

FALL 2017

LEGACY ACTION

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

GEORGE TAKEI

p6

Talks social
advocacy,
Hollywood and
literature

SAFETY FIRST

p8

What safe
injection sites
will mean for
Edmonton

NEW IN TOWN

p11

Bent Arrow's
program helps
Indigenous families
move to the city

We are pleased to support the
Edmonton Community Foundation

Northleaf

Capital Partners

Providing innovative global private markets
solutions for Canadian institutional investors



TORONTO / LONDON / CHICAGO / MENLO PARK

www.northleafcapital.com

Over 50 years of managing assets
on behalf of institutional investors.

PHILLIPS, HAGER & NORTH
Investment Management®

VANCOUVER • TORONTO • MONTRÉAL
1-855-408-6111 • Institutions@phn.com • <https://institutional.phn.com>

Phillips, Hager & North Investment Management is a division of RBC Global Asset Management Inc. ® / ™ Trademark(s)
of Royal Bank of Canada. Used under licence. © RBC Global Asset Management Inc., 2017. IC1704243

MORE ONLINE AT ECFOUNDATION.ORG



Edmonton Community Foundation presents
George Takei on the October episode of The
Well-Endowed Podcast! Don't miss our great
discussion and chance to win two VIP tickets
to meet Mr. Takei as he presents "80 Years
of Wisdom" as part of Edmonton Public
Library's Forward Thinking Speaker Series.
Subscribe on [iTunes](#) or listen at
thewellendowedpodcast.com



STAY CONNECTED

Like us on [Facebook](#) to keep up-to-date on our
projects, and follow us on [Twitter](#) (@theECF)
for live updates from the frontlines of your
community foundation.

4 CEO MESSAGE

Martin Garber-Conrad reflects on the ways in which
community foundations help the long-term rebuilding
of Fort McMurray after the 2016 wildfire.

6 OH MYYY!

George Takei answers fans' most pressing questions as he
prepares to visit Edmonton on November 29 as part of the
Edmonton Public Library's Forward Thinking Speaker Series.

8 A CASE FOR SAFETY

A group of organizations work together to bring safe
injection sites to Edmonton.

11 FINDING A Foothold

Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society helps Indigenous
families find community as they move to Edmonton.

12 CALL OF THE WILD

Earth Rangers brings the big outdoors into schools with an
exciting school assembly program.

13 COME SAIL AWAY

An endowment fund provides a headwind of support to the
Wabamun Sailing Club.

**EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

CEO
Martin Garber-Conrad

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS
Carol Watson

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
Andrew Paul

COMMUNICATIONS ADVISOR
Elizabeth Bonkink

EDITORIAL CONSULTANT
Phil Rivers

EDMONTON COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
9910 103 St. NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5K 2V7
T 780.426.0015 F 780.425.0121

odvod
publishing inc.

PUBLISHER
Orville Chubb

EDITOR
Caroline Barlott

ART DIRECTOR
Breanne Lozinski

CONTRIBUTORS
Caroline Barlott
Robert Carter
Caitlin Crawshaw
Matthew Daley
Michael Hingston
Breanne Kelsey
Alix Kemp
Andrew Paul

PRINTING
Transcontinental Inc.

ODVOD PUBLISHING INC.
10221 123 St. NW
Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T5N 1N3
T 780.451.1379 F 780.482.5417
www.odvodpublishing.com

No part of this publication may be
reproduced without the written
consent of the publisher and the
organization, Edmonton Community
Foundation. The views and opinions
herein do not necessarily represent
those of Odvod Publishing, the
publisher, Orville Chubb, the editor,
Caroline Barlott, or the organization,
Edmonton Community Foundation.



Cover of George Takei

A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



The headline in the *Globe and Mail* said “Fort Mac rebounding quickly, CMHC says.” I’ve visited our northern neighbour half a dozen times since the wildfire and that’s certainly my impression: a resilient community that is getting on with the business of recovery and rebuilding. For me, it all began because our colleagues in other community foundations asked us to host a fund to help the social sector recover and rebuild after the devastating wildfire last year.

Community foundations here in Alberta and in other provinces contributed more than \$1.3 million to assist. In order to make good use of their generosity, I needed to get to know the key players in the community and have a better handle on the local environment.

Now, almost a year since my first visit, there has been solid research conducted about the challenges facing the “social profit” sector (the way in which the non-profit sector identifies itself in Fort McMurray), multi-stakeholder summits have been held, their new infrastructure organization, FuseSocial, has come into its own and plans have been made for the future. For our part, we have made the recovery fund available to support larger projects in collaboration with corporate and other funders in the community and have assisted projects and initiatives that other funders were unable to address.

Through August, we have issued grants to eight social profit organizations in Fort Mac to the tune of more than \$400,000. A few more good applications were being reviewed at the time of writing. The community is recovering but challenges remain. Almost a year later, some organizations are still short of staff, board members and volunteers. And other organizations face increasing demand for services from people experiencing fire-related trauma or the continuing effects of the economic downturn (which started well before the wildfire).

Nevertheless, progress is being made and we have been able to assist in some significant ways through grants from the recovery fund. Another very exciting development is that Fort McMurray now has another resource for the future: Wood Buffalo Community Foundation has been formed and already received its charitable status. Soon the community itself will have another tool to do work that they value most. As for the recovery fund, we are exploring with its donors the possibility of transferring the balance of the fund to the new community foundation.

In the face of a major crisis, timely assistance from away can be a real help. The next logical step is to enhance the community’s own capacity to respond, recover and build a stronger future. It is good to see that happening so quickly and so well in Fort McMurray and it has been an honour to play a small part in it. All the best to Wood Buffalo Community Foundation!



Martin Garber-Conrad
Martin Garber-Conrad

BELONGING IS A TWO-WAY STREET

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION

BELONGING IS BEING **PART OF A COLLECTIVE WE**. IT’S ABOUT HOW MUCH WE BELIEVE WE **FIT IN** A GROUP OR PLACE, AND HOW MUCH THAT PLACE OR GROUP WELCOMES OR **INCLUDES US**.

Social isolation is commonly defined as a low quantity and quality of contact with others, and includes number of contacts, feeling of belonging, fulfilling relationships, engagement with others, and quality of network members.⁶

THINGS WE DO TO FIT IN:

Community Leagues

have been in Edmonton for more than 100 years. The first, now Crestwood Community League, formed in 1917. Edmonton may be the first city with a strong system of community leagues. Go to EFCL.org for more information.²

Individuals who are looking to connect with others of similar interests could try **Meetup.com**. There are hundreds of groups in Edmonton that are arranged around interests like arts, language, business, age, recreation, and even love of horror movies.⁵

43%
OF EDMONTONIANS
make an effort to be involved.¹

62%
OF EDMONTONIANS
feel it is important to be involved.¹

28%
OF EDMONTONIANS
feel socially isolated from their community.¹

80%
OF EDMONTONIANS
feel safe in their community.¹

49%
OF EDMONTONIANS
feel a sense of belonging with their community.¹

THINGS THAT INCLUDE US:

In 2017 the City of Edmonton initiated **Edmonton Women’s Quality of Life** scorecard developed to provide insight into the life and experiences of women in Edmonton and track over time where change may be occurring.³

73%
OF EDMONTONIANS
feel there are opportunities to be involved in the community.¹

¹ Leger Survey, 2016

² EFCL.org

³ Edmonton.ca/city_government/documents/PDF/WAVEQualityofLifeScorecard.pdf

⁴ Sustainablefoodedmonton.org/communitygardens/

⁵ Meetup.com

⁶ National Seniors Council, *Who’s at Risk and What Can be Done About it?*

There are more than **90 community gardens** operating in the Capital Region.⁴

WATCH FOR MORE GREAT STATISTICS AND STORIES ON OUR CITY:

Coming Oct. 3, 2017

VITALSIGNS®

ecfoundation.org

OH
MYYY!

George Takei discusses 80 years of wisdom as he prepares to visit Edmonton in November

BY: ANDREW PAUL ILLUSTRATION: ROBERT CARTER

There's a good chance that your first contact with George Takei was through his role as Mr. Sulu in the original *Star Trek* TV series. There's also a chance you are one of his more than 10 million social media followers who are fond of his pun-filled posts and engaged with his social advocacy work. But one thing's for sure: from the bridge of the Starship Enterprise to marching with Martin Luther King Jr., George Takei has seen a few things.

And on November 29, he will visit Edmonton and talk about some of those experiences as part of the Edmonton Public Library's Forward Thinking Speaker Series presented by Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF). ECF spoke with Takei about his career and views on "Belonging and Inclusion," which is the topic of ECF's 2017 Vital Signs Report. The following is an abridged version of the conversation that has been edited for space and clarity. You can find the whole interview on the October episode of ECF's *The Well-Endowed Podcast*.

Edmonton Community Foundation: What will you speak about in your talk, "80 Years of Wisdom"?

George Takei: I'll be talking essentially about my life, which began with my imprisonment. When I was five years old, war (WWII) with Japan began. We're Americans of Japanese ancestry. We had nothing to do with Pearl Harbor, and yet this country was swept up by war hysteria, racism, and the lack of political leadership. And we were imprisoned simply because we happened to look like the people that bombed Pearl Harbor. My life starts from there, and here I am now in Southern California, just having returned from five months in New York, working on a revival of Stephen Sondheim's *Pacific Overtures*. So, everything that happened in between.

ECF: Edmonton Public Library is presenting your talk. What books influenced you in your youth?

GT: I read *The Catcher in the Rye*, and I was tremendously impressed by that. I would wish that I had read Faulkner as a teenager. He really opens up the world. As a teenager, I was exposed to Eugene O'Neill. And I discovered Shakespeare as a teenager. There's the wonderful book by a writer named Jamie

Ford who wrote *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*. I've also been impressed by *Snow Falling on Cedars*, a wonderful book. I'd read *The Good Earth* by Pearl S. Buck.

ECF: When did you know that it was time to embrace your advocacy for social change?

(Question submitted by Regan Flavel)

GT: I was involved in social justice campaigns from the time I was a teenager. And concurrently, I was pursuing an acting career. And I guess my social justice activities became more known when I was cast in *Star Trek*. And my acting career amplified my voice.

ECF: What's the greatest hurdle you've faced in your advocacy work?

GT: The biggest one was, despite the fact that I was an advocate for social justice all my life — for equality for African-Americans, for peace in Vietnam, and for redress and an apology for Japanese-Americans — I was silent about the most personal issue closest to me, the fact that I was gay. Back in the '50s and '60s you couldn't be known as gay and build an acting career. It was impossible. If you were known to be gay, even if you were a big name star, your career was taken away from you ... there's that constant nagging needle-prick anxiety. When is my career going to end? When am I going to be exposed? When is someone going to betray me? In 2005 I finally decided, I have to come out. I have to be true to myself. So, I spoke to the press for the first time as a gay man and blasted Arnold Schwarzenegger, who happened to be the governor of California at that time, and he'd vetoed the marriage equality bill. Once I came out, I came out roaring.

ECF: As a leader of the LGBTQ community, are there any works that you recommend to help build understanding?

GT: Tom Hanks played an AIDS-afflicted lawyer [in *Philadelphia*]. That captured the anguish of a successful attorney who was living with another man, played by Antonio Banderas. But one epic theatre piece called *Angels in America* — I think really captured the anguish of gay people and particularly those afflicted by AIDS.

ECF: What are your thoughts on the whitewashing of Asian characters being played by white actors in mainstream Hollywood films? Is this similar to straight and cisgendered actors being cast as queer and trans characters?

(Question submitted by Farley FooFoo)

GT: Whitewashing and the LGBTQ issue are two different things. Whitewashing is a contemporary term for what used to be called yellow face — where significant Asian roles were always played by white actors in

“
I WAS INVOLVED IN SOCIAL JUSTICE CAMPAIGNS FROM THE TIME I WAS A TEENAGER. AND CONCURRENTLY, I WAS PURSUING AN ACTING CAREER.
”

makeup. In the early part of my career, I did a movie titled *A Majority of One*, where a very distinguished and successful Japanese businessman in New York falls in love with a Jewish housewife. It was a Broadway play that was made into a movie. And the Jewish housewife role was played by Rosalind Russell, and the Japanese businessman was played by Alec Guinness, an actor who I admired. He was a fantastic actor, until I met him and I saw him playing this Japanese businessman.

He had this makeup that looked reptilian, downright scary, and he played the Japanese businessman as a chilly, arrogant man. And I was so disappointed in Alec Guinness. But that was called yellow face.

Now, this whitewashing business is a role that originated as an Asian role, is made white to justify a white actor playing it. That has been a real obstacle to developing Asian-American actors, writers, and directors.

In terms of straight actors playing gay characters, that's a [different] situation. It's like saying an Italian can't play an Englishman. If that actor of Italian ancestry has that talent to convincingly play an Englishman, there's no reason why he shouldn't. That's what acting means. You act another character, another person, another nationality. But with the Asian roles, it's been constant, and historical, and unrelenting. If it isn't yellow face, then it's whitewashing, and that's got to change. Because we have actors that can play those roles. But if we don't get those opportunities when significant roles come by, then we'll never be able to become actors truly, and perhaps become stars.

ECF: What is your view of masculinity when comparing your character of Mr. Sulu to William Shatner's persona, Captain Kirk in *Star Trek*?

(Question submitted by German Villegas)

GT: One of the guiding philosophies of *Star Trek* was infinite diversity and infinite combinations. And masculinity comes in many, many different shapes and forms as well. There's no stereotype. It's not just the brawny, bearded lumberjack that's the epitome of masculinity. Someone that's slim, and elegant, and brilliant can be just as masculine, if not more so than a brawny, bearded lumberjack. We've got to stop thinking in terms of stereotype. Masculinity can be defined in many, many ways. And on *Star Trek*, we believed in infinite diversity and infinite combinations. And we saw that manifest in many, many different ways.

There's the keen, sharp, purely rational Spock, who was very masculine from a humanoid vantage point, although he was part alien. And there's Captain Kirk, the swaggering, womanizing masculinity. Or there is Scotty or Sulu with the swashbuckling, or there is Chekov with his very detail oriented prissiness, if you would like. It comes in many, many different forms. ■

November 29 | 7pm | Shaw Conference Centre | tickets are \$15 | On sale September 27 at epl.ca/speakerseries

A CASE FOR SAFETY

Inner-city organizations continue their journey to bring safe injection sites to Edmonton

BY: MICHAEL HINGSTON ILLUSTRATION: MATTHEW DALEY

The first time there were serious discussions about opening a medically supervised injection site in Edmonton was in 2012, on the heels of the landmark Supreme Court decision to exempt Vancouver's Insite — the first safe injection site anywhere in North America — from federal drug laws. Suddenly, the doors were thrown open for similar sites across the country, which is what brought the members of the Streetworks council together, to figure out how this concept might work in Edmonton.

"We sat around and looked at each other woefully and said, 'I don't know. This might take us a year,'" remembers Cecilia Blasetti, executive director of the Boyle McCauley Health Centre and a member of Streetworks, with a laugh. "That's how the wheels grind."

Five years later, those wheels are still grinding. But not for much longer. By early 2018, three different community organizations in Edmonton's inner city will offer safe injection services: Boyle McCauley, Boyle Street Community Services, and the George Spady Society. In the process, the results seen at Insite for more than a decade will now have a chance to take root in Alberta, improving not just the lives of some of Edmonton's most vulnerable populations, but also, hopefully, the community around them.

It's not hard to see why Insite is a model worth emulating. Since 2003, the Vancouver facility has seen more than 3.5 million visits, from upward of 75,000 different clients, without a single death. The Edmonton sites might not see the same amount of traffic, but that harm-reduction approach — providing users with clean needles, in a safe and private space, with medical supervision and referral to other services close at hand — is one that has been championed by the community coalition Access to Medically Supervised Injection Services Edmonton (AMSISE) since 2012.

Currently, a handful of groups including Boyle McCauley, HIV Edmonton, and a mobile van run by Streetworks staff distribute clean needles to clients around the inner city. (The Streetworks van is the most active site in the city, handing out more than 325,000 needles in the first half of 2016 alone.) But most of the people who inject drugs in public are also homeless, and the limitations of the current system are obvious to anyone who's part of it.

"Right now, when somebody comes in, we give them a needle, and they have to go out to the back alley [to inject]," says Shelley Williams, executive director of HIV Edmonton and chair of both AMSISE and the Streetworks council. "It doesn't make sense."

The lack of a dedicated, medically supervised place to inject these drugs has led to unsanitary and unsafe conditions for users, as well as dangerous debris, in the form of thousands of discarded needles, left scattered around the surrounding neighbourhoods.

Edmonton's safe injection sites will, however, have important differences from the Insite model. Rather than constructing a standalone building, as was done in Vancouver, the three sites here will be incorporated into the larger suite of services already being provided by the parent organizations. Each site includes a reception area, an injection room monitored by a registered nurse, and a separate room where clients can be monitored post-injection and speak with staff about any health concerns they may have.

IT'S ONE MORE OPPORTUNITY TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE AND SUPPORT THEM IN MAKING BETTER HEALTH CHOICES.

"Our position has always been that this is a group we're already servicing in all kinds of ways," Blasetti says. She doesn't see safe injection services as being fundamentally different from any other services that Boyle McCauley has added over the years, from X-rays to foot and wound care, based on demand. "We see this as one more health service that we're going to be able to provide."

It isn't a hard sell to potential users of the service, either. In 2014, researchers at the University of Alberta's School of Public Health conducted a survey of 320 people in Edmonton's inner city who use drugs. They found that in the previous six months, 47 per cent of respondents had difficulty finding clean needles, and 23 per cent had experienced an overdose. In addition, 85 per cent of respondents also reported unmet needs related to mental health and addictions — and a whopping 91 per cent said they would be willing to visit a safe injection site, were one to exist in Edmonton. >

The medical case for safe injection sites may be clear, but the political case hasn't always been. Even after the Supreme Court's unanimous verdict in 2011, Canada's Conservative government under Stephen Harper made things extremely difficult for potential new sites, passing legislation that made qualifying for the federal exemption all but impossible.

"There's nothing to stop people from just opening safe injection services," Blasetti says. "But the exemption guarantees that your staff, and the people who use it, will not be arrested while doing it."

Despite these legal hurdles, AMSISE — whose members include HIV Edmonton, Streetworks, all three inner-city sites, and the Royal Alexandra Hospital, which will also offer safe injections as part of its inpatient services — never faltered in its belief that the service was needed. A \$9,000 grant from Edmonton Community Foundation supported a feasibility study, while a \$25,000 grant aided with the early days of AMSISE's research.

"What we're saying is: This is a health service," Blasetti says. "There isn't any other health service where you have to go to your community and ask if you can provide it."

The Harper administration may have kept safe injection sites in gridlock for the better part of a decade, but it wasn't just the election of Justin Trudeau's Liberal government that allowed the issue to move forward again. Advocates also believe the recent opioid crisis has rapidly broadened the conversation about substance use in Canada, which has given Edmonton's safe injection sites new leverage about the necessity of services like theirs.

"I don't think I've heard anybody who has said, 'There should be absolutely no supervised injection,'" Williams says. "What I'm hearing is, 'How does the model get designed in a way that's helpful and beneficial to all the members of the community?'"

One of the ways the entire community benefits is by each site continuing to offer what they call "wraparound supports." People might visit Boyle McCauley, for example, just to use the new safe injection facilities — but while they're there, staff will slowly build

relationships with them, asking about other health concerns and offering a range of other critical services, from psychiatry to dentistry. "We think any door is the right door when it comes to accessing health care," says Blasetti. "It's one more opportunity to connect with people and support them in making better health choices."

Still, the model does have its detractors, many of whom are concerned about safe injection sites eroding the quality of the surrounding neighbourhood and becoming magnets for drug users around the city. This argument in particular makes Blasetti bristle. "You put services where the problems are," she says. "When we define the problem as public injection — not injection in general, but public injection — the research we've done has shown that this is where the biggest concentration is." Boyle McCauley, Blasetti says,

has changed its mandate several times, most recently 14 years ago, toward vulnerable populations who face multiple health barriers. But changes are always made in response to the evolving health needs of the community.

"I am as horrified as any resident here about the depths of poverty and homelessness that we are experiencing, and the level of need," she says. "But we didn't change the community. McCauley changed, and we responded."

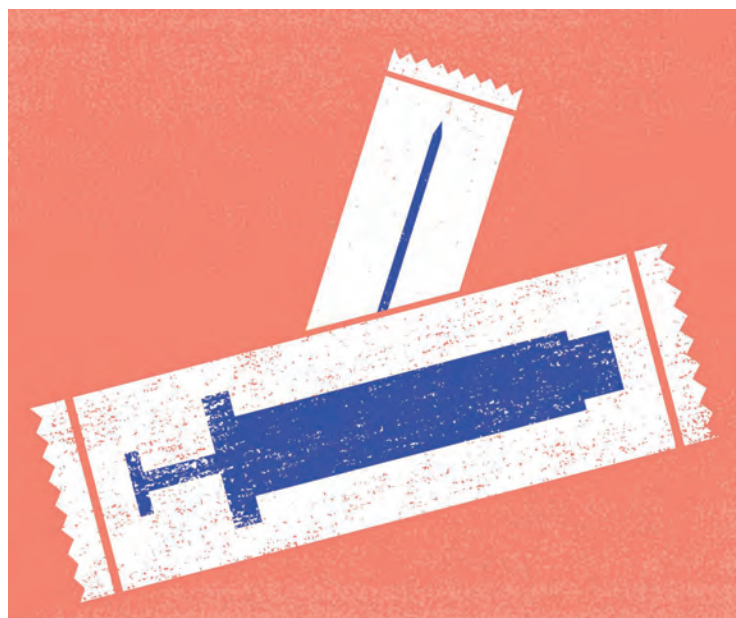
"We know supervised-injection services aren't a magic bullet," adds Williams. She readily

admits there's still a need for treatment, and supportive housing, and progressive social policy. But safe injections are one critical element in the larger network of issues — and one that isn't covered anywhere else in the current health landscape. "We're taking one little slice here," Williams says. "It's part of a continuum of service."

And even that one little slice can have profound results for the people who use it.

"It's not about letting people do whatever [they want]," Williams says. "It's about making sure that people stay healthy and safe, providing dignity in service, and deepening those relationships so we can address some of the stigma attached to injection drug use."

"It's about keeping people alive." ■



FINDING A FOOTHOLD

A program helps Indigenous families settle into a new life in Edmonton

BY: CAITLIN CRAWSHAW

It wasn't the homecoming Sandra Cardinal* had hoped for. After packing up her Edmonton home, she and her children moved back to her hometown, hoping to reconnect with family. But after struggling to find work, and dealing with a new boyfriend's abuse, Cardinal knew she couldn't stay.

She stuffed as many clothes and household goods as she could fit in her car and headed back to Edmonton with her children. "I'm doing better now and putting my life back together," she says, noting that Bent Arrow's New in Town program is making the process much easier. Since being accepted into the program, Cardinal's been able to find a more affordable apartment, furniture for her new home, counselling, and emergency funding to help with the unexpected costs related to fleeing abuse.

Created in 2011, New in Town helps Indigenous people from across Canada get their footing in Edmonton, assisting with everything from housing and employment, to cultural opportunities and food. A team of six support workers helps clients navigate services and resources offered by government, agencies and non-profits. "We'll help with basically whatever they request when they come in," says Robbie Kaboni, the program's supervisor. "We rate their priorities and then slowly go down the list."

She explains that the program's clients come from a wide range of communities — from reserves and small towns, to large urban centres — from across Alberta and beyond. Often, clients are not only leaving their loved ones behind, but also their ties to culture, which adds to the stress of a big-city transition. In addition to practical supports, Bent Arrow connects these newcomers to Indigenous cultural opportunities in Edmonton.

But New in Town doesn't limit its clients to Indigenous people. Over the years, the program has opened its doors to refugee and immigrant newcomers struggling to overcome culture shock and find their way in the city.

Bent Arrow's executive director, Cheryl Whiskeyjack, explains that the program was created to better serve the large number of people

coming to the organization seeking help transitioning to Edmonton. "Edmonton is the gateway to the oil patch and a gathering place for people who come here for opportunities," says Whiskeyjack. "The New in Town program welcomes them and helps them make the transition in a good way."

When the organization was in urgent need of funding for the program a couple of years ago, Whiskeyjack was relieved when Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) came through with a commitment of \$50,000 per year for three years. "It was just-in-time funding for us to keep the program going without making cuts or trimming the service down," she says.

THE NEW IN TOWN PROGRAM
WELCOMES THEM AND HELPS
THEM MAKE THE TRANSITION
IN A GOOD WAY.

For the 500 clients currently enrolled, New in Town not only minimizes the stress of moving to the city, it increases their chances of long-term happiness and success. Indigenous people come to Edmonton for opportunity, "but what they are leaving behind is a sense of community and belonging," says Whiskeyjack. Support from other Indigenous people can make all the difference.

Cardinal says her worker is as much an advocate as a friend; the other week, she even showed up with the sage she needed to smudge. With children to raise, legal matters to attend to, and abuse to heal from, rebuilding her life is exhausting work; having someone walking the journey with her has made all the difference. "It's not so overwhelming," she says. ■

* SOURCE'S NAME HAS BEEN CHANGED TO MAINTAIN ANONYMITY

ECF provided a \$25,000 grant to help AMSISE begin its research into bringing safe injection sites to the city.

ECF has committed \$50,000 per year for three years to support the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society's New in Town program.

CALL OF THE WILD

Earth Rangers brings nature right into the classroom, while empowering students with real-world ways they can help the environment

BY: CAROLINE BARLOTT ILLUSTRATION: BREANNE KELSEY

A falcon flies over a full gymnasium of elementary school children, as some duck their heads, believing the bird may land among them. But it quickly swoops up before flying back to the presenter at the other end of the gym. The kids' excitement is obvious as their eyes remain wide and they laugh with genuine wonder.

Assistant principal Linda Watt says it's an experience the kids will talk about for weeks to come. And it's just one aspect of the Earth Rangers program that connects children with issues related to wildlife in a way that goes far beyond the reach of any textbook.

Earth Rangers is a national program that brings school assembly presentations and classroom visits to schools across the country — kids watch presentations, learn about live animal ambassadors, and hear about real conservation efforts in their areas. And then, they are given a chance to be Earth Rangers, which is a free membership to a program where they can learn, complete activities and start their own fundraising campaigns.

Last year, Edmonton Community Foundation gave funding to Earth Rangers so that the organization could go from visiting 18 schools the previous year to 30 schools in the Edmonton area; and this year, 40 schools will have a chance to be involved.

"Instead of just talking about these kinds of broad concepts with all the negative messaging you hear about the environment and climate change and biodiversity loss, we bring real-life innovations that are underway that are working to protect species in Canada. And kind

of give the kids a sense of hope so that when we engage on these issues, we can really make a difference," says Tovah Barocas, vice president of external relations for Earth Rangers.

Working with conservation groups across the country, Earth Rangers determines what projects best speak to the various geographic areas they visit before deciding what to include in the presentations each year. They've featured information about threats facing pollinators, the dangers of a deadly fungus impacting bat populations in North America, conservation projects for swift fox, and land planning use work in Alberta with the goal of helping caribou populations.

“IT'S AN EARLY STEP FOR THEM, BEING ENGAGED WITH THE WORLD. IT DRIVES HOME THE IDEA OF TAKING ACTION FOR THEMSELVES.”

Watt sees the impact learning about these projects have on the students from her school. Many kids become Earth Rangers, and participate in fundraising events, including a bake sale that raised money for conservation efforts toward bats. It's especially great, says Watt, to see children connecting with wildlife of all kinds. Rather than just connecting kids with animals they might find cute or may already find interesting, the program digs deeper, explaining the importance of biodiversity and each species within that bigger picture.

She also sees the ways that the program empowers students. They gain knowledge and a high level of concern for the environment; and when they get their Earth Ranger cards in the mail, they realize they, too, can make a difference.

"It's an early step for them, being engaged with the world. It drives home the idea of taking action for themselves. That even as a kid there are things they can do," says Watt. ■

A \$20,000 grant from ECF is helping Earth Rangers deliver programming to 40 elementary schools in the 2017/18 school year.



COME SAIL AWAY

An avid sailor created an endowment fund so that he could share his love of the water with young people

BY: ALIX KEMP

When the Wabamun Sailing Club was founded in March 1960 by Daniel Sorochoan and four other members of the Royal Canadian Naval Sailing Association, the new society had no money and no land. Instead, the members held races near their private cottages around the lake, trading off hosting duties each weekend. It took another 10 years to acquire land and begin constructing a clubhouse, using primarily volunteer labour. Today, the Wabamun Sailing Club boasts a newly renovated clubhouse, participates in regattas around the province, and has trained Olympic-calibre sailors.

It's a story of growth and success that mirrors Sorochoan's own life. Born outside Lac la Biche, Alberta, Sorochoan received an eighth-grade education before beginning work as a general-purpose employee for Sinclair Stove & Heating in 1947, a year-old company operating out of owner Walter Sinclair's two-car garage. Over the course of 70 years with the company, Sorochoan became general manager and then owner, and grew Sinclair Supply Limited to 17 branches throughout Western Canada before retiring early this year at the age of 89. His daughter, Cindy Sorochoan, says, "He came from nothing, and he's managed to do a lot. He's helped a lot of people. That's going to be his legacy."

An avid sailor for most of his life, Sorochoan has always had a keen interest in passing his love of the sport on to younger generations. Known as "Danny" to his fellow sailors, Sorochoan became the Northern Alberta Junior Sailing Co-ordinator in 1964, and encouraged his children to sail as well.

"I didn't do as much sailing as I'm sure my father would have liked, but it's always been part of our lives," Cindy says. She has many fond memories of sailing with her father, particularly of the family dog, Sailor, whose antics sometimes included taking hold of a rope attached to the boat and paddling off with it.

In 1990, Sorochoan established an endowment fund to support other young sailors, which he donated to frequently over the years. Recently, his family and the Wabamun Sailing Club collaborated with Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) to ensure that fund continues to assist junior sailors, and created the Danny Sorochoan Junior Sailing Fund. Matt Mandrusiak, a donor advisor at ECF, says, "It's going to provide sustainable funding to help teach youth the ins and outs of sailing, which is beneficial for everyone, and it will be around for a long, long time."

Ken Anderson, a long-time member of the club and a friend of Sorochoan, says learning to sail has numerous benefits for youth, including teaching them traditional values like good sportsmanship and humility, as

well as learning to tackle complex problems. "Sailing is like three-dimensional chess on water. You're not just competing against the other guy; you also have to figure out what Mother Nature is up to."

However, sailing is typically an expensive sport — 10 days of lessons for a junior sailor cost approximately \$2,000, putting it out of reach for many families. Wabamun Sailing Club secretary Jordyce van Muyden says the club plans to use the fund to bring down the cost of lessons, as well as provide further subsidies for families who can't afford it, making the sport more accessible. Eventually, it will also pay for young sailors to participate in provincial, national and international sailing competitions.

For Cindy, the fund is about more than recognizing her father's accomplishments and contributions. She hopes it will promote the club itself and make sure that more people have an opportunity to share her father's passion for sailing. "Not a lot of people know about sailing unless they have a cottage, which is really unfortunate. It can be for anyone, even if they just want to try it."

Cindy and her sister are doing their part to keep the tradition alive by encouraging their own children to take up sailing. Cindy's 13-year-old daughter has become an avid sailor, and although Daniel Sorochoan now lives in a retirement home, he follows his granddaughter's accomplishments with interest. ■

WILLS WEEK 2017



Edmonton Community Foundation is pleased to present free public seminars that provide professional information on wills and estates.

Mon, Oct 2 9:30 - 11:30 am
Northgate Lions Senior Rec. Centre
7524 139 Avenue, Edmonton

Tue, Oct 3 6:30-8:30 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
17610 Stony Plain Road, Edmonton

Thu, Oct 5 6:30-8:30 pm
Northgate Lions Senior Rec. Centre
7524 139 Avenue

Mon, Oct 2 6:30 - 8:30 pm
South East Edmonton Seniors Assoc.
9350 82 Street, Edmonton

Tue, Oct 3 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Jewish Senior Centre
10052 117 Street, NW, Edmonton

Thu, Oct 5 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Millennium Place
2000 Premier Way, Sherwood Park

Mon, Oct 2 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Red Willow Place
7 Tache St., St. Albert

Wed, Oct 4 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Mill Woods Senior & Multi-cultural Centre
2610 Hewes Way NW, Edmonton

Fri, Oct 6 9:30 - 11:30 am
Central Lions Recreation Centre
11113 113 Street, NW, Edmonton

Mon, Oct 2 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 256
4902 44 Avenue, Stony Plain

Wed, Oct 4 6:30 - 8:30 pm
Terwillegar Community Rec. Centre
2051 Leger Road NW, Edmonton

Fri, Oct 6 6:30-8:30 pm
TELUS World of Science 11211
142 Street, Edmonton

Seminars are FREE, but seating is limited. **First come, first served. Information may change, confirm at: ecfoundation.org**

FORWARD THINKING
SPEAKER SERIES

GEORGE TAKEI: 80 Years of Wisdom

presented by Edmonton Community Foundation

November 29, 7:00 p.m.
Shaw Conference Centre

Tickets on sale at 10 a.m. on September 27 at epl.ca/speakerseries starting at \$15 with all proceeds going to support the Stanley A. Milner Library revitalization project.

"Our differences in beliefs do not separate us. Rather, they highlight the rich tapestry that is humanity."

—George Takei

#EPLTakei



Pay it forward.

We were recipients of many nonprofits in our life. They were charities supported by grants from Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), and the generous donors who give through ECF.

This is our chance to give back to our community, for generations to come.

Zafira, Danisha, Hamida Bhaloo & Choco.



Give. Grow. Transform.

Call 780-426-0015 or visit our website www.ecfoundation.org





Proud to be a real estate **investment** advisor to the Edmonton Community Foundation

Canadian Urban has brought real estate investment advice to life for foundations, endowments and pension funds in Canada, Europe and the USA. From nationally diverse, core pooled funds to opportunistic turn arounds, our seasoned team provides a passionate perspective to all that we do. Our returns are consistently ranked in the first quartile, however our greatest satisfaction comes from helping our clients achieve their objectives.

