

# ABORIGINAL EDMONTON

The City of Edmonton acknowledges that this work takes place within traditional Treaty 6 territory. The Aboriginal Edmonton newsletter is a publication of the City of Edmonton.

## CITY COUNCIL ABORIGINAL DECLARATION A BRIDGE OF UNDERSTANDING



Photo: F Gladue

From left to right: Eva Bereti, Leah Saila, Marge Friedel, Hon. Senator Dr. Thelma Chalifoux, Alvena Strasbourg, Nellie Carlson, Councillor Ron Hayter, Sonja Willier, Hon. Pearl Calahasen, Jerry Wood, Vic Letendre, Mayor Stephen Mandel, Francis Bad Eagle

On August 30th, 2005 Councillor Ron Hayter read the **Declaration Strengthening Relationships between the City of Edmonton and Urban Aboriginal People**. The Declaration was then approved by Edmonton City Council.

It is believed that the Declaration represents the first comprehensive acknowledgement by a Canadian city of the importance – past, present and future – of First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Non-Status Aboriginal people.

The Declaration follows from Council's decision on May 17, 2005 to approve funding for the Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord Initiative and will act as

a foundation for the creation of respectful and productive relationships between the City of Edmonton and Urban Aboriginal communities.

Best understood as a living document, the Declaration recognizes the vitality and increasing importance of the Aboriginal community in Edmonton. Edmonton has one of the fastest growing Aboriginal populations of any urban centre in Canada and this is expected to increase over the next decade to where it could be the largest in the country.

If you would like to see a full copy of the Aboriginal Declaration,

Visit the Accord website at [www.edmonton.ca/aboriginalaccord](http://www.edmonton.ca/aboriginalaccord)

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### THE EDMONTON URBAN ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE PROCESS

- Open Houses
- Talking Circles
- Executive Forum

#### A BRIDGE OF UNDERSTANDING: City Council Aboriginal Declaration

#### PLUS: HONOURING THE PAST: Construction of Memorial Park

### HONOURING ABORIGINAL YOUTH

#### THE NELLIE CARLSON YOUTH AWARDS

Lorne Ghostkeeper is a grade nine student at the Amiskwaciy Academy. He is fourteen years old and has shown a great deal of leadership from improved attendance to demonstrating a strong commitment as a Traditional Cree singer and drummer at his school.

Irene Blue is a grade nine student and attends Amiskwaciy Academy. She is an outstanding young lady of fourteen and an excellent role model. Irene is a valuable participant in athletics at the Crystal Kids Youth Centre and an active volunteer with the Emergency Relief Services Society.

Together, Irene and Lorne were honoured as the recipients of the 2005 Nellie Carlson Youth Awards on September 12th. The awards are presented annually by the Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee.

Nellie Carlson, for whom the youth awards were named, has spent decades advocating for native women and youth. The Cree Elder helped establish the "Awasis" and "Sacred Circle" programs for native children, and successfully lobbied the federal government to replace discriminatory legislation that stripped native women of their treaty rights.

### DETAILS ON THE URBAN ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE INSIDE



Edmonton Urban Aboriginal Accord Initiative

In partnership



\* Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee

# Exploring Urban Aboriginal issues together

## THE EDMONTON URBAN ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE PROCESS: YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE

The Urban Aboriginal Dialogue process is an Aboriginal led, inclusive process that will undertake discussions with Urban Aboriginal people in order to achieve greater clarity on the priorities of Inuit, First Nations, Métis and Non-Status Urban Aboriginal people. Priorities identified through the Urban Aboriginal Dialogue process will be brought forward to willing partners and resource-holders for action planning early in 2006.

The Urban Aboriginal Dialogue process has several opportunities for Aboriginal people to participate; including Open Houses, Talking Circles and an Executive Forum. See adjacent diagram for descriptions and times. More details will be available on our website.

No time to attend any of these events? No problem, simply go to the Accord Initiative website and fill out the Urban Aboriginal Dialogue workbook on-line.

Visit the Accord website at  
[www.edmonton.ca/aboriginalaccord](http://www.edmonton.ca/aboriginalaccord)

For more information,  
or to register for one of these  
events, call 944-7602 or email  
[aboriginal.accord@edmonton.ca](mailto:aboriginal.accord@edmonton.ca)

### EXECUTIVE FORUM

Details to follow

### TALKING CIRCLES

Youth Circle – Oct. 6<sup>th</sup>

Women Circle – Oct. 13<sup>th</sup>

Street Issues Circle – Oct. 20<sup>th</sup>

Seniors/Disability Circle – Oct. 27<sup>th</sup>

Every Thursday in October 9 am – 12 pm

Canadian Native Friendship Centre

### OPEN HOUSES

Oct. 12<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm – Canadian Native Friendship Centre

Oct. 14<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 pm – The Business Link

Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>, 2-5 pm – Sun and Moon Visionaries

Oct. 18<sup>th</sup>, 1-4 pm – Native Seniors Centre

Oct. 19<sup>th</sup>, 4-8 pm – Sacred Heart Church

## A TRULY UPLIFTING EXPERIENCE

On August 30, 2005 Council approved the Declaration on Strengthening Relationships between the City of Edmonton and Urban Aboriginal People. This was a proud moment for our City.

The Declaration makes a clear statement that we acknowledge the proud history and honoured traditions of Aboriginal Peoples in our City and welcome future generations of Aboriginals to make their homes here and contribute to the continued economic growth, cultural diversity and prosperity of Edmonton.

It is not meant to be a static and inelastic declaration, but a living document that recognizes the vitality and increasing importance of the Aboriginal communities as we continue our journey into the future.

We see this Declaration as being the foundation of the City's efforts to accommodate the growing Urban Aboriginal population in a positive and meaningful fashion.

**These are more than words on a piece of paper. They represent Council's commitment to the future; a future in which the Aboriginal community will play an increasingly significant role.**

Thank you to everyone involved in this process. It has been a fascinating, enlightening and truly uplifting experience.

– Councillor Ron Hayter

## RECORDING THE RESULTS THE URBAN ABORIGINAL DIALOGUE PROCESS WORKBOOK YOUR CITY, YOUR VOICE

Oral comments will be recorded during all Dialogue process events. A Dialogue process Workbook will be made available to all Dialogue process participants. Your voice is needed.

The Workbook can also be filled out and submitted online.

Visit the Accord website at  
[www.edmonton.ca/  
aboriginalaccord](http://www.edmonton.ca/aboriginalaccord)

Additionally, you can call 496-1036 or 944-7602 to have a workbook mailed to you. Simply complete the workbook and mail it back to the Accord Initiative office no later than December 10, 2005.

All comments and all workbook results will be compiled in a Voices Report for distribution late 2005 or early 2006.

### WANT TO BE ON OUR MAILING LIST?

Send an email to [aboriginal.accord@edmonton.ca](mailto:aboriginal.accord@edmonton.ca) or phone **780.944.7602**

The Executive Forum will encourage discussion, provide relationship building and strategic opportunities for government, business, service and program providers. Attendees will be given information on identifying opportunities and doing business with the City of Edmonton.

**Who Should Attend: Board members and Aboriginal leaders, Executive Directors, senior managers, CEOs and others are invited to attend the Executive Forum for Aboriginal Edmonton Business and Government.**

This is a two-day forum and pre-registration is required.

Using Aboriginal talking circle formats, these sessions will encourage discussion, listening and relationship building. They are also intended to provide community members an opportunity to share their concerns and to provide their views about critical needs and issues facing Urban Aboriginal people.

**Who Should Attend: Aboriginal service providers, managers, front-line workers and those working directly with Aboriginal communities.**

These are 1/2 day events and pre-registration is required.

The Open Houses will encourage discussion and provide opportunities for Urban Aboriginal people to have their voice heard on opportunities and challenges that matter most to them.

**Who Should Attend: Urban Aboriginal people**

These are drop in events. No registration is required. Bannock, refreshments, gifts for participants, play leaders for children and transportation assistance provided.

# HONOURING THE PAST CONSTRUCTION OF \$1.3 MILLION MEMORIAL PARK TO BEGIN SOON



Construction will soon begin on a \$1.3 million memorial park to recognize and protect the human remains buried in the Rosedale burial ground/cemetery. The City worked with hundreds of community stakeholders and descendants to design this permanent memorial for the over 100 individuals known to be buried in here.

Upon completion, the burial ground/cemetery will feature a large central cross incorporating a circle that complements a walkway in the shape of the Métis "infinity" symbol. The names of those known to be buried in the area will be engraved on a wall at the base of the central cross and circle. Should, at some time in the future, other human remains be found they could be interred at this sight.

Overlooking the site will be an interpretive pavilion featuring seven panels that tell the history of the site. Panels will be written in the three languages used in Edmonton during the early 1800's – English, French and Cree. Drawings of the park and samples of the interpretive panels have been developed and were publicly displayed at the August 28, 2005 Rosedale reburial ceremony.

Closer to the river, an outlook will cantilever out over the water, paying respect to the river and its importance in the development of Edmonton.

Contact David Schneider with the City of Edmonton at (780) 496-8224 for more information on the planned memorial park.

## Accord Steering Committee

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Hali Fitzpatrick	
Ray Gadwa	
Caroline Foster	
Gwen Muskwa	
Lori Sokoluk	
Wendy Walker	

## Elders Circle

Hon. Senator Dr. Thelma Chalifoux	Eva Beretti Marge Friedel
Alvena Strasbourg	Don Langford
Jerry Wood	Francis Bad Eagle
Vic Letendre	Francis Whiskeyjack
Nellie Carlson	Leah Saila

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## GET INVOLVED AND HELP CREATE A STRONGER COMMUNITY FOR ALL OF US

Contact the Accord Initiative at:

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10060 Jasper Avenue, Edmonton, AB. T5J 3R8

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Edmonton Urban  
Aboriginal Accord Initiative

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THE CITY OF  
**Edmonton**



\* Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee