

**City of Edmonton Youth Council - 2023 Appointment Recommendations**

Public Members	Appointment Term
<p><b><u>Appointments (4)</u></b></p> <p>Kenton Francis Cardinal                      Speena Dalal                      Emily Yang                      Harsehaj Kaur</p>	<p>September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024                      September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024                      September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024                      September 1, 2023 to August 31, 2024</p>

Here is a brief public introduction as provided by the new appointees:

**Kenton Francis Cardinal**

Kenton Cardinal is a member of Onicikiskwapowin (Saddle Lake Cree Nation #125). From a young age, Kenton has always been passionate about politics. He took time off in 2017 engaging in the “MLA for a Day” program in Amiskwaciwâskahikan. Kenton later served as Confederacy of Treaty 6 Youth Councillor in 2020-2021, engaging in Indigenous Politics. In 2022, Kenton ran in the Onicikiskwapowin election being the youngest candidate to run in generations. Though Kenton was unsuccessful, he maintains optimism to pursue Indigenous Politics again in the near future.

Kenton is a student in the heart of Amiskwaciwâskahikan, studying Political Science with a minor in Native studies at the University of Alberta. Kenton most recently signed onto the Indigenous Governance and Partnership Certificate offered by the faculty of Native Studies.

**Speena Dalal**

Speena Dalal is a third year student at the University of Alberta, pursuing honours in Political Science (major). She spent most of her junior high and high school times debating and involving in figure skating.

Speena is currently part of AIESEC, the world’s largest youth-run NGO, and also a member of Outrun the Stigma, which helps eliminate the stigma around mental health disorders. In her free time, she loves running and reading mystery books.

**Emily Yang**

Emily Yang is an active and enthusiastic volunteer for her community, having served as Co-Chair of the Projects Subcommittee on the City of Edmonton Youth Council

## Attachment 1

and as Co-President of Old Scona Academic's Chinese Cultural Club. Emily loves being part of grassroots change in her City and wants to further her impact. She is passionate about spreading multilingualism and multiculturalism.

Emily is the founder of Leaders in Literacy, a youth-led organization dedicated to empowering youth to learn new languages through initiatives like Mandarin Classes and ESL writing competitions. Emily also likes playing soccer with her school club and doing figure skating.

### **Harsehaj Kaur**

Harsehaj Kaur is an 18-year-old incoming student at the University of Alberta in the Faculty of Arts. She is always dedicated to helping others to the best of her abilities and collectively achieves a higher standard in all of the initiatives she takes on. Harsehaj currently serves as the co-chair of the Policy Subcommittee on the City of Edmonton Youth Council, where she supports her team's work on anti-racism, public transit, and food insecurity, as a Youth-At-Large.

Harsehaj has spearheaded Youth Focus Groups at Dr. Anne Anderson High School to amplify the voices of the student body to enact positive change within the school community surrounding the topic of belonging. She has volunteered countless hours at her school by taking on numerous projects and events in which she has held leadership positions, including execution and planning of events, and maintaining team support and morale.

Harsehaj took advantage of the AP Capstone program at Dr. Anne Anderson High School to conduct her own research surrounding the impacts of workplace sexism on the mental health of women in the legal field. She hopes to continue researching on this topic as an undergraduate student at the University of Alberta. Harsehaj maintained honors with distinction in all three years of high school.

Harsehaj believes in taking risks, inclusivity, and helping the community, and this is evident in all the work she has done during her time in Edmonton. Having invested so much time and dedication to the school and her community, it's no surprise that she was nominated for the Michael A Strembitsky Award of Excellence, and a class valedictorian for the first graduating class at Dr. Anne Anderson High School.