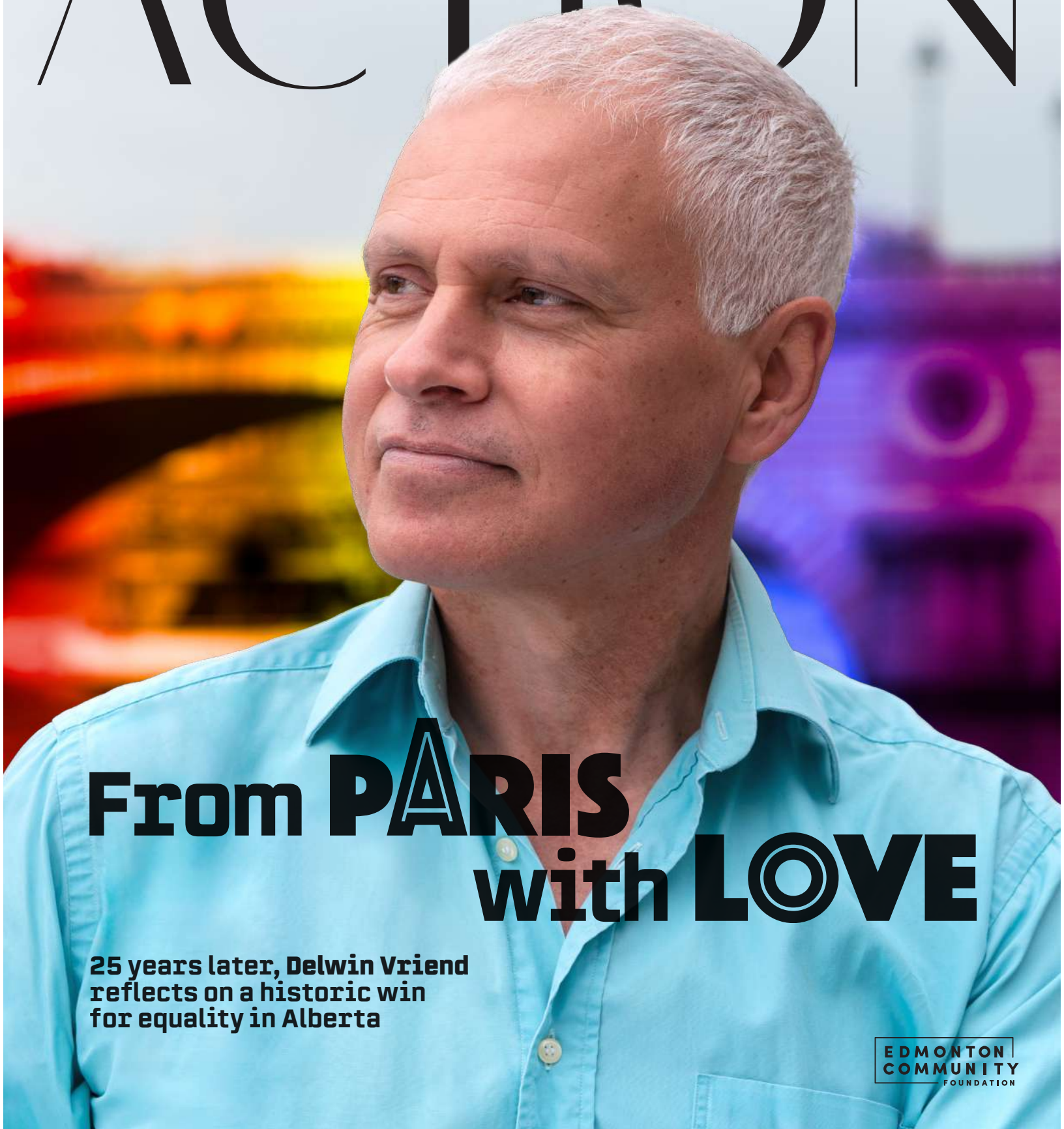


LEGACY IN

S U M M E R
2 0 2 3

ACTION



From PARIS with LOVE

25 years later, Delwin Vriend
reflects on a historic win
for equality in Alberta

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

A Look at **Food Insecurity**

It's on the rise:

In 2011, **12.3%** of Albertans were experiencing food insecurity. In 2022 that number jumped to **20.3%**.

Some experience it more than others:

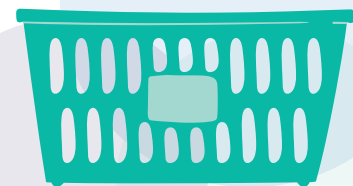
21.7% of children (people under the age of 18) lived in food insecure households in Alberta. (2021)

28.9% of Black households living with food insecurity compared to **11.1%** of white households. (2017-2018)

30.7% of Indigenous households in Canada were experiencing food insecurity, twice the amount of white households. (2022)

Food security exists when all people, at all times, have physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food which meets their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life.

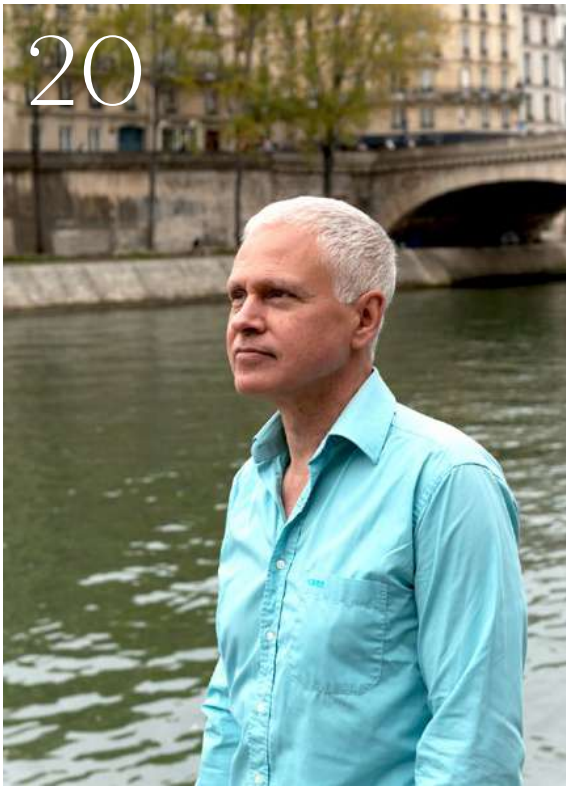
Food insecurity is when a household has inadequate or insecure access to food due to financial constraints.



10th Anniversary Edition!

Discover more about food insecurity in our city with Vital Signs. **Read Now.**





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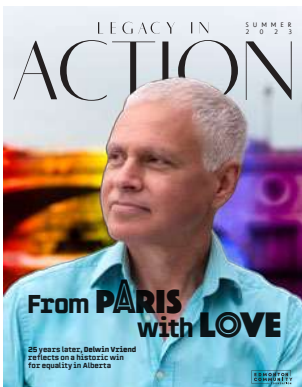
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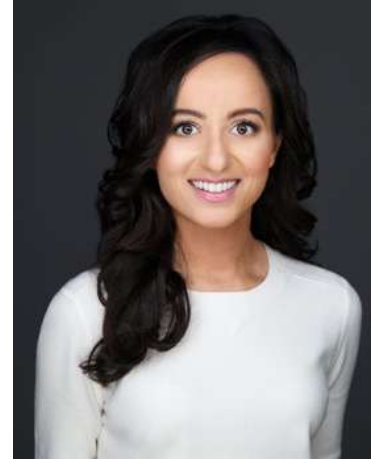
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Kevin is a professional photographer in Edmonton, specializing in commercial photography. Recently, he's begun shooting landscape and cityscape photography to inspire the viewer. You can find him daydreaming about new image concepts and pursuing new photographic techniques and styles.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Summer is here and it's hard to believe that we are already halfway through 2023. It has been a busy six months at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF). The big buzz around the office is that we are implementing our new 2023-2025 strategic plan.

This was a collaborative effort with input from our staff, Board and community members to guide us into a future where ECF can deliver even greater impact, expand our reach into the community and ensure improved experiences for our donors and grantees.

In April I had the chance to meet with national and international colleagues who are reimagining how philanthropy can shape the future of the communities we live in. I learned about the transformational thinking of Collaboratory – the Southwest Florida Community Foundation.

Inspired by the work of fundraiser and thought leader Dan Pallota, they are reimagining how their community foundation can help solve deep social issues in their state within the timeline of one generation.

I also had the opportunity to join Social Innovation Canada and Community Foundations of Canada as part of a small delegation visiting the UK to learn from experts about how they are using social innovation, social finance and social enterprise to create community-led system change. I was most inspired by Coin Street Community Builders and Civic Square Birmingham and their ability to revitalize a neighbourhood through community ownership and participation.

These are ideas I will continue to revisit as I think about ECF and how we can actively support a vibrant and thriving city for all.

Legacy in Action magazine is where we amplify stories from the communities we serve. I am excited to share this latest collection that highlights the diverse range of work ECF supports.

June is Pride Month, and our cover story commemorates the 25th anniversary of the



PHOTOGRAPHY BY AARON PEDERSEN

TINA THOMAS

CEO, Edmonton Community Foundation

Supreme Court of Canada's ruling on *Vriend v. Alberta*. Spearheaded by a tenacious group of Edmontonians, this historic legal decision helped pave the way for equality for Canada's 2SLGBTQIA+ community by reading in sexual orientation into Alberta's human rights legislation.

We also look at how our Environmental Operating Grants are enabling the Beaverhills Bird Observatory to deliver educational wildlife programming to hundreds of children every year.

And on page 10, Dr. Irshad Manji discusses how we can turn contentious issues into constructive conversations — and shared action. Dr. Manji will be the keynote speaker at ECF's Annual Luncheon on June 9th from 11:30am-1:30pm at The Westin Edmonton (10155 100 St.).

Each one of these stories is an example of how the community is coming together through ECF to enhance the lives of Edmontonians, Albertans and Canadians.

We can achieve great things when we work together, and I am excited for the many upcoming opportunities we have to convene community builders to have a positive impact on Edmonton and beyond. ■



CELEBRATING A PIONEER

CHARMAINE LETOURNEAU REVOLUTIONIZED EDUCATION FOR THE DEAF

BY LIAM NEWBIGGING

WHEN THE LATE Charmaine Letourneau started at the Alberta School for the Deaf (ASD) as a student in 1956, students were not even permitted to speak using American Sign Language (ASL). Back then, ideas about educating deaf people included hearing aids, using their voices to speak and restrictions from sign language. Society's beliefs at the time were more about requiring people with disabilities to conform to the standards of the abled rather than forming a consensus between the two. But, as ideas shifted over the years, the ASD and others began to open up to different perspectives on deaf education.

One of those people who would challenge educators and improve the quality of deaf education in Alberta was Charmaine Letourneau.

At the time Letourneau started as an educator at the ASD, many teachers were not deaf themselves. A close personal friend and long-time colleague, Kathy Dolby, recalls the impact and the difference that her teaching had on the students at ASD and her passionate fight for better support. "It was really bad at the beginning when I first started," says Dolby, "she fought for everything — she fought for interpreters to be mandated throughout the country. She fought for deaf people all over Canada."

Like many great teachers, Charmaine was a great storyteller. In a memorial video, Christine Spink-Mitchell spoke about their time together as students at the ASD. "It was here that I became attentive and enamoured with Charmaine's ability to tell stories," says Spink-Mitchell. "Every evening, I would ask, 'Can you tell us another story?'"

Her ability to weave tales and engross people in stories followed her as she became a teacher. Dolby remembers when she first started at the ASD that many of the classes taught by hearing teachers were often noisy and disruptive. However, whenever she came by Letourneau's room, all the students were enamoured, silently taking everything in.

"SHE FOUGHT FOR EVERYTHING – SHE FOUGHT FOR INTERPRETERS TO BE MANDATED THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. SHE FOUGHT FOR DEAF PEOPLE ALL OVER CANADA."

– KATHY DOLBY



Symen Tjeerdsma, friend, pictured with Charmaine Letourneau.

For Letourneau being deaf was not a disadvantage. “I’m sure she’d say that being deaf was a blessing,” says Dolby. Letourneau had a big personality that shined not in spite of her deafness but in communion with it. “As soon as you saw Charmaine in the hallway and she had her hands on her hips, and she was staring down a student. They knew they were in trouble. So she was a taskmaster. And they all certainly looked up to her.”

In her lifetime, Letourneau worked tirelessly in many stations to further the quality of life for deaf people. She taught a 30-year tenure at the ASD and fought to keep the school open when the provincial government moved to close it.

She served for 12 years as President of the Canadian Cultural Society of the Deaf (CCSD) and helped create a college-level ASL/English interpreter program at MacEwan University.

She also helped create the first Canadian ASL dictionary and received many recognitions including the Canadian Association of the Deaf Citizen of the Year (1989), Outstanding Service

awards to the CCSD (1984, 1986), “Global Woman of Vision” (2001), and was invested into the Order of Canada in 2000.

One of the many legacies that she has left is the Charmaine Letourneau Scholarship at Edmonton Community Foundation. These scholarships help students who are deaf or hard of hearing achieve their post-secondary goals. “Funding like this is very important to the deaf and hard-of-hearing students because many do not have equal opportunities to further their educations because of financial restraints,” says Amorena Bartlett who received the award in 2014.

The importance of education for deaf people cannot be understated. “It’s absolutely everything,” says Dolby. This scholarship helps ensure that quality of life, community and the culture of Canadian deaf people can continue to grow. Regarding the scholarship, the endowment, and the many charitable donations it has received, Dolby says, “I’m hopeful that it will go on forever.” ■

**THIS SCHOLARSHIP
HELPS ENSURE THAT
QUALITY OF LIFE,
COMMUNITY AND THE
CULTURE OF CANADIAN
DEAF PEOPLE CAN
CONTINUE TO GROW.**

Engage, DON'T ASSUME

Irshad Manji shares how moral courage bridges divides and builds community

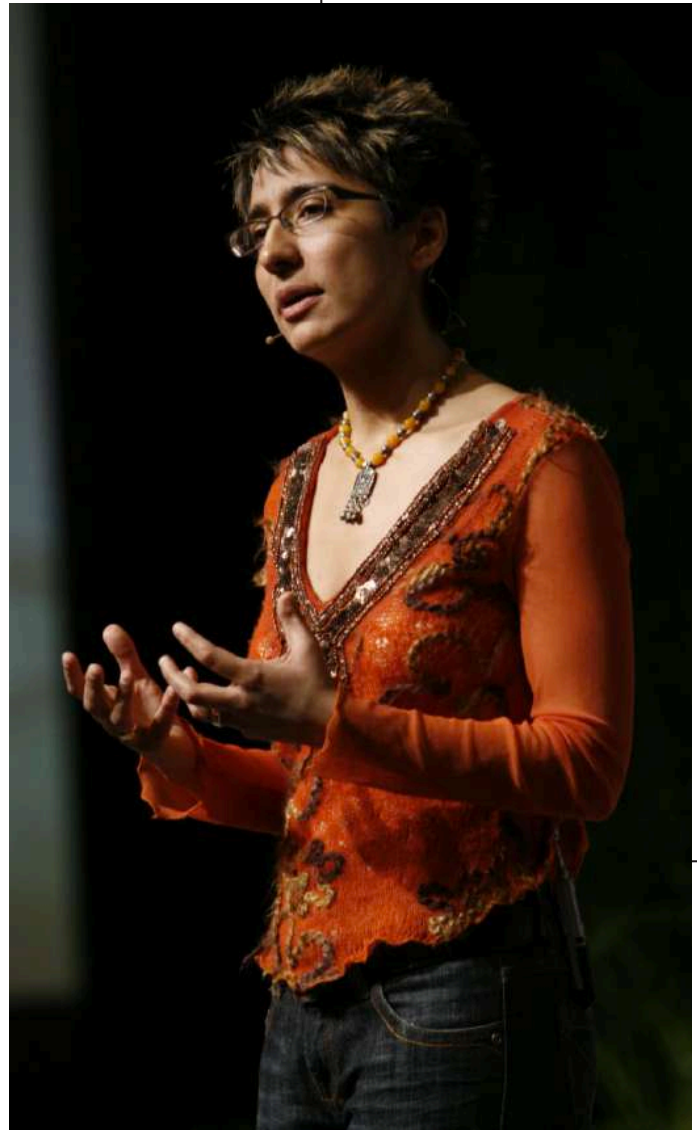
By **Emily Rendell-Watson**

For author and educator Irshad Manji, “moral courage” means choosing to do the right thing in the face of our fears.

This requires the ability to take control of your ego, so that you aren’t more fearful of the person or group on the other side of the issue than you actually need to be. By doing this, it’s possible to share multiple perspectives, especially on polarizing issues that need solutions.

“We fear being judged as stupid, ignorant, evil, inadequate, or just plain wrong. So instead of opening ourselves up to a conversation that allows for different points of view to be heard ... we won’t even wait to be offended; we’re now pre-offended,” explains Manji.

Manji will speak about moral courage when she visits Edmonton in June to lead a conversation called “From



Polarization to Collaboration,” presented by Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) as part of the Edmonton Public Library’s Forward Thinking Speaker Series. She will also keynote ECF’s annual luncheon this month.

“The skills of moral courage equip people to turn contentious issues into constructive conversations for the sake of healthy teamwork,” says Manji. In a province like Alberta, this is important because “people who have convictions, cling strongly to those convictions.”

That shows up in politics, whether you’re conservative or progressive, adds Manji, leading to a cycle of destruction that looks like: “Even if I don’t know all that I stand for, I do know that I am not you because I hate what you stand for.”

This is where moral courage skills help people to



“When we engage one another rather than assume about each other, we’ll replace prejudice – pre-judgement – with curiosity and humanity.”

– Irshad Manji

engage. Manji points to an example in Utah to illustrate how this works.

“Utah, like Alberta, is a very polarized place. (There are) lots of people of faith and lots of secular progressives as well, and each feels under siege from the other,” she says.

Equality Utah is the state’s leading proponent of LGBTQ civil rights and advocacy. Recently, the Utah legislature considered loosening a 2020 ban on conversion therapy for minors, a practice that seeks to talk 2SLGBTQIA+ youth out of their sexual orientations and identities.

The leaders of Equality Utah took a four-month training course from Manji’s Moral Courage Project about how to collaborate with others under dire circumstances, and were able to successfully address the fears of Republican legislators.

“They realized (those legislators) were not hateful of queer people. They just had a number of myths that needed to be clarified,” says Manji. “And because Equality Utah was willing to get to know them as people rather than label them as bigots or dinosaurs ... the Republican legislators came to see that the Equality Utah folks

were not demons.”

Both sides managed to find common ground, which allowed the parties to ensure conversion therapy remained outlawed in Utah.

The goal of Manji’s work – turning contentious issues into constructive conversations and shared action – speaks to the ability to understand where someone is coming from. Even if you don’t agree with their views or experiences, you can still show respect by asking them sincere questions and listening to learn instead of to win.

“While it starts with individual relationships, those relationships can be built into something much bigger than just one-on-ones,” says Manji.

That’s where the importance of community comes in, and the ability to understand the power of individuals, as members of a wider community, to face challenges and come up with solutions.

“When we engage one another rather than assume about each other, we’ll replace prejudice — pre-judgement — with curiosity and humanity.” ■

OWNING THE STAGE

5 ARTISTS 1 LOVE CELEBRATES THE ARTISTRY AND CREATIVITY OF EDMONTON'S BLACK COMMUNITY

BY JASLEEN MAHIL



IMAGES SUPPLIED



Darren Jordan created *5 Artists 1 Love* 17 years ago, with the hopes of seeing more Black representation in Edmonton's art scene.

The show, which originated in 2006, is held in February during Black History Month and showcases the work of five Black Edmonton based artists.

"It's free food, it's free music, free entertainment, it was accessible to the community. That's always sort of been at the heart of *5 Artists 1 Love* is that we have these events that would invite you into a space that you probably felt that you didn't belong and make you feel comfortable," explains Jordan.

Keeping the art show free has always been a priority for Jordan, but as the show expanded to the Art Gallery of Alberta, that became challenging.

"I needed to find a means of generating income that would facilitate paying for this new phase of our art show. So, what I did is, I wrote this music show

and we performed it at the Yardbird Suite," says Jordan.

That concert in 2010 was a success and led Jordan to expand *5 Artists 1 Love* to include a yearly concert. The musical production has been performed at various venues, including the Art

Gallery of Alberta (AGA) and the Triffo Theatre at MacEwan University to capacity crowds. This year, the concert will be held on June 17 at the Winspear Centre.

"I think that it is important that we're not just doing these events in a hall, we are able to hold space in world-class venues to share this... that's why I've worked towards holding that space at the Winspear and at the AGA because they are the pinnacle for visual and performing arts in North America, that's the top," says Jordan. "A lot of us sometimes feel that we don't deserve to be there and I want to dispel that myth."

The theme of this year's concert is "A Juneteenth Story: Freedom, Family, Food." Juneteenth represents the emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Alberta has a direct connection with the day.

"Canada actually at the time had this policy, where they wanted people to come up and work the land in the western prairies," Jordan says. "They offered some of these emancipated people land, and the opportunity

to escape the systemic racism of Jim Crow laws they were subject to... And, so, these families moved up here and they established some roots and they worked the land but there was pushback from the already established community and it wasn't all that they promised... But it wasn't easy and to make things worse I think after a certain period of time there was so much public pressure on the politicians that they stopped the program."

Though the program ended, many of those families' descendants are still living in Alberta.

The first half of the concert will explore Juneteenth and how people across the world celebrate freedom. The second half of the show will be "inviting people to the Black cook-up," and have music associated with the iconic event.

Edmonton Community Foundation has been a sponsor of the event since 2018 and, as Jordan says, it has "helped us elevate the show to another level in terms of production and creativity."

The fact that the event is being held outside of Black History Month is something Jordan hopes to see more of.

"I have always believed we should be celebrating the talent that the city has and the talent that we have in our community every opportunity that we can, don't just leave it in for one month." ■



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PRIDE AND HISTORY



INDIGENOUS SOCIETY LOOKS TO RESTORE TWO SPIRIT PEOPLE TO THEIR SACRED PLACES

BY **LEIF GREGERSEN**
PHOTOGRAPHY: **KEVIN TUONG**

IN TRADITIONAL INDIGENOUS

communities, Two Spirit individuals held sacred places. Being able to look upon problems and issues from both a feminine and masculine point of view, they were often able to act as mediators, such as filling the role equivalent to a modern day marriage counsellor.

Edmonton 2 Spirit Society (E2S) was founded in April 2018, and focuses on re-establishing and enhancing those traditional roles and responsibilities, while also creating a supportive environment for Two Spirit people. The Society notes that there is evidence of Two Spirit Indigenous people in Edmonton dating back to 1795.

Cheyenne Mihko Kihêw, community liaison and acting executive director of E2S, explains “The term ‘Two Spirit’ honours gender diversity. What that might exactly mean is different for different people and different Indigenous nations. We focus on providing a safer place for all Two Spirit, Indigiqueer and 2SLGBTQIA+ peoples.”

This year, E2S received a \$50,000 grant from Edmonton Community Foundation to help with operating expenses, with the support of The Altview Foundation for Gender Variant and Sexual Minorities.

E2S places culture at the heart of its work and holds traditional ceremonies and events as often as possible, such as sweat lodges and pipe ceremonies. It offers many services for the Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ community, from knowledge building about how to support the Indigenous 2SLGBTQIA+ community for students and educators to support for Gay-Straight Alliances to on- and off-reserve programs. The organization also partners with other agencies like HIV Edmonton and Queer and Trans Health Collective (QTHC) and assists with other community events and initiatives, like the Medicine Bundle project with the Community-Based Research Centre. ▶

“IT’S BIG ENERGY, LOTS OF VIBES. IT’S A REALLY AMAZING EXPERIENCE TO BE IN A TWO SPIRIT-CENTERED SPACE. THE WORK THAT OUR ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE KEEPERS SHARE WITH US – A LOT OF IT IS ABOUT THE GATHERINGS BECAUSE WE RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING YOUR AUTHENTIC SELF OR EXPLORING WHAT THAT MEANS TO YOU ... IT’S A VERY SPECIAL AND UNIQUE EXPERIENCE.”

– CHEYENNE MIHKO KIHÊW



The organization is dedicated to fostering networking, knowledge exchange, training and mentoring, and strives to increase access to public services. E2S also provides a community gathering space and creates gender-affirming spaces within ceremonial settings.

One of the more troubling facts for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth, especially those who are Indigenous, is that many become unhoused because of conflicts with family over gender identity. This situation is made worse by tragedy, as 2SLGBTQIA+ youth are four times more likely to attempt suicide compared to their peers. When a youth becomes unhoused, they face many challenges, which can include using street drugs or becoming involved in the sex trade. E2S does its best to assist youth in this situation. E2S is currently working to develop a transitional housing project for Two Spirit and Indigenous LGBTQIA+ folks experiencing gender-based violence. More information will come soon about this project.

Mihko Kihêw explains that before Turtle Island was colonized by Europeans, the Indigenous role of Two Spirit was a sacred part of Indigenous culture. After colonization, Two Spirit individuals faced

stigma not only from European colonizers, but also from within the Indigenous communities. E2S is part of the national Two Spirit Resurgence Movement that recognizes traditional roles and gender fluid identity among Indigenous people. E2S proudly puts on celebrations for the communities it serves. It recently held a burlesque and drag show for adult community members. The event had the added benefit of a sexual health talk and a sober dance. Mihko Kihêw knows the importance of giving Two Spirit/LGBTQ+ Indigenous people a chance to meet, celebrate life together and even just show up and show solidarity among the community.

“It’s big energy, lots of vibes. It’s a really amazing experience to be in a Two Spirit-centered space. The work that our elders and knowledge keepers share with us — a lot of it is about the gatherings because we recognize the importance of being your authentic self or exploring what that means to you ... it’s a very special and unique experience,” says Mikho Kihêw. “It might be the first chance for them to feel accepted in their skin, in the heart they carry.” ■

ONCE MORE, UNTO THE BREACH

**AS NEWSROOMS SHRINK,
EDMONTON COMMUNITY FOUNDATION FUNDS
CRITICAL INDIGENOUS JOURNALISM.**

BY DANIELLE PARADIS

INQUIRING MINDS WANT to know – and want *you* to know, too.

“There’s such an endless well of stories in Alberta,” says Cara McKenna, contributing editor for *The Breach* and a Métis journalist who grew up in Edmonton. She previously worked for *Windspeaker*, an independent news site that focuses on Indigenous and environmental stories.

Alberta has the dubious distinction of having the fewest journalists in the country, according to 2021 census data.

“There’s a lot of stories that end up going unreported. Most national outlets only have a couple of reporters. I think the prairies in general end up being very neglected compared to B.C. and Ontario,” says McKenna.

While newsrooms shrink, important stories that would inform the public go unnoticed and unwritten. A \$13,750 grant from Edmonton Community Foundation to *The Breach* aims to address that.

The Breach is an independent media outlet that focuses on critical journalism. It publishes in-depth stories that focus on social justice causes. Using a mixture of analysis, investigations and video content, the site works to tell stories from angles that mainstream media have shied away from covering. ▶



The Breach has an unapologetically progressive angle, without sacrificing any journalistic rigour,” says Martin Lukacs, the managing editor for *The Breach*.

“I think there’s always a need for more of that coverage in every province... a lot of our reporting was focused on B.C. and central Canada, so this gives us an opportunity to start to do more Alberta-based reporting,” says Lukacs.

The Breach embraces these voices.

“We also try to bring irreverence and humour to some heavy subjects. We did a satirical video in consultation with Keepers of the Water,” says Lukacs.

Keepers of the Water is an Indigenous-led non profit that works to raise awareness about fresh water resources and the effects of mining.

The video focused on a plan from the federal government to allow oil companies to release treated tailings pond water into the surrounding Alberta watershed in the northern part of the province.

Through a very tongue-in-cheek style they explore the issue of oil and gas companies trying to deal with the ongoing issues of their industrial wastewater.

“We try to be expressly respectful of social movements, Indigenous movements among them,” said Lukacs.

The Breach also tries different angles at getting across dense and technical information

Edmonton has one of the largest urban Indigenous populations in the country and many community activists are working to bring awareness to issues such as homelessness and pollution from resource extraction.

McKenna recruits and collaborates with talent in the Edmonton area.

As part of its expanded coverage, *The Breach* has been working with writers such as Crystal Lameman from Beaver Lake Cree Nation, who is part of a landmark Supreme Court case over the impacts of the oil sands.

The Breach has also used the additional funding to cover Indigenous-



“THE BREACH HAS AN UNAPOLOGETICALLY PROGRESSIVE ANGLE, WITHOUT SACRIFICING ANY JOURNALISTIC RIGOUR”

– **MARTIN LUKACS**, managing editor for The Breach



focused stories about how to pay for a “Just Transition,” a term meaning to move the economy away from resource extraction.

While conversations on police funding have been ongoing, there has been a lack of analysis in Canadian media coverage about how to redirect funding from the justice system to focus on creating wealth in marginalized populations.

This is where *The Breach* comes

in. One of its grant-funded articles examined the money spent on prisons, police and border security, as well as the military and subsidizing the fossil fuel industry.

Investigative reporting and analysis has been a growing gap in media spaces as fewer newsrooms allocate time and money to “slow news,” the sorts of stories that don’t fit in with the 24-hour news cycle.

“We can lend our own perspective in these stories which tends to be in-depth, analytical and accountability-focused,” says McKenna.

“We can do some reporting

projects that other outlets don’t have resources for and lend a different perspective to the journalism landscape.”

The launch of a trial Alberta bureau has received positive feedback, noted McKenna. *The Breach* hopes to make the expanded coverage permanent.

“I hope this is something we can continue on after the funding is done ... I think the hope is to plant some seeds and we can continue to do more stories,” says McKenna. ■

Readers can view the articles at Breachmedia.ca.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING

A court case in 1998 led to **sexual orientation** being included in Alberta's Individual's Rights Protection Act

IT'S EASY TO forget that less than a generation ago, LGBTQ2S+ Albertans were not seen as equals in Alberta and had zero recourse to address the harm that occurred when homophobia prevented them from fully participating in the life of this province.

When Delwin Vriend came out as gay to the administration at King's College, he knew there was a risk that he could be fired. But he stood his ground, and was summarily dismissed. King's College reasoning was clear: he was fired for being gay.

Upon attempting to seek justice through the Alberta government's own Human Rights Commission (HRC), he was shocked to learn that the HRC had been instructed to never investigate cases of discrimination that involved sexual orientation.

To get any justice, the only route forward was for Delwin to take the Alberta Government to court to compel them to include LGBTQ2S+ Albertans in its Individual's Rights Protection Act, setting in motion a sequence of events that would lead to the highest court in the nation.

Working initially with legal counsel Victor Leginsky and later with legal counsels Sheila Greckol, Doug Stollery, June Ross and Jo-Ann Kolmes, with friend and activist Murray Billett fielding the ever-increasing media frenzy, Vriend allowed his life to become a cause... in an epic battle that would last seven years, ultimately changing the way Alberta viewed its Queer population, and Delwin's life forever.

BY DARRIN HAGEN

PHOTOS: JO-ANN KOLMES, TERENE BEILE, SIMON REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY



December 1987, Delwin Vriend is employed as a laboratory coordinator by King's College.

1990

Late February, Vriend, in response to an inquiry from the President of the College, confirms that he is gay.



The application by Vriend, GALA — Gay and Lesbian Awareness Society of Edmonton, Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton Society and Dignity Canada Dignité for Gay Catholics and Supporters (referred to collectively as "Vriend") is filed in the Court of Queen's Bench. The applicants are represented by Victor Leginsky.

1992

The application challenges the constitutional validity of sections of the Individual's Rights Protection Act on the grounds that they violate Section 15 of the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms because they do not prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

1991

Early January, the Board of Governors at King's College adopts a policy on homosexuality.

Late January, the President of King's College asks Vriend to resign. He declines. The College terminates his employment, based solely on his sexual orientation.

Mid-June, Vriend attempts to file a complaint with the Alberta Human Rights Commission regarding his termination, on the grounds that he was discriminated against due to his sexual orientation.

Mid-July, The Alberta Human Rights Commission informs Vriend that he is unable to make a complaint as sexual orientation is not a protected status under Alberta's Individual's Rights Protection Act.

1993

A hearing is held at the Court of Queen's Bench, presided over by Justice Anne Russell.



“THIS WAS NEVER ABOUT KING’S COLLEGE ... THIS GAVE US THE OPPORTUNITY TO PUT IT INTO THE COURT OF THE DAY ... AND WITH THAT, IT’S GOING TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON EVERYBODY.”

– MURRAY BILLETT

1994

Mid-April. Justice Anne Russell of the Court of Queen’s Bench rules in favour of the applicants, stating that sexual orientation is an analogous ground in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms. Further, she rules that the omission of sexual orientation from Alberta’s human rights legislation was unconstitutional, and the reading of “sexual orientation” into the statute was the appropriate remedy.



The Court finds that regardless of whether there was any intent to discriminate, the effect of the decision to deny homosexuals recognition under the legislation is to reinforce negative stereotyping and prejudice thereby perpetuating and implicitly condoning its occurrence.

Early May. The Government of Alberta files an appeal with the Court of Appeal of Alberta.

May 9. The hearing occurs for the Government of Alberta’s appeal, at the Alberta Court of Appeal.

1995

1996



Sheila Greckol and Doug Stollery, co-counsel, signing leave to appeal application.

February 23. The Alberta Court of Appeal issues its judgement, in favour of the Government of Alberta’s appeal, overturning Justice Russell’s decision.

April 22. An application for leave to appeal the decision is filed for Vriend with the Supreme Court of Canada.

“If Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms guarantees equality before and under the law to all Canadians, why should people in the gay and lesbian community and the trans community be denied those same rights? It’s that simple.”

— Sheila Greckol



Jo-Ann Kolmes, Sheila Greckol and Murray Billett pose with the leave to appeal.



Terene Beile assembles the leave to appeal.



Delwin Vriend at news conference, following the granting of leave to appeal.

October 3. The Supreme Court of Canada grants the application by Vriend to appeal the decision, with the Government of Alberta to cross-appeal.

PHOTOS: JO-ANN KOLMES



The team finalizes the factum and related materials for the Supreme Court of Canada hearing. L to R Jo-Ann Kolmes, Doug Stollery and Sheila Greckol

1997

November 4. The hearing for Vriend vs. the Government of Alberta occurs at the Supreme Court of Canada.



En-route (and hard at work) from Edmonton to Ottawa for the Supreme Court hearing
Doug Stollery



Returning from Supreme Court of Canada hearing.
L to R: Sheila Greckol, Doug Stollery, Delwin Vriend, Murray Billett



Returning from the Supreme Court of Canada hearing.
Murray Billett and Delwin Vriend



1998

April 2. The Supreme Court of Canada unanimously rules that the exclusion of homosexuality from Alberta’s Individual’s Rights Protection Act is a violation of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Mid-April, Premier Ralph Klein announces that the Government of Alberta will respect the Supreme Court of Canada’s decision and not invoke the “notwithstanding” clause from the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.



A rally is held at the Legislature Building to celebrate the Supreme Court judgment.

PHOTOS: JO-ANN KOLMES



PHOTO: SIMON REEVES PHOTOGRAPHY

Delwin Vriend now lives in France. He still has intense admiration for the activists who have altered Canada.

“I’m nothing compared to everyone who’s come before and everyone who’s come since. I mean, there are still people working... so hard to continue to advance rights for... all sorts of communities... and often in very thankless, thankless positions. And without the recognition... I mean, I get so much recognition and honestly,

it’s not deserved. It really is just my name. It’s one tiny event and a court case that I had nothing to do with.”

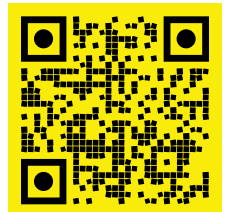
He says that every now and then one of the new people in his life stumbles on his story online and asks him why he has never mentioned it.

“It’s a different me. I mean, it’s me, but I’m not that person now. I would be again, but I’m living a different life... that’s something I’ve done; something I’ve been involved with.” ■

Delwin Vriend
photographed on
location in Paris



LISTEN IN!
Hear the special
podcast series on ECF’s
Well-Endowed Podcast



SPREADING THE WORD (OF THE BIRD)



SMART KIDS ARE BIRDSMART

BY **LISA CATTERALL**

PHOTOGRAPHY: **LAUGHING DOG**

LESS THAN AN hour's drive east of Edmonton, the Beaverhill Bird Observatory is a wetland refuge, where more than 270 species of birds have been observed — more than 140 of which mate and nest in the area. As a result, birders and biologists flock to the area for research, conservation education and recreation.

Board Chair Geoff Holroyd helped found the observatory nearly 40 years ago, and has been spreading word of its feathered inhabitants ever since.

"We've always given talks to anyone that's interested," he laughs, explaining that typically, the field season at the observatory runs from May through November. During those months, staff and volunteers gather and share data as part of the Canadian Migration Monitoring Network.

About 10 years ago, Holroyd saw an opportunity to expand the observatory's work to

operate year round. He wanted to help younger generations understand the importance of conservation and respect for the environment.

In 2016, the BirdSmart winter education program officially launched. The program sees staff biologists head into classrooms across the province during the winter months to educate children about birds, conservation and the impact humans have on the environment.

"The hope is that children will take home messages on how they can be more environmentally responsible, and maybe convince their families to look at how they're operating from the perspective of the environment," says Holroyd.

What makes BirdSmart unique is the chance it offers kids to interact directly with a bird. The biologist leading the session brings one of the program's bird ambassadors — which in the past have included a peregrine falcon and a kestrel — into the classroom.

"Conservation action is more real when children can see a real bird, rather than just a picture on the screen," says Holroyd.

Like many in-person programs, BirdSmart faced challenges when the pandemic hit. No longer allowed to go into schools, and with education budgets facing major cuts, staff had to get creative.

"We had to go online, and our revenue dropped ▶

"CONSERVATION ACTION IS MORE REAL WHEN CHILDREN CAN SEE A REAL BIRD, RATHER THAN JUST A PICTURE ON THE SCREEN"

– **GEOFF HOLROYD**, board chair at Beaverhill Bird Observatory





Jana Teefy, biologist with Beaverhill Bird Observatory, teaches a Grade 1 class at Meadowlark Christian School in west Edmonton.



**BIRDSMART
REACHED
UPWARDS OF
10,000 STUDENTS
EVERY YEAR
PRE-COVID-19,
WHICH FELL
DRASTICALLY
DURING THE
PANDEMIC.**



dramatically,” says Holroyd. “We had to totally pivot and buy the hardware, figure out the software and how to do the talks online to keep the kids educated, and keep our program going.”

The Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) saw the difficulties environmental agencies were facing, and in response, launched its Environmental Operating Grants — a three-year pilot program to help grow and support Alberta’s environmental sector.

“What we had noticed through our other grant streams was that it seemed as though the pandemic hit environmental organizations particularly hard,” says Andrea Diamond, grants impact associate at ECF. “We saw that as an opportunity to provide them with additional support.”

The operating grants launched in 2021, and began offering multi-year funding to seven organizations. Beaverhill Bird Observatory received \$40,000 for each of the first two years, and will receive \$25,000 in year three.

“Providing multi-year funding — and having the organization know up front that it is multi-year funding — is incredibly useful for them. It helps them plan and be confident in knowing where

they’re going to be,” says Diamond.

So far, the results have been promising. The funds have helped the Observatory offer the BirdSmart program to educators at a discounted rate. With the reduced price, the program went from almost a fully open schedule to being fully booked, in a matter of weeks.

“The ECF grant was perfect in keeping that winter program going,” says Holroyd.

BirdSmart reached upwards of 10,000 students every year pre-COVID-19, which fell drastically during the pandemic. However, over the past couple of years, that number has started to multiply as the Observatory’s profile in the community has grown. Thanks to a partnership with the Edmonton Oil Kings and Edmonton Oilers, BirdSmart has been shared with thousands of hockey fans in Rogers Place.

Holroyd shared the story of when one young student went home and turned off lights in unoccupied rooms. When her mother asked why, the young girl said “we have to help save the owls!”

“She may not understand all the

implications of climate change but she knew the actions,” Holroyd says.

A lot of that growth has been made possible, Holroyd says, thanks to the operating grant and support from ECF.

“ECF has become a key partner in the Bird Observatory’s program,” he says. “We’re really appreciative of all the support they’ve given us.” ■





Join us in launching
Edmonton's Black Community Fund

building
community
together

"...built by the community,
serving the community..."

For more details on how to contribute,
visit www.ecfoundation.org

BY THE NUMBERS:

OGILVIE LLP'S FUND

The true power of an endowment is felt over time

With files from *Cory Schachtel*.

James Ogilvie, founder of Ogilvie LLP, believed that it wasn't enough to work in the community — he wanted his office to work for the community. His sense of philanthropy and support of educational programs, environmental groups, sports and the arts remains a significant part of the law firm's culture to this day, more than a hundred years later.

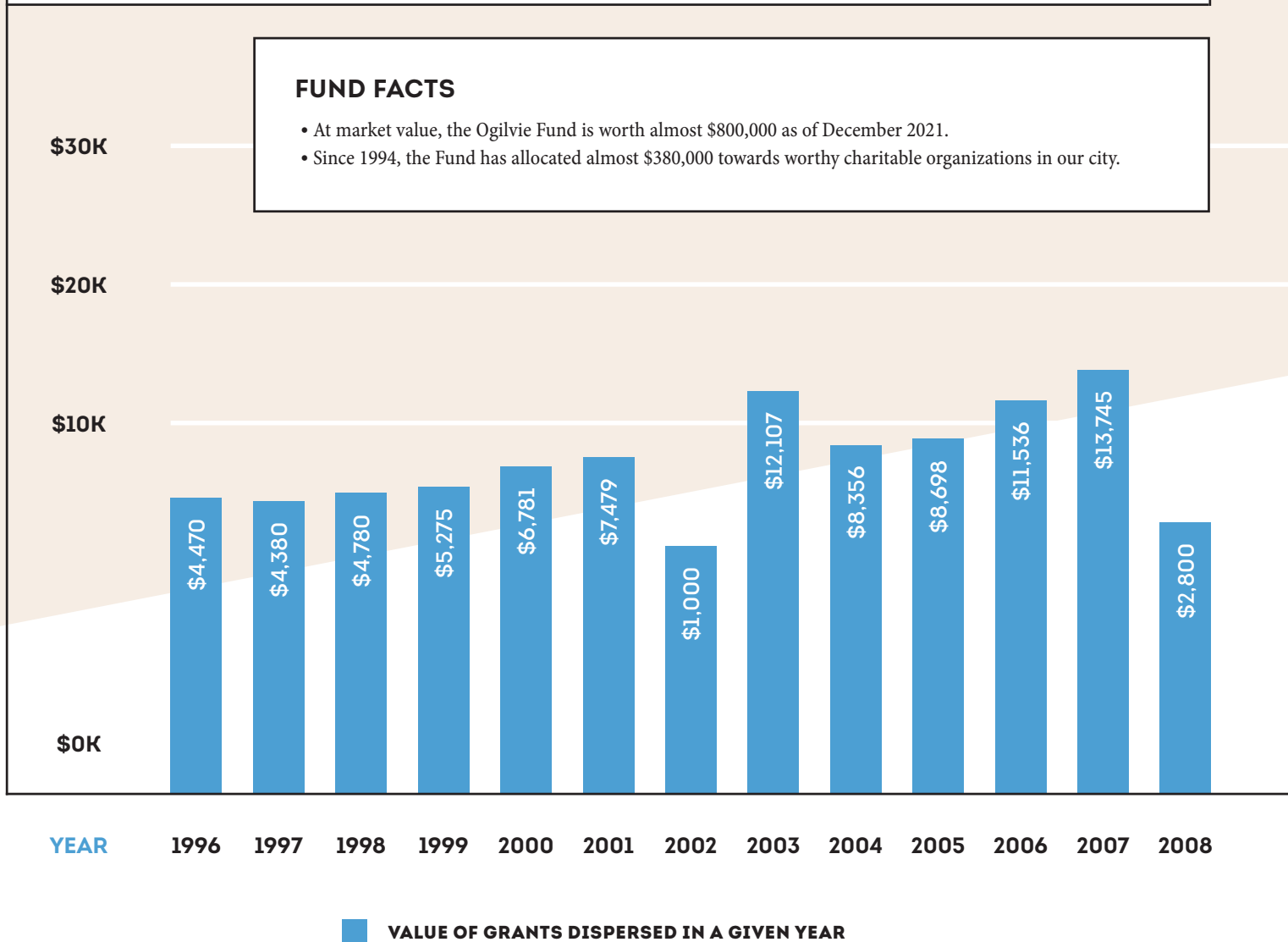
The Ogilvie Fund continues to honour its commitment to community and giving. The fund was started on the organization's

75th anniversary in 1994 with the help of Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF). An initial gift of \$10,000 has grown to over \$550,000, granting almost \$380,000 to charitable organizations around the city.

The employees of the firm continue to invest their time in the Ogilvie Fund, choosing which organizations receive grant funding each year and, for the past 28 years, issuing over 270 grants to charitable organizations.

FUND FACTS

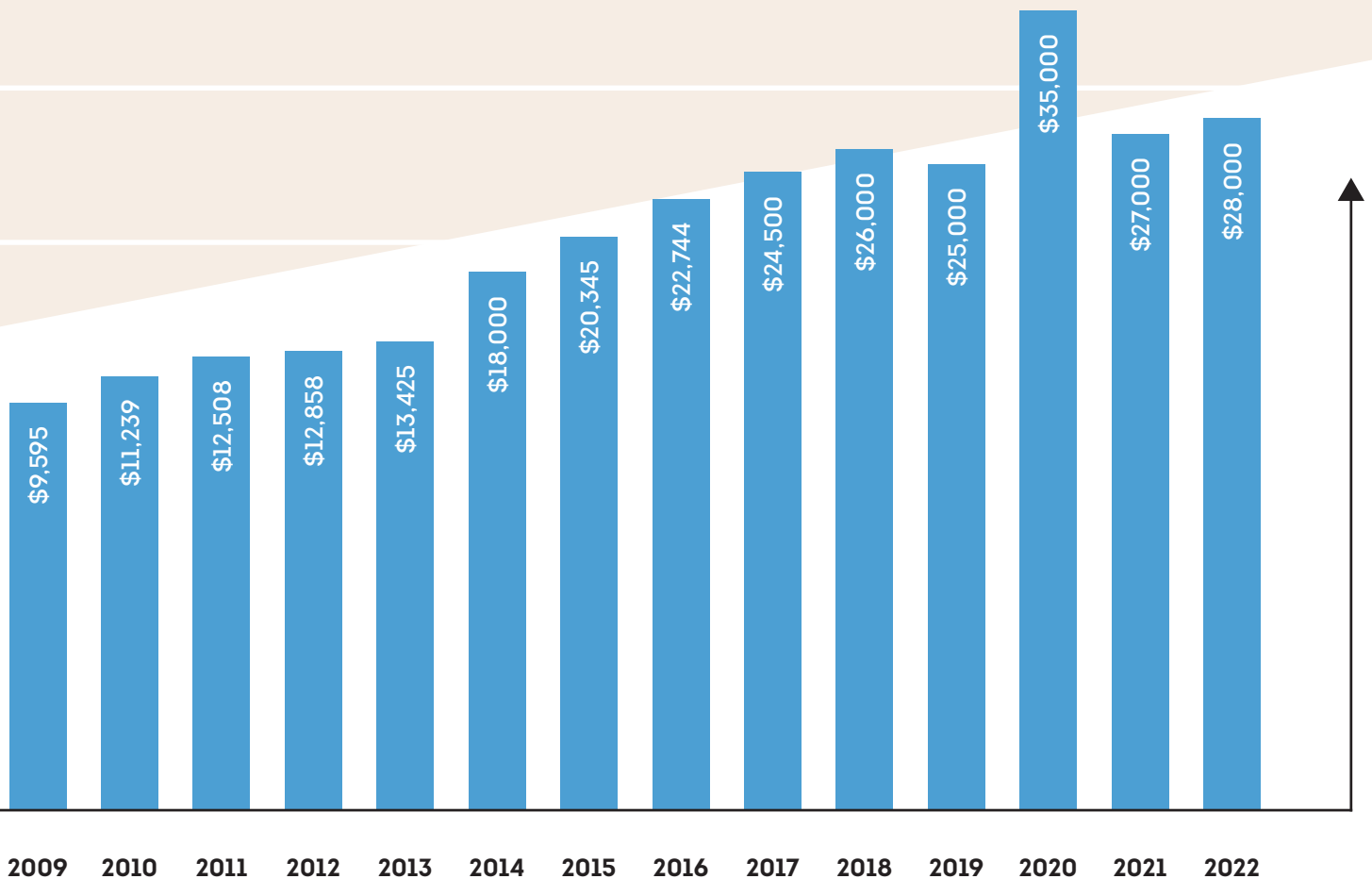
- At market value, the Ogilvie Fund is worth almost \$800,000 as of December 2021.
- Since 1994, the Fund has allocated almost \$380,000 towards worthy charitable organizations in our city.



Having Impact

These organizations have received at least one grant from the Ogilvie Fund since its inception.

ABC Head Start Society · Aga Khan Foundation Canada · Alberta Council of Women's Shelters · Alberta Diabetes Foundation · Amigo Relief Missions Ltd. · Atonement Home Programs · Azimuth Theatre Association · Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society · Bissell Centre · Boys & Girls Clubs Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton & Area Society · Canadian Tennis Association · CASA Child, Adolescent and Family Mental Health · Catholic Social Services · Centre for Family Literacy Society of Alberta · Chinese Christian Wing Kei Nursing Home Association · Christmas Bureau of Edmonton · Compassion House Foundation · Concordia University of Edmonton · Covenant Foundation · Crawford Plains Elementary School · Dreams Take Flight (Canada) · E4C (Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation) · Eagles Nest Ranch Association · Edmonton Gleaners Association · Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers Society · Edmonton Police Foundation · Edmonton Public Library · Edmonton Public Schools · Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. · Firefighters Burn Treatment Society - Edmonton Chapter · Fort McMurray School District No. 2833 · Free Indeed Ministries Edmonton · Free Play for Kids Inc. · Friends of Boys' and Girls' Clubs of Edmonton · Gold Bar Elementary School · Gordon Russell's Crystal Kids Youth Centre · Grant MacEwan University · Grant MacEwan University Foundation · Greater Edmonton Foundation - Housing for Seniors · Habitat for Humanity Edmonton Society · Hope Mission · Interfund - ERHC Trade Scholarship Endowment Fund · Interfund - Young Edmonton Grants (YEG) Endowment fund · Interfund - Lois Hole Care & Nurture Legacy Fund · John A. McDougall School · Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation Canada · Kids Kottage Foundation · Kids on Track Association of Edmonton · Kids Up Front Foundation (Edmonton) · Kids with Cancer Society of Northern Alberta · KidSport Society of Edmonton · L'Arche Association of Edmonton · Laugh for Life Foundation Of Canada · Leduc Community Hospital Foundation · Little Warriors · Lone Prairie Camp Ltd. · Marian Centre · McMan Youth, Family & Community Services Association · Mother Teresa School Advisory Society · Mustard Seed Foundation · Mustard Seed Street Church (Edmonton) · Northern Light Theatre · NSTEP (Nutrition Students Teachers Exercising with Parents) · One Child's Village: A Global Orphans Foundation · Rainbow of Hope for Children Society · Randy Anderson Learning Foundation · Sacred Heart Catholic Elementary School · Shock Trauma Air Rescue Service Foundation · Sign of Hope Society, Archdiocese of Edmonton · Skills Society - Supporting the Citizenship of People with Disabilities · St. Joseph's College · Town of Inuvik · United Way of the Alberta Capital Region · University Hospital Foundation · University of Alberta · University of Alberta, Faculty of Law · Valour Place Society · WINGS of Providence Society · Workshop West Playwrights' Theatre Society · YMCA of Northern Alberta (previously YMCA of Edmonton) · Youth Emergency Shelter Society of Edmonton · Zebra Child Protection Centre Society



BECAUSE IT'S YOUR COMMUNITY, TOO!

Your business is part of the fabric of our community. Your employees, your clients, and your family live, work and play here. Work with Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to ensure your business can make a difference in the community we all call home.

ENDOWMENT FUNDS offer permanent investment of charitable gifts to provide ongoing support to organizations in the community.

When you and your business are thinking about giving back, consider what you'd like to accomplish. Here are a few questions to get you started:

- ♦ What would you like to do to make your community a better place?
- ♦ Would you like to engage your employees and/or your clients to transform the future of our community?
- ♦ How will you define the legacy of your business and what impact would you like to make on those around you?



STEP ONE

Our Donor Advisors will help you answer these questions and more. We specialize in matching your interests with organizations whose goals mirror your own. Grants can be made to any registered Canadian charity, which means you're not limited to local causes. You can provide ongoing support to your favourite causes in Edmonton, across Canada, and around the world. We'll be happy to work with you to realize your vision for a better community.

STEP TWO

Once you've defined the objective of your fund, we'll create an agreement that captures your intentions. This is a straightforward document that explains, in writing, the goal of your fund, how involved you would like to be in allocating grants, and other relevant details. There's no obligation for you during this process — we simply want to ensure we've documented your wishes correctly.

STEP THREE

After the agreement is in place, it's time to make your gift. People tend to equate endowment funds with millions of dollars. With ECF, you can create your endowment with \$10,000. You can donate it all at once or take up to three years to reach that amount. This flexibility allows you, your staff and your clients the opportunity to contribute to the fund, and ultimately to our community, in a meaningful way. The money in a fund is not immediately granted. Instead, your gift is invested, and a percentage is disbursed according to your charitable intentions.

STEP FOUR

Once your fund is ready to grant, your level of involvement going forward is your choice. Many businesses seek feedback from employees, clients or customers as to what causes to support each year. This can become a very powerful tool for your business to showcase its commitment to making our cities a better place now, and for generations to come. You can also get creative with future fundraising efforts like special events, golf tournaments, corporate matching programs for staff and clients or a commitment to donate a portion of your sales to building the fund and creating even more impact as time goes on. ■

To learn more, visit ecfoundation.org.



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