# Mill Woods Mosaic

September 15, 2020
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The Multicultural Voice of Edmonton Southeast
*Independent • Non-partisan • Interdenominational*


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**New pathway**

There is a new pathway for asylum claimants working in the health-care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.
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## A garden for the community

**A group of women in the Meadows got together to plant a community garden which turned out to be a win-win situation. The initiative was a good exercise and outdoor experience in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the group enjoyed harvesting their own fruits and vegetables. Photo: Tending to their plants are Darshan Bhanot (left) and Raminder Dhindsa. More on page 7 of this issue.**
Photo: TMCL

## *New model replaces School Resource Officers in Public Schools*

The Edmonton Public Schools' Board (EPSB) of Trustees has endorsed a new model that will replace the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in Division schools for the 2020-2021 school year.

Through the new Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) model, police officers will not be assigned to Edmonton Public Schools. Instead, officers trained to respond with youth will be assigned over two geographic areas of the city—north and south—and, subject to availability, will respond to calls in schools and the community.

"We've heard loud and clear that community members have concerns about the SRO program and we've taken this feedback very seriously," says Board Chair Trisha Estabrooks on Sept. 4. "The Board has endorsed the decision that officers will be removed from Edmonton Public Schools this school year while a formal review of the School Resource Officer program is being conducted."

An independent evaluation and research of the SRO program, which was approved by the Board of Trustees in June 2020, will continue as the Division transfers to the Youth Enhanced Deployment model. The Board also asked Division administration to look at alternative ways of how the Edmonton Police Service could support our schools.

Over the summer, staff within Edmonton Public Schools worked with the Edmonton Police Service to develop the Youth Enhanced Deployment model. Superintendent Darrel Robertson shares that the two organizations will collaborate throughout the school year to review the YED and make adjustments, if needed.

"Our Division and the Edmonton Police Service share the common goals of student, staff and school safety, and positive, proactive engagement with youth," says Robertson. "We're putting the new model in place now so our schools have certainty about how they will be supported as classes begin."

At this time, the YED model is proposed for the 2020-2021 school year only. Plans for the 2021-2022 school year will be based on the review of the SRO program.

The Board of Trustees was slated to vote on suspending the School Resource Officer program at the September 8, 2020 Board meeting. This vote is no longer expected, given that the SRO program has been replaced by the YED model.

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is disappointed by the decision of the Edmonton Public School Board.

"The Edmonton Police Service is disappointed to learn of the Edmonton Public School Board of Trustees decision to endorse the suspension of the EPS' School Resource Officer program for the 2020-21 school year," said Deputy Chief David Veitch. "The EPS has enjoyed working collaboratively with the students, staff and school administrators of EPSB and will be participating in the upcoming independent review of the SRO program.

"In the interim, the EPSB SROs will continue to serve the needs of youth and their families, citywide, through a modified version of the EPS' existing Youth Enhanced Deployment (YED) initiative as YED Constables. This program, developed and launched by the SROs at the start of April in response to the COVID-19 school closures, was created to serve the continuing needs of the youth who were no longer able to easily access school and community resources they and their families had come to rely on.

"The success of the YED model has been modified so it can be carried forward. Although many students are back in the classroom, there are still youth in need of assistance that our YED Constables will be able to support. Continuing to provide a service such as this one, to families across Edmonton, allows our EPS officers an ongoing opportunity to continue building relationships, maintain youth engagement, reduce calls for service and continue to meet the needs of youth and their families."

Edmonton Catholic Schools will be continuing with the SRO program.

"The SRO Program will continue this school year in Edmonton Catholic Schools," said Robert Martin, Chief Superintendent of Edmonton Catholic Schools. "The program and partnership with the Edmonton Police Service is an important student support service in our Division. Currently there are 15 SROs in 14 schools; six junior high schools and eight high schools. To ensure that the SRO program is effective at meeting the needs of all students in our Division, we will be conducting a program evaluation during the 2020/21 school year to assess the program's strengths and areas for growth."

# *Meet and greet your Member of Parliament*

**On Sept. 8, the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada and the Official Opposition in the House of Commons, Erin O'Toole, has announced his new leadership team and shadow cabinet. The leadership team includes the Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods, Tim Uppal, whose assignment is Caucus-Party Liaison.**
**Photo: The Member of Parliament for Edmonton-Mill Woods, Tim Uppal (left), with the new leader of the Conservative Party of Canada, Erin O'Toole.**

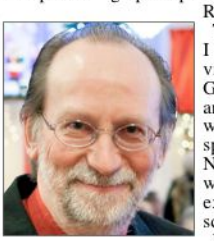
**On Aug. 16, constituents of Edmonton-Mill Woods had an apportunity to meet and greet their Member of Parliament, Tim Uppal, at the Jackie Parker Off-Leash Dog Park.**
**Photo: Tim Uppal with his dog Jugni which is a German Short Hair Pointer**

Photos: Office of MP Tim Uppal

# *My militaristic past*

Are you a collector? Have you collected stamps, coins or other collectible items at some point in your life and then lost interest in your collection but still kept it somewhere in your house or apartment where it is collecting dust now?

I am a recovering collector, and I have to admit that I have relapsed a few times. When I was a child, I collected stamps, but then I got bored with them and started collecting toy cars and Lego bricks and had fun with those for a while, but when I was a teenager, I started a serious collection which was quite unique. I collected autographed photos of high-ranking military officers, generals and admirals. I wrote letters to many of these generals and admirals asking them for their autographed photos, and many of them complied and were happy to send me their photos. My very first collectors' item was a photo of the commander-in-chief of the German Navy, and I was excited to see his original signature on the photo. Many others followed, and then I extended my collection to generals and admirals of other NATO countries. My collection included photos of former U.S. President Dwight Eisenhower who was a five-star general in the U.S. Army before he entered politics, and four-star general William Westmoreland who was commander of the U.S. forces during the Vietnam War. Some of my classmates were shocked to see Westmoreland's photo framed and displayed in my room at a time when most of them preferred to have autographed photos of the Beatles or the Rolling Stones.



Through my collection, I had the opportunity to visit some units of the German Armed Forces, and one of the highlights was riding along on a speedboat of the German Navy on the North Sea which was quite a cool experience for a high school student.

I had a lot of fun with my collection, but my interest in the German Armed Forces stopped suddenly when I was called to serve as a soldier at age 18. At that time, Germany still had compulsary conscription which meant that every healthy young man had to serve 18 months in the armed forces, but I was declared "unfit" because I was short-sighted, and that was the end of my "career" in the armed forces.

# Prime Minister announces support for Black entrepreneurs and business owners

On Sept. 9, the Prime Minister's Office made the following announcement:

Every day, Black business owners and entrepreneurs make invaluable contributions to communities across the country, and their success is essential to Canada's economic recovery and future prosperity.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted and exacerbated existing systemic barriers faced by Black entrepreneurs and small and medium-sized business owners in Canada. While we have made progress in advancing equitable access to support and opportunities, much more needs to be done to better help Black business owners and entrepreneurs, and address anti-Black racism.

The Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, today announced investments of up to nearly $221 million in partnership with Canadian financial institutions – including up to nearly $93 million from the Government of Canada over the next four years – to launch Canada's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program. This program will help thousands of Black business owners and entrepreneurs across the country recover from this crisis and grow their businesses.

The program will include:

• up to $53 million to develop and implement a new National Ecosystem Fund to support Black-led business organizations across the country. It will help Black business owners and entrepreneurs access funding and capital, mentorship, financial planning services, and business training.

• up to $33.3 million in support through the new Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund that will provide loans of between $25,000 and $250,000 for Black business owners and entrepreneurs. The Government of Canada is also partnering with financial institutions, including RBC, BMO Financial Group, Scotiabank, CIBC, National Bank, TD, Vancity, and Alterna Savings, to make up to $128 million available in additional lending support.

• up to $6.5 million to create and sustain a new Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub that will collect data on the state of Black entrepreneurship in Canada and help identify Black entrepreneurs' barriers to success as well as opportunities for growth. The Hub will be run by Black-led community and business organizations, in partnership with educational institutions.

The government is committed to working closely with Black business owners and Black-led organizations across Canada so that the new Black Entrepreneurship Program reflects the realities and needs of Black Canadians. The new program builds on the Government of Canada's work to address systemic racism against Black Canadians. This includes taking steps to advance Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy, justice reforms, modern policing structures and standards, and enhanced local community supports for young Black Canadians.

The Government of Canada will continue to support Black entrepreneurs and create opportunities for Black-owned businesses so that they can recover from the economic impacts of COVID-19 and grow in the months and years to come.

"The pandemic has shone a light on the inequalities that disproportionately hurt Black Canadians, and has underscored the need to restart our economy in a way that allows all Canadians an equal chance to succeed," said Trudeau. "That is why today – thanks in part to the leadership, advocacy, and expertise of Black business owners and Black-led organizations – we are announcing Canada's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program. As we move forward, this program will help support Black entrepreneurs and create new opportunities for Black-owned businesses, so they are well-positioned for our economic recovery."

"For too long, Black entrepreneurs and business owners have faced systemic barriers to their success, and the COVID-19 pandemic has had a disproportionate effect on them," said Mary Ng, Minister of Small Business, Export Promotion and International Trade. "With Canada's first-ever Black Entrepreneurship Program, our government is taking real action to support Black entrepreneurs recovering from COVID-19, and empower them to start up, innovate, grow, and succeed. We will continue to do whatever it takes to support all small business owners and entrepreneurs across the country."

"Our commitment to diversity and inclusion is unwavering, and the new Black Entrepreneurship Program reflects this," said Bardish Chagger, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth. "This program was created through collaboration with Black-led organizations, because Black Canadians know what their communities need best. This is another step towards removing the systemic barriers that exist within our society to create a truly inclusive Canada."

**Continued on page 16**

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# Our Opinion

## Fear and Rage

Bob Woodward has done it again. The legendary American investigative journalist, who brought down President Richard Nixon with his reporting on the Watergate scandal in the 1970s, has written another book about President Donald Trump which will probably be number one on the bestseller list of the *New York Times* like many of his previous books.

In 2018, Woodward published his first book about Trump which was called *Fear*. In this book, Woodward revealed in unprecedented detail the harrowing life inside Trump's White House and precisely how he makes decisions on major foreign and domestic policies. Woodward exposed Trump as a politician who is full of himself and whose power is based on fear.

Now, two years later, Trump is seeking reelection for a second term, and Woodward has published his book *Rage* just in time for the election. The book documents Trump's mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic and shows how he has lied to the American people many times. Trump tried to deny that and "shoot the messenger", but that didn't work, because Woodward has recorded all interviews.

Now, it is up to the American people to decide if they want four more years of Trump or tell him: "You are fired!"

"Indian Summer" is a period of unseasonally warm, dry weather that sometimes occurs in autumn in temperate regions of the northern hemisphere during September to November, but many immigrants from India who are now living in Mill Woods remember this time of the year as the season when locusts are invading the country. Locusts are a type of grasshopper which can wreak havoc on crops and livelihoods in many countries around the world.
**Cartoon by Susan Moshynski (www.bythebay.squarespace.com)**

# *Schooling in the time of coronavirus*

**Crisanta Sampang**

***On Second Thought***

Tantrums. Meltdowns. Sulking. Canadian writer Russel Smith told a newspaper about his children's response to his efforts to educate them from home, after the coronavirus forced schools to close. Smith was not alone. Most parents discovered that teaching kids from home is not easy, mainly because they had no training nor experience, and those who still need to work, have very little time.

My daughter Catherine who is a pharmacist and has been required to work throughout the school closure, reports that working is easier on the nerves than teaching an active 9-year-old. More time gets spent daily on bargaining, cajoling, and heated exchanges, than planning lessons and doing homework. Withholding privileges has also been discussed. At the end of each day, my daughter says she's totally drained and ready to crash.

Mothers who have enough time have devised ways of making classes more interesting, sometimes abandoning the lessons prescribed by the teachers altogether. They think up outdoor activities like contests, educational outings and games. These keep kids engaged and studying gets less stressful for everybody.

The Internet, of course, has played an important role in helping both the parents and the schools keep their students home-schooled. Zoom, a popular video communications app that allows groups to set up video and audio conferencing, webinars and live chats, has become the venue of choice.

The World Bank (WB) itself is heavily involved in remote education. According to its website, "the WB is actively working with ministries of education in dozens of countries in support of their efforts to utilize educational technologies of all sorts to provide remote learning opportunities for students while schools are closed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and is in active dialogue with dozens more."

The World Bank Group describes itself as the largest financier of education in the developing world. It works on education programs in more than 80 countries to provide quality education and lifelong learning opportunities for all.

From Afghanistan to Zimbabwe, according to a WB report, dozens of countries have harnessed broadcast – both radio and television - and social media channels like Google, YouTube and Facebook to disseminate educational content to their students. In Argentina, for instance, each lesson broadcast requires the presence of a teacher and a conductor, with teaching materials provided.

The Philippines was not mentioned on this list. I do know, however, that extended school closures in the Philippines have created problems for thousands of students who can't afford to buy the equipment necessary for online lessons. One mother I know from my village walks to the local elementary school every day to pick up the required printed homework and bring it home to her son.

Mind you, a friend reminded me that even first-world countries like Canada and the US also have school children who can't afford a computer to study online. He is right, of course.

According to the United Nations Policy Brief on Education during COVID-19 and Beyond, dated August 2020, "the COVID-19 pandemic has created the largest disruption of education systems in history, affecting nearly 1.6 billion learners in more than 190 countries and all continents. Closures of schools and other learning spaces have impacted 94 per cent of the world's student population, up to 99 per cent in low and lower-middle income countries."

Meanwhile, a respite of sorts have arrived for Canadian parents recently. Students went back to school last week, after months of having been schooled at home, but it wasn't the happy occasion that parents had been used to expecting. News from Quebec and Alberta indicated that a number new Covid-19 cases have been reported since schools reopened last week. The dreaded coronavirus is still out there, lurking around waiting for the chance to infect some unwitting kid, and this knowledge has created a lot of anxiety among the students.

Kids Help Phone, Canada's round-the-clock support service for young people, told CTV News that it has recently experienced an increase in calls due to back-to-school anxiety, with about eight in 10 children worried about going back. Kids Help Phone offers professional counselling, information, referrals and volunteer-led, text-based support to young people in both English and French.

There is a lot of uncertainty about sending students back to school. Every day out there seems like another day of risking the unknown. On the positive side, I think anxiety can be good. Maybe anxiety will remind kids to be more conscientious about self-distancing and wearing masks.

I don't like to think of the alternative. If the coronavirus keeps going and growing, what is going to happen?

# *If only we could always see in colour*

**Ron Kuban**

***Time Passages***

It is presumably easy to imagine being blind. We close our eyes and, rather simplistically, have some impression of life without the gift of sight. But can you imagine being unable to see colours? This occurs as a rare hereditary visual disorder, called achromatopsia – meaning total colour blindness – that is made more challenging when the intensity or brightness of light increases. As a result, those affected by achromatopsia are in effect locked into a world devoid of the colourful palette our world is painted in, which we regularly take for granted. In addition to missing out on the esthetic beauty of their environment, people with this disorder are also deprived of the inherent meaning that the different shades of colour regularly provide to the rest of us. Although achromatopsia has no cure, it may be somewhat lessened through the use of unique glasses, which provide their wearer with the otherwise-missing hues.

Social media videos occasionally illustrate the exact moment when sufferers, aided by these special glasses, first see their world in colour. While these videos are truly heartwarming and inspirational, they also provide valuable lessons for each of us. Three such lessons stand above all others.

First, is the need to avoid taking things for granted. Life is a complex chain of unpredictable events with equally unpredictable consequences. In the blink of an eye, our life, our health, our abilities, and everything we have, may be lost, become dysfunctional, or be taken away. We only need to follow the news to appreciate the terrible consequences of accidents, natural disasters - like fires, floods, or storms - acts of sabotage or terrorism, and much more. Also, when we take things for granted, we typically pay less attention or undervalue them, and then fail to enjoy them while we can.

We should, therefore, regularly appreciate all that makes us who we are at the moment, all the things that we are capable of doing, and all the things – large and small – that we have. The list of 'things' would be surprisingly long. It would include our senses and physiological capabilities, interests, passions, relationships, material possessions, and even our esoteric dreams and aspirations.

Many reasons cause us to undervalue ourselves or our 'things'. We may believe them to be imprecise, inefficient, imperfect, improperly sized, unattractive, or underdeveloped; in short, less than our aspiration. This attitude is normal and may be driven by our hard-wired determination to grow, develop, acquire, and evolve. Nevertheless, we need to appreciate what we have become and gained, because these can easily vanish.

The second key lesson points to everpresence and amazing beauty of diversity. Consider for a moment what life would be like if all that we could see, and therefore conceive, was only in black and white. It would deprive us of the differences in hues and tones that we admire and instinctively crave.

Consider how we are constantly attracted to the kaleidoscope of colours at our disposal, and constantly adding new tones and shades to everything. We explore and consume numerous kinds or brands of foods; we constantly modify styles of clothes and accessories to make them visually attractive and seemingly new; and, we frequently seek new tools, technologies, or forms of entertainment; and, even when we can see colours, we want to see them in more-exciting hues.

The third key lesson is about acceptance. This is significant, especially given our craving for and acceptance of diversity, or variety. We seem to readily accept - even promote, different styles or versions when it comes to all things, except for the most important element of our society – PEOPLE, especially those who represent other races, cultures and nationalities. In that regard, far too many among us exhibit a ... blind spot.

History has ample examples of people who were deemed 'different' in one aspect or another – branded as "not like us", and shunned, sidelined or persecuted. Why? Because of their being 'different'? Yet, if diversity or variety is acceptable for us, why is it not for others? And, if we accept diversity in nearly all aspects of our life, why can we not accept the same for and with all people?

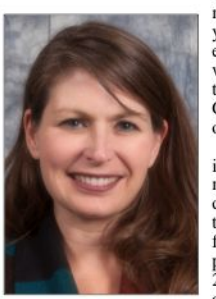
How sad it is that despite the numerous similarities and common factors that bind all human beings, there are still many who like achromatopsia sufferers are trapped in a black-and-white worldview. How sad too, that the variety we cherish in our foods, clothes, jobs, and all other facets of life is not extended to our fellow human beings. Perhaps, we should try harder to explore and accept the many differences within our society. Imagine then a world where black-and-white thinking is replaced by the recognition and acceptance of diversity. Seeing colours; all colours, not just the ones we like.

*Dr. Ron Kuban is a long-term community volunteer and activist.*

# *God Calls us Each by Name*

## Edmonton Catholic Schools Trustee Laura Thibert

Edmonton Catholic Schools is excited to begin our 132nd year of providing an excellent Catholic education and pleased that all students are either back in school or joining us online for another year of learning. This year's theme is "*God Calls us Each by Name,*" and reflects the warm welcome from our Division to each and every one of our students, their families and all staff as we begin a new school year full of hope even during this uncertain new reality.



**Trustee Laura Thibert**

This past year the Board of Trustees was successful in advocating for a new elementary/junior high school in south Edmonton in the Keswick community. We are also thrilled to announce the opening of a new school in Ward 77 this fall. I want to extend a warm welcome to Divine Mercy Elementary School Principal Dean Sullivan, staff and families to Ward 77! As well, I would like to acknowledge all our new Principals and Assistant Principals to Ward 77! I look forward to connecting with all schools and families in a safe and social distanced manner during this new school year.

To assist parents as we return to learning, the Edmonton Catholic Schools (ECS) Re-entry Handbook was developed in consultation with and resources from Alberta Education, the Chief Medical Officer of Health, Occupational Health and Safety legislation and stakeholder survey responses from parents, students, and staff. The ECS School Re-entry Handbook for 2020-2021 offers guidance for administrators and school staff. To review the Handbook, go to the 'Re-Entry' banner on the home page of the Division's website, www.ecsd.net. The Division's priorities are to ensure the safety of all students and staff while mitigating risks and challenges of the new Covid-19 pandemic reality in a Christ-Centred, competency-based learning environment. We know that this year will be very different. Please know that we will continue to follow the direction from the Chief Medical Officer of Health.

Although our mandate is to return to 'near normal,' ECSD has provided a measure of choice to families and 72.9% of families have chosen in-person learning while 27.1% are learning online. It is important to understand that at-home learning is focusing on core subjects including Religious Education. Online learning for the 2020/21 school year is more robust, regimented, and accountable to synchronized demonstration of achievement according to the full Programs of Studies.

The Board of Trustees is continuing to build many relationships with our colleagues, City Councillors, MLAs, MPs, and The Catholic Archdiocese of Edmonton that supports student learning. Going forward we all have an important role to play in the success of our students and I look forward to working with families and the community again this year.

I encourage open communication and welcome your input on educational matters. You can reach me at (780) 231-6312 or laura.thibert@ecsd.net. You can also connect with me on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram @Laura Thibert.

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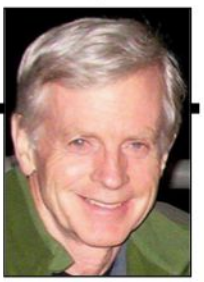
# *Putin/Lukashenko: Two sides of same misgovernance coin*

**David Kilgour**

***A Canadian View on World Events***



Democracy is under attack in some countries, but recent events in Russia and Belarus provide lessons for accountable governance globally.

While Aleksei Navalny, 44, Russia's best-known democracy and anti-corruption advocate, recently struggled for life in a coma from poison in a Siberian hospital, President Vladimir Putin followed his ongoing practice - refusing to voice the opposition leader's name. He threatens Putin's regime because he stands for a peaceful, democratic Russia and is principled, selfless, courageous and charismatic.

European political leaders reacted promptly to Navalny's critical situation, especially when local officials tried to obstruct his evacuation to Germany.

A blogger, Navalny has deployed myriad internet projects to discredit Putin's use of television stations he seized for propaganda purposes from 2000 on. In 2007, Navalny sought to build a pro-democracy coalition of liberals and nationalists.

Historian Robert Horvath notes that Navalny exposed the methods used by corrupt officials "to embezzle billions of dollars from state-controlled corporations". He challenged Russia's authoritarian system and its heavily manipulated elections to legitimize Putin's rule. His proposal to vote for anyone but Putin's Edinaya Rossiya (ER) party in the 2011 elections exposed massive electoral fraud and precipitated huge protests.

Navalny and his Foundation for the Struggle against Corruption (FBK) has kept a YouTube spotlight on offshore assets and the kleptocrats' lifestyles. One in 2017 on the palaces, estates and yachts of then-premier Dmitry Medvedev was viewed 35 million times and caused nationwide protests.

In 2013, released from jail to compete in Moscow's mayoral election, Navalny, despite smearing by the Kremlin-aligned media, won 27% of the vote. His presidential ambitions were thwarted by his 2013 criminal conviction on fabricated charges, but he's used his national network of activists to promote a strategy of "intelligent voting" - voting for candidates with the best chance of defeating the ruling party. One notable success in the 2019 regional elections was in Khabarovsk - now a hotbed of anti-Kremlin protest.

The world, says Horvath, should recognize Navalny as the embodiment of the possibility of a peaceful, democratic Russia that is a partner, not an adversary, of the West.

Navalny opposed the war with Ukraine, arguing that Putin's overriding motive wasn't concern for compatriots, but fear of the contagion of anti-authoritarian revolution. By exposing the hypocrisy of the Kremlin's anti-Western propagandists, Navalny reflects Nobel Peace Prize laureate Andrei Sakharov's insight regarding the connection between respect for human rights and international peace. If a democratic Russia ever emerges from Putinism, Navalny will undoubtedly be honoured as its prophet.

Putin's counterpart in Belarus since 1994 is President Alexander Lukashenko, re-elected on August 9 in an election which many have denounced as fraudulent.

To achieve his landslide win, Lukashenko manipulated the parliament elected in 2019 with not one opposition member. One observer of the 2019 election declared, "I will never forget the fear I saw in the eyes of our interlocutors."

The results drove more than 200,000 Belarusians into the streets of Minsk in protest. However, for protesting and requesting new elections, they're now being detained and tortured. Lukashenko's forces locked protesters and journalists in the Red Church. Food supplies from Poland to aid Belarusians were blocked. Two of the executive directors of opposition leader Svetlana Tikhanovskaya's newly formed Coordination Council have been jailed. Opponents have been fired from their jobs and replaced.

Tikhanovskaya, now exiled in Lithuania declared, "We're not the opposition anymore. We're the majority now." Vowing to "stand till the end" in protests over the disputed election and subsequent violence, she told the BBC that if the protest movement stepped back now, Belarusians would be "slaves." (1)

Democracies around the world must encourage Lukashenko to show respect for human dignity and peaceful demonstrations; free all political prisoners; cease torture for detainees and cease criminal proceedings against members of the Co-ordination Council; provide a new free and fair election with local and international observers; and create a new Central Election Committee (CDC).

Some feel that Putin favours a new election in Belarus because he's tired of Lukashenko. Nobel literary Laureate Svetlana Alexievich says, "Perhaps the world will help us, so that Lukashenko starts talking to us. For now, he's only talking to Putin, so perhaps Putin will help us."

Democratic government for Russians and Belarusians meanwhile remains over the horizon.

Sources:

(1) Svetlana Tikhanovskaya's interview BBC
https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000m9vd

*David Kilgour, a lawyer by profession, served in Canada's House of Commons for almost 27 years, representing southeast Edmonton. He was Secretary of State for Africa and Latin America and Asia-Pacific. He is the author of several books and co-author with David Matas of Bloody Harvest: The Killing of Falun Gong for Their Organs.*

**This article was first published by *The New Delhi Times*.**

## *Letters to the editor are welcome*

*We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications. Send to: The Editor of the Mill Woods Mosaic, P.O. Box 92090, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton, Alberta, T6T 1N1; fax (780) 465-3140 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net.*

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# *How does your garden grow?*

**Submitted by The Meadows Community League**

This summer the Meadows Community was home to a pop-up community garden through partnership between the Meadows Community League, the Meadows Community Recreation Centre and the City of Edmonton. The COVID -19 pandemic resulted in the closure of Kids Den, the child-minding services at the Meadows Recreation Centre and as a result, its outdoor play space was allocated to the pop-up community garden.

Through the City of Edmonton's Pop-Up Community Garden pilot program, The Meadows Community League was provided 15 planter boxes with soil, fencing, watering and garbage cans, space to store tools, grass cutting, camera coverage, strawberry plants and was watered twice per week. "In mid-March at the start of the COVID-19 lockdown, I started going on daily walks and would often pass the Meadows Recreation Centre. In April, with classes finished, I looked to things to do in addition to preparing our annual family garden. I remembered there were many community gardens around the city, but I was aware of none in the vibrant Meadows neighbourhood", states Harman Khinda, the newly minted Meadows Community Volunteer Garden Coordinator.

After promoting the opportunity through the Meadows website and social media, Khinda, had participants eager to start planting. Priority was given to members of the Meadows neighbourhoods – Wild Rose, Larkspur, Silver Berry and Laurel. The plots were quickly sowed with a variety of seeds including: squash, beans, carrots, zucchini, cucumber, lettuce, herbs and strawberries. Gardeners practiced within COVID-19 safety guidelines when they tended to their gardens by social distancing and bringing their own equipment, tools, gardening gloves, and disinfecting products.

The initiative gave participants another outside recreational activity to enjoy. In addition to bountiful harvests, the 'green thumbs' successfully nurtured new friendships. The Knitting Neighbourhood Project, a group of southeast women met weekly at the Meadows Community League room to knit, laugh, learn and build community. The women had to suspend in-person gatherings since the beginning of the pandemic response and were able to come back together at The Meadows – Rec Pop-Up Community Garden. "I was so happy to see others coming to sow the seeds and see the food grow," comments Raminder Dhindsa. "We now have a place and can see how each other is doing," she adds.

Back home in India many of the Knitting the Neighbourhood Project members were farmers. Darshan Bhanot adds, "It's challenging to spend money on produce that was so abundant on our farms." The members wished they could have started planting earlier in the season, as they had not had a lot of luck with their attempts at growing green chillies. Already excited about the 2021 season, they plan to dedicate a garden box just to herbs.

**Displaying their garden are (from left to right) Raminder Dhindsa, Geeta Walia, and Gurdeep K Ghatore.**

Photo: TMCL

First time grower, Sandy Saunders found the opportunity to be a positive outdoor experience that she was able to coordinate with her daily walk around the Recreation Centre. "Although we planted later in the season, we've already enjoyed a few vegetables! The garden area is wheelchair accessible so with the help of Harman and Meadows Board volunteer Jo-Anne Wright, I was able to plant my very first garden, using the raised containers. It has been fun watching the garden grow! I've enjoyed it very much", comments Saunders. "I hope to have an opportunity to be part of this should another pop up occur in the spring," she adds.

Khinda is pleased with the pilot and ready to seek out a larger more permanent location in the Meadows. "People were so engaged in the process. Families that don't have access to a garden space came out together to teach their children how to grow fresh, nutritious produce. The raised garden boxes also enabled community members with different physical abilities to enjoy the opportunity," Khinda stated.

Kevin Arnott, Site Coordination and Operation's Supervisor at The Meadows Community Recreation Centre says, "the community garden was a new initiative that utilized an underused space. We were able to celebrate our outdoor amenities and showcase the diversity of the facility." Arnott adds, "we hope to extend this opportunity in the future and based on demand, add additional space. I appreciate the coordination of the project by The Meadows Community League."

Building on the enthusiasm of this year's participants, Khinda is committed to the 2021 growing season. She concludes, "there is ample interest for this initiative. I believe with the support of the community and possible adjacent businesses we can create something that provides more than just delicious home-grown treats. It will provide a space to gather and help develop gardening skills in people of all ages and abilities. I encourage everyone to try growing a few things. You can start simple with herbs that keep year-round even in the windowsill such as mint, thyme, cilantro and basil. They look and taste great. Happy gardening!"

Excited to begin using their yield of vegetables, two recipes are being shared with readers of the *Mill Woods Mosaic* to create and enjoy on behalf of Knitting the Neighbourhood Project.

**Recipes with ingredients grown in the garden this summer (both are traditional Indian recipes)**

**Garden Ingredient: Mint leaves**

*Mint Chutney (yields approx. 1.5 cups/prep time 5 minutes)*

- 2 cups of mint leaves, washed
- 1 medium white onion, peeled and chopped into large chunks
- 4-5 green chilies (can adjust according to taste)
- 1 medium sized apple, seeds removed and chopped into large chunks
- 2 tsp table salt
- 1 tsp white sugar (stabilizer)
- 1 tbsp fresh lemon juice (prevents browning)

Blend until it forms a paste-like consistency. Can store in fridge for up to 2 weeks in an airtight container. Tastes great on toast and eggs, potato dishes or other savoury dishes!

**Garden Ingredient: Green beans**

*Faalia (Green beans) Dish (yields approx. 8 servings/prep time 30 minutes)*

- 1 pound of green beans, washed, ends chopped off and cut into bite sized pieces
- 2-3 medium sized potatoes, peeled and chopped into large chunks
- 1 inch nub of ginger, finely diced
- 1 head of garlic, peeled and finely diced (can adjust according to taste)
- 1 white onion, finely diced
- 4 green chillies, finely diced (can adjust according to taste)
- 1 medium sized tomato, diced
- 3 tbsp ghee or neutral oil like canola oil
- ½ tbsp whole cumin seeds
- 1 tsp turmeric powder
- 1 tsp coriander powder
- 1 tsp dried fenugreek powder
- Table salt, to taste
- Black pepper, to taste

Melt ghee or add oil and heat in a pan. Add cumin seeds and allow them to bloom and become fragrant. Add ginger and onions and sauté until fragrant and translucent. Add potatoes and cook for about 5-7 minutes until partly cooked and then add chopped green beans into pan. When nearly cooked through add the ginger and tomatoes and stir throughout. Season with turmeric, salt, dried coriander powder, black pepper and dried fenugreek. Cook until the potatoes and beans are soft. Take it off the heat and let it sit for a few minutes.

Can be eaten with naan, rice, or even a tortilla. Plain yogurt will nicely compliment the dish.

For more information on activities of The Meadows Community League visit www.themeadowscommunity.ca.

# *Pathway for asylum claimants working in health-care sector during COVID-19*

**Travis W. Yachimec**

***Immigration Lawyer in Edmonton***

On August 14, 2020, the Honourable Marco E. L. Mendicino, Canada's Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced a temporary measure that will provide a pathway to permanent residency for asylum claimants working in the health-care sector in Canada during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government's announcement can be found on their website (www.canada.ca) by navigating to the News section of the "Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada" subpage under the "Departments and agencies" link on the main page.

The government has only announced this program with limited details; it has not yet provided full eligibility requirements or opened the program for applications.

Based on those limited details, a qualifying individual must meet the follow criteria:

• Claimed asylum before March 13, 2020;

• Been issued a work permit after they made their claim for asylum;

• Have worked in the health-care sector in health institutions (like hospitals, long-term care homes, assisted living facilities, or home care through an organization/agency);

• Have worked in a designated occupation for at least 120 hours from March 13, 2020 to August 14, 2020. Designated occupations include orderlies, nurses, nurses' aides and patient service associates, assistant orderlies, and certain home support workers;

• Demonstrate six months of experience in the designated occupation before being granted permanent resident status (this experience must be acquired by August 31, 2021); and

• Meet existing admissibility requirements (relating to criminality, security, and health considerations).

The news release also specifies that individuals who have been found ineligible to make an asylum claim, or have withdrawn or abandoned their claims, will be excluded from applying. As well, only in-Canada family members of the applicant could be included in the application and granted permanent residency if approved. It is not clear whether asylum claimants who had their claims dismissed would be eligible to apply.

In theory, this could provide a more certain and faster decision on permanent residency for asylum claimants who meet the eligibility criteria. Asylum claims are made either upon arrival to Canada (at a "port of entry") or at a later date (after entering Canada) at an Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) office. An immigration officer will make a preliminary decision on whether the claim is eligible to be referred to the Refugee Protection Division (RPD). The RPD decides who is a Convention refugee or a person in need of protection. Convention refugees are asylum claimants who are not able to return to their home country or country of typical residence because of a well-founded fear of persecution based on race, religion, political opinion, nationality, or being part of a social group. A person in need of protection cannot return safety to their home country or country of typical residency because they may face torture, risk to their life, or risk of cruel and unusual treatment or punishment.

Asylum claims that do not qualify for a short-hearing or file-review process are usually scheduled for a hearing 12 to 18 months later. The COVID-19 pandemic has only increased this wait time for a hearing and added extra complexities with respect organizing remote hearings and ensuring appropriate safety measures are followed for in-person hearings.

Although the federal government has not yet announced details relating to what procedural steps will be required for such an application for permanent residency, the announcement does raise questions about ethical considerations underlying such an initiative.

On its face, this temporary program could be viewed as a welcomed recognition of those asylum claimants who have put their own safety on the line to care for the health of Canadians during the COVID-19 pandemic. On the other hand, this temporary program could also be viewed as a questionable way of encouraging already vulnerable asylum claimants to take up high-risk front-line health care jobs during a pandemic.

Further, this program does not seem to account for the fact that many asylum claimants are required to leave their loved ones overseas when they flee to Canada, as it only speaks of allowing inclusion of family members who are also in-Canada. It also does not include many asylum claimants who are still working in high-risk jobs in the health-care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic, such as those working in cleaning, cooking, and maintenance positions.

It remains to be seen how this program will be rolled out and whether broader consideration of all those asylum claimants caring for Canadian permanent residents and citizens during this pandemic will be recognized.

*Travis W. Yachimec is an associate lawyer with McCuaig Desrochers LLP, a general practice law firm with Edmonton's largest group of immigration lawyers (www.mccuaig.com). The content of this article is intended to provide general information on McCuaig Desrochers LLP, our lawyers, and recent developments in the law and is not to be relied on as legal advice or opinion.*

# *New temporary policy will allow visitors to apply for work permit*

Visitors who are currently in Canada and have a valid job offer will be able to apply for an employer-specific work permit and, if approved, receive the permit without having to leave the country, thanks to a new public policy announced on Aug. 24 by the Honourable Marco E.L. Mendicino, Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship.

This temporary policy change takes effect immediately and will benefit employers in Canada who continue to face difficulties finding the workers they need, as well as temporary residents who would like to contribute their labour and skills to Canada's recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the pandemic, temporary residents who remained in Canada were encouraged to maintain valid legal status. With air travel limited around the world, some visitors to Canada have been unable to leave, while some foreign workers had to change their status to visitor because their work permit was expiring and they didn't have a job offer to be able to apply for a new work permit. Some employers in Canada have also faced ongoing labour and skills shortages throughout this period, including those who provide important goods and services that Canadians rely on.

To be eligible, an applicant looking to benefit from this temporary public policy must

• have valid status in Canada as a visitor on the day they apply

• have been in Canada on August 24, 2020 and remained in Canada

• have a job offer

• submit an application for an employer-specific work permit that is supported by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) or an LMIA exempt offer of employment, no later than March 31, 2021

• meet all other standard admissibility criteria

This temporary public policy also provides the opportunity for applicants who meet these criteria and who had a valid work permit in the past 12 months to begin working for their new employer before their work permit application has been fully approved. To do so, they need to follow the instructions for the process described here: https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugeescitizenship/services/work-canada/permit/temporary/after-apply-nextsteps.html#visitors

"We have heard from employers who continue to face challenges recruiting and hiring the workers they need during the pandemic," said Minister Mendicino. "At the same time, some visitors in Canada may be able to contribute their skills where there are labour shortages. The measures introduced today will now allow visitors to apply for work permits without having to leave the country first. This exemption from the normal temporary work permit requirements is aimed at removing barriers to create a more agile workforce that leverages visitors with the skills and experience to accelerate our economic recovery."

**Quick facts**

• Any type of visitor who meets the criteria is eligible to apply under this new public policy, including super visa holders, business visitors and those who entered Canada through a Global Skills Strategy work permit exemption.

• Foreign nationals who arrive in Canada as visitors after August 24, 2020, are not eligible under the public policy.

• Prior to this temporary policy change, a person applying as a temporary resident would usually need to apply for their initial work permit before they came to Canada. If they were already in Canada with visitor status when they were approved for a work permit, they would need to leave Canada and return before their work permit was issued to them.

For more information, visit the website of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada at www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship.html.

## *Letters to the editor are welcome*

*We invite you to write letters to the editor. A maximum of 275 words is preferred. Letters must carry a first name or two initials with surname, and include an address and daytime telephone number. All letters are subject to editing. We don't publish letters addressed to others or sent to other publications.*

*Send to: Mill Woods Mosaic, P.O. Box 92087, Meadowbrook RPO, Edmonton, AB, T6T 1N1; fax 780-465-3140 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net.*

# *City's Indigenous Artist-in-Residence 2020/21 applications now open*

The City of Edmonton is accepting applications for its next Indigenous Artist-in-Residence.

Indigenous artists who practice all styles of art, including traditional and contemporary Indigenous arts, fine craft, media arts, music, performing arts, visual arts and literary arts, may apply.

The successful applicant will create a new body of artistic work and produce at least one public showing of their work. Any individual or organization may nominate an Indigenous artist. Nominators are encouraged to work collaboratively with their nominee to complete a nomination package.

**Melissa-Jo (MJ) Belcourt has served as Indigenous Artist-in-Residence for the City of Edmonton in 2019/2020.**

**Photo: City of Edmonton**

This is a paid, part-time opportunity with a total salary of $24,000. The artist must be over 18 years of age and will need to commit to 20 hours per week over the course of a one-year residency. Start date is to be determined with the successful candidate. The deadline to apply is October 6, 2020.

The Indigenous Artist-in-Residence program is a partnership between the Edmonton Arts Council, the City's Indigenous Relations Office, and Indigenous artists and knowledge holders. At the August 31 City Council meeting, Mayor Don Iveson, on behalf of the City of Edmonton, formally recognized and thanked outgoing Indigenous Artist-in-Residence Melissa-Jo (MJ) Belcourt for her time, passion, and work during her term.

For more information, and to download a nomination package for the Indigenous Artist-In-Residence, visit edmonton.ca/iair.

## Month of the Artist: Minister Aheer

On Aug. 29, Alberta's Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women Leela Sharon Aheer issued the following statement on Month of the Artist:

"September is Month of the Artist in Alberta!

"Artists' work enriches our lives, promotes creativity and innovation, and contributes to a more diversified economy. When the arts thrive, Albertans thrive. Businesses, investments and livelihoods all benefit from a stronger arts and culture sector.

"During Month of the Artist, the ministry will be selecting an Artist in Residence as an arts ambassador. This is part of our commitment to recognize artists' contributions to the province.

"We have many talented artists in Alberta whose resiliency has been tested during the past few months. It is critical that we support our artists in the province, including online and at small, in-person events throughout Alberta Culture Days this September. You can also check out the Alberta Spotlight concert series at CKUA.com.

"To all artists in Alberta, thank you for your dedication to your craft, your passion to create and enriching the lives of others. I ask all Albertans to join me in recognizing and supporting local artists during Month of the Artist!"

***Mill Woods Mosaic* - mwmosaic@telus.net**

# *"A province whose narrative is defined by generations of stories of hope"*

On Aug. 26, Her Honour, the Honourable Salma Lakhani, began her tenure as Her Majesty's representative in Alberta. The formal installation took place at the Alberta Legislature.

In her remarks during the ceremony, Lieutenant Governor Lakhani said, "Mine is the story of a person whose presence before you in this capacity today is made possible, even probable, by a single fact: that it happened in Canada. A place where the realization of unlikely stories occurs not by accident, but by design. While my story may sound unique, it is also the story of Alberta ... a place where individual stories are woven into our collective tapestry ... a province where narrative is defined by the generations of stories of hope."

Here is the full Installation Address:

**On Aug. 26, Her Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani was installed as the 19th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta.**

**Photo: Legislative Assembly of Alberta**

Premier Kenney; Chief Justice Fraser; Mr. Speaker; Honourable Ministerial Colleagues; Honourable Daniel Vandal, Minister of Northern Affairs; Members of the Legislative Assembly; British Consul General Carolyn Saunders; Elder Cecil Crier and Indigenous Leaders; Members of the Judiciary; Mr. Alain Laurencelle Chancellor of the Order of St. John; distinguished guests; my fellow Albertans; friends and my dear family…

I regret that most of my close family members are unable to be here today but hopefully are able to watch online.

I wish to begin by respectfully acknowledging that we are meeting on Treaty 6 territory and a traditional meeting ground and home for many Indigenous people. We pay our respect to the First nation and Metis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with them. I thank Elder Cecil Crier for Blessings as I begin this extraordinary journey and I also thank Rocky Morin for the Honour Song he will be so generously offering later today.

C'est un grand honneur pour moi de m'addresser à vous audjourd'hui en tant que representante de l'Alberta de sa Majesté La Reine Elizabeth II.

I am both honoured and humbled to be addressing all of you today. I would like to begin by telling you a little about myself and by sharing how so much of my life has been shaped by a sense of hope.

I grew up in a house full of family in Kampala, Uganda, a beautiful place on the other side of the world. Indeed, there was a time when there were 15 of us living together under the same roof. Extended family and nuclear family were blended together. We didn't know the difference. We lived, we played, and we prayed together. We were simply family, and family was always close, in every sense of the word.

My father was a larger than life man and a spirited and industrious entrepreneur. My mother was resilient. She was only three when her own mother passed away. As a child, she often went to school without shoes and would complete her homework by candlelight, long after everyone was asleep.

Our Ismaili Muslim family was rooted in love and an unyielding set of values. The value that everyone deserved an equal opportunity in life and that serving the community was essential; the unshakeable belief that if, in this life there was indeed a golden ticket, it was education. My parents ensured that my two brothers and I studied hard over the years. My father made efforts to get to know our teachers and took the keenest interest in our academic progress , ensuring that we were being supported as best we could be.

I began my university studies in England in the Fall of 1971. The following year, I returned to visit my parents in Kampala for the summer holidays. On a lovely tropical evening we were enjoying a family get together when we heard the then Ugandan President Idi Amin delivering his radio broadcast that was, to forever, alter the trajectory of our lives.

Ninety days later, almost every single South Asian had been expelled from Uganda. We were no longer welcome in the only place we had ever known as home. In a matter of days, thousands of families lost livelihoods that had taken entire generations to build.

My extremely worried parents put me back on the first available flight out to England while I was still able to use my Ugandan passport to travel. Even so, I was now a stateless ex-Ugandan. I did not know where my tuition fees or living expenses would come from, as my family had lost everything.

The British government was exceedingly kind and waived the fees for many of us in this situation, allowing us to complete our studies. My now-husband, Zaheer, who also grew up in Kampala, was in the same situation and he too was a beneficiary of this generosity. Three years later while the both of us still remained stateless, with little in the way of material means, what we did have was our education and hearts full of hope.

In June of 1977, as newlyweds and with British Government issued travel documents instead of passports, my husband and I journeyed across the ocean to Edmonton where he had been offered an opportunity to pursue his postgraduate medical training. We landed in Edmonton at midnight, exhausted and alone. There were few streetlights and far fewer people than where we had just come from.

What we promised ourselves would be no more than two years in Alberta, has turned into a 43-year stay in a province we have grown to love deeply and are so grateful to call home. Every long and cold winter we remind ourselves that we are not here for the weather … but we are here for everything else!

I am incredibly proud to call myself a Canadian. Because Canada is the only place in the world where I am not required to be a person with only a single identity or a single story. I am the product of all of my chapters: an ex-Ugandan Canadian-Ismaili-Muslim of South Asian descent who came here with no country to call home.

Mine is the story of a person whose presence before you in this capacity today is made possible, even probable, by a single fact: that it happened in Canada. A place where the realization of unlikely stories occurs not by accident, but by design.

While my story may sound unique, it is also the story of Alberta...a place where individual stories are woven into our collective tapestry … a province whose narrative is defined by the generations of stories of hope.

Nellie McClung who championed women's suffrage and Dr. Thelma Chalifoux, the first Indigenous woman to be appointed to the Canadian Senate, are but two amongst so many amazing people who have contributed to making us the province and the country that we are today.

And in that illustrious group I would include the 18 extraordinary Albertans who have preceded me as Lieutenant Governors for the Province of Alberta … from the Honourable George Hedley Vicars Bulyea, our very first Lieutenant Governor who assumed this office in 1905, all the way to my immediate predecessor … every one of them has left their distinctive stamp, enhancing our Alberta story.

Our province has much to be grateful for to the Honourable Lois Mitchell, including her many years of dedicated service and her contributions in so many areas of human endeavour. The initiatives that she has so thoughtfully championed, and which I sincerely hope she will continue to remain engaged with , will benefit Albertans for decades to come. On a personal note I want thank her for her warm friendship and the wise counsel that she has so graciously extended to me during the transition period. I realise I have very big shoes to fill!

I am also deeply mindful that I am assuming this role during what is undoubtedly a very difficult and unique time. We are, individually and collectively, dealing with the devastation that COVID-19 has inflicted on us, as individuals and as communities, in many different ways. So many of us are dealing with financial uncertainty, anxious over what the future holds. Others of us have had to deal with the pain of distancing ourselves from those near and dear to us. A number of us have also suffered the loss of loved ones to COVID, and to them I express deepest sympathies and prayers for courage.

But despite these significant challenges, if this cloud should have any silver lining, it has taught us that in relying on the tight bonds of community, like a large and resilient family, we can weather the most difficult of storms. From the kindness of restaurant owners delivering food to those in need, to the sacrifice of frontline workers risking their health for the wellbeing of our communities from Fort Vermillion to Fort Macleod, we have seen the depths of care that exist within our communities and the capacity for that care to sustain us all.

This challenging time has reminded us of our collective strength and we will need that resolve going forward. These events have also reminded us,

**Continued on page 11**

# *Honourable Salma Lakhani becomes 19th Lieutenant Governor of Alberta*

**Continued from page 10**

poignantly, that the richness of this province and indeed this country lies in its diversity, from our indigenous sisters and brothers to those who have come here from distant shores seeking better lives. As Maya Angelou so beautifully put it, "Diversity makes for a rich tapestry, and we must understand that all the threads of the tapestry are equal in value."

As a Muslim Canadian, I share my faith with a billion and a half others across the globe. As many of you will know, this part of Canada has been home to Muslims since the late 1800s, when immigrants from what is now Lebanon, Syria and surrounding areas settled here.

It says a lot about our Province that very First Mosque in all of North America was built right here in Edmonton some 80 years ago, close to today's Royal Alexandra Hospital. Historical accounts about this first mosque speak to the generosity and the coming together of Albertans of all different faiths who worked with their fellow Muslim Albertans to bring this building to life, reminding us that wanting for one another what we want for ourselves serves to enrich all of us.

I am constantly reminded of, and grateful for the values of pluralism, inclusion and care that continue to guide our province and country. Every time we proudly sing our national anthem and promise Canada to "Stand on Guard for Thee," we should reflect on the fundamental principles of this great nation that are enshrined in our Charter and Constitution. It is these very values we are promising to stand on guard for, and in that context let us always remain vigilant and call attention when we see these values being undermined.

My own voluntary efforts, which have largely been at the grassroots over the past many years, have been deeply influenced by my own life journey and my lasting gratitude to those who reached out to me in my own desperate time of need.

I have been passionate about women's health, education relating to human rights and, in particular, making higher learning accessible to newcomers and others who have been marginalised by life's unpredictable challenges. Helping those in need take that first step up the ladder to better opportunities is one way of making a lasting difference in the lives of so many. It ensures that these individuals become even more productive members of the community and much better able to provide for their entire families going forward.

**Her Honour, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani, takes the oath of office on Aug. 26 at the Legislative Assembly of Alberta. The oath was administered by Chief Justice of Alberta Catherine Fraser.**

**Photo: Legislative Assembly of Alberta**

I have gained so, much not only because of the substance of the work I have been involved with, but because of the remarkable, resilient and inspiring individuals I have been privileged to meet along the way. Many have been through far more horrific experiences than the one my family had to endure, but all of them echo the sentiment about the generosity and spirit of care that guide this province and country. I am repeatedly reminded of the commitment of fellow Albertans who give so generously of their resources, their time and their intellect … be it around boardroom tables, in the community, or through simple everyday acts of care and kindness that raise our collective spirits and our sense of hope.

Coming as I do from Uganda, let me share with you an African expression that is worth remembering . It is the term "ubuntu" which very simply translated means "I am because we are." It speaks to the ties that bind us as a community, and reminds us that our futures and our successes are closely intertwined.

We have much to be proud of, but our striving for justice and equity does not end here. We must continue to work together to make this province the best it can be; to ensure that all Albertans are able to achieve their full potential and feel a sense of belonging and promise, regardless of means or ability, regardless of gender identity or sexual orientation, regardless of race or religion. Let us commit to uphold the values of a province that carries everyone forward.

As an urban dweller there is so much I have to learn about the communities that make up our province and contribute to its successes, including in particular our rural citizens. As well, during my four decades in Alberta, I have come to share the greatest respect for our women and men in uniform, from our first responders to members of the military who put their own lives at risk as they selflessly serve to protect us all.

I hope to meet with many people across the province in the months and years to come, and to hear of their aspirations, thoughts, and stories.

I also sincerely believe that there is a need for many of us to better educate ourselves about the rich history of our Indigenous communities in order to better understand our present and collective futures. The Lessons of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission with recommendations, published five years ago, remind all of us of the work that still needs to be done.

In my time in office I look forward to many opportunities to connect with the diversity of people that make us the Alberta that we are today.

As your 19th Lieutenant Governor I want to share that on this most significant and important occasion, steeped in tradition and deeply linked to the history of our province and our country, I promise my fellow Albertans that I will do my best to fulfil my responsibilities and the trust that has been placed in me.

I have spent many days reflecting on the immense significance, and incredible privilege, of being appointed as Her Majesty's representative in this great province, almost 50 years after the British government graciously allowed us to complete an education that brought us here … to this remarkable country and extraordinary province, which opened its arms and became a home to a young couple who arrived in the middle of the night, from a world away, unsure of what the future would bring.

It has been many lifetimes since I lived in Kampala with a family of 15, but what I learned then, and what I will carry with me every day, is the enduring belief that we are all part of a bigger story. We are all bound together in our successes and our setbacks, our trials and our triumphs, and the measure of any society rests in its commitment to lifting up even its most vulnerable, in recognition of our shared responsibility to one another and this place we call home.

It is my hope that as we begin this journey together, our generations, and those that follow, will always strive to realize the very best of what our province can be.

Thank You! Merci beaucoup!
God Bless Alberta
God Bless Canada
And God Save the Queen

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The MEADOWS COMMUNITY LEAGUE

# *Chaplains offer spiritual care by telephone*

**By Alicia Johnson**

Before COVID-19, a typical day would see a chaplain supporting multiple patients or residents, family members and staff. Continuing to provide support to so many different individuals during a pandemic meant the team needed to get creative, so they expanded their spiritual care services to include telephone support.

"It helps people cope in a situation that is very unusual. We are trying to adapt to a new world and a new reality that isn't going away in the short term, and we are trying to provide a service we know people will benefit from. It's reaching through the telephone. It's virtual care," says Karen Hansen, manager of spiritual care, acute (urban and rural).

Telephone support is offered at several Covenant Health facilities, including hospitals and long-term care. At hospitals, chaplains often call families because a staff member feels the family would benefit from support, while chaplains in long-term care often call families that would normally visit their loved ones regularly.

Families are encouraged to call their local site to speak with a chaplain. If the request is not urgent, they may leave a message, and the chaplain will contact them. The Grey Nuns Community Hospital, Misericordia Community Hospital and Villa Caritas have on-call chaplains who can speak with families if there is an urgent request.

Although the delivery of spiritual care has changed for families, Ralph Magnus, manager of spiritual care, seniors (urban and rural), says the commitment to provide care and support remains unchanged.

**Reverend Ralph Magnus began his work with Covenant Health as a chaplain at the Grey Nuns Community Hospital in 2006. Since then he has served in the roles of spiritual care nanager for acute sites and supported the work of Mission, Ethics and Spirituality in several temporary roles. He began his current role of spiritual care manager in seniors care in 2019, supporting chaplains at nine Covenant Health sites across Alberta.**

**Photo: Covenant Health**

"When caring for a resident, we care for the whole person, and that has to include the people that they love. That's why we reach out to the families," says Ralph. "It's one of the ways that we can continue to keep the relationship bridge between our residents and their loved ones healthy."

Chaplains don't give any medical information to families, but they often pass along messages to their loved ones and give updates on how they are coping. They also often share stories and talk about things that are meaningful to the family members.

"We want people to feel part of what is happening with their family member. We don't want them to feel isolated or cut off because COVID cuts them off. We want them to feel part of their loved one's life as much as possible," explains Ralph.

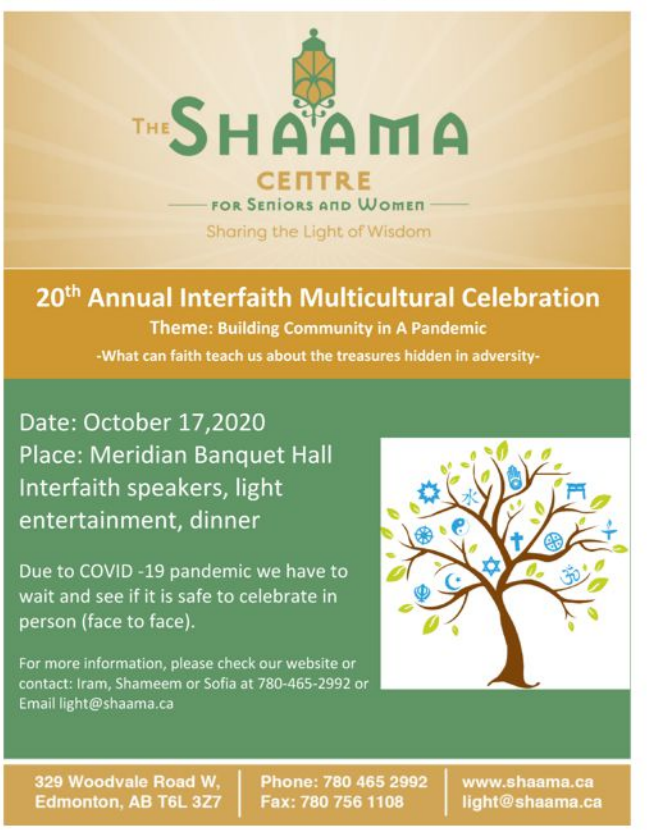
### Where to call

**Acute care:** For non-urgent requests, call the office of your local site (www.covenanthealth.ca/hospitals-care-centres) and leave a message. For urgent requests at the Grey Nuns hospital, Misericordia hospital or Villa Caritas, call the switchboard to page the on-call chaplain, who will triage the requests. (If in the hospital, dial zero.) The telephone support service is not available for rural acute sites after hours (between 16:15 and 08:00) or on weekends.

**Long-term care:** Please call the office of your local site (www.covenanthealth.ca/hospitals-care-centres) and leave a message for the chaplain to return your call.

*Alicia Johnson works as a Videographer at Covenant Health.*

This article was first published in *The Vital Beat*, a weekly newsletter published by Covenant Health.



# *Exploring your community, sports and recreation, cultural activities*

**One of the best ways to feel at home in Alberta is to explore your new community and province.**

### Exploring your community

Get to know your community by visiting local attractions and parks or taking part in cultural and recreational events.

To contact your local tourist information office

• go to **travelalberta.com**. Point to the Places to Go tab, click on one of the places listed.

• go to **auma.ca**. Point to Membership, click on Benefits of Membership and then click on Regular Members.

• look under Tourist Information or Visitor Information in the blue pages of the telephone book.

Staff at your local tourist information office can provide you with information about parks, recreational facilities and events, some of which are free. They can also provide information about attractions such as zoos, museums and galleries.

### Sports and recreation

Many Albertans take part in and enjoy watching a variety of sports, both professional and amateur. Students play sports at school, and many adults join teams and use community recreation facilities such as swimming pools and ice arenas.

For more information

• go to the Alberta Sport Connection website at **albertasport.ca.** Click on Sport an then click on Provincial Sport Organizations. Use the alphabetical listing to find the activity you are interested in.

• look under Sports Facilities in an online directory or in the business pages of the telephone book.

### Cultural activities

Alberta has many opportunities for people to enjoy cultural activities such as dance performances, concerts, theatres, art galleries and historical sites. During the summer months, you can find rodeos and fairs throughout the province, as well as many special celebrations and festivals such as the Calgary Stampede and Edmonton's Heritage Festival. These events are often advertised in newspapers and on radio and television.

For more information, contact Travel Alberta:

• Call 1-800-252-3782 toll-free.

• Go to **travelalberta.com**. Click on Things to Do.

### Community centres

People go to community centres in their neighbourhoods to participate in social, fundraising or sports events, or take recreational classes such as yoga or drawing. Heritage groups and religious organizations also offer social, learning and religious activities.

### Exploring Alberta

Because Alberta covers a large area, natural attractions and communities are often far apart. A well-maintained system of highways makes exploring the province by private vehicle fast and comfortable.

### Getting there

If you do not have a car, you may choose to rent a car or take a bus, train or plane to your destination:

• To rent a car, you need a valid driver's licence and a major credit card. For more information, look under Automobile Rental and Leasing in an online directory or in the business pages of the telephone book.

• Buses travel between large and small cities throughout Alberta. For more information, look under Buses or Bus Lines in an online directory or in the business pages of the telephone book.

• Scheduled passenger train service is limited to an interprovincial route with stops in Jasper and Edmonton. For information, call Via Rail Canada at 1-888-842-7245 toll-free or go to **viarail.ca**.

• Scheduled airline service between Calgary and Edmonton offers frequent flights. Regional airline companies also fly to other cities in the province. For information, look under Airlines in an online directory or in the business pages of the telephone book.

## Welcome to Alberta

## *Important information for immigrants and other newcomers*

### What to see

Alberta has many natural areas, including

• five national parks - for example, Banff, Canada's first national park, and Wood Buffalo Park, Canada's largest national park

• nearly 500 provincial parks and natural and recreational areas offering free access to recreational opportunities, unspoiled wilderness and abundant wildlife

• five United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) World Heritage sites, ranging from dinosaur excavation sites to a First Nations heritage site

In national and provincial parks, animals, plants, land and water are protected by law. Activities that harm these natural treasures are not allowed.

For more information

• call Travel Alberta at 1-800-252-3782 toll-free or go to **travelalberta.com**. Point to the Places to Go tab and then click on National Parks or Provincial Parks.

• go to the Alberta Tourism, Parks and Recreation website at **albertaparks.ca**

• go to Parks Canada website at **pc.gc.ca**

**In the next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic*, we will provide information about important things you may need to do or know during your first few days and weeks in Alberta.**

**Reprinted with permission from *Welcome to Alberta: Information for Newcomers*, produced by Alberta Employment and Immigration. Visit the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS) website at alis.alberta.ca/publications to view or order your copy (free to Albertans).**

***Welcome to Alberta: Information for Newcomers* is also available in eight other languages (French, Spanish, Farsi, Arabic, Mandarin, Amharic, Dinka and Punjabi). Translations can be downloaded from the website of the Alberta Association of Immigrant Serving Agencies at aaisa.ca/alberta.php.**

**What do you think of the *Mill Woods Mosaic?***
**What do you like? What do you not like?**
**Send us an e-mail: mwmosaic@telus.net**

## TIP

**If you cannot afford the equipment or fees for your child's sports or recreation activity, ask the association offering the activity about fee reduction and equipment subsidy programs.**

## Resources for Temporary Foreign Workers

**ALBERTA**

***Alberta Health Care Insurance Plan***

www.health.alberta.ca

***Alberta Immigrant Nominee Program***

www.albertacanada.com

***Alberta Temporary Foreign Worker Helpline***

Call: (780) 644-9955
(Edmonton local calling area)
or 1-877-944-9955 from anywhere in North America

***Employment Standards***

Call: (780) 427-3731 (toll-free in Alberta by dialing 310-0000 first)

***Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Office***

**North Location**
2nd Floor, 10242 - 105 Street
Edmonton, AB
T5J 3L5

**South Location**
5th Floor, Century Park Place
855 - 8th Avenue S.W.
Calgary, AB
T2P 3P1

E-mail:
tfwadvisory.office@gov.ab.ca

To contact an advisor, call the Alberta Temporay Foreign Worker Helpline.

***WCB Alberta***

Call: Toll-free in Alberta
1-866-WCB-WCB-1
(1-866-922-9221)
Outside of Alberta 1-800-661-9608

E-mail: contactcentre@wcb.ab.ca

www.wcb.ab.ca

***Occupational Health and Safety***

Call: 1-866-415-8690

http://employment.alberta.ca

**CANADA**

***Citizenship and Immigration Canada***

Call: 1-800-242-2100

www.cic.gc.ca

***Service Canada***

www.hrsdc.gc.ca/en/workplaceskills/foreign_workers/index.shtml

# Important addresses for immigrants and other newcomers

If you are new to Edmonton and don't know anybody, it can be tough to find a place to stay, a job, the right school for your children or good health care services, but there is plenty of help available.

Here are some of the main agencies specializing in helping immigrants and other newcomers in the Edmonton area:

**Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers**
11713 - 82 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 2V9
Tel. (780) 424-7709
Website: www.emcn.ab.ca

*The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers offers a wide variety of programs for newcomers and helps immigrants to find a place to live, a job and English classes.*

**Welcome Centre for Immigrants** in Mill Woods
Suite 200, Tower II, Millbourne Mall
7609 - 38 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6K 3L6
Tel. (780) 462-6924
Website: www.mwci-edmonton.net

*The Welcome Centre for Immigrants in Mill Woods offers many programs and services for immigrants, including settlement assistance, language and educational counseling, employment assistance, citizenship classes, English classes, computer classes, public speaking classes, and youth programs.*

**Changing Together** Centre for Immigrant Women
3rd Floor, 9538 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 0T7
Tel. (780) 421-0175
Website: www.changingtogether.com

*Founded in 1984, Changing Together is a nonprofit, charitable organization operated by immigrant women for immigrant women. Its mission is to help Edmonton and area immigrant women and their families overcome personal and systemic barriers that keep them from participating fully in Canadian Society.*

**Catholic Social Services**
8212 - 118 Avenue NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 0S3
Tel. (780) 424-3545
Website: www.catholicsocialservices.ab.ca

*For more than 50 years, Catholic Social Services has welcomed immigrants and refugees to Alberta. The services are free and offered in both official languages and more than 50 other languages. In the Meadows, CSS runs a drop-in group for women of all ages and backgrounds. Participants connect through diverse activities like speaking English, sharing cultural experiences, learning to use computers and connecting with useful resources. The program, called* Tea Connections, *runs every Friday from 10 a.m. to noon, in the room of The Meadows Community League on the 2nd floor of the Meadows Community Recreation Centre, 2704 - 17 Street. For more information, contact Raminder Dhindsa at raminder.dhindsa@cssalberta.ca or 780-391-3204.*

**Family Futures Resource Network**
5704 - 19 A Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 1L8
Tel. 413-4521
Website: www.familyfutures.ca

*The Family Futures Resource Network (FFRN) is a non-profit organization providing support to families and parents in the areas of early childhood education, child and youth, family and adult support and parent education. The FFRN has three separate locations in Mill Woods: Millhurst Site (5704 - 19 A Avenue), Knottwood Site (1733 Mill Woods Road) and Millbourne Community Site (3756 - 78 Street).*

**Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative**
9538 -107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 0T7
Tel. (780) 423-1973
Website: www.mchb.org

*The Multicultural Health Brokers Co-operative is a registered worker's co-operative with members from immigrant and refugee communities, providing culturally and linguistically relevant prenatal education, post-natal outreach, parenting support, family liaison and community development support to immigrant and refugee families.*

**Indo-Canadian Women's Association**
9324 - 34 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T6E 5X8
Tel. (780) 490-0477

*The Indo-Canadian Women's Association is a not-for-profit organization for enthusiastic volunteers committed to full participation of immigrant and visible minority women and men in economic, social and political life in Canada.*

**The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women (formerly Multicultural Women & Seniors Services Association)**
329 Woodvale Road West
Edmonton, Alberta
T6L 3Z7
Tel. (780) 465-2992

*The Shaama Centre for Seniors and Women (SCSW) is a non-profit, organization. The focus is to provide service and programs for immigrant women and senior men and women. Program goal is to promote and enhance the well-being and self-reliance of seniors and women especially those at risk and isolated before a crisis situation occurs. SCSW provides social support, information sessions, and skill building classes, home and hospital visits, as well as translation, and referrals to other service providers. It also offers family support and crisis intervention. For youth, there are Urdu and math classes and homework help, and there is also an Urdu library with more than 2000 books. The SCSW is open from 9 am to 4:30 pm Monday to Friday.*

**Youth Empowerment and Support Services**
9310 - Whyte Avenue (82 Ave.)
Edmonton, Alberta, T6C 0Z6
Tel. (780) 468-7070
Website: www.yess.org

*The Youth Emergency Shelter Society is a not-for-profit organization serving young people between the ages of 15-18 who are in crisis, at risk or homeless.*

**Alberta Employment Standards**
Edmonton Office - Main Floor Sterling Place
9940 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta, T5K 2N2
Tel. (780) 427-3731
Website: www.employment.alberta.ca

*Alberta Employment Standards is a provincial agency responsible for the administration and enforcement of employment standards in Alberta. AES has publications available for temporary foreign workers and their employers to help them understand their rights and responsibilities under Alberta's employment standards and workplace health and safety legislation. These publications are available in Chinese, English, French, German and Spanish.*

**NorQuest College**
10215 - 108 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 1L6
Tel. (780) 422-2020
Website: www.norquest.ab.ca

*NorQuest College is a public college offering many programs, including English as a Second Language classes and employment programs for immigrants.*

**Alberta Health and Wellness**
Edmonton Office
Telus Tower North, Main Floor
10025 Jasper Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
Tel. (780) 427-1432
Website: www.health.alberta.ca

*Alberta Health and Wellness answers any questions about health care and health care insurance coverage in Alberta.*

**Immigrant Access Fund Canada**
45, 9912 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J 4M9
Tel. (Toll Free) 1-855-423-2262
Website: www.iafcanada.org

*The Immigrant Access Fund provides micro loans to internationally trained immigrant professionals, trades people and skilled workers so they may obtain the Canadian licensing and/or training that will allow them to obtain employment in their field.*

## Other important phone numbers:

**Edmonton Police Service**

**Emergency calls only** ..... **9-1-1**
**Police - Fire - Ambulance**
*Life & death, injury accident, crime in progress*

**Non-emergency calls**
**(Dispatch)** ..... **780-423-4567**
*Report of suspicious activity, calls for assistance, advice, etc.*

**Poison Centre** ..... **1-800-332-1414**

**Hazardous Material Spills** ..... **9-1-1**

**Utility Trouble Calls Only:**

**Power Emergency** ..... **780-412-4500**
*Within Edmonton*

**Gas Emergency** ..... **780-420-5585**
*Edmonton & Area*

**Drainage Trouble** ..... **780-496-1717**

**Sewer Trouble** ..... **780-496-1717**

**Wastewater (odour hotline)** ..... **780-469-8176**

**Water Emergency Service** ..... ... **780-412-6800**

**The next issue of the *Mill Woods Mosaic* will be published on October 15, 2020. The deadline for advertising and editorial is Friday, October 9, 2020.**

# *School names should honour noteworthy persons*

## Edmonton Public Schools Trustee Bridget Stirling

Recently, our board voted unanimously to rename two Edmonton Public schools: Oliver School (in Edmonton's Oliver community) and Dan Knott School in the neighbourhood of Satoo here in Mill Woods. School renaming is an unusual decision, and one our board does not undertake lightly. I know that for communities, the names of schools serve as landmarks; in our lives, their names serve as markers in our personal histories.

The decision to rename came after significant community demand. In the case of Dan Knott School, we have heard for quite some time about concerns around the former mayor's affiliation with the Klu Klux Klan. While it is not clear in the historical record whether Dan Knott was himself a member of the organization, it has been well documented that the Klan celebrated his election, including by burning a cross on Connors Hill. The KKK had campaigned for Knott in the 1931 election, and he was perceived to be, whether he was a member, at least friendly to the organization, granting permission for cross burnings and Klan picnics. Additionally, a photo from 1931 shows a man who is alleged to be Knott in attendance at a KKK rally.

Trustee Bridget Stirling

As this troubled history has been brought to light by researchers such as Bashir Mohamed, the community has increasingly questioned why a man with such connections continues to be honoured by having a school named for him. A petition launched by EPSB junior high student Aimee Dorsey gathered nearly 8000 signatures from concerned Edmontonians asking for the name to be changed, and in response, the board decided to act.

Similarly, the decision to rename Oliver School came after demand from the Oliver Community League as a part of the Uncover Oliver project. This project, led by Indigenous members of the community in partnership with the League and local residents, is working to rename not only the school but also the neighbourhood and other local landmarks named for Frank Oliver, a former federal cabinet minister.

Oliver was responsible for administering the residential school system, created policies that harmed and dispossessed Indigenous peoples, and advocated for immigration policies that excluded Black people from coming to Canada, particularly those fleeing the US south. As a journalist, he advocated for the removal of the Papaschase Cree from their Treaty 6 reserve, much of which constitutes the area we now know as Mill Woods.

While some may see these name changes as erasing history, we must remember that schools are not history textbooks and that our children, rightly, must wonder when we tell them who their schools are named for -- EPSB's own school naming policy states that school names are meant to recognize and honour noteworthy persons. The names, and the decision to change them, will live on in the histories of our schools, opening space for those more complex conversations.

Others may ask why we do not view people through the lens of their time, and to some extent, we should. However, we should also view these names through the lens of the people of those times who disagreed with their actions -- even during their lifetimes, many people knew that racism was unacceptable, that the residential school system was harmful, and that the KKK should have no place in Alberta. We must also step back and view these figures through the eyes of the people they harmed: the Papaschase Cree who lost their land to Edmonton's expansion, Black families subjected to racism and fear with the presence of the KKK in our city, and Indigenous children separated from their families and subjected to the abuse of residential schools. When we name our schools now, we do a background check on the namesakes; I cannot imagine us naming a school after either of these men now. In the spirit of our commitment to antiracism and to reconciliation in education, we must do better today.

So, what next? The board will now undertake a similar process to the one we use to name a new school. We will seek input from the community, then submitted names will be checked against our criteria, careful background checks will be done for each suggested school name if it is the name of a person, and the board will decide from a selected list which names to give each school. I hope that once we announce the opening of this process, we hear suggestions of names of people who've helped to build our community right here in Mill Woods. I look forward to hearing your ideas for a new name for a much-loved school.

I'm honoured to serve as your Edmonton Public School Board Trustee for Ward G.

You can contact me at bridget.stirling@epsb.ca or 780-429-8086.

# What's up?

## Community events in Mill Woods

**Many events in Mill Woods and the Meadows have been cancelled, due to the current COVID-19 health crisis. Many stores and restaurants were closed, but many businesses are reopening now although they have to follow strict guidelines issued by Alberta Health Services.**

**Some restaurants are reopening, at least for takeout and delivery, and some places of worship are starting to return to regular worship services but reminding members of their congregations that there are still some restrictions in place and physical distancing should still be practised.**

**The Mill Woods Recreation Centre and Meadows Community Recreation Centre are also starting to reopen. The rec centres are offering some programs, the arenas are open, but the swimming pools are still closed, and people have to register online. The fitness centre and gym at the Meadows Community Rcreation Centre are currently open, and outdoor fitness classes are also available. To book a time slot, visit www.edmonton.ca/reccentres.**

**Edmonton Public Libraries are currently offering Library Express Checkout (in-person holds pickup and access Hits-to-Go). For more information, visit www.edmonton.ca or www.epl.ca.**

**Since Aug. 1, 2020, wearing a mask or face covering is mandatory in all indoor public places and vehicles. More at www.edmonton.ca/COVID-19.**

**The Mill Woods Seniors Activity Centre has started to reopen will fall programs underway and new safety procedures, including mandatory masks, increased sanitation, and health screening at entry. Register for courses at 780-496-2997.**

**The Meadows Community League Annual General Meeting (online) Saturday, Oct. 24, 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.**

***Do you have a community event in Mill Woods to announce? Please send us the information, and we will include it in this community calendar in the next issue of the* Mill Woods Mosaic.**
***Tel. (780) 465-7526 or e-mail to: mwmosaic@telus.net***
***The next deadline is Friday, October 9, 2020.***

**Do you have any story ideas for the *Mill Woods Mosaic*? Give us a call at 780-465-7526 or e-mail to mwmosaic@telus.net**

***Mill Woods Mosaic***

# Celebrating Ukrainian Heritage

**Leela Sharon Aheer, Alberta's Minister of Culture, Multiculturalism and Status of Women, issued the following statement on Ukrainian-Canadian Heritage Day: "Ukrainian culture has been a part of Alberta's story since before it became a province. From business and community leaders, to academics and artists, many Albertans can trace their roots back to early Ukrainian pioneers or recent immigrants.**

**"Many of us have fond memories of watching the colour and energy of traditional Ukrainian dancers, or eating a large plate of pyrohy. More than the traditions, art and cuisine, Albertans of Ukrainian heritage have helped build this province into what it is today, and continue to help lay the foundation for the future of our province.**

**"Celebrating our history and learning about our heritage helps define what makes Alberta so unique. Now, more than ever, we need to learn about each other, find common ground, and work together. Today, I encourage all Albertans to learn more about the history of their Ukrainian neighbours, and celebrate the many contributions they have made to our province."**

**Photo: Minister Aheer joined members of the Ukrainian community to celebrate Ukrainian-Canadian Herrtage Day on Sept. 7.**

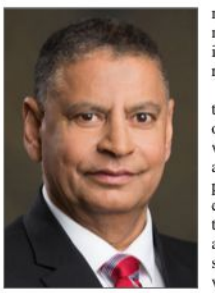
**Photo: Government of Alberta**

# *Update from Edmonton City Council*

## Edmonton City Councillor Mohinder Banga

It's hard to believe that we've reached the end of summer and are headed into fall already. I hope that everyone had an opportunity to enjoy the great outdoors and find ways to stay active. This year has brought incredible challenges for all of us, but I've been glad to see our community coming together to follow public health protocols and keep each other safe and healthy.

Over the last several months, we've all had to adapt and adjust to new realities unlike anything we've seen before. At the City, this included doing things like eliminating transit fares from late March until mid-June, closing recreation centres and reopening them at a lower capacity, deferring property tax payment deadlines, and increasing sanitization procedures for City property. As a result of these measures, the City expects to have a $23.8 million budget shortfall by the end of December.



**Coun. Mohinder Banga**

In the coming months, my Council colleagues and I will be having some tough conversations with Administration to review this shortfall, and look for ways to adjust our budget. We understand that times are tough, and that the COVID-19 pandemic has had an impact on every Edmontonian in one way or another. Council is committed to holding the line on tax increases, and working to keep our budget in line while still providing the core services Edmontonians rely on us for.

Put simply, we are in a difficult financial position and will need to strategically assess and prioritize City spending for the current budget cycle. We are still waiting to find out how much of the federal government's $19-billion financial aid plan will be designated to our city, but our hope is that with support from the federal and provincial governments we will be able to mitigate the impacts of our increased spending as a result of COVID-19.

As the COVID-19 situation continues to unfold over the coming months, we will continue to review and adjust our services and priorities as needed to keep everyone in our community safe and healthy. As always, we appreciate your support and cooperation as we move through these unprecedented times together. As always, if you have any questions or comments regarding City services, the budget or the COVID-19 response, I encourage you to reach out to me at mohinder.banga@edmonton.ca.

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2nd Floor, City Hall
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www.moebanga.ca
Twitter: @moebangaward12

# Prime Minister announces support for Black entrepreneurs and business owners

**Continued from page 3**

• The Government of Canada will launch a call for proposals for Black-led organizations to join and help deliver the National Ecosystem Fund for Black entrepreneurs. More details, including eligibility criteria and how to apply, will follow in the coming weeks.

• Canada's Regional Development Agencies will deliver the National Ecosystem Fund, and work with selected partner organizations to assist them in implementing their services.

• The Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund will be available through Black-led business organizations supported through the National Ecosystem Fund. Further details on eligibility requirements and how to apply for loans will follow from the Government of Canada. The initial commitments made by financial institutions are subject to final development of the Loan Fund.

• A total of up to $3.3 million out of the $33.3 million for the Black Entrepreneurship Loan Fund and of up to $1.5 million out of the $6.5 million for the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub will be in operating funding.

• As part of our work to better understand the barriers faced by and needs of Black entrepreneurs in Canada, Statistics Canada will work to improve disaggregated data collection on Black entrepreneurship.

• To support Canadians throughout COVID-19, the Government of Canada introduced the largest relief package in our country's history, which includes the following major programs for business owners and their employees:

* The **Canada Emergency Business Account** (CEBA) provides businesses and not-for-profits with a $40,000 interest-free, partially forgivable loan through participating Canadian financial institutions. On August 31, the government extended the application period for the program to October 31, 2020, and indicated it was working closely with financial institutions to make CEBA available to those with qualifying payroll or non-deferral expenses that have so far been unable to apply due to not operating from a business banking account.

* The **Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy** (CEWS) helps businesses by covering a percentage of payroll, retroactive to March 15, with the intention to continue support into December.

* The **Canada Emergency Commercial Rent Assistance** (CECRA) for small businesses is helping businesses that were forced to close – through support to landlords – by covering 75 per cent of their April, May, June, July, and August commercial rent. On September 8, 2020, the government extended the assistance with additional support for September for those who previously qualified through the CECRA.

Launched in 2019, **Canada's Anti-Racism Strategy** was designed to take immediate steps in combatting racism and discrimination, by demonstrating federal leadership, empowering communities, and building awareness and changing attitudes.