

City of Edmonton Youth Council - 2024 Annual Report

Message from the Executive External Chair

For thirty years, the City of Edmonton Youth Council has served as young Edmontonians' most direct channel of engagement with City Council. As Executive Chair for the 2024-2025 term, I feel incredibly honoured to be serving in this organization, but also remain very aware of the responsibility put upon me in ensuring that it continues to improve in building an Edmonton for all young people.

Halfway through this term, it is increasingly clear that the work we've done so far, as well as the work left to do until the end of the year, will set the foundation for a new era for CEYC—one that prioritizes direct engagement with both Council and Edmontonian youth, meaningful allyship with diverse youth communities, and a strategic-but-principled approach to addressing municipal issues.

I hope that this report shows both the importance of the work CEYC has been doing this term, as well as the level of dedication and care our youth have towards making Edmonton a better place. Despite the struggles we've all faced over the past few years, there is always great hope and inspiration to be found by witnessing the power young people have when they come together.

With appreciation,
Sayem Ali Ahmed

Message from the Internal Executive Chair, Angelina Raina

It is an immense privilege to be writing this letter as Executive Co-Chair of the City of Edmonton Youth Council for the 2024-2025 term. The journey from election to now, writing this report, has offered me so much more than I could have expected and it is an honor to have had the chance to witness and participate in the evolution of this council and its people.

CEYC has always been unique in its structure and in what it offers young people. This council offers a rare and unparalleled opportunity for young people to engage with municipal politics on their own accord, learning to advocate, organize, and act in solidarity with the people around them. These opportunities provide the youth of this city a safe space to make mistakes, learn from them, and come back stronger in their initiatives.

This year, CEYC continued to work on its previous years goals and we saw new members in our leadership. This is incredibly encouraging to see as we continue to act on our mandate of involving diverse youth with council and aiding them in their growth as people. CEYC continued to work on initiatives ranging from anti-racism, mental health, community safety to networking while also pushing forward its engagement with the council by keeping up with policy decisions.

CEYC is one of the most practical and open ways of engaging with the city as its structure allows for young people to have direct contact with city administration, who are always willing to listen and support our work. This connection can be tangibly seen in the increase of confidence of the youth in council as they are better able to understand policies and the changes they are able to make through critiques and engagement.

As Internal Co-Chair, I shall continue to support the youth of CEYC and this city to the best of my abilities, keeping in mind the great trust that has been put in me with this role. CEYC has been a place of growth and prosperity and I hope to see it continue to be a place young people in Edmonton can come to grow, build character, and solidarity well into the future.

With immense gratitude,

Angelina Raina

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 City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC)

The mandate of CEYC is to provide information and advice to Council in relation to issues involving or affecting Youth.

Report on 2024 Work Plan Goals and Accomplishments

Goal One	
Mobilize youth on local issues through community, events and projects.	
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Educate youth on the interplay between houselessness, zoning laws, and public spaces to promote meaningful, strategic action towards improving outcomes in these issues • Engage with youth on their experience with city transit and promote youth needs and perspectives within city transit policies and projects. • Create avenues for youth to stay informed of municipal affairs related to their interests, and encourage involvement in municipal processes.
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Public Spaces Bylaw Working Group:</i> Created and released a position representing the youth perspective on the revised Public Spaces Bylaw. • <i>Public Relations:</i> Created a social media team entirely composed of youth to provide a direct link between Edmontonians and the Youth Council, thereby establishing two-way communication opportunities

	to discuss and share youth perspectives.
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Goal Two	
Empower youth through education, skill building, and experience.	
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide youth with professional development opportunities which support future contribution and innovation. • Encourage youth participation in creating a greener and more sustainable Edmonton. • Facilitate opportunities for youth both within and outside of CEYC to network and engage with each other. • Keep youth informed of scholarships, volunteering, and professional development opportunities.
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Youth Summit Initiative:</i> Encouraging the construction of safe and inclusive spaces for young people in the spirit of social justice. • <i>Youth Community Involvement Webpage:</i> The maintenance of “Youth Community Involvement” webpage on the CEYC website, sharing volunteer, scholarship, and professional development opportunities.

Goal Three	
Provide youth with opportunities for meaningful participation in local government	
Key Results	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for youth in Edmonton to participate and provide insight to CEYC. • Recruit CEYC membership to reflect a diverse array of youth with varying identities and life experiences. • Actively engage with youth outside of CEYC on issues as they pertain to youth experience. • Engage with the City Council on a number of policy related decisions from a youth perspective.
Summary of Progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Youth at Large:</i> The inclusion of additional youth to participate in CEYC activities and projects who are not part of the official CEYC recruitment process. Currently, there are roughly 60 YAL. • <i>Community Visits:</i> Visits to schools and community groups across Edmonton allow the committee to present on the work of CEYC and recruit members. This initiative has gained traction in increasing

	<p>exposure for the committee.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Networking Event:</i> Event open to all youth in Edmonton to discuss municipal issues and form connections to work on addressing these issues. Many new members this term were introduced to CEYC through this event.• <i>Public Spaces Bylaw Working Group:</i> Wrote a letter to Council on the Public Spaces Bylaw, and had five members speak at Council, providing a youth perspective on the proposed changes. This initiative is ongoing and plans to be responsive to council reports and policy discussions.
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In addition, the following was also completed by CEYC:

- **June 5, 2024:** Networking Event
- **November 2024:** Open conversations: Indigenous Allyship
- **February 2025:** Provided youth perspective on Bylaw 20700: Public Spaces Bylaw by speaking to Council and media engagement. Our media coverage included an opinion piece in the Edmonton Journal and interviews on CBC, 630 CHED, and City News.

It should be noted that CEYC initiatives usually see results towards the end of the term (roughly May-June), making it difficult to comment on specific results here. For this reason, we recommend changing the timing this report is due to May or June, such that it can be submitted alongside CEYC's Membership Report. We are open to providing a follow-up report with more concrete results later this term if requested.

Last term, the Annual Report was presented on May 14, 2024, and thus can provide more of an idea as to what CEYC typically accomplishes over a year. We recommend referring back to the 2024 Annual Report as needed.

2024 Meeting Summary – Key Topics and Motions Meeting Summary

Meeting	Summary - Key Topics and Motions
<p>Standing Items</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Councillor Updates ● Chair Updates ● Administration Updates ● Subcommittee Chair Updates (Projects, Policy, Internal)
<p>September</p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Orientation ● Election for VCM executive positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speeches, Q&A, and voting for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Co-Chairs, Internal Subcommittee, Projects Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee.
<p>October</p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Election for VCM/YAL executive positions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Speeches, Q&A, voting for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Co-Chairs positions for Internal Subcommittee, Projects Subcommittee, and Policy Subcommittee ● Subcommittee purpose and recruitment
<p>November</p>	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Youth Summit on Social Justice and Empowerment ● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Suicide Prevention ● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Anti-Racism ● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Community Safety ● <i>Initiative Proposal:</i> Addictions Initiative ● Open discussion on November Budget Adjustment ● Open discussion on Indigenous Allyship and Reconciliation <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Administration Presentation:</i> Anti-Racism Strategy Update – High Level Office for Reconciliation and Anti-Racism <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Youth Summit on Social Justice and Empowerment Initiative ● <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Suicide Prevention Initiative ● <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Anti-Racism Initiative ● <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Community Safety Initiative ● <i>Passed:</i> To approve the Addictions Initiative
<p>December</p>	<p>Topics:</p>

Attachment 1

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Initiative Proposal: Community-Oriented Self-Care</i> ● <i>Initiative Proposal: Public Relations</i> ● <i>Initiative Proposal: Networking</i> ● November Budget Adjustment debrief ● Discussion on CEYC 2024-2025 Workplan <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Passed: To approve the Public Relations Initiative (without the budget)</i> ● <i>Passed: To approve the Networking Initiative (without the budget)</i>
January	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Initiative Budget Update: Public Relations</i> ● <i>Initiative Budget Proposal: Networking</i> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Passed: To approve the budget for the Networking Initiative</i>
February	<p>Topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● CEYC's response to external affairs procedure ● CEYC Position on Revised Public Spaces Motion <p>Presentations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Administration Presentation: Public Spaces Bylaw – Employee and Legal Services</i> <p>Motions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>Passed: To publish and approve the op-ed as the official CEYC stance on the public spaces bylaw hearing</i> ● <i>Passed: To approve the letter authored by CEYC to be sent to other advisory boards to co-sign before sending to Council</i>

Membership and Appointment Information

City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) 2024-25 Membership List			
Name	Appointed	Term Ends	Max Term
Sayem Ali Ahmed - Co-Chair	Sep 1, 2021	Aug 31, 2026	2029
Reetu Arvikar	Oct 19, 2020	Aug 31, 2026	2028
Ashley Arulnithy	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Corinne Au	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Thomas Beschell	Sep 1, 2021	Aug 31, 2026	2029
Speena Dalal	Sep 1, 2023	Aug 31, 2026	2031
Rowan Hanf	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Jessica Huynh	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Bella Jiao	Oct 2, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Mathew Katz	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Harsehaj Kaur	Sep 1, 2023	Aug 31, 2026	2031
Reet Khinda	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Mambouomuni Kuverua	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Ben Magalnick	Sep 1, 2022	Aug 31, 2026	2030
Dominic Mao	Sep 1, 2022	Aug 31, 2026	2030
Aditya Peddi	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032
Angelina Raina - Co-Chair	Sep 1, 2022	Aug 31, 2026	2030
Moneek Sandhu	Sep 1, 2022	Aug 31, 2026	2030
Irshad Sayed	Oct 19, 2020	Aug 31, 2026	2028
Ellen Tam	Aug 20, 2024	Aug 31, 2026	2032

Reports and Communications

Correspondence submitted to Council:

No correspondence has been submitted to Council as of February 7, 2025.

CEYC requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council:

No requests to speak to a Standing Committee of Council have been made as of February 7, 2025.

Concluding Remarks

The CEYC has continued to support its mandate through the hard work of 20 Voting Committee Members and over 70 Youth-at-Large. All these people together make CEYC the inspiration and force that it is.

Our mandate of providing advice to council in relation to youth issues by promoting events that profile local youth issues, provide networking opportunities, while continuing to research on policy proposals for council's review in the future has continued on successfully this year. Young people continue to focus on initiatives such as community safety and wellbeing, reaching out to young people through surveys and events to learn of their views on these policies along with workshops around mental health resources for youth will be put on this year.

In order to better support the work of CEYC and improve its efficiency, we'd like to formally request to move the timing of our annual report presentation to being in June. This change would allow us to better align with the academic year of students and therefore have more to report on as initiatives will not simply be 'in progress'. This would also more properly align with our request to have a formal shift in our calendar year so as to more appropriately accommodate students.

It has been 30 years since the creation of the City of Edmonton Youth Council in 1995 and we have strived to accomplish our mission of educating and empowering youth by providing meaningful input on municipal politics since then. We are incredibly grateful for these 30 years and we are looking forward to 30 more years of youth leadership, engagement, and empowerment.

The City of Edmonton Youth Council's Executive Co-Chairs,
Sayem Ali Ahmed and Angelina Raina