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SAFER TOGETHER

Fostering collaborative relationships in community safety and well-being

2022 REACH ANNUAL REPORT



GET IN TOUCH

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REACH Edmonton is proud to share the work we've done in 2022 in helping communities in Edmonton feel safer and more vibrant. In this work, we have come to realize how important community connectivity is in furthering the work of community safety. Connected communities are able to address issues through diverse perspectives and types of expertise, they increase feelings of inclusion and reduce feelings of isolation. Without it, collaboration and being able to see problems clearly becomes difficult. It is because of this that REACH ensures relationships between partners are built on strong foundations before work begins in the community.

The safety and well-being issues facing Edmonton continue to be complex as the ongoing ripple effects of the pandemic continue to affect communities. Complex

issues like houselessness, drug poisonings, the effects of intergenerational trauma of residential school survivors, economic uncertainty, and racism continue to create barriers for communities deserving safety and security. No one group can tackle these problems alone and the only way we can make an impact is if we develop the relationships to work together.

"Safer Together" is the motto that drives REACH's work. In this annual report we are happy to share with you the many relationships we've fostered and grown in 2022. In each relationship we've built, we gain new insights into how different communities think about safety and well-being. We strive to continue building new relationships as our work towards making Edmonton a safer city for all evolves and grows.

24/7 Crisis Diversion

24/7 Crisis Diversion is a collaborative partnership with Boyle Street Community Services, Canadian Mental Health Association (211 Program), HOPE Mission, and REACH Edmonton. Twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year, this initiative connects Edmontonians in vulnerable contexts with support. Mobile teams engage with individuals in distress and offer transportation to safe spaces where they can connect with appropriate resources. Crisis Diversion teams proactively build relationships with community members on the street to prevent future crisis situations by providing basic supports and harm reduction interventions.

24/7 Crisis Diversion works closely with first responders, hospitals, social serving agencies, ETS, and a growing continuum of responders to crisis events, such as COTT, the EPS HELP Unit, and the Encampment Response Team. These relationships are important to ensure that the right service

responds in the right way, at the right time. In 2022, the program underwent formal evaluation to more clearly define the complex circumstances of the individuals supported by the program and identify ways to strengthen practice and data collection. Built off of evaluation findings, program partners and front-line staff met regularly to co-design a new app to improve program efficiency, decrease wait times at 211, and enhance data collection to tell create a clearer picture of the work being done by the program. The new app will launch in 2023.

Additionally, the program worked to engage with more community stakeholders who will join the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Steering Committee in 2023. This includes representatives from EPS, EMS, Fire Services, the business community, and Native Counselling Services of Alberta. This expanded group will provide important input to guide the program as it continues to evolve to meet the needs of those in crisis.



THE REACH VISION

A city we are proud of, in a region which is harmonious, where all people, including the first peoples on whose lands we reside, are included, feel safe, and are safe.

THE REACH MISSION

To strengthen community safety in our city and region through innovative ideas, building relationships, and inspiring action.

REACH Edmonton is a backbone organization with the goal of significantly increasing community safety in the Edmonton region in one generation. We bring community members and organizations together to delve deeply into the underlying causes that make people feel unsafe in their communities, such as racism, inequity, poverty, intergenerational and pre-migration trauma, discrimination, and homelessness.

Using the collective impact approach, we work with partners to identify the gaps in

addressing these issues and create new approaches aimed at increasing people's perception of safety and inclusion. Together we're building a culture of community safety and crime prevention. REACH is committed to fostering innovation and continuous improvement in its initiatives. One of our key roles as the backbone organization is working with partners to establish and maintain shared measurement practices. We use these to evaluate, monitor, plan, and adapt initiatives to changing needs, based on what we've learned.

REACH STRATEGIC PILLARS

SAFE AND CARING COMMUNITIES

BUILDING COMMUNITIES WHERE ALL BELONG

STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

STRENGTHENING TRUST IN COMMUNITIES

STRENGTHENING COALITIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS FOR SOCIAL IMPACT

LEADER'S
MESSAGES



Edmonton is made up of communities eager to make this city a place that is safe and welcoming for everyone. It is inspiring to see the efforts of the many groups and organizations coming together in tackling some of the city's most complex social issues. No organization better exemplifies this collaborative spirit than REACH Edmonton as it has proven itself as the community convener.

When the City of Edmonton developed the Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy, it was great to see REACH emerge as one of the strategy's leading partners. We are keen to see how REACH and CIVIDA can better connect affordable housing residents to one another leveraging the skills, talents and resources they each have.

We are also grateful to have REACH be a leader at the table in providing governance to the Healthy Streets Operating Committee. We hope that REACH's expertise in relationship building will provide new perspectives on how we can tackle social disorder and build even stronger collaborative partnerships between first responders downtown.

Together we really can build a safer city for everyone. The City of Edmonton is thankful for all that REACH has done over the years and we look forward to the future for what's to come.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Mayor of Edmonton



2022 brought with it many opportunities for growth for REACH. Through the many relationships we foster, we continue to adopt new perspectives and approaches to community safety and well-being. Our relationships are what drives the work and keeps the work meaningful.

A key relationship the organization continues to strengthen is with its staff. In 2022, a new Human Resources strategy was initiated and seeks to further build on the strengths and knowledge REACH team members bring to their work. Outcomes of this strategy will create a model for excellent partner and employee relationships, establish processes for exceptional employee engagement, and secure recognition as a certified workplace health and performance mentor.

Beyond the organization, REACH conducted stakeholder engagement to understand how to best position itself and communicate the work we do in the community. Through this work we have come to better understand the priorities of some of our key partners like the City of Edmonton, enforcement agencies, and social agencies. Through this positioning work we have also been able to assess our strengths as an organization, seeing that we are a place where ideas can be started up, scaled up, and shifted out into the broader community.

We're excited to continue on with the work in 2023 alongside the community and our dedicated partners. Thank you to everyone who supports our work!

Jan Fox, REACH Executive Director
Donna Ludvigsen, REACH Board Chair

Substance Use and Addictions Program

The Substance Use and Addictions Program (SUAP) is an initiative spearheaded by the Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation in collaboration with front line social agencies, the University of Alberta, the City of Edmonton, and REACH Edmonton aimed to address the rising rates of drug poisonings in the city. This was done by better understanding the issue through community engagement and by providing community grants to grassroots community organizations.

The public engagement campaign undertook a process to hear from community members, businesses, frontline workers, Indigenous communities, and those with lived/living experience to help inform future opportunities for action around awareness, education, services, and resources. A full report of the public engagement campaign can be found at drugsafeyeg.ca.

Insights collected from the engagement were also used to inform the SUAP Neighbourhood Contributions Program which distributed grants to organizations looking to address the issue of drug poisonings. Nine groups were funded with diverse approaches to drug poisoning prevention ranging from harm reduction projects to community drug testing pilots. Evaluation of these projects will inform future community interventions.

Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative

The Neighborhood Organizing Initiative (NOI) supports the convening of community partners, encourages stakeholder collaboration, and facilitates dialogue around safety issues in several neighbourhoods and geographic communities in Edmonton. Stakeholders and partners include community members, social agencies, Community Leagues, businesses and business associations, City of Edmonton departments, EPS branches, and elected officials.

The Chinatown Safety Council (CSC) continues to be a focus of the NOI as we continue to strengthen relationships between businesses, social agencies, and the City of Edmonton. In 2022, Bissell Centre was invited into the CSC to soon be involved in coordinating the monthly Chinatown clean-ups with REACH and the Chinatown Transformation Collaborative (CTC). The relationship between Bissell and CTC has since grown to other collaborations such as the Chinese bagged lunch event for vulnerable folks in Chinatown. The CSC strives to find more ways to connect businesses and social agencies in the area.

The NOI foresees more opportunities for community connectivity through the Healthy Streets Operation Centre in Chinatown (HSOC) of which REACH plays a governance role. With HSOC established to better align first responder services, paired with the insights the CSC has into the safety needs of Chinatown, there is potential for real impact on addressing some of the acute critical safety issues in the area.



Safer Way Out

Safer Way Out aims to develop a coordinated, community response to meet the needs of survivors of human trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, ensuring responses are appropriate for survivors who require wrap around services with safety as a priority. It is a collaboration between REACH, ALERT, CEASE, Not in My City, and Catholic Social Services.

In 2022, the initiative further developed the Safety Network Coordinator role, which works to bridge the gap between community supports, government resources, and law enforcement by meeting survivors of human trafficking where they are at. Given the trauma a trafficked person has experienced, they often need assistance with crisis intervention and assessment, a comprehensive assessment of needs, and coordination of medium and long-term supports.

Evaluation of the Safety Network Coordinator positions helped inform the Government of Alberta's allocation of resources, as recommended by the Alberta Human Trafficking Task Force report resulting in committed funding for both north and south SNC positions until 2026.

REACH Training

REACH Training works collaboratively with facilitators and partner organizations to accommodate the unique needs of front-line workers and agencies. It delivers accessible, specialized training for front-line workers, supervisors, law enforcement, social workers, and others. REACH training shares knowledgeable, practical solutions, and emerging best practices for working with vulnerable people and diverse populations.

REACH Training plays an important role for non-profit agencies by identifying emerging needs and working together to address gaps. Training in 2022 included increased understanding of anti-racism work with the Centre for Race & Culture on microaggressions, Developing Self-Compassion, Supporting Your Muslim Clients, Taking Care: Strategies to Support Self-regulation & Resilience, and Understanding & Mitigating Bias.

Resource Connect

Resource Connect is a biennial event that brings together an expanding community of agencies and service providers from across Edmonton to explore how they might better create connections towards a more collaborative community of practice.

A total of 630 guests attended Resource Connect 2022, including local politicians. 91 agencies from various sectors participated, sharing resources around issues like family well-being, senior support, community safety, newcomer support, and housing. Surveys conducted at the event contributed to a report highlighting the gaps and opportunities agencies see in being able to collaborate with one another.

Regular meetup events are being scheduled throughout 2023 where service information, system gaps and opportunities are being shared with participants. A total of 24 agency presentations are scheduled for 2023.



FINANCIALS

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2021 Actual
Revenues			
City of Edmonton operating contribution	\$6,283,550	\$5,769,877	\$5,462,586
Other grants and contributions	\$1,356,575	\$1,338,873	\$1,926,993
Net amounts recognized (deferred)	0	\$281,724	(\$272,791)
Amounts repaid during the year	0	-----	(\$ 7,500)
Investment income	\$15,000	\$42,635	\$ 5,340
Other income and recoveries	\$35,000	\$9,285	\$ 12,509
Training	\$15,000	\$16,301	\$1,037
Membership Sales	\$5,000	\$1,435	-----
	\$7,710,125	\$7,459,860	\$7,128,174
Expenditures			
Program expenses	\$5,905,822	\$5,682,280	\$5,468,433
Finance, operations and information technology	\$1,781,803	\$1,759,634	\$ 1,792,247
Amortization of capital assets	\$22,500	\$40,294	\$ 36,337
	\$7,710,125	\$7,482,208	\$7,297,017
Net Assets			
Deficiency of revenues over expenses	-----	(\$22,348)	(\$168,843)
Net assets, beginning of year	\$209,655	\$209,655	\$378,500
Net assets, end of year	\$209,655	\$187,307	\$209,657

REACH INITIATIVES

- In 2022, REACH Edmonton contributed to the following initiatives. Learn more by reading our [2022 Business Plan Report Back](#) at reachedmonton.ca
- » Out of School Time
 - » Support for Child and Youth Programs
 - » Middle Years Strategy
 - » WrapED
 - » 24/7 Crisis Diversion
 - » YEGAmbassadors
 - » REACH Training
 - » REACH Immigrant and Refugee Initiative
 - » Immigrant Family Violence Prevention Committee
 - » Coalitions Creating Equity
 - » Addictions Don't Discriminate
 - » Cannabis Coalition
 - » Sexual Exploitation Working Group
- » Safer Way Out
 - » Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative
 - » Resource Connect
 - » REACH Outreach
 - » Building Capacity in Rural Crime Prevention
 - » Not In My City
 - » Peace In Our Cities
 - » Organization for the Prevention of Violence
 - » Resiliency Project
 - » Soloss
 - » REACH Data Storytelling

