



EDMONTON



**ANNUAL REPORT
2008**

City of Edmonton Youth Council

P.O. Box 2359
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 2R7

P: 780-496-4938
F: 780-577-3525

youthcouncilaedmonton.ca
www.ceyc.ca



2008 CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Amazing opportunities and experiences in 2008 saw the City of Edmonton Youth Council make significant contributions to the quality of life of young Edmontonians. We provided a voice for youth at City Council, civic committees, community events and conferences. Through our involvement, we gained valuable knowledge and created networking opportunities. The experience, skills and talents of its members drive the Youth Council to take on initiatives like the Heart 2 Art Campaign, an art contest for youth by youth to raise awareness about homelessness.

A major milestone of 2008 was the widespread positive impact the Youth Council had on awareness of homelessness in our inner city. Our grassroots Heart 2 Art Campaign asked Edmontonians aged 5-19 to submit their artwork depicting what it means to be homeless or what can be done to help the homeless. There were 870 entries from children and youth throughout Edmonton. The contest culminated in a gala dinner where the winners were honoured. Funds raised through gala ticket sales supported the programs of Boyle Street Community Services, an inner city organization working with the homeless.

In the coming year, we will continue to put a human face on the issue of homelessness. Protecting the environment and promoting sustainability will also be priorities. With 21 new members on the Youth Council General Assembly, we have a dynamic team of passionate and motivated young people who want to make a meaningful contribution to our vibrant city - a contribution that illustrates that "we care."

Sincerely,

Justin Lui
Chair

SUBCOMMITTEES

SERVICE:

Formed to support volunteering requests received from external groups.

ENVIRONMENT:

Formed to plan youth environmental forum.

HOMELESSNESS:

Hosted the Heart 2 Art project.

INPUT

The Youth Council provides input to City Council and the municipal government.

In 2008, the Youth Council was involved in these City of Edmonton Initiatives:

- Canadian Coalition of Municipalities Against Racism & Discrimination
- Child-Friendly Edmonton
- Edmonton Community Drug Strategy
- Edmonton Inter-Agency Youth Services Association
- Edmonton Public Library Board
- Edmonton Youth Employment Study
- Graffiti Management Program
- Municipal Development & Transportation Master Plans
- Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness
- Walkable Edmonton's Walkability Strategy.

The General Assembly ratified recommendations on these issues:

- City of Edmonton plans for the Prince of Wales Armoury
- Supporting the Letter of Intent for Canadian Heritage.

PARTICIPATION

In 2008, we were excited to be part of these events:

- Alberta Recreation and Parks Association (ARPA) Annual Symposium
- ICLEI "Green Earth, Blue Sky" Event
- John Humphrey Global Youth Assembly
- Youth Organizing to Understand Conflict and Non-Violence (YOUCAN) Symposium.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

The mandate of the Youth Council includes participating in community events and offering meaningful contributions in return.

The Heart 2 Art contest received 870 submissions from Edmontonians aged 5-19 and generated \$110,000 in gala ticket sales to support the work of Boyle Street Community Services.

Edmonton's first annual Youth Week celebration was a success. The Youth Council hosted a great Kick-off event with Child-Friendly Edmonton at Castledowns Skate Park.

The Youth Council's Service Sub-Committee organized members to serve Thanksgiving dinner at Boyle Street Community Services and participate in HomeFest.

INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

In addition to its work within the City and with external organizations, the Youth Council also strives to strengthen and develop its internal structure, policies and procedures, as well as to provide to its members growth, educational and training opportunities.

- The standing subcommittees ensure that our mandate is being fulfilled. These ongoing subcommittees are:
 - Policy
 - Events and Social
 - Representation
- Revisions and enhancements to the Terms of Reference and Youth Council procedures and policies.
- Opportunities for involvement, through the Vice Chair of Representation, on civic committees, municipal working groups and City boards.
- Social events for members to build positive relationships, enhance networking skills and provide a well-rounded Youth Council experience.
- Annual recruitment and orientation of new members to ensure long-term sustainability of the Youth Council and to enable experienced members to mentor and inspire their peers.

