

City of Edmonton Youth Council - 2025 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. To carry out this mandate, the CEYC may:

- Research and write policy proposals for Council's review;
- Coordinate community events that profile local youth issues;
- Receive direction from Council on work or reports it requires on youth matters;
- Develop and maintain relationships with individuals and organizations addressing issues of concern to youth;
- Promote initiatives to support the well-being of youth;
- Educate youth on City governance, procedures and policy making;
- Provide networking opportunities for youth;
- Consult with City Manager and other organizations supporting youth initiatives;
- Establish the General Assembly, maintain the registry of individuals participating in the General Assembly, and oversee its meetings;
- If requested by Council, recommend individuals for appointment to the City's civic agencies; and
- Inform Council of initiatives of other levels of government that could affect Youth.

CEYC Goals for 2025

1. Goal 1: Mobilize youth on local issues through community, events, and projects.
2. Goal 2: Empower youth through education, skill building, and experience to be active citizens.
3. Goal 3: Provide youth with opportunities for meaningful participation in local government.

Work Plan

Goals	Timeline	Action Items	Expected Outcomes	Partners/ Stakeholders
<p>Goal 1: Mobilize youth on local issues through community, events, and projects.</p>	<p>Start Date: November 6, 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>Youth Summit Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging the construction of safe and inclusive spaces for young people in the spirit of social justice Sharing experiences from professionals and youth, surrounding social challenges including racism, mental health, and stereotyping Discussing solutions and initiatives for 	<p>Youth Summit Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strengthening and empowering marginalized and struggling youth from diverse backgrounds Building empathy, understanding, connection, healing, and action through open dialogue Bringing attention and awareness to promoting inclusivity and diversity Addressing barriers to youth 	<p>Youth Summit Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Partner with the Internal Subcommittee to advertise and obtain youth engagement Partner with the Policy Subcommittee to research and draft policy proposals based on insights and information gained post-initiative Collaboration with local organizations and groups to act as guest speakers,

	<p>Start Date: November 6, 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>participants to create positive changes individually or in youth collectives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilitating and educating youth on healthy ways to maintain positive mental health in the midst of challenges and adversity. <p>Suicide Prevention Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop and maintain relationships with individuals and organizations addressing issues of concern to youth. Promotes 	<p>engagement in local groups, student government, and general participation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inspiring an action-oriented mindset, with tangible solutions to bring back to their communities to work towards <p>Suicide Prevention Workshops</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Combat suicide rates in Edmonton by equipping young people with skills to identify warning signs of suicidal ideation and to help people who are considering suicide feel empowered to access the appropriate 	<p>panelists, and professionals in the fields of social justice, diversity, and inclusivity.</p> <p>Suicide Prevention Workshops</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community Helpers Program (AHS/University of Alberta) Possible collaboration with CEYC Internal Subcommittee: opportunity for
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	<p>Start Date: December 4, 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>initiatives to support the well-being of youth.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides networking opportunities for youth. <p>Public Relations Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a social media strategy for CEYC social media platforms. • Increasing the number of posts on social media platforms related to: city news, CEYC initiatives, and CEYC events and engagement opportunities. 	<p>resources.</p> <p>2. Impact the lives of those experiencing suicidal ideation and those who are close to them, as well as those who receive training in suicide prevention.</p> <p>Public Relations Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empower youth to mobilize, stay informed of municipal affairs, and create healthy communities. • Encourage robust engagement with youth and establish 2-way communication opportunities to discuss and share youth perspectives. • Expand the CEYC's 	<p>CEYC members to acquire/build skills.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • External media presence is not desired, but not necessarily unwelcome.
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			network and connections to diverse youth voices.	
Goal 2: Empower youth through education, skill building, and experience to be active citizens.	<p>Start Date: December 4, 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>Networking Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host an event or events specifically designed to create opportunities for youth to engage with each other, youth serving agencies, and with members of the City Council. 	<p>Networking Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide opportunities for youth to network, establish new relationships, and exchange ideas and knowledge. • Create opportunities for youth to be involved in municipal affair • Resource youth with community connections. 	<p>Networking Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with City Council members and local youth serving agencies.
Goal 3: Provide opportunities for meaningful participation in Edmonton's local Government.	<p>Start Date: November 6, 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>Addictions Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide Council with policy advice from a youth perspective as it relates to the addiction issue 	<p>Addictions Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Raise broader awareness of the addictions issue. • Present a report to Council 	<p>Addictions Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage youth external to CEYC • Engage with external community organizations

	<p>Start Date: January 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>municipally.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research policies on the issue of addictions. • Create and market a survey to understand the broader youth perspective on addictions. • Write and present a report outlining findings from research and survey for Council’s review. <p>Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with youth external to CEYC on perspectives of policing and 	<p>outlining a youth perspective on addictions and providing well-researched solutions.</p> <p>Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amplify youth perspective on safety within Edmonton. • Provide Council 	<p>focused on addictions.</p> <p>Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Connect with members of Administration within social development,
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		<p>safety within Edmonton.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Research strategies external to policing that enhances community safety. ● Conduct a jurisdictional scan of strategies employed by other municipalities to enhance community safety and cohesion. ● Create and market a survey to understand the broader youth perspective on community safety. ● Draft a report to Council 	<p>with a report outlining youth perspectives of policing and community safety, and identifying evidence based strategies of promoting community safety.</p>	<p>and CSWB.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Connect with members from EPS. ● Engage youth external to CEYC. ● Engage with academics, community figures, and academics.
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	<p>Start Date: January 2024</p> <p>Completion Date: Ongoing</p>	<p>outlining findings.</p> <p>Anti-Racism Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create a relationship with the Anti-Racism independent body. • Establish strategies to support the Anti-Racism strategy with the City of Edmonton. • Collaborate with Jasper Place High School to conduct focus groups with students and faculty to understand their perspectives on anti-racism and to educate 	<p>Anti-Racism Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a long-term strategic partnership with the goal of promoting anti-racism within the City of Edmonton and within CEYC. • Help contribute to a healthy city through the practice of anti-racism. • Work in collaboration with the City of Edmonton Independent Body. • Present a report to Council outlining the 	<p>Anti-Racism Initiative</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a relationship with the City of Edmonton's Independent Body and Administration working towards anti-racism. • Collaborate with Jasper Place High School in relation to the planned focus groups.
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		<p>students and faculty on racism.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present a report outlining the successes of anti-racism focus groups to Council 	<p>successes of anti-racism and focus groups to Council.</p>	
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Sub-Committees for Council's Consideration

	Name of the Sub-Committee	Rationale	Composition of the Sub-Committee
1	Projects	<p>The Projects Subcommittee plays a crucial role in involving youth in local governance and building relationships with young Edmontonians for the following reasons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Promoting Volunteerism and Community Involvement:</i> The subcommittee fosters a platform that empowers youth to connect with relevant issues in our city, inspiring them to volunteer and contribute to improving their communities, as young leaders. This initiative ignites a passion for governance and instills strong values of humanitarianism among young people. • <i>Alignment with CEYC Goals:</i> The objectives and essence of this subcommittee capture the overarching CEYC goal of mobilizing youth on local issues through local 	<p>The project's subcommittee will have a minimum of 3 Voting Committee Members (Co-chairs included) and a minimum of 20 Youth at Large (YAL) members who will collectively collaborate towards the contribution and advancement of the mandate of the subcommittee.</p> <p>The YAL members bring an incredible work ethic and contribute exceptionally towards</p>

		<p>projects, allowing the opportunity for youth to develop the skills to initiate impactful changes to their city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Developing Young Leaders:</i> The subcommittee creates a supportive atmosphere for young people to acquire essential workplace skills, such as understanding Robert’s Rules and voting structures, student governance, leadership, interpersonal skills, budgeting, event planning, and teamwork. Consequently, this subcommittee empowers youth to select issues they are passionate about and develop their projects collaboratively, fostering a strong work ethic and initiative. As a result, they gain valuable leadership skills, discover their true passions, and build their resumes for future careers. <p>The Projects subcommittee is responsible for educating and inspiring youth to take action, through various initiatives throughout the year, representing the branch of CEYC that is at the forefront of youth-oriented issues. For the project subcommittee to successfully serve the community, the City of Edmonton must ensure sufficient funding and staff support. Funding is necessary for the growth and success of initiatives, to reserve required venues, supply meals for participating youth and community members, pay fees for educational workshops, reserve bookings for professionals and guest speakers, and purchase materials vital to event operations. Staff support is valuable in ensuring initiatives are effectively coordinated, organized, and compliant with CEYC standards and goals. The Projects subcommittee typically holds monthly meetings, while initiative leads and their respective teams meet weekly or bi-weekly. This dedicated time is essential for</p>	<p>the execution of various initiatives. Furthermore, YAL member’s diversity and respective backgrounds provide a variety of perspectives and ideologies within the subcommittee.</p>
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		<p>concentrating on initiatives that aim to support Edmontonian youth.</p> <p>Overall, the Projects subcommittee is important for engaging with Edmontonian youth, by fostering their involvement in local matters and encouraging them to tackle issues they are passionate about in their community. The subcommittee's establishment provides the necessary time to organize and facilitate event planning, while the general assembly serves as a platform to gather feedback, and engagement, and obtain approval for initiative work.</p>	
2.	Policy	<p>The Policy Subcommittee plays an essential role in effectively integrating youth perspectives into municipal governance and directly increasing youth's awareness and interest in policies of the municipal government for the reasons following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Direct Advisory Role:</i> The subcommittee advises city council on city priorities and emerging policy from a youth perspective, providing nuanced recommendations reflecting the policy from a youth perspective, providing nuanced recommendations reflecting the evolving needs of Edmonton's youth. • <i>Meaningful impacts:</i> It focuses on pressing key issues facing the youth of Edmonton, such as in our initiatives of Anti-Racism, Addictions, and Community Safety and Wellbeing, which ensure youth voices are considered when problem-solving for youth-related issues. • <i>Support for CECY's Goals:</i> By empowering youth to 	<p>The Subcommittee will have a minimum of 3 Voting Committee Members (Co-chairs included) and a minimum of 15 Youth at Large (YAL) members who will collectively collaborate towards the contribution and advancement of the goal and action items of the subcommittee.</p> <p>The YAL members bring additional capacity to complete the work of this subcommittee by providing a greater diversity of perspectives and lived</p>

		<p>participate meaningfully in local government, the subcommittee aligns with the City of Edmonton Youth Council's goal #3.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Engagement and Feedback:</i> Actively participating in engagement opportunities with City Administration ensures youth perspectives are integrated into policy formulation, fostering collaboration and inclusivity in decision-making. <p>The Policy Subcommittee is integral because it is the only means for CEYC to directly interact, engage and communicate policy changes to the City Council. Through our survey data collection, we work to align city policy and initiatives with youth values, interests and concerns. Applying a youth perspective empowers youth to access problems arising from misalignments and recommendations that could fill these gaps. At present, we have three running initiatives. The initiative's pillars integrate experiential knowledge supported by data collection and analysis. The material products of the sub-committee are policy drafts and papers.</p>	<p>experiences.</p> <p>It also enables CEYC to have more representation when presenting to council or when speaking at a committee meeting or public hearing. As CEYC members are largely students, having a larger group of youth available, can provide more ability for daytime availability to speak with council and administration.</p>
3.	Internal	<p>The Internal Subcommittee is vital to the overall operation of CEYC and CEYC's role as an advisory body because:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Facilitating CEYC Initiatives:</i> By creating CEYC's social media content for all three subcommittees, the internal subcommittee facilitates the effective operation of the entire council, and supports the specific goals of every initiative. Through management of initiatives' social 	<p>The Subcommittee will have a minimum of 3 Voting Committee Members (Council Appointment members) and up to 20 Youth at Large members responsible for the goal and action items of the subcommittee.</p>

		<p>media, the subcommittee allows CEYC and its initiatives to spread awareness about their work and execute essential logistic processes, such as event registration and recruitment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fostering Youth Education:</i> Through maintaining CEYC’s online presence, the internal subcommittee informs youth on opportunities for civic participation and educates youth on issues important to them. This is in alignment with two CEYC goals. First, to provide youth with opportunities for meaningful participation in local government. Second, to empower youth through education. • <i>Establishes Connection Between CEYC, External Organizations, and the Public:</i> The internal subcommittee uses social media, the CEYC website, and networking events to connect CEYC with young Edmontonians and other local youth organizations. These connections integrate CEYC with the remainder of Edmonton’s youth community and educates CEYC about youth opinions and values. For example, the internal subcommittee’s operation of the CEYC social media and website provides youth with accessible, 2 way communication with CEYC. <p>The internal subcommittee is focusing on public relations and networking for the 2024-2025 term. The subcommittee as a whole meets monthly to communicate with all internal initiatives and provide progress updates, while individual initiatives meet monthly to focus on their specific tasks. In doing this, the internal subcommittee creates a consistent</p>	<p>This number of YAL members allows for sustainable division of work, as well as the capacity to work on multiple initiatives simultaneously. This accommodates for the varying availabilities of members and the widespread involvement that the internal subcommittee has in all of CEYC’s initiatives.</p>
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		<p>understanding of what work is completed and yet to be done, and sets aside regular times for collaborative work on initiatives.</p> <p>In summary, the internal subcommittee is responsible for the upkeep of fundamental CEYC functions, such as social media management, website updates, communication with the public and other youth organizations. In fulfilling these purposes, the internal subcommittee ensures other subcommittees have the needed tools and relationships to realize successful initiatives. As well, the internal subcommittee independently serves to increase awareness of CEYC, thus encouraging youth involvement in municipal government and educating youth on how to achieve further political representation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The internal subcommittee does mandatory, administrative work and in order to ensure the sustainable functioning of this group, we would like to restructure it in the upcoming months. Currently we follow the initiative model but we have seen a lack of engagement with this set up so we aim to introduce elected positions for this subcommittee so the work is done in a timely manner. This is still to be debated at our monthly meeting at the time of writing this report. 	
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