



REACH

EDMONTON

Council for Safe
Communities

Annual Report 2025

*Igniting Potential for
Safer Futures*



A LOOK BACK ON 2025

REACH was involved in a wide variety of projects tackling complex challenges in our communities and neighbourhoods in 2025. With its history of being deeply embedded in the community, REACH has accumulated valuable knowledge about addressing emerging issues.

We continue our work with the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities around Urban Safety Monitoring, which has augmented our work on evaluation. We know it's essential that we evaluate not just our programs, but how all the work we do contributes to making Edmonton a safer community. Through this work we are exploring how to define well-being beyond crime rate statistics to include things

like health determinants and community inclusion. Ensuring that we capture this big-picture viewpoint is one of the things that makes REACH unique among non-profits not just in Canada, but around the world. This was highlighted in 2025 when a delegation from Wyoming visited Edmonton through Peace in Our Cities, a global network dedicated to reducing urban violence.

Whether it's led or supported by us, REACH continues to bring more communities, agencies and Edmontonians together to create new ways of working collaboratively to build a city where everyone can thrive.



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.

MANDATE

REACH Edmonton is a community-based capacity building organization for community safety and well-being. REACH was created by the City of Edmonton in 2010 in response to the REACH Report, to establish a Community Safety Coordinating Council that integrates sustainable community safety efforts 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.

A LETTER FROM THE MAYOR

For over 15 years, REACH Edmonton has worked to build trusting relationships with neighbourhoods, agencies and government to create safer communities. Since its creation in 2010, REACH has leveraged its extensive connections across the city, the province and the globe to get the right people to the table to address complex problems. This includes working with multiple sectors and systems.

For all these reasons, REACH is an essential part of the social-serving ecosystem of our city. As an organization with a wide network of connections—and the ability to build trust with communities facing complex

challenges—REACH provides the infrastructure needed to bring the right partners together when new issues emerge. This benefits City administration directly when REACH's expertise is tapped for wide-ranging community safety projects like the Blueprint for Violence Prevention.

As we continue to face the unique challenges of a growing population and a changing world, REACH has an essential role to play in deepening collaboration across our city as we work together to build more connected and safer communities for everyone.

— Mayor Andrew Knack

A LETTER FROM JAN & CHERYL

REACH has been working with community, agencies, government and international partners for more than 15 years, supporting creative approaches to the ever-emerging complex challenges of community safety and well-being. 2025 was a milestone year, as we see the results of a decade and a half of accumulated knowledge about building collaborative processes in our communities.

Through a dedication to data and evaluation, REACH holds locally-specific knowledge about what works, what doesn't, and why. Every day, this knowledge base continues to grow. This expertise and willingness to partner widely is a resource freely shared with partners, from collaborating on the City of Edmonton's Blueprint for Violence Prevention, to working

with the Edmonton Police Service on youth initiatives and downtown safety.

This past year, we accomplished much and addressed many challenges. Like all non-profits, funding was an emergent issue. Because of this, some initiatives were discontinued, while others were refocused. We continue in our dedication to bringing more people together from across our city to create new ways of working collaboratively. Edmontonians collaborate naturally. We know we can work together without competition, sharing knowledge and experience as the public resource that it is.

Together, we can build a city where everyone can thrive.

— Cheryl Fix, REACH Board Chair

— Jan Fox, REACH Executive Director



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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 safe and vibrant city for both present and future generations.

FINANCIALS

The Financial Statements of REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities Incorporated as "REACH Edmonton Council" Year ended December 31, 2025, are an addendum to the 2025 Annual Report. See audited financials at reachedmonton.ca



REACH'S WORK IN 2025



Community safety is foundational for well-being. REACH is dedicated to doing work that builds the bridges required to make a healthy, connected city a reality. The solutions to the challenges communities are facing lie in those communities themselves. By connecting and collaborating with a myriad of agencies, communities and service providers across the city, REACH is helping Edmontonians build a better future for themselves and their city. The success stories on the next pages are just a few highlights from the last year. For a more exhaustive report of the work in 2025, please see the 2025 Business Plan Report Back on our website at reachedmonton.ca.

KEY RESULTS



\$6 Social Return on Investment for every \$1 invested in 24/7 Crisis Diversion



35 initiatives including 2 new prototypes
(13 REACH led or co-led, 22 supported)



25 outreach events
(11 hosted or co-hosted, 14 supported)



41 volunteers donated 2,100 hours
(~\$42,000 in-kind)



REACH training - **169 people from 69 organizations**



8 partners engaged and trained to offer new youth boxing therapy program
(Empire Fighting Chance)



25 neighbourhoods supported through Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative



Nearly **2,000 youth** accessed summer programming through Out of School
Time Collaborative (Joint Use Access Program)



60+ youth supported to begin healthier life journeys through WrapED



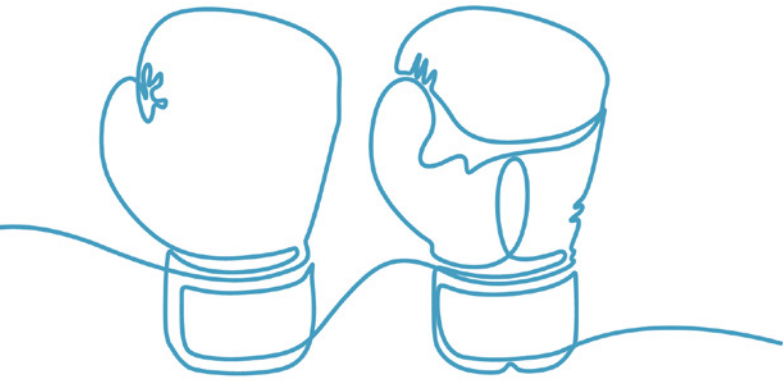
5 community safety environmental scans through YEG Ambassadors



Office for the Prevention of Violence's intervention program, Evolve,
maintains an active caseload of **70-80 individuals**

INITIATIVE HIGHLIGHTS SPOTLIGHT ON YOUTH

EMPIRE FIGHTING CHANCE (EFC)



Empire Fighting Chance is dedicated to transforming the lives of young people through psychologically informed non-contact boxing programs in Bristol, UK. Introduced to Edmonton in 2025 thanks to a private donation, this new program saw quick growth through creative problem-solving and adaptive leadership. The initiative launched informally in June, with a team from EFC Bristol travelling to Edmonton to deliver training to local community partners. The momentum built in training sessions led many partner organizations to leverage their existing infrastructure (e.g. snacks, spaces, youth workers) while integrating EFC resources like boxing kits and program guides to begin offering programming while waiting for sustained funding.

HOSPITAL VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM

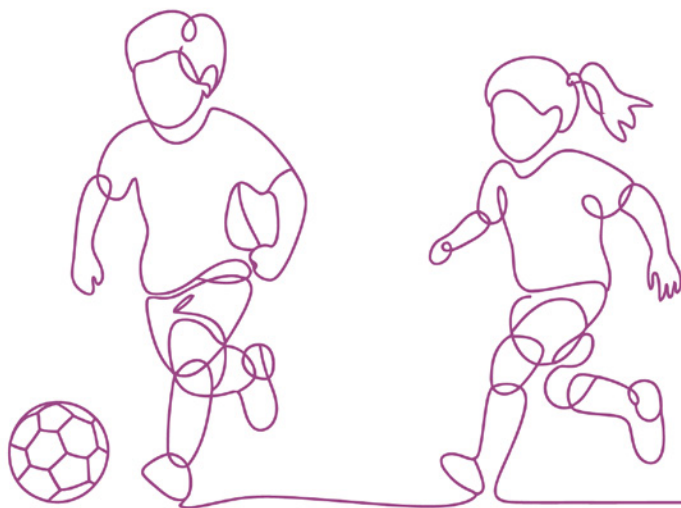


After connecting with an ER doctor who expressed concerns about the number of youth being admitted with violence-caused injuries, REACH convened health care, municipal and other key local stakeholders to create a hospital-based violence intervention program. Early conversations were also held with stakeholders around support for pediatric trauma work involving rapidly assessing, stabilizing and treating injured children while coordinating multidisciplinary care and supporting families through high-stress, time-critical emergencies.



OUT OF SCHOOL TIME COLLABORATIVE

The OST Collaborative aims to improve the resiliency of children and youth through quality, widely accessible out-of-school-time programs. 2025 was difficult as OST struggled to find funding to maintain programming. The OST Conference hosted more than 200 staff and summer student attendees, providing 17 training sessions targeted to local needs, as well as networking opportunities. This translates to a value of \$37,980 total in cost savings to participating organizations. The Summer Access program, an OST Collaborative partnership with the City of Edmonton's Joint Use program and three local school boards, brokered 36 local school spaces for 20 community organizations during the summer. This enabled community groups to provide programming for 1,983 vulnerable children and youth. Joint Use made possible 4,584.5 hours of programming for a total of \$302,578 in rental cost savings for program providers.



WrapED

WrapED provided services and mentorship to over 60 high-risk youth this year, continuing to successfully divert youth from deeper involvement with the justice system. One of its key successes was integrating cross-agency collaboration. WrapED youth received mental health support, education and family-based interventions in a timely manner because partners used their resources as a team instead of individual organizations. REACH increased capacity in WrapED in 2025, reducing a waitlist of 12 youth at the highest point, to zero.





24/7 CRISIS DIVERSION

— **59,670 individual contacts**

— **Teams responded to 31,695 unique calls for service (up 58% from 2023)**

The 24/7 Crisis Diversion program helps people experiencing non-emergency crisis get to a safe place, freeing up police, fire rescue and emergency medical services to respond to more critical events.

Ongoing data management and project evaluation is a foundational piece of this initiative, which has led to a public-facing dashboard that helps service providers, funders and community members have a clearer understanding of what this work looks like at different times and places.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ORGANIZING INITIATIVE

The Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative aims to build capacity within communities to develop community-driven responses to safety and well-being issues. The program employs a community member-centred approach to address issues related to community safety and well-being. Over the past number of years, the city has experienced a noticeable rise in tension and uncertainty, particularly around issues of safety, and this was true for 2025 as well. Residents have been more vocal in their concerns and are increasingly relying on NOI for guidance, intervention and reassurance. This was a year of growth for NOI, enabling more than 275 grassroots projects, events and meetings in 25 neighbourhoods across the city.

SAFER WAY OUT

Safer Way Out is a project that aims to develop a coordinated community response that is driven by the needs of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The project focuses on the geographical areas of Edmonton and Northern Alberta. In 2025, Safer Way Out was involved in collaboratively planning and hosting Edmonton's first World Trafficking Day event on July 30 in partnership with local organizations involved in human trafficking. Over 200 community members and local businesses attended the event to learn about human trafficking. Additionally, the project helped put together YEG Reconnect's first subject-focused Resource Connect event, featuring keynote speakers and 35 organizations focused on addressing human trafficking in our communities.

PROGRAMS AND INITIATIVES

Combatting Human Trafficking and Exploitation

Alberta Human Trafficking Network
Alberta Centre to End Trafficking In Persons
Safer Way Out

Diverting Crisis

24/7 Crisis Diversion

Prioritizing Anti-Racism, Indigenization and Lived Experience

Alberta Hate Crime Committee
Anti-Islamaphobia
Coalitions Creating Equity
Immigrant Youth Leading Change
REACH Immigrant and Refugee Initiative
Rotary District Indigenous Committee

Mitigating Addiction and Mental Health Problems

Addictions Don't Discriminate
Community Liaison Committee, Partners in
Drug Poisoning Prevention Committee

Systems Change

Beyond the Status Quo
Canadian Centre for Safer Communities
Edmonton Capacity Building Organization
Network
Peace in Our Cities
Social Policy Collaborative – Edmonton

Building Safe and Inclusive Neighbourhoods

Downtown Revitalization Coalition
Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative
Soloss
Supporting Healthy & Safe Communities in
Affordable Housing Buildings
YEG Ambassadors

Preventing Violence

Blueprint for Violence Prevention
Community Initiatives Against Family
Violence
Countering Hate-Motivated Violence
Don't Click! Youth Initiative
Empire Fighting Chance

Promoting Family, Child and Youth Success

Allies 4 Youth Conference
Child and Newcomer Service Coordination
Out of School Time Collaborative
WrapED
Youth Gang Prevention Table
Youth Housing Upon Release

REACH BOARD

Andrew Leach
Adil Hasan
Akanksha Bhatnagar
Candace Cleveland
Cheryl Fix
Erum Afsar
Funke Smith
Ikechukwu (Ike) Nwaka
Jared Wesley
Jean Stiles
Jessica Hutton

John Stelter
Levi Bjork
Masa Idelbi
Myles Dykes
RaeChelle-Faith Hamilton-Ankamreddy
Robbie Kaboni
Shalene Williams
Shelley Bykewich
Theresa Vladicka

REACH ADVISORS

Chief Warren Driechel
Councillor Mike Elliott
Councillor Erin Rutherford
Stacey Gellatly
Zahro Hassan

REACH STAFF

Adele Towns
Ali Mahdi
Blue Cunningham
Bob Buckle
Brandy Basisty
Christy Parker
Claire MacDonald
Connor Hagen
Debbie Brown
Debra Jakubec
Dulu Modi
Emmanuel Onah

Hayley Sallis
Holly Hallborg
Holly Regel
Jan Fox
Jasmin Rivas
Jill McGinn
Jim Zhang
Kelly Husack
Kelly Holland
Lisa Kardosh
Marilyn Gray
Michelle Harvey

Rie Nakai
Romi Khabra
Sofia Alani
Sue Su
Tania Ymbi
Vickie Smith

AWARDS

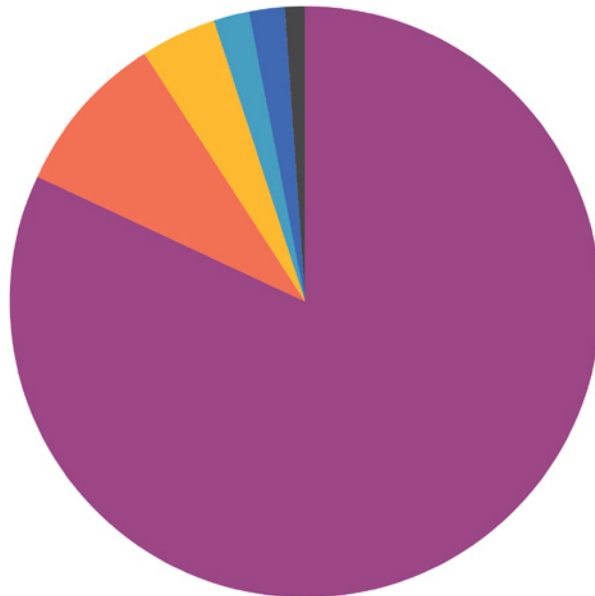
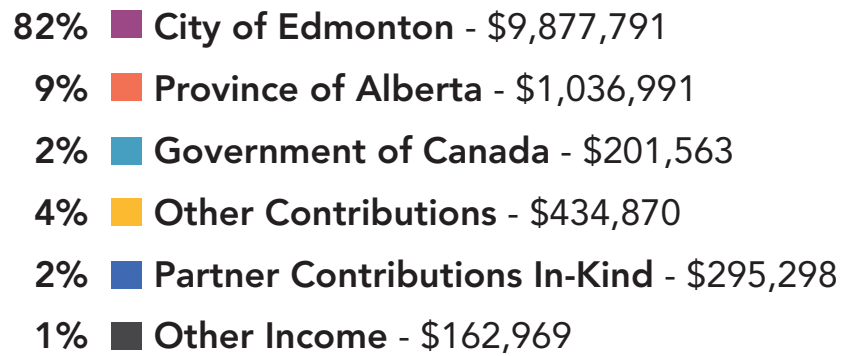


**Workplace Health and Performance
Mentor Certification**
(Wellness Works Canada)



Top 40 Under 40
(Edify Magazine)
Sofia Alani

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



TOTAL: \$12,009,482



REACH

EDMONTON

Council for Safe
Communities



Learn more about REACH and
read more of our publications at
www.reachedmonton.ca



REACH Edmonton Council for Safe Communities



REACH Edmonton



@reachyeg