



ICYDA
INNER CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

**ANNUAL REPORT
2020/2021**



Honouring

*Missing and Murdered Women and Girls
& All Residential School Victims*



Our Mission

Our mission is to provide Edmonton's marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth with preventative social services and programs that promote and facilitate independence and responsibility, empowering youth to become active, constructive, caring community members.





A NOTE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Perseverance Through The Pandemic

This past year was characterized by the resilience of our youth as we all persevered through the pandemic. Our usual cohesive community was transformed into smaller units stationed throughout our building in response to Alberta Health Services regulations.

With the help of our supporters, we managed to continue reaching out to Edmonton's marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth and engaging them in our programming. We were able to offer workshops, counselling sessions, court advocacy, and essential support that helped youth stabilize their lives. Our Social Workers and Youth Workers were in demand dealing with pandemic related anxiety and depression among our youth. These problems were intertwined with the youth's intergenerational trauma and lack of stable housing.

When some youth tested positive for COVID-19 and were required to isolate, isolating was often a problem without stable accommodation. Our youth engagement workers were quite active in searching through housing referrals and doing their best to address the housing needs of our youth. Elder Marjorie, continued to come on-site to offer youth her wisdom and teachings as the young people created traditional crafts. We are proud of their resilience and accomplishments. Thanks to our supporters we didn't let COVID-19 interrupt the support we offer Edmonton's marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth.

Sincerely,

Nikolai Linden

Executive Director

Inner City Youth Engagement Program



HIGHLIGHTS...

- The beading table was operated in keeping with COVID protocols
- Several youth learned how to bead and created beaded moccasins, medicine pouches and other items while discussing personal issues with our Indigenous Social Worker
- Other young women created ribbon skirts with Elder Marjorie
- Zelma created a Star blanket (shown above)
- Several social workers and youth workers went above and beyond the call of duty to counsel isolating youth while delivering food from our kitchen or groceries from our foodbank
- In peak times of COVID restrictions, several smudging/counselling ceremonies were held at the Legislature Grounds
- Many formerly anxiety-ridden resistant youth became more engaged in our programming.

SOME STATS...

Over the course of the year, we worked with 248 marginalized youths.

Based on a sample of 40 youth:

- 65% responded to crisis in increasingly more constructive ways
- 60% displayed improved conflict resolution skills
- 70% increased respect for self and others
- 73% increased awareness of public health issues
- 73% increased ability to articulate personal and social development needs
- 68% displayed increased ability in their lives
- 85% were introduced to technology that was previously unavailable to them.

In this period our Social Workers and Youth Workers, together with youth completed:

- 55 Plans for Change
- 51 Suicide Safety Plans with youth expressing suicidal thoughts
- 50 Referrals for housing
- Mediated 22 warrants for their arrest, avoiding possible time in jail and preventing them from being introduced to a more hardened criminal element.



MEET DOM...

Dom came to Inner City after hearing from a friend that it was a safe place to access supports. Dom lived in a one-bedroom apartment with their Auntie and cousins. At home, food and other basic necessities were scarce and addictions and family violence were an ongoing challenge. When they first visited Inner City, they endorsed 'other' for gender as they had come to a place in their life of identifying as Two Spirit. Initially, Dom sat away and kept their distance from peers and staff. Eventually, they accepted an invitation from an Indigenous Social Worker to join the beading table, a place to bead and share stories safely. When Dom would come to Inner City overwhelmed or upset by circumstances outside, they appreciated the opportunity to smudge with staff or meet with the Elder to debrief. Within a couple of months, Dom began seeking support for new housing opportunities and slowly started to think about their future. Dom also found a sense of community in participating in events related to Indigenous rights (e.g., Murdered Missing Indigenous Women) and started to reflect on their own experiences.



Financial Report 2020/2021

Inner City Youth Engagement Program (YEP)

Revenue

Federal Grants	146,550
Foundations	194,043
City of Edmonton, Community Services	91,778
Capital Contribution Amortization	1,000
Donations	44,848
Fee for Service	10,008
Provincial Grants	6,460
Other	5,931
Total Revenue	500,618

Expenses

Wages and Benefits	350,461
Direct Client Expenses	78,533
Facility	46,435
Transportation and Insurance	16,267
Total Expenses	494,424

Total Revenue	500,618
Total Expenses	494,424
Amortization	6,159
Total Expenditures	500,583
Excess of Revenues Over Expenditures	35





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Helping Youth Help Themselves