

2002 Annual Chair's Report

Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

Annual Chair's Report 2002



**Toward an equal and positive
partnership between the
Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal
citizens of Edmonton**

**Submitted By:
Ms. Valerie Kaufman, Chair
Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee**

Website: www.aboriginal-edmonton.com

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The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee – Current Members

Valerie Kaufman – Chair

Robb Campre – Vice Chair

Gina Cosco

Richard Jenkins

Pamela Cunningham

Terry Lusty

Chris Andersen

Debbie Coulter

Kathy McArdle



Lewis Cardinal

Claire Clark

Leonard Robinson

Rosalie Cardinal

Karen Bruno

Angela Lamoureux

George Vass

2002 Annual Chair's Report



1. Introduction

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee (EAUAC) serves as a volunteer committee working toward an equal and positive partnership between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens of Edmonton.

In 2002, the committee had sixteen (16) volunteers who were appointed by City Council. The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee was established in 1994 in a cooperative effort led by an Aboriginal Inter-Agency Committee and the Mayor and City Council at the time. Actions of EAUAC are directed by the Committee's Terms of Reference, initially adopted by City Council in 1994 and revised in 1998.

Duties and responsibilities assigned by Council include:

1. To ensure that effective community communication and consultation play a major role in the efforts of the EAUAC to fulfil its purpose.
2. To assist the efforts of other agencies, organizations, etc., who are addressing issues of concern to urban Aboriginal people.
3. To receive advice, recommendations, reports or concerns from individuals or groups addressing issues facing urban Aboriginal people, and identify appropriate action.
4. To investigate, develop solutions, and make recommendations to appropriate bodies on areas of concern to urban Aboriginal people and the City of Edmonton.
5. To provide input on the development and implementation of City of Edmonton policies, programs, services, and initiatives, which will have an impact on Aboriginal people living in Edmonton.
6. To request assistance, if and when required, from any appropriate agency or organization to improve the role of the EAUAC.
7. To strike standing, ad-hoc or sub-committees, as necessary, to address specific or urgent concerns

Working closely with the City of Edmonton Community Services Department staff and City Council, EAUAC utilizes a variety of approaches to achieve their goals including:

- Promotion of Aboriginal accomplishments, civic involvement, and organizations,
- Advocacy on behalf of urban Aboriginal people in the City of Edmonton,
- Serving as a liaison between the Mayor and City Council and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens, agencies and organizations.

During the past year the Committee held regular monthly meetings and one full day strategy planning session. As part of the 2002 EAUAC Action Plan, four sub-committees were formed based on identified issues and concerns of the urban Aboriginal community in Edmonton. In addition to the regular meetings, many sub-committee meetings were necessary to complete the tasks and ongoing work of the committee.

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee members have all demonstrated a strong commitment and dedication to a common purpose during this past year. The work completed by the committee was extensive and involved making recommendations and providing input on issues concerning Aboriginal people and organizations, assisting Aboriginal organizations to express their problems and needs, and listening to concerns from individuals or groups addressing issues affecting urban Aboriginal people. Further detail will be provided in the sub-sections of this report.

Positive growth, change and development would not have been possible without the continued support of Edmonton Community Services and EAUAC would like to extend sincere appreciation to Joyce Tustian, Kathy Barnhart, Mike Kroening, Harry Oswin, and committee support Heather Froese. Community Services Branch Management agreed to provide increased support to the committee this year through the attendance of Mike Kroening at EAUAC committee meetings. This advisory role has been particularly valuable to EAUAC.

Another positive feature is the recent hiring of a new Aboriginal Community Development Coordinator, who has taken on the role of providing administrative support to the committee. We are encouraged to have this new position allocated to working with the Aboriginal Community and we extend our gratitude to Community Services for helping to make this goal a reality. We hope that the City will further develop as an employer of choice, by encouraging Aboriginal people to serve the community as municipal officials and employees.

2. Sub-Committee Reports

* A) Executive Sub-Committee

EAUAC Website

In 2002, the Executive Sub-committee accepted the role of ensuring appropriate communication materials and awareness about the Committee was distributed to the community.

The development and promotion of EAUAC's website was a key accomplishment for the members of the Communication Sub-Committee in the year 2000. The website is linked to the City of Edmonton website and was initiated in response to a request from the Mayor and City Councillors who asked for improvements in reaching out and responding in a proactive way to the Aboriginal and larger community. The Committee is continuing to strive toward higher visibility for the web-site including an icon on the City of Edmonton main web-page.

The web-site is utilized as a tool for information regarding the committee and its activities and events and to link the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal community via the Internet. The website has been maintained and following a careful review by the sub-committee received a major update in 2002. This website is fully operational and we invite you "to explore the exceptional vibrancy and diversity of the urban Aboriginal community in Edmonton".

EAUAC NEWS

EAUAC continues to publish and distribute 3 editions of the EAUAC newsletter, entitled "EAUAC NEWS" (see attached) on an annual basis. The newsletter has been used as a tool to communicate to citizens and organizations in the community regarding past and present Committee initiatives and community events. EAUAC will continue to advocate and present the positive accomplishments of Aboriginal people in Edmonton including highlighting many of these accomplishments in their Newsletter.

The Committee also plans to update and revitalize the EAUAC informational brochure and EAUAC tabletop display board in the upcoming year. These updates will be a portion of the work necessary to keep the community advised of EAUAC activities.

Rossdale Burial Site

The EPCOR/Rossdale Burial Site serves as an example of an issue currently under review by EAUAC. This particular involvement has been extensive by many of the committee's members and the Committee administrative support person, Heather Froese who has played an integral role in ensuring our involvement at stakeholder meetings. EAUAC often acts as a catalyst in bringing

community together and has a strong commitment in particular to ensuring the involvement of Elders in these discussions.

EAUAC co-hosted a community information session on this issue in partnership with the Canadian Native Friendship Centre. Close to 20 Elders and a significant number of individual community members gathered to hear presentations from the site's Archaeologists and community members who have been following the development of this activity. EAUAC agreed to continue our endeavors to provide information on this issue to community members, and our most recent newsletter reflects this commitment.

EAUAC has also been a participant in the recent stakeholder meetings to further discuss the recommendations from the community for appropriate protection, preservation, and commemoration of the Fort Edmonton Rosedale Burial site. We hope that the City of Edmonton, City Council, and the stakeholders will continue to work together to develop a successful and culturally sensitive plan to commemorate this sacred site in Edmonton's River Valley.

2nd Annual Municipalities Aboriginal Networking Workshops

EAUAC assisted the City of Edmonton Community Services Department in hosting a municipal networking workshop of several western Canadian municipalities in May 2002. We hope that this ongoing networking initiative will assist in the collection of best practices and ideas for the positive promotion, programs and services for Aboriginal people in urban areas.

*** B) Policy Development and Urban Governance Sub-Committee**

Over the past year this sub-committee has undertaken discussion on several issues which may affect the urban Aboriginal population. These discussions have included: the establishment of an Urban Aboriginal Policy for the City of Edmonton, inclusion of Elders and Youth in EAUAC activities, a review of the Terms of Reference, and inclusion of members of the community in EAUAC meetings. The sub-committee is currently investigating the feasibility of starting an Elders Advisory Council for EAUAC and other Aboriginal organizations. A literature review is also being considered as a potential opportunity for EAUAC to provide a much needed resource of demographics and current Aboriginal issues that specifically affect the urban Aboriginal populations within Edmonton.

Urban Governance is a significant issue in a number of communities with high populations of Aboriginal peoples, progress has been made by the sub-committee in the collection of such materials including Aboriginal policy documents from Calgary, Saskatoon, Regina, Vancouver, and Winnipeg.

Youth Involvement

Another area that the Sub-committee has been involved in is the invitation of the Edmonton City Youth Council to periodically attend EAUAC meetings and share with EAUAC their goals and activities. We have committed to maintaining close contact with the youth members and hope to have them participate at future Youth Award Presentations. EAUAC as a whole has encouraged the City to develop a swimming program for Aboriginal youth, and the sub-committee hopes to remain involved in that program as much as possible. Finally, the sub-committee is striving to include youth in EAUAC activities in positive and proactive ways. The committee will work to include youth to gain their perspectives and to give them the opportunity to develop leadership and committee skills at a young age.

Elder Involvement

The Sub-Committee continues to develop a network of Elders to allow inclusion of traditional knowledge, wisdom and advisory support in new arenas. EAUAC continues to encourage Elder participation on a regular basis at EAUAC monthly meetings. The sub-committee anticipates developing an Elders Resource for the City of Edmonton to better promote and teach traditional cultural experiences for youth, adults and the urban Aboriginal community. Furthermore, EAUAC continues to work in conjunction with the urban Aboriginal community and organizations to establish direction for a course of action in establishing an Elders Resource for cultural knowledge, input or directives. An announcement will be placed in the final 2002 Newsletter that Elder input will be included in the Newsletter and beginning in the new year of 2003.

*** C) Housing Sub-Committee**

Affordable housing and the significant numbers of Aboriginal people who are homeless continue to be a concern and focus for this sub-committee. Follow up to the recommendations of the Aboriginal Housing Forums sponsored by EAUAC, Health Canada, and Nechi Institute in 1999 and 2000 has remained a top priority.

EAUAC recommended the appointment of the two (2) Aboriginal community members to the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (EJPCOH) and these recommendations have been accepted. The two new members are strongly committed to contributing positively to EJPCOH. EAUAC also recommended the appointment of an Aboriginal Community representative to the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund. Valerie Kaufman, chair of EAUAC participates as a Committee member for EHTF providing input and recommendations for funding to the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF). Ms. Kaufman has also provided input to the City of Edmonton's Low Income and Special Needs

Housing Strategy Committee, that was approved early this year by City Council. In addition, EAUAC members have assisted in arranging for Aboriginal focus groups on several community issues. This meets the recommendation from participants in the Housing Forums to have Aboriginal representation on boards and committees whose mandate is related to housing. This work is ongoing and will continue into 2002. Recently the Edmonton Aboriginal Coalition on Housing committed to the development of an ongoing partnering relationship with EAUAC and will provide regular reports on Housing to EAUAC.

* **D) Public Education and Culture Sub-Committee**

The goal of the Public Education & Culture Committee is:

- To foster bridges for positive working relationships between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of Edmonton,
- To promote cultural awareness for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Edmontonians and,
- To establish networks with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations at all levels of government and the private sector.

To achieve these goals EAUAC participated in a number of activities in the 2002 year.



National Aboriginal Day was celebrated in partnership with the Government of Canada, and a number of other Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal organizations. EAUAC hosted the launch of National Aboriginal Day activities in Edmonton at City Hall. Guests were invited to attend and participate in a variety of activities and cultural events around Edmonton.

His Worship Mayor Bill Smith launched the event with the **Proclamation of National Aboriginal Day in Edmonton June 21st**. EAUAC also completed the framing of the large moose hide commemorative piece of art work that was presented to Mayor in 2001 and, that is on display outside the Mayor's office in City Hall.

EAUAC Aboriginal Youth Award

On an annual basis EAUAC presents an Aboriginal Youth Award which recognizes the achievements of Aboriginal youth who may excel or demonstrate success in a variety of areas. This year's National Aboriginal Day event also included the presentation of four Aboriginal youth awards at City Hall. All of the Aboriginal youth that were nominated were recognized with a certificate and a National Aboriginal Day T-shirt. Elder Nellie Carlson was present to congratulate the Youth as well as Mayor Bill Smith to present the Certificates to the Youth.

The committee was very pleased to see a large audience who came out to recognize and acknowledge the achievements of Aboriginal youth in the City of Edmonton. We hope that the Youth Award will continue to be an event that Mayor and City Councillors support through their attendance.

Bannock and Tea

A second Bannock and Tea Celebration, which EAUAC holds during the noon hour to promote cross-cultural awareness for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal citizens, will be held in November 2002. The purpose of Bannock and Tea is to help build bridges by increased understanding of Aboriginal culture and to foster positive working relationships between people in Edmonton. In traditional social gatherings among Indigenous people, guests are welcomed into one's home with servings of bannock and tea. To honour this tradition, EAUAC extends an open invitation to the Mayor, City Councillors, City of Edmonton staff and employees, the public, and interested community members to attend these gatherings.

✿ **E) Employment Sub-Committee**

EAUAC has continued to collaborate, investigate and research employment equity and procurement policies of small business, municipal, provincial, and federal governments. Completing several tasks, EAUAC has developed linkages and networked with other equity offices and Aboriginal employment organizations to develop strategies that address issues and concerns in the area of Aboriginal employment with an emphasis on recruitment and retention of Aboriginal employees in Edmonton and surrounding area. The committee has identified the following groups working on employment initiatives and our involvement with them has been demonstrated through continued partnerships.

- **Contact and networking with various employment agencies including:**

Aboriginal Human Resource Development Canada - The goal of this group is work with Corporations who employ Aboriginal employees.

Oteenow - Oteenow is the umbrella group who administer funds through Aces 2000 (a Metis subsidiary) and ACCESS (First Nations), these groups tend to employment requirements in Urban Edmonton. The goal of Oteenow is; to provide governance and management of First Nations Urban resources to implement Labour Market programs and services to First Nations and Metis residing in the greater Edmonton Metropolitan area.

Aboriginal Employment Initiative - Purpose of initiative is to develop a group that provides support to its members, provides input and develops recommendations on Employment Equity issues. All suggestions are forwarded

to the Public Service Commission. In addition, the group is open to providing unique Aboriginal input and perspectives for the development of programs and services for Aboriginal employees.

Chamber of Commerce - Recently two members of EAUAC initiated contact with the Chamber and will develop this relationship in 2003

Economic Development Edmonton – Recent connection and to be developed further in 2003.

3. Concluding Remarks

The Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee remains committed and dedicated to the urban Aboriginal community of Edmonton. The rapidly increasing urban Aboriginal population in Edmonton will require positive solutions to many of the challenges which the future may hold and it is our strong belief that many of those solutions remain within the Aboriginal community. EAUAC will continue to make every effort to draw from that resource – our Aboriginal community.

Over the past several years the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee has worked toward a collaborative approach with City Council. The open communication and inclusiveness of Aboriginal people by the Mayor and City Council has been extremely respectful and is truly valued by EAUAC. EAUAC anticipates this relationship will continue in the future. Our commitment to the Mayor and City Council is to provide thoughtful and timely advice to requests for information involving the Aboriginal community in Edmonton.

We continue to appreciate the interest and support of the Mayor and City Council to this Committee and to the urban Aboriginal community in Edmonton. We look forward to future projects and initiatives that will help and assist urban Aboriginal people.

On a personal note, Val Kaufman completed two-three year terms with the EAUAC and extends sincere best wishes to the members who will continue the efforts of EAUAC. She has agreed to continue providing advice to the membership and her commitment to the Housing issue and will remain with her involvement at the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund.

EAUAC also says farewell to another member who has completed two terms, Claire Clark. Claire will continue her strong advocacy work in the area of Employment. EAUAC extends sincere best wishes and a fond farewell for these two very dedicated volunteers and we wish them both success in their future endeavors.

4. Current Member Evaluation

The following committee members have expressed interest to serve on the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee for the year 2002. The Chair of the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee, Valerie Kaufman, supports these requests by committee members for re-appointment with the exception of Current Member, Terry Lusty. Details regarding this decision can be discussed further.

Current Members

Lewis Cardinal
 Robb Campre
 Leonard Robinson
 Chris Andersen
 Rosalie Cardinal
 Pamela Cunningham
 Richard Jenkins
 Gina Cosco

New members August 2002

Karen Bruno
 Debbie Coulter
 Kathy McArdle
 George Vass
 Angela Lamoureux

The following members have resigned or will not be re-appointed in the year, 2003. We appreciate their dedication, support and commitment to the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee.

Valerie Kaufman – served 6 years (maximum term)
 Claire Clark – served 6 years (maximum term)
 Josie Cardinal - resigned
 Gordon Harris - resigned
 Heather Smillie - moved
 Billie Jean Metz - resigned
 Suzanne McLeod - moved



5. Attendance Report

Please see attached.

Chair's Report, Respectfully submitted by:


Valerie Kaufman
Chair, Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

2002 Annual Chair's Report

CIVIC AGENCIES AND OTHER ASSOCIATIONS ANNUAL CHAIR REPORT TO EDMONTON CITY COUNCIL

| NAME OF AGENCY | YEAR | NO. OF MEETINGS |
|---|-----------------|-----------------|
| Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee | June 2001– 2002 | 12 |

ATTENDANCE RECORD

| MEMBER | MEETINGS ATTENDED | PERCENT ATTENDED |
|--|--|------------------|
| Val Kaufman | 10/12 | 83% |
| Claire Clark | 7/12 | 58% |
| Chris Andersen | 9/12 | 75% |
| Robb Campre | 9/12 | 75% |
| Lewis Cardinal | 9/12 | 75% |
| Rosalie Cardinal | 8/12 | 67% |
| Terry Lusty | 10/12 | 83% |
| Leonard Robinson | 9/12 | 75% |
| <i>Members Resigned in December 2001</i> | | |
| Josie Cardinal | 1/6 | 17% |
| Gordon Harris | 3/6 | 50% |
| Heather Smillie | 3/6 | 50% |
| Billie Jean Metz | 2/6 | 33% |
| Suzanne McLeod | 3/6 | 50% |
| <i>New members January 2002</i> | | |
| Pamela Cunningham | 5/6 | 83% |
| Richard Jenkins | 4/6 | 67% |
| Gina Cosco | 4/6 | 67% |
| <i>New members August 2002(-September)</i> | | |
| Karen Bruno | 2/2 | 100% |
| Debbie Coulter | 2/2 | 100% |
| Kathy McArdle | 2/2 | 100% |
| George Vass | 2/2 | 100% |
| Angela Lamoureux | 1/2 | 50% |
| SIGNATURE OF CHAIR:  | DATE: (amended as of) November 01, 2002 | |

- Please Note: Due to a change in committee members the number of meetings attended will vary.

of meetings 2001 : 6 – Jul. 3 & 30, Sept. 4 & 24, Oct. 22, Nov. 9

of meetings 2002 : 6 – Jan. 28, Feb. 25, Mar. 25, Apr. 29, May 27, Jun. 26

Total meetings: 12