



Capital Project



AFRICA
CENTRE

November 21, 2022

OUTLINE

- CONTEXT
- OUR STRATEGIC SUCCESS
- KEY CONSIDERATIONS
- MOVING FORWARD



CONTEXT

- Edmonton is Canada's third largest city with the highest concentration of Black Canadians.
- The structural/systemic barriers and the demand for culturally appropriate services led the establishment of Africa Centre in 2006.
 - Africa Centre was established in 2006 through community collaboration with the City in response of 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 continues to serve as a backbone organization; 2021 alone the Africa Centre invested about \$3 *million* in granting to build the capacity of the black-serving organizations

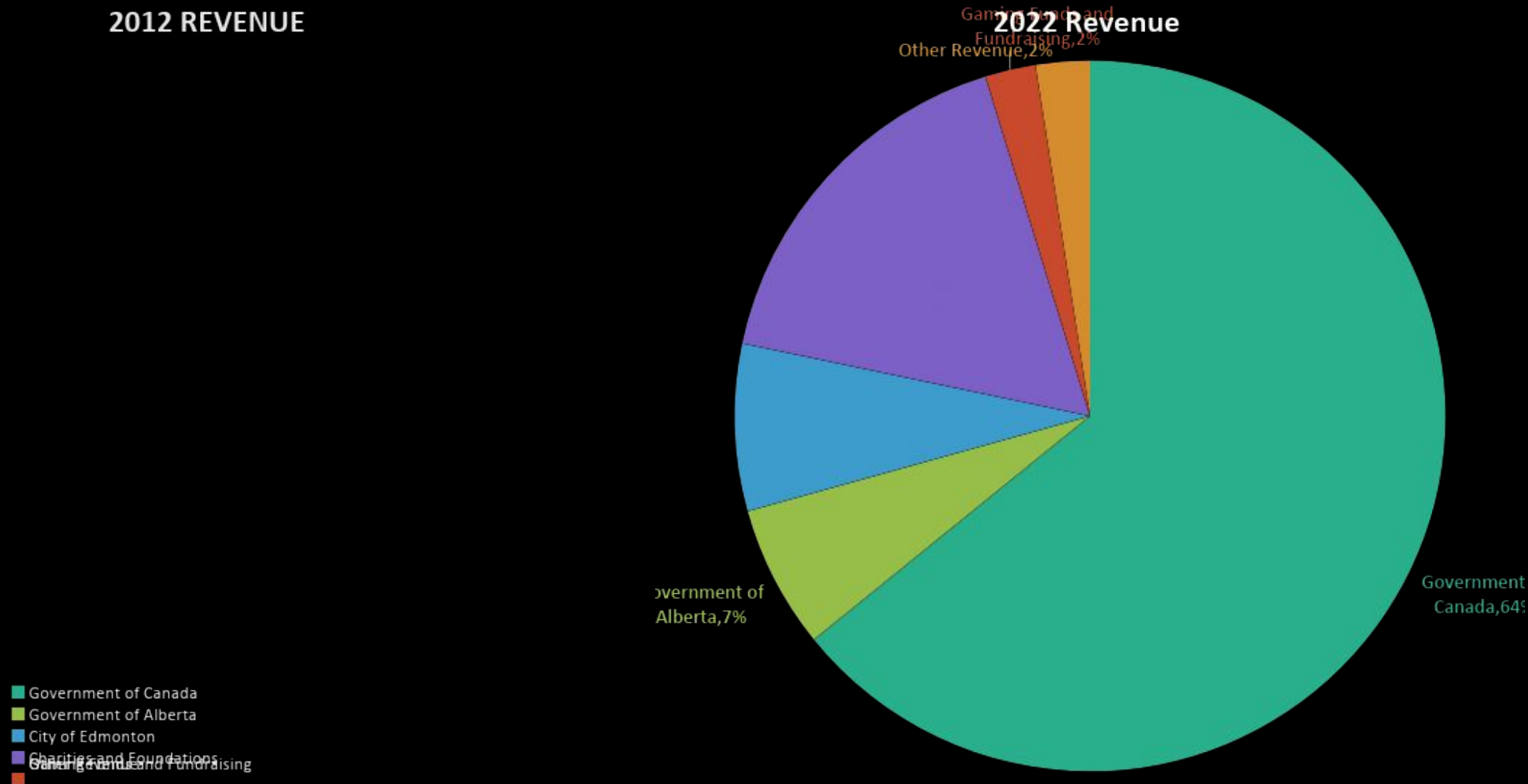


STRATEGIC SUCCESSES

- Strategic partnerships/funding streams
- Becoming an intermediary organization to support grassroots Black organizations
- Established economic empowerment programs
 - Black Entrepreneurship Program – Capacity support
 - Federation of African Canadian Economics (FACE) – Capital access
- Established new programs and reaching communities, directly or through partnership program delivery.



Long term return on investment?



Key Considerations

- 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
 - o Unemployment rate among black population is twice higher than the rest of the population.
 - o The gap in medium income between black women and men and the rest of the population is \$20 *thousand* annually.
 - o 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.
 - o 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.
 - o Edmonton has seen disproportional hate-motivated attacks against Black Muslim women.

Key Considerations Continued

- 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, the Mayor re-affirmed that the City's the advancement of African Multicultural Centre Capital project.
- The case for having African Multicultural Centre is well aligned to many facets of the Council's priorities.

Moving forward?

- That Council approves \$300 thousand to support the relaunch of the Capital Project that will enable development of; a) business case; and b) public engagement
 - This aligns with the City's anti-racism agenda and demonstrate councils' commitment to systemic change by applying intersectional lenses on capital prioritization
 - The relaunch constitutes councils' commitment to the City's declaration Decade for the people of Africa Descent; And Mayor's announcement of the Capital project at the Africa Day Gala on September 10, 2022
 - This will also foster trust of the black community in their elected city officials.

The Alternative is ...

- City council does not prioritize African Multicultural Centre by not making any decision to move the Capital project forward
- This will build on historical de-prioritization of the Black focused initiatives. Particularly, such Capital project that had dragged over the years
- This will be a counter-productive to the city commitments on improving access to spaces that promote diverse cultural celebrations
- Will fail leveraging current opportunities to advance Edmonton's Black community through accessing other resources from federal and provincial government



An abstract geometric design on a black background. It features three overlapping circles: a large light gray circle on the left, a medium white circle in the center, and a small solid orange circle to the right of the white circle. The text "Thank you" is positioned to the right of the circles.

Thank
you