

City of Edmonton Youth Council - Appointment Recommendations

Board	Citizens-At-Large	Appointment Term
City of Edmonton Youth Council	<u>Appointments (Up to 9)</u> Shannon Bertrand Seth (Cree) Brown-Cardinal Abigail Isaac Michael DeMarco Rajah Maggay Ananya Muralidharan Stephen Raitz Robyn Taylor Ahdithya (Audi) Visweswaran	September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019
	<u>Reappointments (11)</u> Hania Aamer Shilar Bakayula Thomas Banks Navneet Chand Kasey Enokson Logan Fechter Samuel Goertz Kaelin Koufogiannakis Joanne Picard Amber Sayed Armaan Somani	September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019 September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2019

Following is a brief public introduction as provided by new Appointees

Shannon Bertrand	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Although originally born in Toronto, Ontario, Shannon has lived in Edmonton the majority of her life. From a young age, Shannon immersed herself in music, sport and literature. She played ringette, soccer, swam competitively, rock climbed, and wrestled. Shannon loves to write music, and will spend hours at the piano with a notebook and pencil beside her singing away the time. As well, one of her most beloved past times remains spending hours at the public library, writing poetry and sifting through books.</p> <p>After graduating high school, Shannon spent a year at Concordia University pursuing a combined English/Music Degree. She soon realized that her lifelong passion for equity and social justice should become her life's work. Shannon then decided to enter the Child and Youth Care Program at MacEwan University, and will be convocating in the Fall of 2018. Shannon has been working in the field of Child and Youth Care for over 6 years and currently works full time at a non-profit agency.</p>	

Seth Cree Brown-Cardinal	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Seth, who likes to go by Seth Cree, is an aboriginal youth who is also a member of the Enoch Youth Council. He was born and grew up in the United States. He was raised by his two mothers. One mother is a Cree Native American and the other African American that is a first generation decedent out of slavery. He moved to Edmonton, Alberta four years ago using his dual citizenship for both Canada and the United States. He is going into his final year of High School and hopes to attend the University of Alberta.</p> <p>Seth's main goal in office is to bridge the gap between the Edmonton youth community and Enoch youth community. Not only does he really care for Addiction Awareness, Truth and Reconciliation, but he is also a huge advocate for youth suicide prevention. All issues are very much a large part of his communities as well as his personal life.</p>	

Michael DeMarco	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Michael DeMarco is a grade twelve student attending McNally High School where he acts as EPSB Student Senator and leads clubs such as Speech and Debate, MASSIVE, McNally's volunteering club, and the Youth Engagement Focus Group team. He is currently a student director for the Canadian Student Leadership Conference 2018, working on the student programming portfolio. Michael is also a counsellor for SUNIA, the Seminar on United Nations and International Affairs, a week long model-UN based summer camp encouraging youth advocacy and engagement. In his free time, Michael does graphic design work for various clients and also likes to write on his blog, all available at https://michaeldemar.co. Michael looks forward to making an impact on fields related to the intersection between STEM and politics, and will continue to look to engage youth in community-based projects.</p>	

Abigail Isaac	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Abby is now a graduated full-IB senior from Archbishop Macdonald High School, where she also served as President of two clubs and founder of a student run initiative, that all work as catalysts in stimulating necessary conversations discussing marginalized communities, and youth involvement in politics. This September, she will begin studying at the University of Alberta, with a double major in Political Science and Philosophy, aiming in the long term for Law school. Outside of school-housed programs such as Model UN Club, Students Union, and bilingual peer tutoring, Abby is a violinist, and currently volunteers with various organizations; one of which being Big Brothers Big Sisters, where she works through 'The Africa Centre' as mentor for new-immigrant children.</p> <p>This year, she became a member of the Edmonton Centre Youth Council headed by MP Randy Boissonnault, and also serves as Communications director of 'YEGTheComeUp', a youth collective that works towards the creation of a variety of empowerment events for emerging and immigrant communities in Edmonton. Abby is an advocate for intersectional education and activism in encouraging the diversity of opinions and worldviews, and believes that empowered youth hold limitless potential when it comes to reaching culture-shifting, and change-emitting results on contentious social issues.</p>	

Rajah Maggay	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Dedicated to encouraging youth to pursue their potential, Rajah Maggay's greatest joys are providing support to those that need it and creating meaningful connections. After her own struggles with mental health, Rajah hopes to bring to light the issues she is passionate about that effect the youth of Edmonton who in fact also struggle with mental illnesses. In the fall, Rajah will be pursuing a certificate in Event Planning/Management at NAIT, to help capture the joy of the special days that stand out among the darker days that people may experience.</p> <p>Having served on the City of Edmonton Youth Council for two years as a Youth-At-Large on the Health and Wellness Committee, Rajah has been proud of the work she has done, specifically with the conceptualization and execution of SpotlightYEG and wants other youth to realize the amount of influence that they have. Aside from academic accomplishments, she has a consistent passion for the arts as a way of expression. In her time at Archbishop MacDonald High School, Rajah was heavily involved in the Cappies Program, the Fine Arts Bureau, and the school newspaper. She has been honored to be acknowledged for the work she has done, having been nominated for Outstanding Grade 11 Critic, Lead Critic within her senior year and recipient of the Edmonton Journal Cappies News camp Scholarship. Because of this, Rajah loves encouraging storytelling of those who may not know how to express themselves.</p>	

Ananya Muralidharan	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>High school student Ananya Muralidharan is ecstatic to be able to share her ideas with the City of Edmonton Youth Council. She is an avid environmentalist, and makes it her goal to pick up at least one piece of litter a day. She hopes that through the City of Edmonton Youth Council, she can help make a bigger environmental impact on the youth of Edmonton.</p> <p>In her free time, she can be caught cooking and taking aesthetic photos of the food she makes (because who doesn't love a good food blogger?). She believes creativity is the best way for people, especially for youth, to embrace and celebrate their individuality.</p>	

Stephen Raitz	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Stephen Raitz has been a resident of the Edmonton region for his entire life and moved to the city permanently to attend the University of Alberta (where he studies Urban Planning and Canadian History). Stephen has brought his boisterous energy and positivity to campus life through working in residence, representing students as a councillor within the Students' Union, as well as helping run student groups like the University Improv Group. Stephen is also an avid runner, often exploring the many river valley trails in Edmonton, and cycles year-round throughout the city.</p> <p>Stephen believes that through bringing a healthy mix of enthusiasm, approachability, and empathy to the table, youth can be engaged in meaningful ways. He is deeply passionate about where urban planning meets community engagement. Building on this, he believes youth in Edmonton are an especially important community to engage with regarding conversations on density, urban form, and the city's future development. What especially interests him is how people move around the city. More prominently, he wants to be a part of creating an Edmonton where people can get around efficiently, are presented with realistic options regarding modes of transportation, and have an enjoyable experience between starting points and destinations.</p>	

Robyn Taylor	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Robyn Taylor moved to Edmonton from the beautiful island of Jamaica in 2009. Since then, she has always made it her goal to be an active member of the community, and to give back wherever she can. Currently, Robyn focuses the majority of her time volunteering with the youth-led organization YEG The Come Up, where she assists with the planning and implementation of various programmings and events dedicated to the empowerment of Edmonton's diverse African and Caribbean youth communities.</p> <p>An honours student since elementary school, Robyn is also a full International Baccalaureate graduate from Archbishop MacDonald High School. She is about to go into her second year at the University of Alberta, reading for a degree in Biological Sciences with a minor in economics. Whereas Robyn is still deciding between multiple career paths, she is certain that she wants to hold a position that not only provides others with the tools needed for self-sufficiency and happiness, but also personally makes her aware of local and global experiences alike. In her free time, Robyn spends her time reading, cooking, or listening to podcasts.</p>	

Ahdithya (Audi) Visweswaran	City of Edmonton Youth Council
<p>Ahdithya Rajan Parvathi Visweswaran is currently a senior in Harry Ainlay's French immersion program and this is his second term with CEYC. He is passionate about youth attaining their potentials and having their voices heard. Ahdithya was a member of his school student council and served as a Youth At Large on CEYC this past year. He occasionally aids his dance teacher with instructing the younger dancers at his studio. Ahdithya has volunteered with the Edmonton Food Bank, Edmonton Public Library, and his school grad committee. He works as a tutor and helps students feel confident in their learning and reach their potentials.</p> <p>Outside of volunteering, Ahdithya enjoys learning languages such as German and Sanskrit and currently speaks French, English, and Tamil. Having won the national round at the Goethe Institut Deutsch Olympiad, Ahdithya represented Canada at the Internationale Deutsch Olympiad in Freiburg, Germany. When Ahdithya is not busy, he is dancing, reading or writing poetry, running, taking photographs or spending time with friends and family. He is also a member of the local Sathya Sai Centre's congregation and regularly partakes in their service activities at Operation Friendship. After graduation, Ahdithya hopes to go to the Faculté Saint-Jean and pursue the education program. He is excited to be returning to CEYC for another year of youth empowerment.</p>	