray will serve a third term and Jasvir Deol a second term.

In Edmonton-Ellerslie, incumbent Loyola, who ran for the New Democratic Party (NDP) received 11,429 votes (61.7 %), defeating the candidate of the United Conservative Party (UCP), Ranjit Bath, who received 6,817 votes (36.8 %), and the candidate of the Wildrose Loyalty Coalition (WLC), Angela Stretch, who received 264 votes (1.4 %).

In Edmonton-Meadows, incumbent Deol (NDP) won with 11,013 votes (62.6 %), defeating Amritpal Singh Matharu (UCP) who received 6,378 votes (36.2 %), and the Candidate of the Communist Party of Alberta, Corinne Benson, who received 213 votes (1.2 %).

In Edmonton-Mill Woods, incumbent Gray (NDP) received 11,063 votes (61.7 %), defeating Raman Athwal (UCP) who received 6,869 votes (38.3 %).

The three winners will be members of the Official



Rod Loyola



Jasvir Deol



Christina Gray

Opposition in the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. They will be sworn in on June 20.

The Alberta NDP did not win the election but elected 38 members on May 29, which is the largest opposition caucus in the history of Alberta, sweeping the Edmonton seats and winning a majority of the seats in Calgary with 15.

The UCP won 49 seats which is 14 seats less than in the 2019 provincial election when Jason Kenney was the leader of the party. Premier Danielle Smith and her new cabinet were sworn in on June 9. Only five of the 25 cabinet members, including Smith, are women, and only three ministers are from diverse backgrounds.

The new Minister of Immigration and Multiculturalism is Muhammed Yaseen who is the MLA for Calgary-North since 2019.

The next session of the Legislative Assembly is scheduled for Oct. 31.

Please see page 6 of this issue for MLA Christina Gray's new column.



Farewell, Millcreek Nursery!

The owners of Millcreek Nursery, which is located east of 17 Street in the Meadows, have announced that the 80-acre plant shop will be closed permanently. Ken Riske founded Millcreek Nursery in 1985 on the Riske family property in Edmonton's southeast quadrant. Riske's great-grandfather bought the land in 1902 and farmed grain and dairy for many years. In a statement on the company's website the Riske family said: "The owners and staff wish to thank all of our great customers for their support over the years. Many wonderful friendships have been forged over our 36 years of horticulture service. We would also like to thank our amazing staff throughout the years. We couldn't have done it without you and we will be leaving with many great memories."

In an interview with CBC Radio, Ken Riske said that he will retire, but he did not reveal what will happen with the unique property which is the only active farm in the City of Edmonton. The property is surrounded by residential subdivisions, and there are probably some developers who are interested in buying it.

Photo: An ancient vintage red barn is a landmark on the property of Millcreek Nursery on 17 Street.

Photo: Arnim Joop/MILL WOODS MOSAIC

Letters to the editor welcome

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

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



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The benefits of Community Leagues

Edmonton City Councillor Jo-Anne Wright

I'd like to start off my message this month with congratulations to Premier Danielle Smith and the other 86 candidates who were successful in the recent provincial election. Special congratulations to the three MLAs whose constituency boundaries intersect with Ward Spomitapi: Jasvir Deol – Edmonton-Meadows, Christina Gray – Edmonton-Mill Woods, and Rod Loyola – Edmonton-Ellerslie. I know they will continue to represent the southeast well as official opposition in the provincial Legislature. I also want to extend a warm thank you to all the candidates who put themselves out there to participate in our democratic process.



Coun. Jo-Anne Wright

I and my colleagues on City Council want to establish a working partnership with the newly elected government to advance the priorities of Edmontonians. I have already reached out to Nate Glubish, UCP MLA for the neighbouring Strathcona-Sherwood Park constituency, to request a meeting. MLA Glubish has stated that he feels a responsibility to bring forward the interests of Edmonton and I look forward to sharing our priorities with him.

There were also a number of other elections going on this past month as many community leagues and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) held their Annual General Meetings and elected new board members. There are still some positions to be filled, and always general volunteer opportunities, so if you want to get involved and help shape your community, connect with your local community league. Check out EFCL.org for more information on locating your league and the benefits of membership.

One of the benefits of Community Leagues is the way they come together to bring community together. The

Mill Woods Presidents' Council is a great example of that as they bring together community for the annual Canada Day celebrations at Mill Woods Park (corner of 23 Avenue & 66 Street). Stop by to take in all the excitement and entertainment. Don't miss out on the fun and fireworks on July 1st. See you there.

If you have any comments or concerns, I encourage you to reach out to my office at 780.496.8148 or jo-anne.wright@edmonton.ca.



Collaboration with Province is Key to Success in Public Education

This month I am sharing an article written by my colleague, Julie Kusiek, Trustee for Ward F.

As many of you are aware, Trustees with the Edmonton Public School Board put together advocacy materials to support conversations around public education in the recent provincial election. The focus areas were:

- Choice within public education at Edmonton Public Schools
 - Funding, including the need to address gaps in the current funding formula
 - Infrastructure, including new school construction and rising deferred maintenance
 - Mental health supports for students
- Thank you, to all parents and community members who viewed these documents, spoke with candidates and who considered these issues in support of public education as you went to the ballot box.

Under section 33(1) of Education Act, School Boards are a partner in education with the Province. This section of the Education Act further

• Provide a continuum of supports and services to students consistent with the principles of inclusive education

Jan Sawyer

Edmonton Public Schools Trustee (Ward I)



details the responsibilities of a board in this partnership. A few paraphrased examples of these responsibilities include:

- Deliver appropriate programming to meet the needs of all students and enable their success

- Collaborate with municipalities, other boards and community-based service organizations to address student needs and effective use of public resources
- Collaborate with post-secondary institutions for smooth transition for students
- Provide a welcoming, caring, respectful and safe learning environment that respects diversity and fosters a sense of belonging

It will be my job as one Trustee, and our collective job as a Board to build a strong, collaborative relationship with individual MLAs elected to the legislature, cabinet ministers and the premier. It also means fostering respectful dialogue with the province and all MLAs – be they opposition or government MLAs. We are in this together, as partners, as per the Education Act. I believe our board's advocacy points during the election are key items to find collaborative solutions, in partner-

ship with the Province, to carry out shared responsibilities.

In my mind, this means working together to figure out a sustainable, adequate, predictable funding model for growing school divisions like Edmonton Public Schools – a solution that works for us, for the kids that we serve, and also works for the government. We also need to accelerate new school construction so that every one of the 4,500 additional new students enrolled in our division this year and the 5,000 plus we expect next year can feel confident we will have the schools, programming and classes available to meet their needs and support their success.

As a board, we are working through other exciting opportunities and potential solutions, which we will need to partner with the Province to make a reality. With that, I encourage you to also think about what collaboration and positive relationship building looks like in public education.

As always, if you have questions about this, or anything else, please feel free to contact me trustee.jan.sawyer@epsb.ca.



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How we distribute education funding to schools

Education funding at a glance

Education funding in Alberta comes from the provincial government.

Like every child, each school is unique. Edmonton Public Schools distributes the funding to schools based on the number of students, learning needs, and other factors like building operations.

School fees and fundraising

Families may be charged **school fees** for items or services related to enhancing educational experiences. The province's *School Fees Regulation* outlines the types of fees schools can and cannot charge for. School fees make up 2.4% of the total Division's annual revenue.

Many schools **fundraise** for special initiatives or events at a school. Fundraising is carried out with a specific purpose in mind for any funds raised.

15.7%

Operations and maintenance

- school building maintenance and repairs
- utility costs
- insurance
- custodial services

3.6%

Student transportation

- funding to transport students to schools

3.1%

Board and system administration

- Board of Trustees and related expenses
- administration includes costs associated with the operations of the Division, such as software licences, and legal and financial services

76.5%

Instruction

- salaries of school staff, including teachers, support staff and administration
- supplies and materials for teaching
- support for new provincial curriculum

1.1%

External services

- school cafeteria
- community use of schools
- continuing education programs

*Based on 2022-23 budget

How education funding flows to schools

Funding comes from the province, and the Division distributes it to schools based on a number of factors, including:

- ✓ number of students at a school
- ✓ students who require specialized learning supports
- ✓ supports for newcomers to Canada
- ✓ social vulnerability of the overall school population
- ✓ supports for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit students and initiatives

The Division's budget aligns with the priorities set out in the **2022-26 Strategic Plan**:

- build on outstanding learning opportunities for all students
- advance action towards anti-racism and reconciliation
- promote a comprehensive approach to student and staff well-being and mental health

Learn more about the 2022-26 Strategic Plan on [epsb.ca](https://www.epsb.ca).

How it happens



JANUARY

The Division submits projected student enrolment numbers to Alberta Education for the upcoming school year



FEBRUARY / MARCH

The Government of Alberta announces the annual provincial education budget



MID-APRIL

The Division presents the **Distribution of Funds report to the Board of Trustees for approval**. The report proposes the budget allocations and provides information on any specific initiatives that may be tied to a targeted provincial education grant or funded by Division resources.



LATE-APRIL

Schools receive their allocation based on projected enrolment and create a budget for the upcoming school year



LATE-MAY

A final budget report is approved by the Board of Trustees for submission to Alberta Education

Visit [epsb.ca/ourdistrict/budget](https://www.epsb.ca/ourdistrict/budget) for more information.



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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

Happy Canada Day in Mill Woods

Canada Day is an important day for Canadians. Formerly known as "Dominion Day", Canada Day is the national day of Canada. A federal statutory holiday, it celebrates the anniversary of Canadian Confederation which occurred on July 1, 1867, with the passing of the British North America Act, 1867, when the three separate colonies of the United Canadas, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick were united into a single dominion within the British Empire called Canada.

Canada Day celebrations take place throughout the country, as well as in various locations around the world attended by Canadians living abroad, and the annual celebration of Canada Day here in our community of Mill Woods is Western Canada's largest volunteer-driven Canada Day celebration.

This year, the celebration, which is organized by the Mill Woods Presidents' Council and the community leagues of Southeast Edmonton, has some new initiatives, including a family-friendly beer garden and a food drive, and the organizers were able to get a new sponsor for the fireworks.

So, let's celebrate Canada Day! We are lucky to live in the best country in the world, and we should never take this for granted. See you on July 1 at Mill Woods Park.



Smoked meats for Canada Day barbecue? Albertans had enough smoke recently from many wildfires.

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

Necessary repairs to improve our quality of life

After a year of waiting, I finally had my hernia surgery on May 26th. I had to wait so long because there aren't enough specialists in Alberta who can perform these surgeries.

When I had a similar operation 12 years ago, I had to wait only four months. During the election campaign, Premier Danielle Smith claimed that waiting times had gotten shorter over the past four years when her United Conservative Party (UCP) was in government, but the opposite is true. Smith pledged on election night to "continue to improve" our healthcare system, but the actions her administration has taken so far don't give us much reason for hope. We must expect the system to become more privatized and profit-oriented, and of course that means that low-income citizens will be disadvantaged. I could have had my hernia surgery a lot sooner had I paid \$10,000 or more, but that's a lot of money for many Albertans.

My surgery was performed at the WestView Health Centre, a small hospital in Stony Plain, which means I had to drive about 100 kilometers, but that was not a problem because the treatment in smaller hospitals is often better and more personal than in larger hospitals. The surgical team treated me very professionally and explained the whole procedure well, so I didn't have to worry, and the surgeon Dr. Matt Strickland even phoned my wife Susan

personally after the procedure to reassure her that everything went well and that I woke up from the anaesthesia. The anesthesiologist texted me and gave me tips for the recovery, and the nurses were very attentive and com-

Arnim Joop

From the Desk of the Publisher



passionate.

After only seven hours in the hospital (including admission, preparation, surgery, recovery and discharge), I was able to drive home, and I would like to take this opportunity to thank our good friend Leigh Makarewicz for driving me.

We are lucky that we have a good healthcare system in Canada. The system isn't perfect, but it's better than in most other countries. However, we must be careful that this good system is not destroyed by irresponsible politicians and unscrupulous business people.

We had some home improvements done to our house which was built 22 years ago. I am not a handyman, so we had to hire professionals for the jobs which can be quite expensive, but we shopped around, got some quotes, and learnt again that the cheapest is not always the best.

First, we had some flooring replaced. The original linoleum in the kitchen area, stairs and bathrooms was worn out, and we decided to have it replaced with vinyl flooring which is more durable and easier to clean. The two workers who removed the old lino and installed the new vinyl did a good job. Our house was a mess for three days, but the two installers, hard-working immigrants from Moldova, were very careful and cleaned up after themselves. People often complain that handmen leave a mess, but that is not our experience. Most handymen take pride in their work, do the job professionally, and clean up afterwards.

The second home renovation job was getting a new roof for our house. Again, there were some outrageous quotes for fancy roofs with "lifetime guarantee", like metal roofs, but at our age, we don't need a roof that lasts half a century. So, we chose to replace the

old asphalt shingles with new asphalt shingles which should be good for another 20 years. Alf's Roofing, a local company with almost 50 years experience, did a good job, and it took only one day. The three workers were polite, didn't waste any time, and even vacuumed our driveway when they were done.

My wife Susan, who is a great cook, always feeds the workers, and they always appreciate it. It is important to recognize workers for the work they are doing. Of course, if we have reasons to complain, we should do that, but if we are satisfied with the work, we should also let the company know. We can write a review on Google, phone the owner or manager of the company, or send a thank-you note. It doesn't cost anything to express appreciation, but it's good to give a tip. Hopefully, the workers are paid well, but some companies are better than others in that respect.

As always, we should not take anything for granted. We are privileged to live in Canada, which is one of the best countries in the world, and we should value what we have. And it is important to share what we have, because not all our fellow citizens are as fortunate as we are.

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.

Sanctuary, for Body and Soul

While visiting the Stavrovouni Monastery in Cyprus in 1975, I experienced what became for me a lifelong appreciation for the value of solitude, contemplation, and peace of mind. The experience and its lessons are worth noting and sharing.

The monastery is perched high on the ledge of a mountain cliff. From its stone ramparts one can look across a lush and deep valley to see the lower mountain ridges in the far distance. I recall being awed by the inner calm and spirituality exuded by the facility, its residents, and its location. Away from traffic and other usual human activities, the monastery felt one with nature. My friend and I, together with our guide were alone on a wide terrace, where the silence around us was so overpowering we could hear the screech of an eagle appearing as a small speck on the distant horizon.

The effect on me was profound. I experienced an out-of-body sensation and felt as if I was floating high above the valley. All at once, I was able to detect many previously unseen elements in the breathtaking panoramic view below; all my senses were amplified. In the overpowering silence, I experienced a sense of freedom from all physical limits or mental distractions. For a brief moment of time, I felt emotionally weightless and totally at peace.

It was difficult to leave the monastery yet equally difficult to stay. To begin, I was not suited or inclined to live the life of a monk. As well, life with its hurried pace, duties, and activities was beckoning me to return. As you know or may rightly guess I moved on, but a key lesson remained: Both body and soul need a sanctuary to sustain their growth.

During the years that followed, I observed the many approaches people used to create their own sanctuary from life's hectic pace. These tactics were as varied as the preferences of the people who applied them and their available resources. However, the outcomes seemed to be universally common and often included emotional or spiritual grounding, physical and mental rejuvenation, and personal growth. These benefits appealed to me. I decided, therefore, to establish my own sanctuary.

It took a while and many failed experiments, but I persisted with my effort. I now have two spaces which

offer me peaceful solitude: one is in my backyard and the other is my "man cave" (a.k.a. home office). The former helps me connect with nature, science,

Ron Kuban

Time Passages



and my spirituality, while the latter helps me develop intellectual perspective.

My backyard is bordered by trees, which provide privacy. Their vibrant colours and the rhythmic sound of their leaves in the breeze are soothing. A deck surrounded by grass and bushes, a swing, and comfortable chairs complete the scene to offer a much-needed cozy, secluded, and relaxing setting. My frequent retreats to this space, accompanied by a book and a cup of coffee, helped me to temporarily shed life's immediate demands and contemplate the world beyond. Through repeated visits to this sanctuary, I have been better able to get grounded, observe nature, and explore a host of ideas. As an aside, I have had similar experiences while in parks and other natural spaces away from the built-up world.

Though only a relatively small room, my man cave sanctuary is also well suited for relaxation and contemplation. Imagine a space with shelves, bookcases, and walls covered with various mementoes, such as photographs, certificates, and many other cherished possessions. At first glance, these items appear to be organized haphazardly. However, a closer look should reveal a pattern, where each item is a reminder of a person, place, or an activity which forms the tapestry of my life.

Unlike the outdoor spaces, which connect me with nature, the indoor space provides a quiet spot to contemplate my life to date, its twists and turns, achievements, and failures. However, there is more to that room than its mere content. It is crowded with books! Shelf after shelf contain

books on a wide array of topics, from philosophy to politics, history to biographies, religion to literature, sports to various hobbies, and much more.

For me, the true magic of this space is the influence it has on my ability to contemplate diverse ideas, link otherwise disparate concepts, or come up with new ones. Sometimes, all I need to do is glance around the room at the various book covers, recollect the ideas they address, then take a mental flight in search of a deeper meaning to the ideas before me.

This is the power of such sanctuaries. They remove us from the moment and its many distractions, stressors, and concerns. They create an environment which allows us to better hear our inner voice. When we slow down our physical pace, we can become better able to focus our mental faculties and be more creative. It is through these actions that we can purposely guide ourselves to grow spiritually, intellectually, and yes, even physically. I highly recommend the effort.

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

Board of Trustees welcomes new Superintendent Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert

The Board of Trustees of Edmonton Catholic Schools is thrilled to announce the appointment of Lynnette Anderson as the new Chief Superintendent of Schools and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) for Edmonton Catholic Schools Division. After a nationwide search, Lynnette has been selected to assume her new role on August 1, 2023. With her extensive experience and deep commitment to education, we are confident that Lynnette will make a significant impact on our educational community. Having served in various roles, including teacher, consultant, principal, and superintendent, Lynnette brings outstanding leadership and expertise. Her invaluable experience in the French Language and Education Branch at Alberta Education further enhances her understanding of diverse perspectives. Please join us in congratulating Lynnette Anderson on this exciting appointment.

Additionally, we would like to express our deepest gratitude to Chief Superintendent Robert Martin for his exceptional leadership and remarkable contributions to Edmonton Catholic Schools and the broader Catholic education community. Chief Superintendent Martin's unwavering commitment to his vocation has left a lasting mark on our Division.

Edmonton Catholic Schools has a history of providing opportunities for student engagement. Our Student Voice team is comprised of two students from each high school and provides essential insights to enhance education within the framework of our Division Plan for Continuous Growth. This year, their work addressed crucial matters such as advocacy priorities for the provincial election and perspectives on school fees. Their input also influenced the re-visioning of Administrative Procedure 170 - EQUITY, DIVERSITY, INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM: Reporting of and Responding to Racism and Discrimination amplifying student voices in shaping important policies. Additionally, they contributed to improving learning experi-

ences, home-school communications, and high school choices. Our Student Voice team also played a pivotal role in enhancing Youth Faith Day, planning student-centered activities, and discussing AI in education. We commend their commitment and collaboration and thank graduating members for their service. We eagerly anticipate reconvening in the upcoming 2023-2024 school year.

In June, we celebrate National Indigenous History Month, a time to honour the diverse heritage, history, and contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada. ECS D Indigenous Learning Services Department has curated valuable resources to support schools in fostering understanding and appreciation. Embracing Indigenous history is woven into Alberta Education's leadership standards, reflecting its profound importance. Through inclusive education, we build collective capacity, promote cultural awareness, and honor the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action. Let us unite in deepening our commitment to reconciliation, understanding, and unity as we commemorate National Indigenous History Month and honour the rich tapestry of Indigenous heritage.

As Father's Day approaches, we turn our hearts to St. Joseph, who embraced his role as the earthly father of Jesus. Let us pray for all the those who fulfill the important roles of father, grandfather, uncle, mentor, and more. We express gratitude for their compassion and wisdom, shaping the lives of our children. May this Father's Day deepen our commitment to creating a nurturing environment for our children.

In conclusion, I am fully dedicated to prioritizing our students' best interests and value engagement with our school communities. Please don't hesitate to contact me at 780-231-6312 or Laura.Thibert@ecsd.net with any ideas or questions regarding educational matters. I look forward to the opportunity to connect and have meaningful conversations with you.



Trustee Laura Thibert



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"We will continue to demand a better future for all Albertans"

Hello Mill Woods! We just finished a provincial election and I want to share my deepest thanks to the people of Edmonton-Mill Woods for once again entrusting me to be your representative! Thank you to my campaign team and the countless supporters, those who took a lawn sign, those who volunteered, and those who donated! It is truly an honour to be re-elected as your voice at Alberta's Legislature.

I will continue to work as hard as I can on your behalf and I look forward to seeing many of you at the fantastic Mill Woods and Edmonton events and festivals throughout the summer!

I was proud to be part of a highly-energetic and ambitious Alberta NDP campaign, one that resulted in forming the largest Official Opposition in Alberta's history! We have Alberta NDP 38 MLAs who are excited, 19 of whom are new to being MLAs, and who are getting to work representing their constituents and holding the provincial government to account.

My colleagues and I take our job as Official Opposition very seriously and

**Christina
Gray**

**MLA
for
Edmonton-
Mill Woods**



we know many of the issues are urgent for Albertans.

I spoke with thousands of folks over the past few months. I have heard from Albertans who have lost their family doctor, or who have had to wait hours and hours in the emergency room at our local Grey Nuns Community Hospital.

Almost everyone spoke about their costs of living going up substantially during the last four years, while their wages have not. Whether it's utilities, groceries, rent, insurance, gas, or more the list of cost increases goes on and

on! And we know this will only get worse as utilities are set to skyrocket once the government's rebates expire this month.

On the doorsteps in Mill Woods, I heard from parents concerned about their children's education, seeing their kids lose out on learning opportunities due to overcrowded classrooms, or impacted by programs like Program Unit Funding (PUF) getting cut. Parents are also rightly worried that increasing post-secondary tuition will price local universities and colleges out of reach for their kids.

Recently at a visit to the Mill Woods Seniors Association, for their Seniors Week ice cream social, I heard from folks terrified that Danielle Smith will take their pensions out of the Canada Pension Plan (CPP).

This is why it's so important that we get to work on what Albertans elected us to do!

We must deliver better healthcare for Albertans. I believe deeply in the value of strong public healthcare. It's the idea that makes Canada such a great country, and it keeps everyone happy, healthy, and productive! Taking care of Albertans when they have an accident or an illness is how we show compassion for one another AND it just makes good sense for our economy!

To make lives more affordable for

Albertans, we will demand a cap on utilities and an immediate investigation into why utility prices are so high with no end in sight. We will continue to demand an immediate stop to massive tuition increases planned this fall.

Your Official Opposition MLAs will push for the immediate rehiring of thousands of teachers and educational assistants in time for classes to resume in September.

We know there is a rent and housing crisis emerging in municipalities across the province that demands action – our team will be pushing the provincial government to finally take real action on housing.

The challenges facing Alberta—economic, environmental, and social – require dedication and determination. You can count on me, and my colleagues in the Alberta NDP, to bring that to Alberta's Legislature tirelessly.

We are focused on you and we will hold this government to account and continue to demand a better future for all Albertans.

I look forward to seeing many of you at our community's incredible summer events in the coming months. Thank you for once again placing your trust in me.

Christina Gray is the Member-Elect of the Legislative Assembly of Alberta for Edmonton-Mill Woods.

Telephone: (780) 414-1000, e-mail: edmonton.millwoods@assembly.ab.ca



Alberta NDP Leader Rachel Notley (second from left) with MLAs Jasvir Deol, Christina Gray and Rod Loyola (from left to right) at the Vaisakhi Nagar Kirtan Sikh Parade on May 21 in Mill Woods.



Edmonton-Mill Woods campaign team on election night at the Westin Edmonton Hotel (from left to right): Liz Audet, Christina Gray, Amna Shah, Calan Hobbs, and Laveza Khan.



MLA Christina Gray (first from left) at the groundbreaking of the Punjab United Sports & Heritage Association (PUSHA) on May 20 at the Ivor Dent Sports Park with Edmonton City Councillor Jo-Anne Wright (second from left), and Edmonton Mayor Amarjeet Sohi (third from left).



MLA Christina Gray (second from left) on June 8 at the Seniors' Week Celebration of the Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women with the Centre's Executive Director Sofia Yaqub (second from right), and two guests.

Photos: Office of MLA Christina Gray

By Jamie Chapelsky

Tell us about your connection to Edmonton and why you've decided to make it your home.

What is your creative process like? And what motivates you as an artist?

In my pieces I'm using anywhere from three to six different types of sewing machines to create the work. When I'm sewing, I'm thinking about that kinship and relationship to the landscapes, like the maternal landscapes. It's all nature based and it's all about the healing plants and medicines that are in our land.

That's a tricky one because I'm constantly collecting like a mouse. Another aspect in thinking about conservation of our land and not causing

Mixed media artist Heather Shillinglaw expresses her Indigeneity and familial oral histories through collages that employ sewing, painting, and sculpture methods.

Photo provided by the artist

Where does your inspiration come from?

Marilyn Dumont is another source of inspiration. Marilyn is a Métis poet, and we share common lineages in

You've had the opportunity to exhibit your work nationally and internationally as well as participate in residencies abroad in Paraguay and Argentina. How was your artistic practice influenced by these cultural exchanges and how was your work received?

The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to talk about plant sustainability, which is in my practice today. Then I got invited by a conference attendee from Paraguay,

What would you say is your greatest strength as a creative?

That's another hat that I wear as an artist. Through my Elders, I've learned that a big part of our culture is sharing, and you share with humility. Like, the information that was given to me, you hand it down for the next generation to

Continued on page 8

Photo provided by the artist

Detective Manuel Illner named Kiwanis Top Cop 2022

The Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital has named Detective Manuel Illner of the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) as their Top Cop for 2022.

Det. Illner is receiving the Kiwanis Top Cop award for his ongoing commitment to improving the lives of children as a police officer and a coach.

He was nominated by Lori Farquharson Persaud, Executive Director of the Fort Edmonton Foundation (former Acting CEO / Director of Business and Community Development with Edmonton's Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre).

For several years, the two worked closely together to support child abuse victims, and Det. Illner volunteered his time to assist with Zebra's public education and fundraising efforts.

"I am pleased to nominate Det. Manuel Illner as I believe he exemplifies everything this role represents and is a true ambassador for EPS and our community. He continuously looks for additional ways to make a difference for his community and youth, and he volunteers, coaches, and mentors numerous children and youth through sport. His passion and commitment are his strongest traits, and when he commits, he delivers."

For the past 10 years, Det. Illner has also volunteered as a coach with St. Albert Slam Basketball, where he encourages and motivates young players to do their best.

As part of the award, the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital is donating \$1,000 to the charity of Det. Illner's choice, which is the Stollery Children's Hospital Foundation.

Det. Illner is the 47th EPS officer recognized by Kiwanis for outstanding volunteer contributions in the community since 1976. Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time. For more information about the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital, please visit www.oilcapitalkiwanis.ca.



Detective Manuel Illner with Beverly Levis, the President of the Kiwanis Club of Edmonton - Oil Capital, and Police Chief Dale McFee at the award presentation on June 12.

Photo: Edmonton Police Service

About Detective Manuel Illner

Manuel was born in Germany and his family came to Canada when he was eight years old. It was a challenge to fit in, but his confidence and sense of belonging grew as he started playing sports and excelling at them.

He not only loved playing sports, but coaching them as well, and after high school he completed a Bachelor Education degree to become a Phys-Ed teacher. However, he felt called to serve the community as a police officer, so he joined the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) in 2008.

After a series of assignments, Manuel was promoted to detective with the EPS Child Protection Section at the Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. His background was an asset, and he helped children find their voice and provide crucial information in criminal investigations. But he wanted to do more, and began assisting Zebra with numerous fundraisers and events to build awareness of child abuse and better support victims.

Seeing first-hand the need for children to have positive role models in their lives, Manuel began volunteering as a coach with St. Albert SLAM Basketball. For 10 years, he has dedicated his time and energy to mentoring young players in a fun and safe environment. He continues today with the same passion, encouraging and motivating youth to do their best, and helping them develop valuable life skills for the future.

Whether coaching or policing, Det. Manuel Illner is always ready to rally the team together to make the community a better place.

For more information about Edmonton Police Service, visit the website <https://www.edmontonpolice.ca>.

Letters to the editor are welcome

We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications. Please e-mail your letter to: The Editor of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*, mwmosaic@telus.net.

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New cancer research for people of Latin American and African descent

With funding from the Canadian Cancer Society (CCS), a group of researchers and scholars in Alberta and Ontario are teaming up with people with cancer of African and Latin American descent to address health inequities they face when navigating cancer care in Canada.

The project, led by Dr. Anna Santos Salas, associate professor at the Faculty of Nursing at the University of Alberta, is exploring the experiences of racialized people with advanced cancer. The goal is to create a cancer care program that is accessible to and inclusive of racialized communities.

"There are alarming disparities in cancer care in Canada," Santos Salas said. "For people of African and Latin American descent, accessing care can be especially difficult for many reasons, including language barriers, limited time off from work to attend medical appointments, and experiences with discrimination."

Other factors can lead to health inequities for people of African and



Dr. Anna Santos Salas

Photo: Canadian Cancer Society

Latin American descent, she added, such as mistrust in the overall system

due to negative previous experiences and the lack of diversity in healthcare providers.

The team led by Santos Salas is a recipient of the inaugural CCS Health Equity Research Grants program, which aims to reduce cancer-related health inequities and improve outcomes. With this grant, the team will work with people of African and Latin American descent who are living with cancer, their families and community members to understand their experiences and seek ways to improve their cancer care experience.

A significant highlight is the participation of people with cancer in the study.

"Engaging patients will be key to the study's success," said Santos Salas. "Through their involvement, they will champion access to cancer care and be a voice for their communities."

Dr. Stuart Edmonds, Executive Vice President of Mission, Research and Advocacy at CCS, said the cancer charity is investing \$1.6 million in six

projects that bring together researchers, decision-makers and people affected by both cancer and health inequities to identify and test solutions that minimize or remove barriers to equitable cancer prevention, diagnosis, treatment and care.

"Cancer can affect anyone, but not everyone has the same experience, which is why this new investment is critically important," Edmonds said. "And we intend to fund more research like the Health Equity Research Grants in the future to help identify and address systematic and other inequities and build capacity where it is needed most."

Together with other grant recipients, Santos Salas and her team are helping ensure all people with cancer in Canada have a fair and equal opportunity to prevent, detect, treat and survive cancer.

For more information about cancer research, visit the website of the Canadian Cancer Society at www.cancer.ca/en/research.

EPS adds online reporting for hate incidents

The Edmonton Police Service's Hate Crime and Violent Extremism Unit is launching online reporting for hate incidents.

On June 5, 2023, the EPS is announcing the expansion of online crime reporting to include hate incidents in Edmonton.

Online reporting allows Edmontonians to report hate incidents, even if they don't feel comfortable calling police or coming into a police station. People can also report on behalf of someone else, which will further assist those who may not feel comfortable, or who may require assistance to report an incident.

"We know that hate incidents often go unreported for a number of reasons," says Acting Inspector Michelle

Greening, with EPS Investigative Services Branch. "In some cases, victims don't realize that what has happened to them is reportable to police, even if it wasn't a crime. As members of marginalized communities, victims may also be reluctant to come forward due to negative experiences with police. We hear those concerns, we are working to remedy them, and we want to make reporting as easy as possible for anyone who has experienced hate."

A hate incident is a non-criminal action committed against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part by the suspect's hate, bias or prejudice towards an identifiable group, defined by real or perceived colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or

expression, or any other similar factor. Examples of hate incidents can include racial comments or slurs, or offensive symbols.

These types of incidents are not defined as crimes under the Canadian Criminal Code, and as such, charges cannot be laid. However, HCVEU investigators gather information about hate incidents and track them, as they can provide valuable information about subjects involved in hateful activities in Edmonton, as well as opportunities for intervention to prevent the escalation of hateful behaviour.

A hate crime, on the other hand, is a criminal offence committed against a person or property, motivated in whole or in part by the suspect's hate, bias or

prejudice towards an identifiable group, defined by real or perceived colour, race, religion, national or ethnic origin, age, sex, sexual identity, gender identity or expression, or any other similar factor. Examples of hate crimes include direct threats of violence, graffiti, distribution of hate literature, and destruction of religious property or symbols.

Hate crimes should be reported over the phone, using 911 for emergencies, or 780-423-4567 for non-emergencies. This allows the urgency of the crime to be assessed immediately and dispatched appropriately, so patrol officers can respond as soon as possible.

For more information, visit the website of Edmonton Police Service at www.edmontonpolice.ca.

Okisikow (Angel) Way Day a reminder to support all harmed by gender-based violence

The City of Edmonton is working with community partners to show support for all people who have experienced and continue to experience gender-based violence, while highlighting the importance of creating safe spaces.

A new decorative crosswalk and several prominently-placed street blades were unveiled for Okisikow (Angel) Way at an outdoor ceremony on June 14. Okisikow (Angel) Way is the honorary name given to 101A Avenue between 96 Street and 97 Street in central Edmonton's Boyle Street neighbourhood.

The crosswalk art was designed by Edmonton artist Nikk Goodswimmer, and the street blades by the late Gloria Neapetung, a talented artist, social activist, street survivor, sister and member of Yellow Quill First Nation.

"The crosswalk design includes prayer colours representing strength and guidance," Goodswimmer said. "I hope it heals the streets and inspires people to end the cycle of violence as well as the stigma around it. There are safe places in Edmonton with people who will listen."

The Okisikow (Angel) Way initiative is supported by the City of Edmonton and led by Elders, Stolen Sisters and



This crosswalk was designed by artist Nikk Goodswimmer.

Photo: City of Edmonton

Brothers Action Movement, the Centre to End All Sexual Exploitation (CEASE), MacKintosh Consulting, The Butterfly Project and Ayana Communications. This initiative aligns with the City of Edmonton's Indigenous Framework and the Community Safety & Well-being Strategy.

"Okisikow Way recognizes our neighbours who have suffered and asks us as a community to help prevent gender-based violence and its impact on families," said Elder Karen MacKenzie, one of the original committee members behind the initiative. "We remember them when we walk

this pavement. We feel their spirits with us. Children should feel safe."

Honouring the occasion, Mayor Amarjeet Sohi declared June 14, 2023, Okisikow (Angel) Way Day in Edmonton.

"This initiative, and others such as the City's bystander awareness campaign, One Strong Voice, is aimed at reducing gender-based violence," said Sohi. "We must all work together to end domestic and gender-based violence and to support those who are suffering."

In 2011, the City of Edmonton named Okisikow (Angel) Way after the Cree word for angel, signifying that all victims of gender-based violence — including women, children and gender-diverse people — and their families deserve safe places to find shelter, services and support in the city.

"On the 12th anniversary of Okisikow Way, we want victims and survivors to know they're not alone," said April Eve Wiberg, founder of the Stolen Sisters and Brothers Action Movement. "A lot of work needs to be done to prevent gender-based violence, but there are agencies and services available for people seeking help."

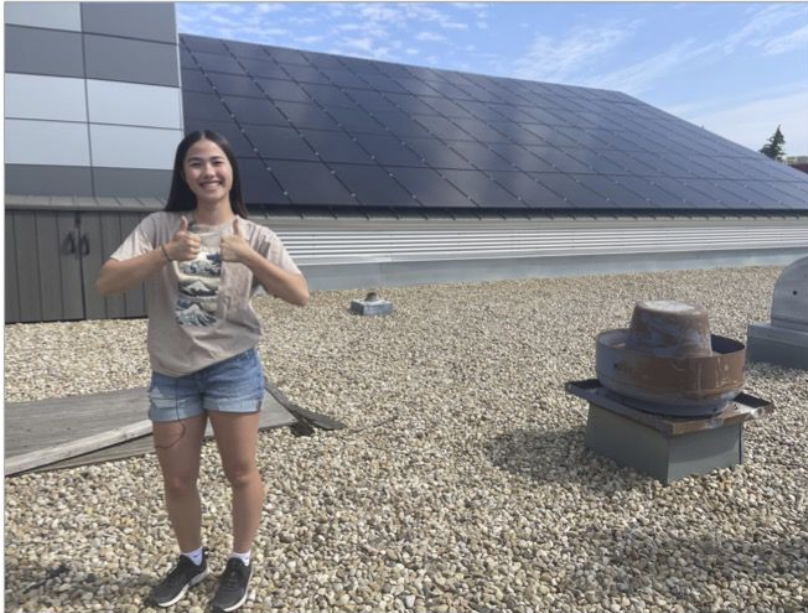
Powering schools with solar energy

On World Environment Day (June 5), media were invited on the rooftop patio at J. Percy Page High School in Mill Woods to capture footage of its recently completed solar panel installation. The school is one of 12 Edmonton Public Schools with solar installations that were recently finished, thanks to a partnership with the Solar for Schools Program. In all, 24 Edmonton Public Schools have Division-led solar installations providing alternative energy and serving as a learning tool for students.

This year, Edmonton Public Schools will generate enough solar energy to offset 7.5 per cent of its total energy usage, which is enough to power 800 Alberta homes. The Division's combined solar initiatives are expected to generate about 5,500 megawatt-hours of electricity in 2023 and save an estimated \$650,000 per year.

Photo: Grade 11 student Jules Ng is excited about the new solar panels on the roof of J. Percy Page High School in Mill Woods.

Photo: Edmonton Public Schools



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Rod Loyola, MLA

Edmonton - Ellerslie

5732 19A Ave | 780-414-2000
edmonton.ellerslie@assembly.ab.ca

RodLoyola
 Rod_Loyola RodLoyola1



Christina Gray, MLA

Edmonton - Mill Woods

3448 93 Street | 780-414-1000
edmonton.millwoods@assembly.ab.ca

@ChristinaNDP

Very different election result was a possibility due to voting system used

Many in Mill Woods must be disappointed by the overall results of the recent Alberta election. In the Edmonton-Mill Woods provincial district, more than 60 percent voted to re-elect the local sitting NDP MLA Christina Gray. However overall, the United Conservative Party (UCP) won a majority government.

The UCP did receive a majority of the votes cast across the province. But almost everything else about the election reeked of unfairness and undemocratic representation.

The actual voter turnout was pretty dismal, and it seems that many voters voted for parties that were not their first choice in order to try to get their vote to count. And despite this, many votes were ignored and not used to elect anyone.

This seems harsh criticism, but the election method that we used did actually produce such dysfunction. With just one MLA elected in each district and votes being only used in that one district, there is no overall proportionality or fairness. The idea that one MLA can represent the range of sentiment in the district just does not compute, and yet that is the polite fiction that we believe in when we elect an MLA that will "represent" us, even if we did not vote for him or her.

Other countries do not use the single-winner system to elect their legislators, and in their elections the votes cast are used more coherently to determine the elected members.

Overall the recent Alberta election did produce a Legislature where the United Conservatives and the New Democrats did get the approximate correct proportions in the chamber as compared to votes cast. But that was a sheer accident. The NDP made a clean one-party sweep of Edmonton's 20 seats, but received only two-thirds of the city's votes. The UCP got all but four seats outside Edmonton and Calgary but received only about two-thirds of the votes cast in those parts.

Those two disproportional results actually balanced each other as far as overall party representation goes. But now we see UCP MLAs from farm country trying to be the voice of big-city conservatives living in Edmonton.

In Calgary each party took about half the votes and about half the seats. This fair sharing of the seats was just by chance – with a shift of just three hundred votes, the NDP might have lost four of its Calgary seats and the city result would not have been so fair. The

small shift in votes would have meant that the new Legislature would be made up of a very lopsided 53-seat UCP caucus facing only 34 NDP members.

And the opposite holds true as well. The NDP with just a bit more luck

could have been elected to majority government. With a different shift of less than 2,500 votes, the NDP might have won six more seats overall, which would have produced a NDP-majority legislature. (These close districts where UCP won with just a small lead over the NDP candidate were Calgary North, Northwest, Bow, Cross and East; and Lethbridge East.)

This very different result would have been produced by a shift of less than 2,500 votes of the 1.8 million votes cast in this election. Or it could have been produced if just 2,500 of the one million eligible voters who did not vote, got out the door and voted NDP. (It would have to be a very specific 2,500 voters to have this result, but the possibility still exists.)

Yes, in this election, one of the most significant elections in our history, more than a million of Alberta's eligible voters did not vote. Voter turnout was actually lower this time than in 2019 – 100,000 fewer voters voted this year compared to 2019.

Meantime the two main parties com-

bined took more votes than they had in 2019, while fewer votes were cast. Voter turnout was significantly lower in this election than in 2019. Even though there were more eligible voters, fewer votes were cast this year compared to 2019. I believe this drop came from voters who had voted for third parties (parties other than UCP and NDP) in 2019. Unable to see any chance for their preferred candidate to win, many of them simply stayed home. Those parties received just 74,000 votes as opposed to the 240,000 they had received in 2019.

And even many voters for the two main parties likely stayed home as well. The media identified Edmonton as safe seats for the NDP and the rural districts as safe seats for the UCP, so likely some stayed home feeling their preference just did not have a chance. It takes a stalwart voter to get out to vote, knowing their vote will likely be ignored. Somewhat surprisingly, there are many such voters – a third of Edmonton voters went against the NDP tide, and a third of rural voters went against the UCP tide. In four rural districts NDP voters actually prevailed against expectations.

And there is no way to know how many voters felt forced to vote for candidates not of their first choice. No time ever in our history has the "third parties" received such a low percentage of the votes cast. Only about three percent of the votes were cast for parties other than the UCP and NDP.

Heck, even in Alberta's first election, back when we were just coming into provincehood, five percent of the votes were cast for other than the two main parties. Generally a good 20 percent of votes cast are for parties other than the

most-popular ones. It is not likely that that usual 20 percent of voters just of their own free will decided that the NDP or the UCP was the answer to their dreams.

Should politics work that way? Should voters feel that voting for whom they truly want to see elected is a waste of time?

Should a third of the votes cast in our capital city go for naught?

Should more than a third of the voters outside Edmonton and Calgary be almost totally unrepresented?

If you are like me, you answered "no" to each of these questions.

And we can look at most of the countries around the world and see a better way to elect our representatives –

Proportional Representation (PR). This can take the form of party list PR where voters vote for parties.

Or it can be Single Transferable Voting (STV) where voters vote directly for candidates. With most successful candidates getting the same number of votes, and each party getting a seat for each 20,000 votes cast or so, each party gets its fair share of the seats. STV offers the benefit that votes cast in Edmonton are used to elect Edmonton MLAs, which may not be the case in list PR.

As well, the system known as Mixed Member Proportional secures local representation and also party proportionality.

No matter the system chosen, PR will dependably produce fair results. This is not done by the system used in our last election, where less than one percent of votes cast determined whether we would now be living under a UCP or a NDP majority government.

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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Advanced Analytics Playing a Role in Reducing Canada's Immigration Backlogs

I recently attended Canadian Bar Association's National Immigration Law Conference in Ottawa. The conference is always a fantastic opportunity to speak with other immigration lawyers and to hear from government representatives about current developments surrounding Canada's immigration system.

A common theme from the conference was how Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) has had an extraordinary volume of applications in their inventory and how they are dealing with that volume by putting measures in place to process applications at a record pace.

It is not surprising that IRCC is grappling with a large inventory of permanent resident and temporary resident applications.

During the height of the pandemic, Canada continued to intake applications but was unable to process many of those applications because of travel restrictions and border closures, and this asymmetry between the intake and outflow of applications caused inventories to grow.

Furthermore, the pandemic put pressures on the department (like those seen by other workplaces that were forced to make significant adjustments to where and how work was done in response to the pandemic) which also cause processing times to increase, further increasing the backlog.

In addition to this pandemic related backlog, a couple of other factors further contributed to the size of IRCC's application inventory.

Firstly, humanitarian crises, particularly the Russian invasion of Ukraine resulted in a significant number of additional applications (over 1 million applications have been received under the Canada Ukraine Authorization for Emergency Travel, the government's special program to help Ukrainians and family members to come to Canada on an expedited basis and pro-

vide them with the ability to work and study.

Secondly, as Canada entered this post-pandemic phase there was and continues to be an unprecedented interest in Canada and a significant demand by Canadian employers for

Minister Sean Fraser announced that IRCC would hire up to 1,250 new employees by the end of the fall in order to increase the department's processing capacity.

The more novel response – though no doubt also enabled in part by the additional funds described

above, is the expanded use of automation and advanced data analytics to process applications more quickly. Advanced data analytics is now being used by IRCC to automatically triage applications, creating efficiencies by sorting applications for officers by their relative complexity. In particular, advanced analytics and machine learning are currently being used to automatically identify routine applications that can automatically determine that an applicant is eligible and forward that application to an officer for a final decision. For example, an applicant who has repeatedly been approved for Canadian visas in the past may have a subsequently visa application automatically identified for approval.

Importantly, IRCC has been very clear that advanced analytics and automation is never used to refuse or recommend the refusal of an application, and that if the automation tool is unable to approve the application it will be sent to an officer for normal decision making.

Advanced analytics and automation are already having a positive impact on processing times. In recent times, we have seen certain types of routine work permit applications processed in just weeks where they would previously have taken months.

Although advanced analytics and automation aren't used to refused applications, I am concerned that these

tools may influence the human decision makers in unexpected ways. For example, will officers be more likely to refuse applications that are identified by the tool as being more complex?

Another effect of the use of advanced analytics and automation will inevitably be the emergence of two-tiers of applications, applications that contain the necessary characteristics to be identified and processed quickly by the automation tools, and those applications that will take longer as they require processing by a human officer.

Through the hiring of more officers and the use of new technological tools, IRCC's increased processing capacity has been effective in demonstrably reducing processing times. The backlog of temporary resident applications is shrinking and processing times for those applications are steadily improving. On the permanent residence side, the increased processing capacity helped IRCC to admit over 437,000 new permanent residents in 2022 – the largest number of permanent residents ever welcomed in Canada's history.

IRCC has been innovative and made significant investments in order to increase the department's processing capacity and tackle the large inventory of applications that it is facing coming out of the pandemic. While technology such as advanced analytics and automation has made an immediate impact by allowing decisions to be made more quickly, we will need to wait and see what impact they will have on the quality and fairness of those decisions.

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

**Nathan
A. Po**

**Immigration
Lawyer
in
Edmonton**



talent from abroad. For example, compared to 2019, in 2022 there was 45% increase in study permit applications and a 145% increase in the number of work permit applications.

Canada is handling this large inventory of permanent resident and temporary resident applications in both conventional and novel ways.

A conventional response to the backlog was to allocate more funding to the issue. The Government of Canada providing significant funding for the reduction of backlogs in its Economic and Fiscal Update – providing \$85 million in funding in 2022 so that IRCC could “process more permanent resident and temporary resident applications and reduce processing times in key areas affected by the pandemic” and to also “speed up the process to citizenship for the many permanent residents already contributing to building a stronger Canada”. That additional funding allowed IRCC to hire many additional employees to aid in processing – on August 29, 2022, Immigration



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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**

The next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic will be published on July 15, 2023. The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, July 7, 2023.



New sponsor for fireworks on Canada Day

The City of Edmonton has decided to remove the fireworks for the Canada Day Celebration in Mill Woods from their budget, but the Mill Woods Presidents' Council was able to find a new sponsor for the fireworks. Maclab Development Group, the new developer of Mill Woods Town Centre, is the new sponsor.

"We were unsure if the Canada Day Fireworks in Mill Woods would continue when the City of Edmonton removed the fireworks from their festival budget, but thanks to Maclab Development Group we are able to put on the same quality of event that our community has grown to expect," said Karen Liber, Chairperson of the Mill Woods Presidents' Council's Canada Day Committee.

The Mill Woods Canada Day 2023 Celebration will be held at Mill Woods Park on Saturday, July 1, starting at 2 p.m., with free children's activities, food trucks and Artisan Fair, a family-friendly beer garden, entertainment on the main stage from 3 to 11 p.m., and fireworks at 11 p.m.

For more information, visit the website www.seedmonton.ca/canada-day.

Photo: MWPC Canada Day Chairperson Karen Liber on May 16 with Bill Blais, President and CEO of Maclab Development Group, who presented a cheque of \$32,000 for the fireworks.

Photo: Mill Woods Presidents' Council


What's up?


Community events in Mill Woods

- June 17** - Mini Parade
Millhurst Community League
5820 - 11 A Avenue, Mill Woods
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
More information: www.millhurst.ca
- June 25** - Edmonton Swiss Men's Choir
Sunday afternoon concert
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church
10014 - 81 Avenue, Edmonton
Admission by donation. Benefit concert to support the local food bank and the church.
3:00 p.m.
- July 1** - Canada Day Celebration in Mill Woods
sponsored by Mill Woods Presidents' Council
Mill Woods Park
71 Street & 23 Avenue, Mill Woods
Starting at 2 p.m., fireworks at 11 p.m.
"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
- July 9** - Mainstreet Cruisers 30th Anniversary Charity Car Show in support of Little Warriors and the E4C Hot Lunch Program
Southwest parking lot of Mill Woods Town Centre
2331 - 66 Street NW, Mill Woods
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. • Registration at 9 a.m.
- Aug. 5 - 7** - Edmonton Heritage Festival
NEW TEMPORARY LOCATION:
Edmonton EXPO Centre, Exhibition Grounds & Borden Park
Saturday 12 - 9 p.m.
Sunday 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
Monday 10 a.m. - 8 p.m.
More information: www.heritagefest.ca
- Aug. 18 - 26** - Edmonton Pride Festival
Sir Winston Churchill Square & other locations
More information: www.PrideEdmonton.ca
- Do you have a community event in Mill Woods to announce? Please send us the information, and we will include it in this community calendar in the next issue of the Mill Woods Mosaic.
Tel. (780) 465-7526 or e-mail to: mwmosaic@telus.net
The next deadline is Friday, July 7, 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**