

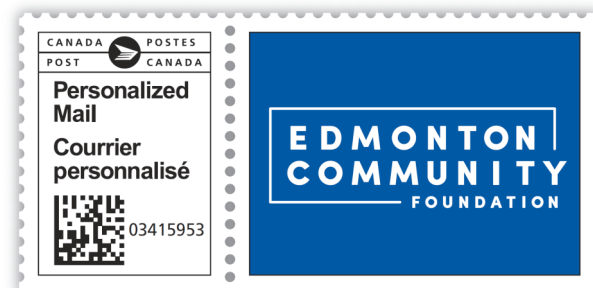
Edmonton's Black Community Fund

Edmonton's Black Community Fund was set up to enhance the quality of life for the Black Community in the Greater Edmonton area, with the hope of building a future in which our community can thrive, grow and succeed.

There is \$100,000 in matching funds available for all donations made to EBCF in 2022. If you would like to contribute to the fund and have your donation matched, go to: ecfoundation.org or contact donorservices@ecfoundation.org or call 780.426.0015.



For change of address please advise:
Edmonton Community Foundation
9910-103 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 2V7



CEO Message



Spring has arrived with warmer weather and, finally, opportunities to meet again in person. There is much to look forward to and much still to do.

For example, Edmonton Community Foundation is committed to working toward a more equitable society. That is why we are matching the first \$100,000 in donations to Edmonton's Black Community Fund. If you would like to contribute to this fund, there is more information on the back page on how to make the most of your donation.

This year's (in person!) annual meeting is June 7 at The Westin Edmonton.

Guest speaker Anna Maria Tremonti's topic is "Embracing Change." You can let us know you are attending by emailing AnnualMeeting (one word) at ecfoundation.org.

As many of you know, this will be my last annual meeting as CEO—retiring at the end of June after 17 most interesting years with ECF. I look forward to greeting you at the reception after the annual meeting in the North Foyer of The Westin.

We have faced many challenges over the years, from the financial crisis of '08 to the current pandemic. Donors and community charities have responded generously with resources and work to help make things better. We still have much to do on poverty and homelessness, racism, and inclusion.

Your foundation will be there in the coming years, as well. Board and staff are committed to continuing important

work and finding new ways to enhance life in Edmonton and area.

The board has launched a national search for the next CEO. Interested individuals are encouraged to contact Tricia Mullen, search consultant with Gallagher, at tricia_mullen@ajg.com.

Thank you again for your kindness to me and to each other over the years. Very best wishes!



Staff Updates at ECF

We welcome Shaleena Morgan as Administrative Support, in our Grants Department.

Brandy Malenko will be taking over Reception for Elianna Lisan who is enjoying family time with their son Nathan born on February 28.

Land Acknowledgement

We are gathered on land that has been home for quite some time for many Indigenous peoples and, for many more, a traditional meeting ground, gathering place and travelling route for centuries. We know some of these people as the Cree, Salteaux, Blackfoot, Metis, Dene and Nakota Sioux, although they have their own names which we will learn in time. This place where we live and gather is acknowledged to be the Territory covered by Treaty 6 and in Region 4 of the Metis Nation of Alberta. We are all treaty people—beneficiaries of the peace and prosperity the Treaty brought—and committed also to working toward the equity and justice the Treaty promised.

A Look Back at a Career of Giving

Original story by Caitlyn Crawshaw

Martin Garber-Conrad was a newly minted college graduate when he hit the road for Edmonton from his hometown of Columbus, Ohio. It was 1971 — coincidentally, the same year city council passed the Edmonton Community Foundation Act — and he'd come for a job helping Lutheran churches administer youth programs.

It was an interesting job for a recent grad and a young person of faith, but not the main reason he chose Edmonton. "My high-school buddy and I had always dreamed of driving up the Alaska Highway to Fairbanks," he says. "I thought, 'If I live in Edmonton, I'll be halfway there already!'" While that dream never did come to fruition, Garber-Conrad made the city his home and has since invested decades in improving the community, particularly

for its most vulnerable citizens.

Garber-Conrad took a winding road to his career in the non-profit sector. A couple of years after arriving in Edmonton, he left to pursue graduate studies in theology (his first degree is in sociology) in Saskatchewan. Returning to Alberta, he ran his own parish near Leduc for three years before moving to the private sector. He was working for a training consulting firm when he saw a job opening at E4C (Edmonton City Centre Church Corporation) that seemed a much better fit. "I thought this would be a good way to combine what I'd learned in the private sector with my church background," he says. While E4C didn't do religious work, many of the people involved had ties to church ministries — a world he understood well.

E4C was established in 1970 by four local churches to help inner-city people living in poverty. When Garber-Conrad became its second executive director in 1987, it offered just two services: a women's shelter and a one-person program educating students about the perils of shoplifting. Over the next 18 years, he grew E4C into a sizable non-profit with 200 employees, a budget of \$10 million, and several properties. Under Garber-Conrad's leadership, E4C redeveloped two historic buildings in the city's downtown — the Gibson Block (to house its Women's Emergency Accommodation Centre) and Alex Taylor School (for the organization's

headquarters) — and built brand-new affordable housing units. E4C also launched Kids In the Hall Bistro, a program that employs at-risk youth in a restaurant setting and was one of the first social enterprises in the city.

Working for E4C afforded Garber-Conrad the opportunity to tackle poverty and affordable housing — two of the causes closest to his heart — and to transform an organization. But after 18 years, it was time for a change. When the position of CEO came up at Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) in 2005, he put his hat in the ring. Garber-Conrad knew ECF through his work at E4C, which had received funding through the foundation during his tenure. He'd also served on the ECF board in the 1990s as a community member.

To his delight, he got the job. "The Foundation was important to the community and doing good work, but I thought it could do more," says Garber-Conrad. "And I thought the key to its success would be to do even bigger, more important things in the community instead of trying to give little grants to everyone."

To attain those goals, he wanted ECF to begin working more in partnership with other funders. And under his leadership, the foundation has pooled resources with the City of Edmonton, United Way, and other organizations to address various community needs.



In 2019 Martin received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta.

The Edmonton and Area Land Trust was created in 2007 by the foundation, City of Edmonton, and conservation groups to protect natural areas in greater Edmonton. Garber-Conrad also worked with the city to create the Social Enterprise Fund, which in 2008 began making small loans to organizations looking to build money-making enterprises focused on community good. "It's given us another tool in our toolbox — another way to help charities and non-profits beyond what we can do with grants," says Garber-Conrad. The fund has provided nearly \$50 million in financing to 75 projects.

It's now been three decades since Garber-Conrad began his career in the

non-profit realm and his dedication to community has earned him all sorts of accolades. In 2004, he was one of 100 leaders named Edmontonian of the Century for the city's centennial and in 2013, he received a Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. In 2019 he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University of Alberta.

For Garber-Conrad, these recognitions are flattering — and spotlight the important work of the foundation and non-profit sector — but they aren't what motivate him. His deep concern for the community and a desire to tackle social ills such as poverty, homelessness and child hunger are what keep him going.

"I'd retire happy if we got even one of those things fixed," he says. "If there were no homelessness or no more hungry children, or no more poverty, or no more women being abused. All of them are complex (problems), but they're not as hard as we make them."

He will begin a well-deserved retirement at the end of June 2022. You can offer your good wishes at the reception after the annual meeting on June 7, 2022 at The Westin Edmonton.

Martin, Thank you for all your work in making the community a better place!

Mark your calendars and plan to attend *in person*...

ECF's Annual Meeting

Tuesday, June 7, 2022

11:50 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

The Westin Edmonton

10135 100 St. NW, Edmonton, AB T5J 0N7

Change.

A celebration of things ahead

Guest speaker:

Anna Maria Tremonti

RSVP at AnnualMeeting@Ecfoundation.org

If you prefer to watch from home, register for the live stream at ecf_annual_meeting@eventbrite.ca



This will be the final Annual Meeting with **Martin Garber-Conrad** as CEO.

Please join us in celebrating his retirement.

Best wishes only.