

Africa Centre Insights and Perspectives on the Opportunities of the Capital Project

Note: The following information has been provided to Administration directly by the Africa Centre. This content is not a formal recommendation by Administration but rather has been included on behalf of the Africa Centre.

Background:

- The City of Edmonton (City) is Canada's third city with the highest concentration of Black Canadians after Toronto, Montreal.
- Africa Centre was established in 2006 through community collaboration with the City in response to the growing African descent community needs.
- City continues to be a key partner for Africa Center in serving the Black population on key city strategic priorities.
- This partnership over a decade enabled the Africa Center to grow and become the largest Black-serving organization in western Canada.
- The Africa Centre serves more than 20 thousand people annually through programs and services
- The Africa Centre continues to serve as a backbone organization; 2021 alone the Africa Centre invested about \$3 million in granting to black-serving organizations
- Following the demolition of the Wellington Jr. High in 2017, the Africa Centre has been serving in a very constrained space at St Francis on 6770 129 Ave, NW.

Key Considerations:

- According to Stat Canada, by 2041, for the first time, Black population would be larger than the Indigenous population in Canada, as well as the population that identify as belonging to the Chinese community.
- Edmonton's population as a prairie city will see a significant increase of this growth.
- Black Edmontonian experience disproportional adverse outcomes that stems from systemic and structural racisms. To mention a few, according to Stat Canada, despite having similar educational attainment
- Unemployment rate among black population is twice higher than the rest of the population.
- The gap in median income between black women and men and the rest of the population is \$20 thousand annually.

Attachment 2

- One in three black children live-in low-income situation, a rate is that is three times higher than the children in the rest of the population.
- Over 60% of the at-risk youth in the EPS list are from the Black communities, let there is no single program designed to address that.
- Edmonton has seen disproportional hate-motivated attacks against black Muslim women.
- In response to these precarious conditions, the inaugural motion of the City Council demonstrated City's commitment to become anti-racist city.
- On August 29, the Council endorsed the proclamation of the Decade for the People of Africa Descent.
- The Council committed to the development of anti-Black racism action plan.
- On September 10, at the Africa Day Gala, Mayor Sohi re-affirmed that the City will work with the Africa Centre in the advancement of African Multicultural Centre Capital project.
- The case for having an African Multicultural Centre that promotes diverse cultures, languages and address other social needs of the African Diaspora communities is well aligned to many facets of the Council's priorities.