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THE WORK WE DO AT REACH IS POSSIBLE THANKS TO GENEROUS SUPPORT FROM:

City of Edmonton

Government of Alberta

Government of Canada

Royal Alexandra Hospital Foundation

United Way Alberta Capital Region

University of Alberta

CONTACT



For more information about REACH Edmonton, please visit our website by scanning the QR code to the left, or go to:

https://www.reachedmonton.ca

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 REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities



SAFER TOGETHER



2023 REACH Annual Report

Fostering collaborative relationships in community safety and well-being.



REACH Edmonton is a highly-trusted organization with a proven history of bringing together community, service agencies and government to get things done, with the ultimate aim of preventing violence to create safe communities. REACH leverages its extensive connections across the city, the province and the globe to get the right people to the table, to collaboratively address complex problems and make communities safer. REACH was created by the City of Edmonton in 2010 to do this work in a nimble and efficient way. Issues that affect safety in Edmonton touch multiple sectors and systems. By facilitating partnerships with a wide variety of stakeholders, existing resources are leveraged to tackle safety issues in innovative and cost-effective ways. In 2023, REACH showed that it continues to be worthy of the trust placed in the organization by partners, collaborators, funders and local communities. Contained in this report are just a few of the many programs and partnerships in which REACH is involved.

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 and are safe.

MISSION

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

STRATEGIC PILLARS

- Truth and Reconciliation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Belonging
- Community Safety and Well-Being
- Proactive, Preventative Approaches
- Sharing and Using Global Practices
- Enabling Community-Based Solutions
- Nimble and Responsive to Emergent Needs

REACH FINANCIALS

The Financial Statements of REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities Incorporated as “REACH Edmonton Council” Year ended December 31, 2023, are an addendum to the 2023 Annual Report. See audited financials by clicking [here](#).

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR



Edmontonians understand the importance of collaboration when it comes to community safety and well-being. In 2010, City Council created REACH Edmonton as a unique approach to safety – putting the power to create innovative solutions in the hands of the community. REACH continues to show its ability to bring partners together in creating a safer Edmonton.

This unique ability is on display in their work supporting the City’s Community Safety and Well-Being Strategy, and its emerging partnerships with international groups like Peace In Our Cities. We look forward to many more years of community collaboration and a safer city for all Edmontonians.

The Honourable Amarjeet Sohi, Mayor of Edmonton

LEADERS’ MESSAGE



We are proud of the work REACH has accomplished with community partners throughout 2023. We continue to pursue community-sourced solutions because the best answers to complex challenges come from the people who are living with them every day.



The work of REACH is truly the work of the community. Everything we do is only possible because of the participation of our community partners and the support of our funders. Thank you!

Andrew Leach, REACH Board Chair  
Jan Fox, REACH Executive Director



REACH does its work every day on traditional lands of First Nations and Métis people, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory. REACH, along with the City of Edmonton and all the people here, are beneficiaries of this peace and friendship treaty. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors’ footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial. Together we call upon our collective honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for both present and future generations.



SOLOSS

“That’s my brother. I’m never gonna get over it,” explained Robert, a Soloss Losstender. “I want to hold on to stories and carry him through the rest of my life, the way he’s helped me and carried me often.”

Soloss strengthens community care for grief and loss. Its purpose is to build collective capacity to be with and bear witness to loss, opening up space for connection and healing. Prototyping different models of care in different environments provides insight into how we can better care for community.

Regular Edmontonians like Robert who have personal experience with grief and loss, called Losstenders, are empowered to help others. Losstenders connect with people who are in the throes of grief, referred to as Sharers. Losstenders and Sharers learn from each other, using creative expression and embodiment to create meaningful moments of connection to honour shared human experience. The initiative places special emphasis on people subsisting in the margins whose grief and loss has gone repeatedly unrecognized, posing barriers to positive well-being.

About half of the 2023 cohort’s Losstenders came into the role following the death of a family member or partner, and expressed a desire to continue their own healing journeys.

“When I started this role, I knew that there’s no way I’m going to engage in grief and loss without addressing my own grief and loss,” said Robert.

From the three rounds of Soloss to date, REACH learned that everyday people in Edmonton have the desire to create and contribute, if only they knew how. Soloss is a small way for institutions and systems to locate the pockets of possibility that can seed and support more relational models of practice and better support the individuals within our community.

FUNDING

\$179,786

from the City of Edmonton

\$13,098

from the University of Alberta

\$13,850

from United Way

OUTCOMES

80%

of Soloss evaluation respondents reported a greater sense of purpose

92%

of Soloss evaluation respondents reported greater connection to friends, family and community

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, REACH Edmonton and stakeholders from the Edmonton Police Service, Alberta Health Services Emergency Medical Services, City of Edmonton Community Standards Peace Officers and Edmonton Fire Rescue Services.

The initiative dispatches mobile crisis diversion teams around the clock, 365 days a year. These teams respond and engage with individuals in distress and provide requested support which may include transportation to safe spaces where they can connect with appropriate resources. 24/7 Crisis Diversion works closely with first responders, hospitals, social serving agencies, Edmonton Transit Service and a growing continuum of responders to crisis events, such as Community Outreach Transit Teams, the Edmonton Police Service’s HELP Unit and the Government of Alberta’s Navigation Centre.

FUNDING

\$4,564,180

from the City of Edmonton

OUTCOMES

52,000+ Contacts

with vulnerable Edmontonians

20% Increase

in demand from 2022



ALBERTA CENTRE TO END TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS

The creation of the Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons (ACETIP) is the primary recommendation put forward by the Government of Alberta’s Human Trafficking Task Force in 2021, and will be integral to ensuring the accepted recommendations are actioned. It is being developed in close partnership by Native Counselling Services of Alberta, #NotInMyCity and REACH Edmonton, along with the Ministry of Public Safety and Emergency Services. The centre will be responsible for spearheading provincial human trafficking related strategies, initiatives, partnerships, collaborations and capacity building activities. Funding has been provided for the development of the centre until July 2025.

FUNDING

\$295,653

from the Government of Alberta

OUTCOMES

Funding and partnership confirmed (announced July 2023)

Initial planning, needs identification and priority-setting complete

COUNTERING HATE MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

The Office for the Prevention of Violence (OPV) is a community and expert-led non-government organization that is emerging as a global leader in developing effective, evidence-based intervention strategies for all forms of targeted violence. They do this through three main strategies: research, training and direct intervention.

The OPV’s intervention program, Evolve, maintained an active caseload between 60 and 70 individuals characterized as either involved in some form of targeted violence (63%) or individuals negatively impacted by violence (37%). Among involved individuals, there has been noteworthy growth in

‘unstable’ or ‘mixed’ ideologies, mirroring developments in Europe and the United States. In 2023, OPV presentations reached 1,150 people, ranging from local law enforcement to the Canadian Association of Social Workers. Currently, the OPV is working with stakeholders to update and carry on the Understanding Hate and Extremism training formerly led by the Resiliency Project (a collaboration between OPV, REACH and the Edmonton Police Service).

A major report by members of the OPV was published in the Journal for Deradicalization titled *Qollateral: The Impact of QAnon on Loved Ones and the Potential for P/CVE Programs to Help*.

FUNDING

\$264,220

from the City of Edmonton

OUTCOMES

1,100+ People

reached by OPV presentations

60-70 Active cases

open at any given time

WrapED

WrapED is a collaborative initiative that uses a strength-based, youth-centred approach to address root causes of gang activity. It supports young people at-risk of, or already involved in gang activity to work with a community team that helps them to develop a plan for a more positive life experience.

The initiative is supported by partnering service providers including Edmonton John

Howard Society, Native Counselling Services of Alberta, YOUCAN Youth Services, and Multicultural Health Brokers. The Edmonton Police Service (Youth Services Section) provides program oversight and referrals. Noticeable positive changes were observed among active participants and program graduates in areas such as mental health, self-esteem, anger/frustration and attitudes towards conflict.

FUNDING

\$456,894

from the Government of Alberta

OUTCOMES

21 Referrals

43 Youth supported

YEG AMBASSADORS

YEG Ambassadors is a collaborative initiative between REACH Edmonton, the City of Edmonton and five Business Improvement Areas (BIAs) in the Edmonton core – North Edge, Chinatown, Stony Plain Road, Crossroads and Alberta Avenue. It serves as a vital connector, linking businesses, individuals and organizations to essential services and resources with a vision centred on meeting the diverse cultural, social, and economic needs of Edmonton’s core.

The initiative strives to transform the city’s heart into a desirable place to live, work, and visit. The program’s primary goal is to enhance the ability of systems to serve the community in which BIAs work by using data-driven approaches. The program evaluates and tests its strategies to create improvement.



PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

- » 24/7 Crisis Diversion
- » Addictions Don’t Discriminate
- » Alberta Hate Crime Committee
- » Alberta Human Trafficking Network
- » Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons
- » Allies 4 Youth Conference
- » Canadian Centre for Safer Communities
- » Capacity Training
- » Child and Youth Newcomer Service Coordination
- » Civida Housing Project
- » Coalitions Creating Equity
- » Community Initiatives Against Family Violence
- » Community Liaison Committee, Partners in Drug Poisoning Prevention Committee
- » Countering Hate-Motivated Violence
- » Don’t Click! Youth Initiative
- » Downtown Recovery Coalition
- » Healthy Streets Operations Centre
- » Immigrant Youth Leading Change
- » Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative
- » Out of School Time Collaborative
- » Peace in Our Cities
- » REACH Immigrant and Refugee Initiative
- » Rotary District Indigenous Committee
- » Safer Way Out
- » Sexual Exploitation Working Group
- » Soloss
- » Substance Use and Addictions Program
- » WrapED
- » YEG Ambassadors