

Naming Committee - 2024 Annual Report

Message from the Chair

Dear City Council,

I am writing to highlight the contributions that the Naming Committee have made in shaping Edmonton's urban landscape through the thoughtful and inclusive naming of Edmonton's public assets. Our work has been dedicated to fostering a sense of place that reflects Edmonton's rich ecological and cultural diversity, local Indigenous histories, and evolving identity as a vibrant metropolitan center.

Over the past year we have collaborated with municipal officials, community organizations, and Indigenous leaders to ensure that Edmonton's public spaces tell the stories of those who have shaped and continue to shape our city. Names such as Wîhkwêntôwin and Bhai Jagir Singh Ji Park reflect the cultures and peoples that influence Edmonton while names like Elderberry Close and Elk Crescent represent local flora and fauna. This combination of approaches, naming places for people and cultures combined with flora and fauna, is a reflection of a strong naming policy focused on reflecting the immense diversity of Edmonton through the weaving of a mosaic of place names.

This approach to place naming, through policy and practice, highlights the importance of collaboration, community engagement, and working towards reconciliation. By working closely with Indigenous and other community leaders, and through the development of naming policies and processes that support community engagement, culturally-sensitive, community-involved re-naming and Indigenous naming processes, we are ensuring the future success of the naming committee.

As Edmonton continues to grow and evolve, we remain committed to supporting initiatives that further our city's dedication to diversity, reconciliation, and meaningful representation in place naming. We welcome the opportunity to continue collaborating with the City Council and the broader Edmonton community to ensure that Edmonton's public spaces honour its history while embracing its future.

Sincerely,

Matthew Dance

Purpose of the Annual Report

This annual report has been developed to meet the requirements of Bylaw 18156 - Council Committees Bylaw, which sets out the annual reporting requirements for Council Committees. Under Bylaw 18156, all Council Committees will:

- Report to Council at least annually.
- Approve a work plan that aligns with Council's strategic objectives and the Council Committee's mandate, including a reporting of what resources were provided in the previous year and the anticipated resource requirements for the upcoming year.
- During its annual report to Council, present the work plan as well as a summary of the status of the previous year's work plan.

Mandate of Naming Committee (NC)

The mandate of the Committee is to name the City's development areas, parks, municipal facilities, roads, honorary roads, and wards, in accordance with, and subject to any exemptions or restrictions imposed by City Policy.

Report on 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

1. Support and promote the new neighbourhood name of Wîhkwêntôwin
2. Government Centre LRT Station renaming
3. Complete the City of Edmonton Place Name Dataset and publish the data on the City of Edmonton's Open Data Portal
4. Review all the names once the Names dataset is complete for metadata accuracy and appropriateness
5. Develop a culturally-sensitive, community-involved re-naming process
6. Develop a mechanism to offer ongoing community engagement tied to outreach and education
7. Conduct an assessment to formally identify barriers to citizens' access to the naming process
8. Severing the relationship between the Naming Municipal Assets Policy C509C and the Facility Name Sale Policy C477A
9. Develop an Indigenous naming process
10. Review the structure of the Names Reserve List

Goal 1	Support the renaming of Wîhkwêntôwin Neighbourhood
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Naming Committee with the Oliver Community League presented its recommendation of renaming Oliver to Wîhkwêntôwin to Urban Planning Committee on February 7, 2024 • During City Council's February 21, 2024 meeting, City Council approved the renaming recommendation
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The renaming approval was the end result of four years of consultation by the Oliver Community League and its Renaming Circle • The renaming process was supported by Indigenous Elders in consultation with the Renaming Circle, which together discovered a new name for the neighbourhood. • The renaming approval also includes the renaming of the Arena, Pool, Park and future LRT Stop at 116 Street and 104 Avenue • Oliver School was later renamed to Wîhkwêntôwin School • Edmonton Transit System (ETS) buses and maps made changes effective September 1, 2024 • All internal systems and maps were officially updated on October 30, 2024

Goal 2	Government Centre LRT Station renaming
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Government Centre LRT Station renaming process continues to engage with Elders and leaders in the Indigenous Community
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Indigenous Relations Office hosted a conference in July 2024 with Indigenous leaders • The lead consultant engaged with various community leaders, Indigenous Elders, residents, and members of Administration

Goal 3	Complete the City of Edmonton Place Name Dataset and publish the data on the City of Edmonton's Open Data Portal
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Place Name Dataset is ongoing
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most names between 2003 and 2024 have been geocoded with locatable coordinates

Goal 4	Review all the names once the Names dataset is complete for metadata accuracy and appropriateness
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The completion of the Place Name Dataset is ongoing
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most names' biographies or write-ups between 2003 and 2024 have been reviewed • The Naming Edmonton book process had reviewed City of Edmonton names between Edmonton's early history and 2003 during a 10 year period prior to the book's publication in 2004

Goal 5	Develop a culturally-sensitive, community-involved re-naming process
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Naming Committee and Administration have engaged with Indigenous leaders and diverse members of the community
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Naming Committee met with Confederacy of Treaty Six • Administration's Indigenous Relations Office hosted a conference with Indigenous Elders and leaders in which several workshops and sessions focused on renamings • The lead consultant engaged with various community leaders, Indigenous Elders, residents, and members of Administration • Members of the Administration and the Indigenous Relations Office met with the Métis Nation of Alberta

Goal 6	Develop a mechanism to offer ongoing community engagement tied to outreach and education
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Naming Committee and Administration continues to engage with community leaders, Indigenous leaders, organizations and diverse members of the community
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The City of Edmonton Archives hosted the Naming Committee and provided a tour by the Community Archivist • Administration and the Naming Committee presented to and engaged with the MacEwan University Policy Class • The MacEwan University Policy students worked on a final class project to enhance the Naming Policy and process and presented their recommendations to the Naming Committee • Naming Committee Chair presented to the Rotary Club

Goal 7	Conduct an assessment to formally identify barriers to citizens' access to the naming process
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Committee and Administration continues to engage with community leaders, Indigenous leaders, University students and diverse members of the community
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Administration and the Naming Committee presented to and engaged with the MacEwan University Policy Class The MacEwan University Policy students worked on a final class project to enhance the Naming Policy and process and presented their recommendations to the Naming Committee

Goal 8	Severing the relationship between the Naming Municipal Assets Policy C509C and the Facility Name Sale Policy C477A
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Municipal Assets Policy C509C and Facility Name Sales Policy C477A will be updated to remove the relationship and processes regarding selling the naming rights to City of Edmonton facilities
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Facility Name Sale Policy C477A will be updated in 2025 The Naming Municipal Assets Policy C509C will be updated in 2026

Goal 9	Develop an Indigenous naming process
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Committee and Administration continues to engage with Indigenous leaders and Elders and various Indigenous Nations
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Committee met with Confederacy of Treaty Six Administration's Indigenous Relations Office hosted a conference with Indigenous Elders and leaders in which several workshops and sessions focused on an Indigenous naming process. Administration's Indigenous Relations Office engaged with various community leaders and Indigenous Elders Members of the Administration and the Indigenous Relations Office met with the Métis Nation of Alberta

Goal 10	Review the structure of the Names Reserve List
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Committee has paused the use of the Names Reserve List
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Naming Committee and Administration continue to research best practices from other municipalities, naming policies, and naming processes to determine the future structure of the Names Reserve List

2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
January	<p>One road name approved in the Hays Ridge Neighbourhood</p> <p>Updates regarding the Grandin LRT Station renaming</p> <p>Discussions regarding the Oliver renaming Council Report, Chair Membership Report, Annual and Activities Report, and Policy to Action Plan</p>
February	<p>Six road names approved in the Edgemont and Starling neighbourhoods</p> <p>Discussion about a proposed neighbourhood name in the Horse Hill Area</p> <p>Discussion regarding a request to adjust the name of a Constrable Ezio Faraone Park</p> <p>Request to sell the naming rights of Terwillegar Recreation Community Centre is not supported by the Naming Committee</p> <p>Discussion regarding the Oliver renaming report to Executive Committee</p> <p>Update on the Chair Membership Report and Recruitment process</p>
March	<p>Okiskow Way is approved as a permanent name replacing 101a Avenue NW in the Boyle Street Neighbourhood</p> <p>One neighbourhood name is approved in the Horse Hill Area</p> <p>One park name and one road name are approved in the Alces Neighbourhood</p>

Attachment 1

	<p>Further consultation is requested to adjust the name of Constable Ezio Faraone Park</p> <p>Update regarding the Administration report to Urban Planning Committee regarding the Policy to Action Plan</p>
April	<p>Four road names approved in the Keswick Neighbourhood</p> <p>The Committee bids farewell to Maryanne Wiebe who served on the committee for six years</p>
May	<p>The Committee welcomes two new members</p> <p>The Committee recommends three naming options for the name adjustment to Constable Ezio Faraone Park in honour of fallen EPS members</p> <p>Update regarding Administration's report to Urban Planning Committee regarding the Policy to Action Plan</p> <p>Update regarding the Grandin LRT Station renaming</p>
June	<p>Six road names are approved within the Chappelle and Edgemont neighbourhoods</p> <p>A name is not supported for use in the Edgemont Neighbourhood and the Committee recommends the use of a name rooted in flora, fauna, or geography</p> <p>Discussion with the Confederacy of Treaty Six First Nations</p> <p>Discussion about the Naming Committee's 2024 Work Plan</p>
August	<p>Three road names are approved within the Edgemont Neighbourhood</p> <p>Update on the Grandin LRT Station renaming project</p> <p>Discussion about the Naming Committee's 2024 Work Plan</p>
September	<p>One park name is approved in the Garneau Neighbourhood</p> <p>One road name is approved in the Desrochers Neighbourhood</p>

Attachment 1

	<p>A name is not supported for a skateboard park in the Terrace Heights Neighbourhood and the Committee recommends different approaches of engagement to discover an ideal name for the skateboard park</p> <p>Presentation tour with City of Edmonton Archives Community Archivist</p> <p>Discussion about MacEwan University AGAD 301 Student work plan</p>
October	<p>Discussion about Renamings</p> <p>Administration and Naming Committee member present to and discuss a policy project with MacEwan University AGAD 301 Students</p> <p>Discussion about the Naming Committee's 2024 Work Plan</p>
December	<p>Eight road names are approved within the Edgemont, Pintail Landing, and River's Edge neighbourhoods</p> <p>Request to sell the naming rights of the field within the Commonwealth Stadium in the McCauley Neighbourhood is not supported by the Naming Committee</p> <p>The Committee receives a group presentation by MacEwan University AGAD 301 class students with recommendations to enhance the Naming Policy and naming process</p>

Membership and Appointment Information

Naming Committee (NC) 2024-25 Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Debra Ayling	May 25, 2020	Apr 30, 2025	2026
Matt Dance - Chair	May 1, 2021	Apr 30, 2025	2027
Soni Dasmohapatra	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2025	2030
Erin McDonald	May 25, 2020	Apr 30, 2025	2026
Harrison Sheremeta - Edmonton Historical Board Representative	May 1, 2023	Apr 30, 2025	2029
Sara Sierko	May 1, 2022	Apr 30, 2025	2028
Shariq Wani	May 1, 2024	Apr 30, 2025	2030

Reports and Communications

Reports by NC to Council:

1. February 21, 2024 City Council, 7.6, EXT02205, Naming Committee Renaming Recommendation

Reports by NC to a Standing Committee of Council:

1. February 7, 2024 Urban Planning Committee, 7.2, EXT02205, Naming Committee Renaming Recommendation

Concluding Remarks

The Naming Committee remains committed to the principals reflected in the Naming Municipal Assets Policy. Specifically, the principles of engagement and inclusion underpinned by robust processes thus ensuring that every decision is made with thorough deliberation and community, aligning our work with your vision for our city.

Looking ahead, we are excited to continue advancing our efforts to align naming in Edmonton with City Policy C509C, and through the development of robust processes that ensure citizen access to equitable naming practices.

Appendix 1: 2024 Highlights and Approvals

2024 Highlights

Wîhkwêntôwin

In February 2024, City Council voted to approve the Naming Committee's recommendation to support the Community League's request to change their neighbourhood name from Oliver to Wîhkwêntôwin ᐃᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ. The new name translates to 'Circle of Friends' in nêhiyawêwin (Cree language). The name was chosen after an almost three-year process started by the Wîhkwêntôwin Community League and led by a working circle made of diverse members of the community including Elders and representatives from different backgrounds. The Renaming Circle included many Indigenous community leaders and representatives and was guided by two Indigenous Elders. The renaming is an important part of Edmonton's commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Council's motion also includes the renaming of the Arena, Pool, Park, and future LRT Stop at 116 Street. The Edmonton Public School Board also renamed Oliver School to Wîhkwêntôwin School.

Okisikow (Angel) Way

In March 2024, the Naming Committee unanimously approved the name change of 101A Avenue, between 96 Street and 97 Street, from the honorary name "Okîsikow (Angel) Way" to "Okisikow Way NW", an official street name and civic address. This name reminds Edmontonians that victims of violence and their families need safe spaces that provide shelter, support, and services.

Okîsikow (Angel) Way is a collaboration between Elders, Stolen Sisters & Brothers Action Movement, CEASE - Centre to Empower All Survivors of Exploitation & Trafficking, MacKintosh Consulting, The Butterfly Project, and Ayana Communications, with the support from the City of Edmonton.

Elderberry Roads in Edgemont

In 2024, the Naming Committee continued its approval of road names rooted in flora, fauna, and geography. Native to the region, elderberries symbolize both resilience and adaptability, while holding significance in many Indigenous cultures for their medicinal and spiritual properties. Using "Elderberry" as road names would emphasize the importance of biodiversity in urban areas and help foster a connection between the community and the land's rich Indigenous history.

2024 Naming Approvals

Renamings	
<i>Location/Neighbourhood</i>	<i>Approved Names</i>
Wihkwêntôwin	Wihkwêntôwin (formerly Oliver Neighbourhood)
Boyle Street	Okisikow Way (formerly 101a Avenue NW)
Leger / Terwillegar Heights Area	Booster Juice Recreation Centre (formerly Terwillegar Community Recreation Centre) - Facility Name Sale Policy

Neighbourhood	
<i>Location/Neighbourhood</i>	<i>Approved Names</i>
Horse Hill Area	Quarry Ridge Neighbourhood

Park and Open Space Names	
<i>Location/Neighbourhood</i>	<i>Approved Names</i>
Alces	Bhai Jagir Singh Ji Park
Garneau	Eleanor Thomas Park

Road Names	
<i>Location/Neighbourhood</i>	<i>Approved Names</i>
Alces	Alces Link
Chappelle	Callihoo Bend
Chappelle	Callihoo Lane
Chappelle	Callihoo Link
Chappelle	Callihoo Loop
Desrochers	Dant Landing

Attachment 1

Edgemont	Eaton Link
Edgemont	Eaton Road
Edgemont	Edgemont Green
Edgemont	Egret Drive
Edgemont	Egret Loop
Edgemont	Egret Way
Edgemont	Elderberry Close
Edgemont	Elderberry Court
Edgemont	Elderberry Landing
Edgemont	Elk Crescent
Edgemont	Elk Lane
Edgemont	Elk Link
Edgemont	Elk Place
Edgemont	Elk Way
Hays Ridge	Hays Ridge Place
Keswick	Kimiwan Crescent
Keswick	Kipnes Link
Keswick	Kipnes Wynd
Keswick	Kossowan Place
Pintail Landing	Pintail Drive
River's Edge	River's Edge Link
River's Edge	River's Edge Road
Starling	Redpoll Close
Starling	Redpoll Place