



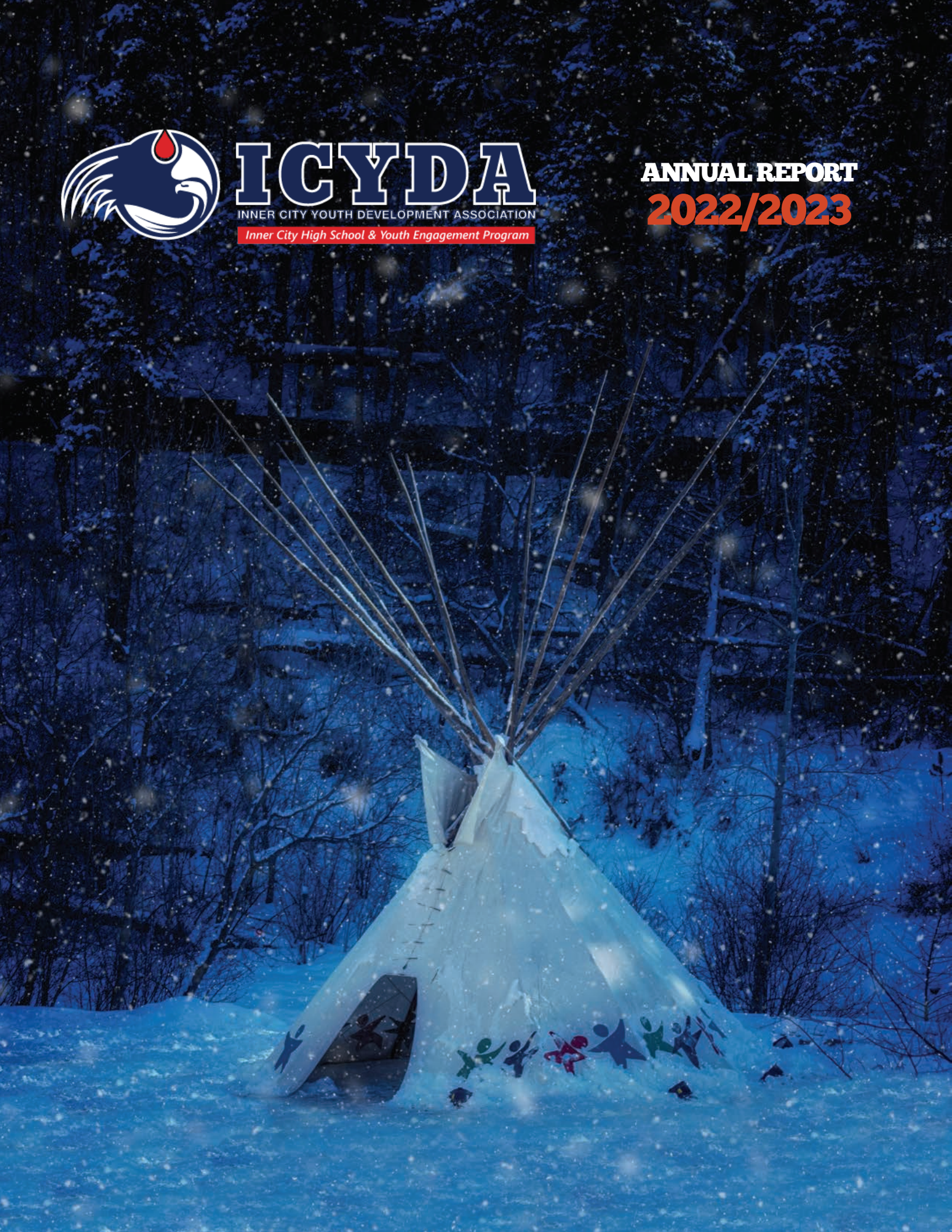
ICYDA

INNER CITY YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

Inner City High School & Youth Engagement Program

ANNUAL REPORT

2022/2023





For over 30 years the Inner City Youth Development Association has been at the leading edge of merging the Arts with Education. Our programming and wrap-around program structure has evolved and changed and is specifically designed to meet the complex needs of Edmonton's marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth.

“What community means to me is home. Even though I’m from Treaty 8 SLCN, I grew up here in Treaty 6... and made this my forever home. I’m grateful for Inner City High School for believing in me and for helping me throughout my journey of finding myself and my voice. Not only was Inner City a school to me, it was and still is my homefire. This for me is where it started, where I found my voice, where I found strength, and found what community means.”

— Nikk SL



A MESSAGE FROM THE COO

The 2022/2023 program year was one of positive change and sustainable developments for the Inner City Youth Development Association (ICYDA) and positive change and personal development for many of our youth.

ICYDA operates two programs in Edmonton's city core for urban marginalized Indigenous and other youth: the Inner City Youth Engagement Program and Inner City High School (ICHS).

The Youth Engagement Program contacts youth at the street level and provides food, counselling referrals, and essential resources. With continuous contact and ongoing support, youth are bridged into Inner City High School.

The youth face realities and barriers unknown to many of us. Their intelligence, strength, and resilience in overcoming situations many of us could barely imagine, let alone the psychological pressures they must deal with, humbles me. Many youths have made our building their home, safe place and community.

There is a growing need to divert youth from a street-involved life to programs that create a safe space with access to resources and developmental opportunities.

The need for this work and for providing opportunities for our youth to become contributing community members is recognized by our organization, many individual donors, Edmonton's philanthropic community, and our federal government. Special recognition goes to the Edmonton Oilers Community Foundation for donating our building to us in 2020.

In 2022/2023, Infrastructure Canada's Green and Inclusive Community Buildings Program provided funds for a large-scale energy-efficient retrofit, significantly reducing our carbon footprint, improving access and adding sustainability to our building and programming. Indigenous Services Canada provided significant funding, allowing us to



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improve and enlarge our building and serve more youth with enhanced facilities.

These developments are life-saving and life-changing for many youths. The dangers of street life are real. Witness the increased number of people on our streets in slap-together shelters and tents in the downtown core or wherever there's space. The alarming deaths from drug overdoses and the opioid crisis underline the need to keep our youth off the streets.

We remain steadfast that ICYDA is an essential partner that contributes to the community by helping youth, help themselves. We thank all those who continue to support our work with Edmonton's marginalized urban indigenous and other youth.

Sincerely,
Joe Cloutier, Ph.D.
Chief Operational Officer
Director of Education



1 | INTRODUCTION

Our Mission & Vision Statement

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

Our vision is to provide Edmonton’s marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth with the support and education they need to help break the cycle of intergenerational trauma, poverty, desperation, and dependence that dominates their lives. Manifesting this vision enables our youth to stabilize their lives and reach an educational level and career choice that facilitates their transition to contributing members of society.

Our purpose is to operationalize our vision and mission. To accomplish this task, social workers and youth workers in our Youth Engagement Program reach out to youth at the street level and offer essential support. This supports includes:

- daily breakfast and lunch
- on-site food bank
- counselling
- housing referrals
- medical and mental health referrals



In addition, our court navigator helps youth with current legal issues navigate the intricacies of the justice system and avoid further legal entanglements and criminal activity.

With this wraparound support, we bridge youth into Inner City High School and offer necessary assistance as they make their way through school to eventual graduation.



2 | ORGANIZATIONAL OVERVIEW

Brief History & Background

Over the years, our programs have evolved, changed, and adapted as we respond to the needs of the youth in our community. We began operating as the Inner City Drama Association (1986), using Popular Theatre to mediate and respond to Edmonton’s marginalized youth’s severe personal and social issues.

As the youth disclosed their needs and developmental barriers to us through drama, we developed corresponding programs that focused on providing housing and other essential resources.



In 1990, we changed our name to the Inner City Youth Development Association to more accurately reflect the nature of our work. In 1993, at the youth’s request, we applied to Alberta Education and opened Inner City High School as an independent accredited senior high school. We soon realized that more than a school was needed and established the Inner City Youth Engagement Program. This program provides youth with counselling, nutritious meals, a food bank, transportation, housing referrals, counselling and ongoing support that bridge youth to Inner City High School.

The culmination of this development created the unique wraparound educational and preventative social service programming provided by the Inner City Youth Developmental Association.

Organizational Structure

As a nonprofit organization governed under the Alberta Societies Act and a Canadian registered charity, the Inner City Youth Development Association is responsible to a Board of Directors.

<p>Co-Chair Jay Gilday, BA, Postal Worker, Professional Musician Jay.Gilday@innercity.ca</p>	<p>Co-Chair Alexina Dalgetty, M.F.A. Writer Alexina.Dalgetty@innercity.ca</p>	<p>Treasurer Cory Chan, Tax Lawyer Cory.Chan@innercity.ca</p>	<p>Director Lori Chong, B.Ed. MA in progress Lori.Chong@innercity.ca</p>
<p>Secretary David Anli, P.Eng., M.B.A. David.Anil@innercity.ca</p>	<p>Staff Representative Nikolai Linden, BA, MA in progress Executive Director Nikolai.Linden@innercity.ca</p>	<p>Staff Representative Joe Cloutier, B.Ed., MA, M.Ed. PhD. Chief Operating Officer Director of Education Joe.Cloutier@innercity.ca</p>	

We are fortunate to have a Board of Directors that not only sets policy and holds fiduciary responsibility for our agency, but does so out of deep commitment to the mission, values and vision of our Association. We are grateful to them for their investment of time and expertise.

Our dedicated staff members' full hearts and open arms welcome our youth with respect for their intelligence, strength, and resiliency.

Our management team comprises Joe Cloutier, Nikolai Linden and School Principal Jennifer Joudrie.

Our front desk, kitchen support, and Indigenous Elder help make our work possible.

Program staff are two vice principals, 12 teachers, three social workers, and three youth education Engagement Workers.

3 | PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Youth Demographics

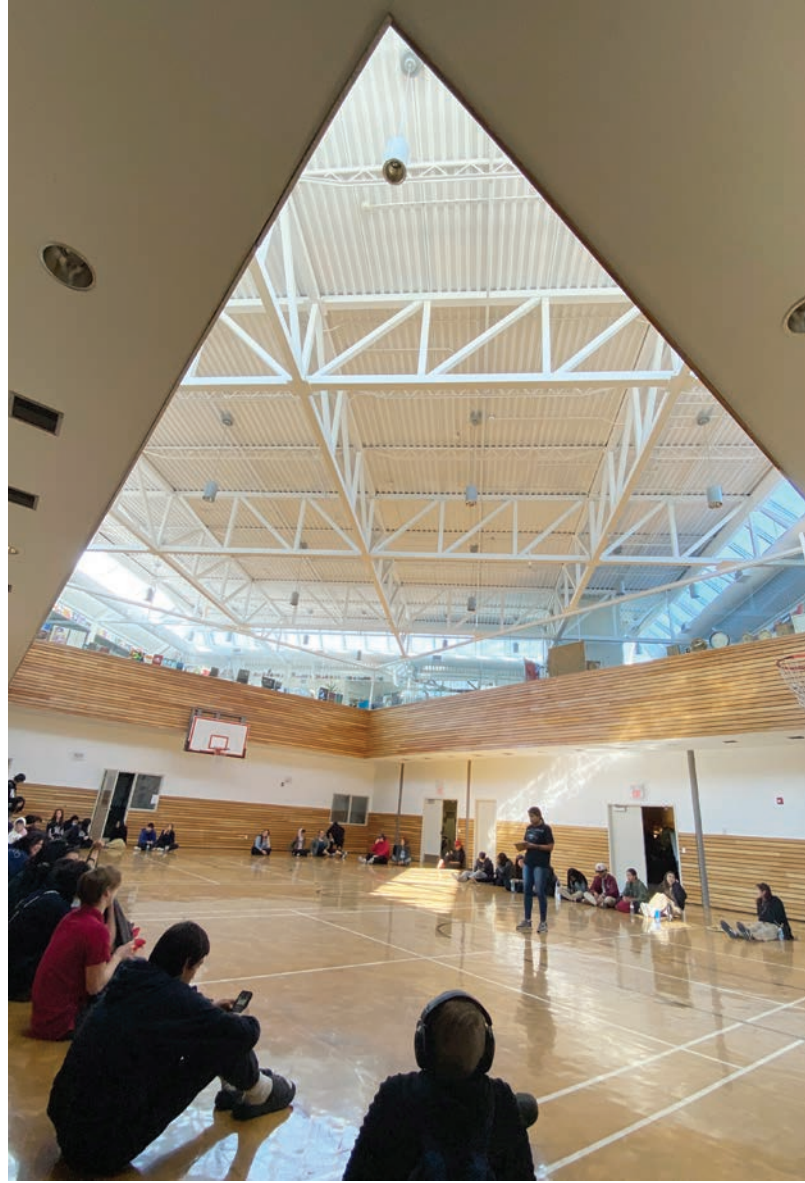
The demographics of our students are strikingly similar to the inmates in Canada's provincial and federal institutions. They shift slightly from year to year, but present an average picture of our students' background.

- 85 to 90% are of Indigenous heritage
- 80% live in unsafe or unstable housing and fit the official definition of homelessness
- 10 % live in group homes
- 85% live independently, often moving from couch to couch
- 5% live with a parent, in some years it is less
- 90%, on average, are known to have involvement with the justice system
- 5-10% are absolutely homeless when they first come to us
- 75% at last count had contact with children's services
- 299 marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth received supports last year.

Overview of Programs & Services

The Inner City Youth Development Association is the umbrella organization for our two programs: The Inner City Youth Engagement Program (YEP) and Inner City High School (ICHS).

Our social workers and youth workers in the YEP program engage with youth at the street level and offer programming and essential support.



These supports include:

- daily breakfast
- a hot, nutritious lunch
- an on-site food bank
- informal counselling
- housing referrals
- medical and mental health referrals.

Providing essential needs to our youth is the first step in engaging Indigenous and other urban youth in our educational programming.

Many youths have legal entanglements with the justice system. Our court navigator/recreational coordinator supports and advocates for youth with current legal issues. He helps them navigate the intricacies of the justice system and avoid time in jail and subsequent association with a more hardened criminal element.



Our court worker discusses legal problems with youth, often disclosed in recreational and sports activities he coordinates. He then works with the youth to vacate (mediate) their warrants and other entanglements with the police, crown attorney or appropriate official. He supports them in the court hearings and advocates for Alternative Measures or a sentencing circle where the youth may be ordered to serve Community Service Hours rather than being sent to jail.

We offer regular workshops on parenting, nutrition, self-development and other social skills that help address harms resulting from the desperation and violence of their environment. Our social workers work with youth expressing suicidal thoughts to create suicide safety plans. In an average year, we make 40 and 50 suicide safety plans with youth expressing suicidal thoughts and behaviours. Sadly, this number continues to grow.

The impact of intergenerational trauma can be far-reaching. As a result, life can be crisis-ridden for many youths, and progression through school is often a circular process. Before coming to Inner City High School, most of our youth had been in and out of 10 to over 20 different schools and only reached the low to mid-elementary level. Many know their academic shortcomings and cover them with avoidance, frustration, and anger. Our teachers, social

workers, and youth workers know these problems and model positive social skills while offering support and informal counselling.

Our school Elder Marjorie spends three days a week in our program meeting and conversing with youth. Her focus is on culture and self-development. Elder Victor offers bi-monthly Sweat Lodge Ceremonies to our youth at his lodge north of Edmonton. Other Indigenous role models visit our programming, and cultural presentations occur whenever possible. Our Indigenous social workers focus on culture through informal counselling when interacting with youth.

“Our social workers work with youth expressing suicidal thoughts to create suicide safety plans. In an average year, we make 40 and 50 suicide safety plans with youth expressing suicidal thoughts and behaviours.”

As a school community, we meet in a circle three times each day. In the circle, everyone is on the same level; a different student facilitates the circle each week. Announcements, day-to-day events, and particular concerns are discussed, youth have input, and all voices are respected.



Youth and students create Plans for Change as a part of the process of stabilizing chaotic lives. Plans for Change evolve into educational and Career Plans. Built on a foundation of wraparound support, we bridge youth into Inner City High School and offer necessary support as they make their way through school to eventual graduation.

Our wraparound, holistic programming is intended to help address the harms of residential schools and their intergenerational impact on our youth by offering cultural, developmental, and educational programs that help stabilize lives and develop self-esteem and personal skills. Youth create career plans and develop the skills, attitudes, and employability to become confident, contributing citizens. As one program participant, Susan, said, “I’m the only one in my family who hasn’t had their children apprehended by social services.” Susan’s mother was a residential school survivor.

Success Stories & Case Studies



Nora completed all but three credits at Inner City High School. Although exceptionally bright and creative, it was difficult for her to excel in mainstream schools due to her crippling anxiety and depression. Accommodations at Inner City High School, such as small class sizes, flexible deadlines, and high-interest

material, helped Nora complete her coursework and graduate. In addition, she developed her love for art in her art classes. Nora plans to go to university to study design.



Ronan was 16 when he registered in our program. He was street-involved, distrustful, wary, and without parental support. Ronan was reluctant to participate in programs or activities and preferred to isolate himself under his hoody. Eventually, his hoody slowly came down. He gradually began to participate in programs and activities. Ronan became engaged and began to express himself in our hip-hop program. He wrote a Hip Hop song that pleaded for answers about the many missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Ronan participated in a rally in support of missing and murdered women and girls in Edmonton’s Beaver Hills Park and performed his song on stage. Ronan is now an active part of our community and looks to the future with hope.

An enduring and lasting impact of our work is shown every workday when five former participants of our street-level programming and graduates of Inner City High School show up for their full-time job at Inner City High School in various positions, from the front desk reception to court worker and social worker.





Program Statistics & Metrics

- In the 2022/2023 Program year, we provided programming to **299 youth** between the ages of 15 to 24.
- Our social workers, completed **45 suicide safety plans** with youth expressing suicidal thoughts.
- Our court worker together with youth addressed **12 warrants** for their arrest helping them avoid time in jail by participating in alternative measures.
- Our court worker supported youth with **31 instances** of liaising with probation officers, and 18 instances of providing in-person courtroom support.
- We made **88 referrals** for mental health supports.
- We distributed **700 grocery bags of food** from our on-site twice-weekly food bank.
- We served **10,588 nutritious daily lunches**, and **4,331 breakfasts**.
- **Twelve students** graduated from Inner City High School with high school diplomas.



At first glance, twelve graduates might seem low. ICHS is a small school. However, it represents quite an achievement considering that most of our students have attended from 10 to as many as 27 schools before registering at Inner City High School.

Now, before we pass those startling numbers by so quickly, ask yourself how that would feel as a child growing up. Would it mean being apprehended from your home? Would it mean passing through just as many foster placements or group homes? Would you feel loved and nurtured as a parent nurtures their child? Would there be abuse in some of those placements? Would you carry pain that can manifest in anger or be covered up with drugs? Many of our youth have a similar history.



4 | FINANCIAL SUMMARY

Budget Comparison to Actual

Revenue	2021/22 Actual	2022/2023 Budget Board Approved	2022/23 Actual	2023/2024 Budget Board Approved
Alberta Education	3,288,094	3,284,903	3,383,634	3,891,212
Federal Government	93,335	-	-	-
Alberta Government, Human Services Fee for Services (Tuition Fees)	15,648	12,500	34,211	12,500
Other Government of Alberta	75,278	91,778	91,778	91,778
Foundation grants, gifts and donations	287,497	137,167	178,261	93,760
Other Revenue	6,994	7,200	24,954	7,000
Amortization of Capital Asset Contribution	77,680	77,680	77,680	77,680
Total Revenue	3,844,526	3,611,228	3,790,518	4,173,930

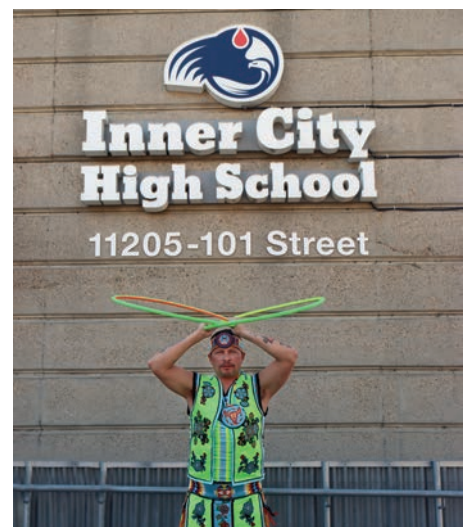
Expenses				
Certificated Salaries and Benefits	1,391,861	1,373,781	1,457,878	1,665,059
Non-Certificated Salaries and Benefits	1,428,171	1,437,846	1,392,528	1,743,531
Service Contract and Supplies	464,220	467,024	476,360	487,916
External Services (Youth Engagement Program)	398,206	243,486	292,416	188,332
Amortization of Capital Assets	89,722	89,091	89,091	89,092
Total Expenses	3,772,180	3,611,228	3,708,272	4,173,930

Surplus (Deficit) of Revenue over Expenses	72,346	-	82,246	-
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5| PARTNERSHIPS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We work collaboratively in support of our youth with the following organizations.

- Alberta Education
- Edmonton Food bank
- iHuman Youth Society
- Access 24/7 Mental Health (Adult Intake Services)
- BGS Enterprises (Foundational Learning support for students)
- Indigenous Psychological Services
- YESS
- Treaty 8 Urban Child and Family Services
- Alberta Children Services and Delegated First Nation Agencies (DFNA)
- John Howard Society (particularly the LOFT program)
- MacEwan University (practicum student placements)
- Norquest College (practicum student placements)
- Terra and Bent Arrow (pregnancy and parenting supports)
- YMCA of Northern Alberta
- TELUS World of Science
- University of Alberta
- Bear Claw Beaver Hills
- Spirit North
- Dallas Arcand World Champion Hoop Dancer
- Arcand Singers & Drummers
- Lance Cardinal (MC for Infrastructure Canada's Green & Inclusive Community Buildings Program)
- Ashley Callingbull (Motivational Presentation for students and staff)



6| FUTURE PLANS & GOALS

We anticipate the retrofit of our building to be completed in the coming program year of 2023/2024. We are digitizing more of our background administration processes, which will support further enhancement and development of our youth programming. We will continue to evolve and develop programs that meet the needs of our youth. We hold to and honour the trust that our participants, the Greater Edmonton Community, our Municipal, Provincial and Federal Government, and our generous donors place in us. Our programming for urban, marginalized, Indigenous and other youth will ensure that our work continues to reflect the faith that our supporters have shown for us and those we serve in Edmonton.

7| AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- The University of Alberta Alumni Award (community service)
- The Alberta Centennial Medal (community service)
- Alberta Education's Excellence in Teaching Award (among the finalists)
- The TELUS Innovation Award (youth programming)
- Outstanding Contribution to the Aboriginal Community by Native Counselling Services of Alberta
- The Province of Alberta's Lieutenant Governor's True Award
- The Rotary Integrity Award (twice)

(Other awards available on request)

Dr. Joe Cloutier, Ph.D.,
Chief Operating Officer
& Director of Education,
receiving a 2023 Rotary Integrity Award



8 | CONCLUSION & THANK YOU'S

Our programming depends on ongoing community support. We strive to assess and prioritize the current needs of our organization, and to adapt and grow in response to new challenges and new opportunities. From large corporations, to government agencies, to individuals — those who support us, believe in our work. They know that the young people in our programs and high school deserve the opportunities that others take for granted. Simple things like bus tickets, housing, food, a friend who cares, hope for the future, and support while they struggle to realize their dreams. In 2022/2023 the support of the following individuals and organizations continued to make our programming possible.

EDMONTON OILERS COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

We are eternally grateful for the donation of our home building in central Edmonton. With renovations, it is now a \$5,000,000 building!

TREATY SIX GRAND CHIEF WILTON LITTLE CHILD

For his support and personal donations.

GOVERNMENT OF CANADA

Thank you to the Government of Canada.

WALMART CANADA

Thank you to Edmonton Walmart stores for their ongoing support.

NATIONAL INDIAN BROTHERHOOD

For supporting Edmonton's marginalized Indigenous and other youth.

LOCAL PUBLIC EATERY | SHERWOOD PARK

For supporting us each year with proceeds from their annual Golf Tournament.

THE CITY OF EDMONTON

Special thanks to FCSS Edmonton for their long term support and understanding of the needs of Edmonton's marginalized urban Indigenous and other youth.

ROTARY CLUBS OF EDMONTON

Thanks to the Downtown and Strathcona Rotary Club for critical programming support.

NATIONAL INDIGENOUS CONGRESS

For support of our Food Program.

THE GANDHI FOUNDATION

Thank you to the Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace, Edmonton for your continuous support.

DARLING RESTAURANT

For choosing us as a not-for-profit partner and donating a portion of selected menu items.

Many thanks to all those who donated to us online in 2022/2023 via Canada Helps. Thanks to individual donors: Mary, Revea Joshee and friends. We also extend special thanks for the ongoing support of Mary Robbins, Carol and Ray Allen and other monthly donors.

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Helping Youth Help Themselves for Over 30 Years



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