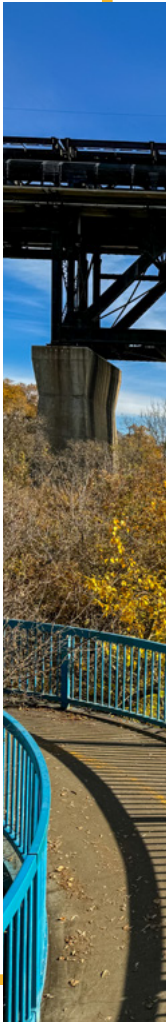




REACH
EDMONTON
Council for Safe
Communities

2025
Business Plan

REPORT BACK



LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

REACH does its work every day on traditional lands of First Nations and Métis peoples, referred to as Treaty 6 Territory. REACH, along with the City of Edmonton and all the people here, are beneficiaries of this peace and friendship treaty. We acknowledge and thank the diverse Indigenous peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory since time immemorial. Together we call upon our collective honoured traditions and spirits to work in building a great city for both present and future generations.

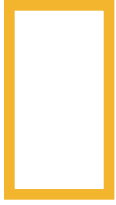


A LOOK BACK ON 2025

For 15 years, REACH Edmonton has worked with community, agencies, government and international partners to build creative approaches to the complex challenges of addressing community safety and well-being.

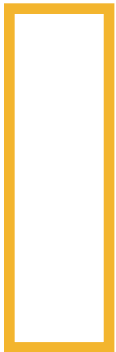
2025 was a milestone year for REACH, as we worked on a wide variety of projects tackling complex challenges in our communities and neighbourhoods. With this history of being deeply embedded in the community, REACH has accumulated valuable knowledge about tackling emerging issues. We've learned about how to build cooperative and collaborative processes through years of experience in community. Because of our dedication to data collection and evaluation, this Edmonton-specific knowledge about what works, what doesn't and why continues to grow every day.

This past year included many successes, but one of the biggest was the deepening of relationships with key partners. We continue to work towards closer working relationships with the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Police Service. In 2025, we worked to learn about the best of what each partner does, so that we can build on each other's work. One example of this was REACH's level of engagement with the development of the City's [Blueprint for Violence Prevention](#) plan. We look forward to continuing to work with the Edmonton Police Service and others to make Edmonton a safer city.



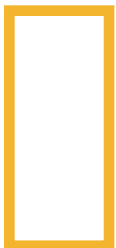
In addition to collaborating in the community, REACH works to create spaces for conversations about safety and belonging in the wider context of this time and place in Edmonton's history. In this vein, REACH created a six-episode podcast, [Finding the Path: Walking in Allyship](#), featuring Marlene Orr, Executive Director of Native Counselling Services of Alberta.

We continue our work with the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities around Urban Safety Monitoring, which has augmented our work on evaluation. We know it's essential that we evaluate not just our programs, but how all the work we do contributes to making Edmonton a safer community. Through this work we are exploring how to define well-being beyond crime rate statistics to include things like health determinants and community inclusion.



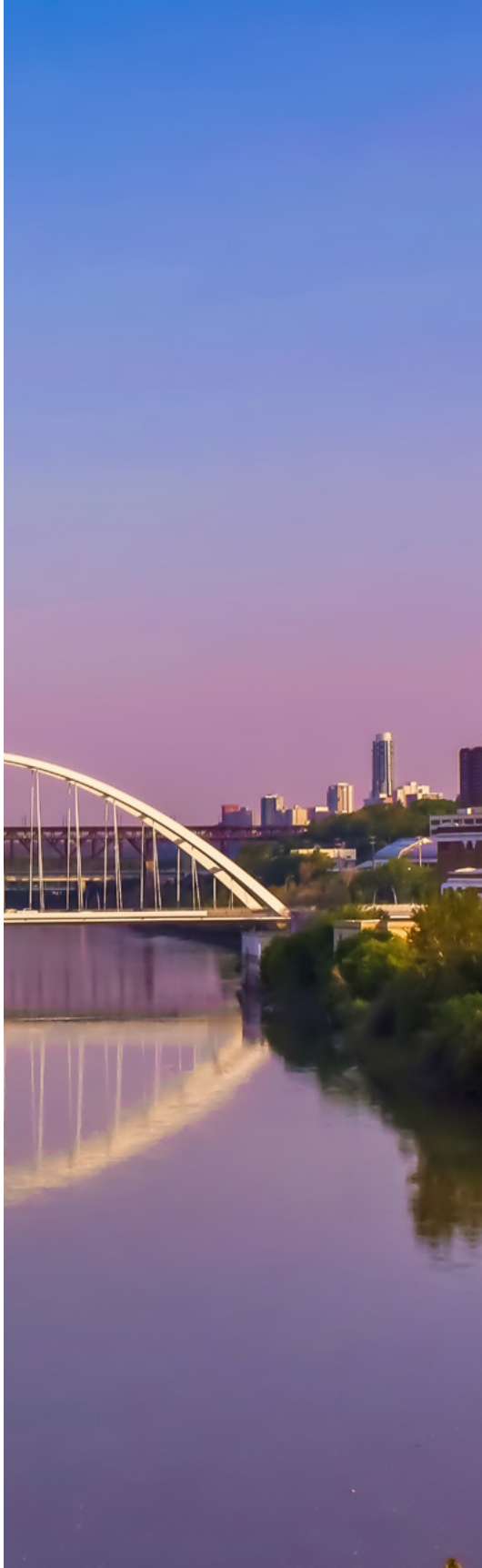
Ensuring that we capture this big-picture viewpoint is one of the things that makes REACH unique among non-profits not just in Canada, but around the world. This was highlighted in 2025 when a delegation from Wyoming visited Edmonton through Peace in Our Cities. Seeds that were planted through ties with [Peace in Our Cities](#) continue to flourish, as 2025 saw a local private donation assist with the launch of an Edmonton version of Empire [Fighting Chance](#), pioneered in Bristol, UK. This work is building new partnerships and trying new approaches to giving at-risk youth the support they need, in an environment that makes them comfortable.

While 2025 saw many accomplishments and successes, it was not without its challenges. The non-profit ecosystem continues to face a difficult funding environment, and REACH is not immune to this. Due to these fiscal realities, some initiatives discontinued, while others were refocused to align with what is fiscally feasible.



Whether it's led or supported by us, REACH continues to bring more communities, agencies and Edmontonians together to create new ways of working collaboratively to build a city where everyone can thrive. For example, REACH supported the work that resulted in the Beyond the Status Quo Summit in April 2025 and the creation of the [Human Services Council](#) which will be led by ECVO.

As we work to find new avenues to address community safety and well-being, our role is to empower community and act as a laboratory for new approaches, without concern for protecting our territory; we're in it to give it away.



VISION

A city we are proud of, in a region which is harmonious, where all people, including the first peoples on whose lands we reside, are included and are safe.

MISSION

To strengthen community safety in our city and region through innovative ideas, building relationships and inspiring action.

PRINCIPLES

- **Truth and reconciliation**
- **Diversity, equity, inclusion and belonging**
- **Community safety and well-being**
- **Proactive, preventative approaches**
- **Sharing and using global practices**
- **Enabling community-based solutions**
- **Nimble and responsive to emergent needs**

STRATEGIC PILLARS

- **Strengthening trust in community**
- **Strengthening partnerships**
- **Building communities where all belong**
- **Building safe and caring communities together**
- **Strengthening coalitions for impact**

KEY RESULTS



35 initiatives including **2** new prototypes
(**13** REACH led or co-led, **22** supported)



25 outreach events
(**11** hosted or co-hosted, **14** supported)



41 volunteers donated **2,100** hours (~**\$42,000** in-kind)



REACH training - **169** people from **69** organizations



8 partners engaged and trained to offer new youth boxing therapy program (Empire Fighting Chance)



25 neighbourhoods supported through Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative



Nearly **2,000** youth accessed summer programming through Out of School Time Collaborative (Joint Use Access Program)



60+ youth supported to begin healthier life journeys through WrapED



5 community safety environmental scans through YEG Ambassadors



OPV's Intervention program, Evolve, maintains an active caseload of **70-80** individuals

**24/7 CRISIS
DIVERSION**

59, 670
individual contacts

Teams responded to **31,695** unique calls for service (**up by 58% from 2023**)

ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Building on the direction of past business plans, and with guidance from the strategic pillars set by its board of directors, REACH introduced new high-level priorities in 2025. Progress made towards these commitments is outlined below.

COMMITMENT: CHAMPIONING PRIMARY PREVENTION

How we will do this:	Progress:
<p>Seek and secure new funding sources for primary prevention programming.</p>	<p>While funding remained a challenge, REACH secured funding for Empire Fighting Chance and Out of School Time.</p>
<p>Convene partners to explore, develop and implement community-based, youth-oriented programming.</p>	<p>With support from Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative, community members began organizing to develop their own approach to youth employment programming and are beginning to self-design a business model to re-open the historic Lee's Convenience Store.</p>
<p>Collaborate with and support other champions seeking preventative approaches to community safety and well-being.</p>	<p>Convened and trained 8 community partners to begin offering a new youth boxing therapy program (Empire Fighting Chance).</p> <p>Convened health care, municipal and other key local stakeholders to create a hospital-based violence intervention program. The aim is to provide trauma-informed care, bedside counselling, and wrap-around services to patients injured by violence, aiming to reduce re-injury and retaliation while connecting them to long-term support and community resources.</p> <p>Also held early conversations with stakeholders around support for pediatric trauma work involving rapidly assessing, stabilizing and treating injured children while coordinating multidisciplinary care and supporting families through high-stress, time-critical emergencies.</p>

COMMITMENT: COMMUNITY SAFETY SYSTEM COORDINATION

How we will do this:	Progress:
<p>Lead systems change through networking events and initiatives.</p>	<p>Hosted or co-hosted 8 networking and collaboration events including the first human-trafficking focused Resource Connect resource fair, and Teatime Social designed for small grassroots organizations.</p> <p>Continued to convene the Alberta Human Trafficking Network.</p>
<p>Create inclusive and brave spaces for diverse communities to engage in complex and difficult conversations.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative continued to host spaces like the Chinatown Safety Council, support Youth Empowerment Support Services in regular connection and engagement with residents to their building; and sponsor Coffee with a Cop in the Alberta Ave area.</p> <p>Soloss' development of its Grief Garage offering reached communities to support groups in exploring community care models to address grief and loss.</p> <p>REACH Immigrant and Refugee Initiative continued to convene diverse ethnographic communities.</p> <p>Supporting Our Parents involves providing compassionate guidance, practical resources and coordinated care to help parents navigate challenges, strengthen family well-being and access the support they need.</p> <p>Supported 6 in-person sessions about the historical context of Indigenous issues in Canada and the local region through the Rotary Indigenous Committee.</p>
<p>Engage community in issue identification and priority-setting exercises.</p>	<p>Contributed to the development of the City of Edmonton's Blueprint for Violence Prevention.</p> <p>Along with other local community leaders, supported Beyond the Status Quo Summit that brought the not-for-profit sector together, and helped establish the new Human Services Council which is housed under ECVO.</p> <p>Continued to bring not-for-profit agencies together for issue-identification and problem-solving through the YEG Reconnect Virtual Network Gatherings (x3).</p>

<p>Create the conditions for community change through mobilizing resources and convening for action.</p>	<p>Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative (NOI) built new connections in the Jasper Place area to support Community Activators in the Canora and Glenwood areas begin come together around safety topics through hosting Safety Socials as a first step in more embedded community organizing.</p> <p>After experiencing previous setbacks, the South East Community League Association (SECLA) engaged REACH NOI to gain event planning and organizing support for the development of its first annual Resource Fair that was successfully implemented in the community by the group.</p>
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COMMITMENT: TRAINING AND DEVELOPING COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELL-BEING LEADERS

How we will do this:	Progress:
<p>Building capacity through skill and talent development of community safety and well-being leaders.</p>	<p>Offered several opportunities in partnership with Wellness Works Canada to address well-being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Launched a year-long Certified Workplace Health and Performance Practitioner Scholarship Program that equipped 19 non-profit leaders with practical tools to foster workplace well-being, enhance organizational performance, and build strong, resilient teams. ▪ 2 Mental Health First Aid workshops, where 28 people received certification. ▪ 6 community workshops on a variety of mental health and well-being topics, with 68 people attending. <p>Launched the REACH Leadership Development Program, facilitated by Dr. Deborah Hurst and Dr. Stephen Murgatroyd. Enrollment was full at 20 people, 16 people completed. This intensive, year-long program aims to support non-profit leaders in their professional development and learning.</p> <p>Held initial discussions and focus group (12 participants) for a future Women In Leadership offering.</p>

<p>Identify gaps in social service sector training and work to upskill where gaps exist.</p>	<p>Conducted a partner survey to identify training priorities.</p> <p>Continued to bring not-for-profit agencies in the CSWB space together for issue-identification and problem-solving through the YEG Reconnect Virtual Network Gatherings (x3), to inform training offerings.</p> <p>Conducted Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking training through Safer Way Out.</p> <p>The Out of School Time Conference hosted 211 staff and summer student attendees, providing 17 training sessions targeted to local needs, as well as networking opportunities.</p> <p>Supported the Allies for Youth conference as a member of the steering committee. This conference brought together youth serving professionals from justice, education, housing and community organizations to strengthen relationships and foster practical partnerships focused on early intervention and prevention for vulnerable youth.</p>
<p>Promote synergistic training opportunities that advance overall well-being for Edmontonians.</p>	<p>More than 215 people across sectors in Edmonton and surrounding areas participated in the KAIROS Blanket Exercise, coordinated by REACH. 97.44% of respondents of the post session survey rated 4 or 5 (agree/strongly agree) on the question, “I feel more motivated to engage in actions that support Indigenous rights and reconciliation.”</p> <p>In partnership with Native Counselling Services of Alberta and other organizations, began the process to re-introduce Trauma Informed Edmonton training (launch in 2026).</p> <p>In partnership with Native Counselling Services of Alberta, produced a new allyship-focused podcast (launch in 2026).</p> <p>Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative Community Safety and Wellbeing presentations (see more under Building Safe and Inclusive Neighbourhoods)</p>

Promote synergistic training opportunities that advance overall well-being for Edmontonians. (cont'd)	Soloss Grief Garage prototype (see more under Building Safe and Inclusive Neighbourhoods)
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COMMITMENT: STRONG OPERATIONS AND SUPPORTIVE STRUCTURES

How we will do this:	Progress:
Enhance stakeholder relationships through external communications.	<p>Refreshed the REACH visual identity to better reflect its work in the community.</p> <p>Increased online visibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reached 2,500 followers on Instagram and 4,500 followers on Facebook. <p>Used tools such as the REACH newsletter (500 subscribers, 47% increase) and events to share the REACH story.</p> <p>Increased marketing capacity for 31 non-profits with pitch deck videos through a partnership with Road 55 (\$69,750 value).</p>
Enhance transparency and communications of financial decisions and operations.	<p>Financial results are communicated to the Board quarterly and to Leadership monthly. Monthly budget meetings with project staff, Communications and People and Culture have been ongoing. Every financial decision made at the leadership table is communicated to all staff.</p>
Strive for financial sustainability through improvements to evaluating expense categories.	<p>There were many changes to operations last year which impacted each expense category to finish the year with a small surplus instead of in a deficit position like 2023 and 2024. While this was not enough to add to reserve funds, the year finished at 99% of the planned budget.</p>

<p>Develop REACH's human, organizational and information capital.</p>	<p>Enhanced Group Benefit Program.</p> <p>Ongoing policy work to strengthen culture and operations.</p> <p>New payroll provider to streamline processes.</p> <p>Streamlined IT processes.</p> <p>HR Strategy Plan to include employee survey feedback.</p> <p>Flexible work culture.</p>
<p>Create a work culture that is best in class.</p>	<p>Once again received Wellness Works Canada's Mentor certification, recognizing REACH as an employer of choice.</p>

COMMITMENT: COLLABORATIVE, COMMUNITY-BASED RESEARCH AND EMBEDDED DATA AND EVALUATION

How we will do this:	Progress:
<p>Measure, evaluate and report on progress of initiatives and supportive community safety structures in Edmonton.</p>	<p>Contributed to the development of the Blueprint for Violence Prevention.</p> <p>Continued work with the Canadian Centre for Safer Communities around Urban Safety Monitoring, with Edmonton as a pilot site.</p>
<p>Continue to refine evaluation frameworks for community initiatives.</p>	<p>All core programs have robust evaluation. In 2025, additional evaluation was initiated for Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative and YEG Ambassadors.</p> <p>24/7 Crisis Diversion presented early findings from a multi-year social return investment analysis showing approximately \$5 return for every dollar invested in the program.</p> <p>WrapED has been evaluated since it was established in 2013, with continual refinement of the evaluation framework.</p>

<p>Participate in and embed learnings from the Community and Urban Safety Monitoring Project.</p>	<p>Metrics from the Canadian Urban Safety Monitoring pilot were embedded in the 2025 Business Plan.</p>
<p>Strengthen academic ties through student engagement projects, placements and evaluations.</p>	<p>Student placements supported work in community engagement and human trafficking (Resource Connect resource fair).</p> <p>24/7 Crisis Diversion engaged MacEwan University political science students to support with surveying of program users to support SROI analysis.</p>
<p>Seek funding opportunities and partnerships with researchers to explore new ideas, re-examine existing theories and develop promising practices.</p>	<p>REACH provided a Letter of Engagement for stage one of the Transforming Methodologies to Address Systemic Inequality SSHRC Partnership Grant application, led by Dr. Michelle Maroto at the University of Alberta. The project did not receive funding, unfortunately.</p> <p>REACH Community Initiatives Director, Kelly Husack co-authored a research paper in partnership with the Principal Investigator from the Johnson Shoyama School of Public Policy: How Do Municipal Policy - and Decision-Makers Evaluate the Impact of Their Policies? Insights from the City of Regina in Saskatchewan, Canada.</p> <p>REACH provided a letter of support for a grant application led by Dr. Elizabeth Halpenny to support the Destination Chinatowns: Mobilizing Knowledge for Economic and Neighbourhood Vitality and Resilience conference planned for September 2026.</p>
<p>Explore opportunities to prototype and pilot initiatives to test new ideas and establish measures of success.</p>	<p>Convened and trained 8 community partners to begin offering a new youth boxing therapy program (Empire Fighting Chance – see more under Promoting Child, Youth and Family Well-Being).</p> <p>Soloss Grief Garage scale and spread prototyping conducted in 2025 has resulted in the end of offering Soloss under REACH, and is now available through InWithForward.</p> <p>Convened health care, municipal and other key local stakeholders to create a hospital-based violence intervention program (in progress).</p>

<p>Explore opportunities to mobilize knowledge throughout the community to scale up and shift out successful programs.</p>	<p>Convened and trained 8 community partners to begin offering a new youth boxing therapy program (Empire Fighting Chance – see more under Promoting Child, Youth and Family Well-Being).</p> <p>Soloss Grief Garage scale and spread prototyping conducted in 2025 has resulted in the end of offering Soloss under REACH, and is now available through InWithForward.</p>
<p>Work to demonstrate REACH's overall return on investment.</p>	<p>Continued to evolve evaluation through the 2025 Business Plan Report Back (this document), and 2024 Outcome Report to the City of Edmonton.</p>



April 2025: Report Back Event for the City of Edmonton where early results for the SROI for 24/7 Crisis Diversion were revealed

CAPACITY BUILDING

- Advocacy
- Communications
- Engagement
- Finance and audit
- People and culture

INITIATIVE REPORTING

REACH continued to lead or support approximately 30 programs, partnerships and initiatives that contributed to safer communities across eight focus areas:

14 Combatting Human Trafficking and Exploitation

18 Diverting Crisis

22 Prioritizing Anti-Racism, Indigenization and Lived Experience

24 Mitigating Addiction and Mental Health Problems

26 Building Safe and Inclusive Neighbourhoods

34 Preventing Violence

37 Promoting Family, Child and Youth Success

44 Systems Change



COMBATTING HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND EXPLOITATION

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

There is heightened awareness and increased alignment to combat human trafficking in Alberta.

Initiative Level

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of human trafficking trainings held	<p>2 (1 Alberta Human Trafficking Network, 1 Safer Way Out)</p>
Number of organizations engaged with	<p>64 member organizations in the Alberta Human Trafficking Network</p> <p>14 organizations related to human trafficking participated at Resource Connect as exhibitors, 32 total organizations participated</p>
Number of organizations that REACH has worked with directly or supported by bringing to a collaborative table	<p>Partnered with 5 organizations to host a World Trafficking Day awareness event.</p> <p>Partnered with one organization and one survivor to host Resource Connect event focused on human trafficking.</p> <p>Partnered with 3 organizations on Safer Way Out.</p>

Number of partner organizations who leveraged another organization's strengths as a result of a REACH facilitated connection	Over 90% of participants at the Resource Connect event focused on human trafficking said the event strengthened collaboration among organizations addressing human trafficking.
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High-Level Snapshot

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Incident rate of human trafficking percentage change	28.5% decrease ¹ in incidents reported in Alberta in 2023 compared to 2022 (Statistics Canada)
Incident rate of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls	Homicide rate of 4.74 per 100,000 across Canada in 2023 (Statistics Canada)

1. 48 total incidents in 2023 / 65 total incidents in 2022

THE ALBERTA CENTRE TO END TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS (THE AC)

The [Alberta Centre to End Trafficking in Persons](#) (the Alberta Centre) was established by the community in partnership with the Government of Alberta after extensive consultation with stakeholders across sectors to address the growing issue of human trafficking in the province.

The Alberta Centre will be leading a comprehensive and coordinated effort to disrupt trafficking networks, prevent exploitation, coordinate support for survivors and foster their recovery. Learn more about the origins of the Alberta Centre in [The Reading Stone Report](#).

In 2025, REACH transitioned financial management of the AC from REACH to the AC. As a new entity, the AC required time to hire finance staff and to put financial management processes in place. This transition took place in March/April 2025, with follow up support and guidance provided through the rest of 2025.

Going forward, one REACH staff person dedicates half of their time to working with the AC.

AC projects supported by REACH in 2025 include:

- Engagement sessions in Red Deer, Grande Prairie and Lethbridge.
- Establishment and implementation of the Lived Experience Advisory Network (LEAN).
- Evaluation activities, including establishment of an evaluation framework for the Countering Trafficking in Persons (CTIP) grant process in partnership with the Government of Alberta, the Safety Network Coordinator role, and the Community Response Model; and the development of an evaluation framework for the organization.

ALBERTA HUMAN TRAFFICKING NETWORK

There is a lot of interest by diverse organizations/agencies in participating in the Network as a forum to learn about resources, connect with other agencies and learn about the issue of human trafficking. To do this, the Network meets both in person and virtually to provide opportunities to build connections. Four meetings were held in 2025. Two were held virtually, and two were held in person in Red Deer. In a survey conducted in October 2025, 98% of respondents shared that they strongly agreed (81%) or agreed (17%) that being a member of this Network is valuable to their organization.

In 2025, membership of the Network continued to expand to 64 organizations (or unique regional offices) and 105 contacts. New members from all parts of the province joined to make new connections and gain more knowledge about human trafficking. Although the expansion of the Network is positive, it can be challenging to manage a membership list of this size as staff at organizations change throughout the year. A new process of confirming delegates for the year and identification of two delegates per organization has been implemented to assist with this challenge.

To provide Network members with access to knowledge development opportunities related to human trafficking, the coordinator regularly shares information about training and conferences that may be of interest. Additionally, the Network hosted a virtual training session on Intimate Partner Violence and Human Trafficking, facilitated by Dr. Jacqui Linder which was attended by 104 individuals. Of these, 95% of participants that completed the post-training survey shared that they strongly agreed (87%) or agreed (8%) that they will implement what they learned at the training in their work.

SAFER WAY OUT

Safer Way Out is a project that aims to develop a coordinated community response that is driven by the needs of victims of human trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation. The project focuses on the geographical areas of Red Deer, Edmonton and Northern Alberta.

In 2025, Safer Way Out was involved in collaboratively planning and hosting Edmonton's first World Trafficking Day event on July 30 in partnership with local organizations involved in human trafficking. Over 200 community members and local businesses attended the event to learn about human trafficking.

The Project Advisory Circle continued to meet and discuss emergent topics related to human trafficking. This group of women provide important insight from a survivor lens that informs project direction and work happening in the community. For example, they provided advice and guidance to Safety Network Coordinators on programming at Bakhita House. This was a difficult year for the group, with the sudden passing of one of the members. However, the group gathered to support each other and remember the impact and contributions of their colleague and friend.

The first Resource Connect event focused on human trafficking was held in October 2025. REACH planned the event in collaboration with CEASE and human trafficking survivor and advocate Angela Morris. The event brought together more than 150 participants and 14 exhibitors. Evaluation of the event showed a high level of satisfaction with the event, including an increase in awareness about human trafficking, referral pathways and stronger community connections. Over 90% of participants said that the event strengthened collaboration among organizations addressing human trafficking.



DIVERTING CRISIS

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

High-needs populations have pathways to safer circumstances.

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of 24/7 Crisis Diversion dispatches accepted	31,695
Number of 24/7 Crisis Diversion contacts	59,670
Number of referrals made (outgoing)	1,983
Number of referrals received (incoming)	37,524

24/7 CRISIS DIVERSION

Highlights:

- Calls answered by 211+3 phoneline – **33,080**
- Unique Calls for service – **37,524**
- Dispatches created – **31,695**
- Persons supported through general support/proactive engagements – **36,868**
- Total individual contacts – **59,670**

The [24/7 Crisis Diversion](#) program helps people experiencing non-emergency crisis get to a safe place, freeing up police, fire rescue and emergency medical services to respond to more critical events. The 24/7 Crisis Diversion program contributes to the decriminalization of poverty, mental health and addiction by supporting people to connect with appropriate supports for individuals experiencing vulnerability.

While this year saw several positive milestones, it also carried a noticeable sense of intensity across the program. The work felt heavier, with rising complexity in community needs and more frequent situations involving loss of life. Staff described the year as a “grind” consistently working hard under challenging circumstances while doing their best to support people with dignity and compassion.

A major challenge throughout 2025 was the growing complexity of calls, particularly those involving death or individuals whose needs exceeded what community-based services could provide. Accessing appropriate spaces and services remained difficult, which often made warm handoffs harder to achieve; sometimes due to system gaps, and sometimes linked to turnover within social service agencies, resulting in diminished relationships to ease the warm handoff process.

Mobile teams also had to navigate a large and continually evolving city, with growing needs emerging further outside the downtown core. As outreach expanded into neighbourhoods more distant from the downtown core, travel times increased.

On the call centre side, recruitment and ongoing technology changes were persistent hurdles throughout the year. Even with these challenges, the team saw some gradual reductions in wait times as the year progressed. A notable highlight was the collaborative effort to integrate additional 211 community resource specialists into the 911 contact centre, strengthening coordination and improving the overall flow of information between the two systems.

Despite these pressures, the program saw several meaningful wins. Strengthened operational capacity and deepened trust from partners and community resulted in the vans being on the road for more hours, with more dispatches made by the program.

In 2025, accepted dispatches increased 6% over the previous year to 31,695 events. Of those dispatched events, 22,802 individual contacts were made (up 17%). Additionally, the program connected with 36,868 individuals through proactive engagement. Although this is lower than in 2024, the shift is directly tied to the increase in dispatched events, which require longer on-scene support and reduce the time available for proactive outreach.

Throughout the year, 46% of all calls answered by 211 came through the 211+3 Crisis Diversion line, totaling 33,080 calls. This represents a 15% increase (4,965 additional calls) compared to 2024, reflecting continued growth in demand for Crisis Diversion support.

In 2025, REACH also transitioned management of its data system to a new company, offering greater reliability and data support for the program. Structural improvements to the stability of the data system and design of a back-up system were prioritized in 2025, with further system improvements planned for 2026.

Several accomplishments stood out in 2025, especially the number of people it reached throughout the year. The teams showed incredible dedication in meeting community members where they were, often under very difficult circumstances. This year's winter planning also stood, with an additional winter team mobilized quickly and proactively for a November 1, 2025 start, ensuring better readiness for extreme weather and supporting smoother coordination across partners for the 2025-26 winter season.



The program profile was elevated through a Report Back event at City Hall in April 2025 where the initiative partners presented on the work of the 24/7 Crisis Diversion teams, while sharing year one (2023) results of the Social Return on Investment (SROI) analysis conducted on the program. This SROI analyzed the financial value of the program in 2024 with improved engagement techniques showing approximately \$5 return for every one dollar invested in the program. The 2025 analysis will conclude the final year of the SROI analysis, with a final report expected in 2026.



Through 24/7 Crisis Diversion, REACH plays a role in bringing community, emergency service, municipal and business partners together to help people experiencing non-emergency crisis get to a safer place, freeing up police and emergency medical services to respond to more critical events. As the program entered its 10th year of operations in the fall of 2025, 24/7 Crisis Diversion continued to be a leader in alternative crisis response practice in Canada, with the Halifax Regional Municipality successfully implementing their Crisis Assistance and Response (CARE) Team in October following site visits to Edmonton and consulting support provided by REACH staff on Edmonton's integrated crisis response model of care.





PRIORITIZING ANTI-RACISM, INDIGENIZATION AND NEWCOMER EXPERIENCE

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Strong community integration and equitable approaches enhance community capacity and feelings of safety across Edmonton.

Initiative Level

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of inter-community dialogue sessions held that shift perspectives	17
Number of inter-community dialogue sessions that increase opportunities for cross-cultural exchange	3

High-Level Snapshot

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Immigration, emigration, newcomer arrival and retention rates	86.5% of 2022 Alberta admission cohort still in province after 1 year (Statistics Canada, 2023)
Proportion of people who have reported experiencing racism in the last 5 years	39% (City of Edmonton Open Data, 2024)
Number of organizations that REACH has worked with directly or supported by bringing to a collaborative table	24 agencies identified providing settlement support services in Edmonton (211 Alberta), indicates mature ecosystem with high degree of specialization and decentralization

COALITIONS CREATING EQUITY

This project has ended, however, the website will remain functional and provide ongoing access to resources.

REACH IMMIGRANT AND REFUGEE INITIATIVE (RIRI)

For several years, the work of RIRI was sustained by REACH operating dollars after funding was lost. In 2025, the work that began under this initiative continued, as REACH connected with newcomer communities through community engagement work.

Specifically, this work has been integrated with REACH's [Neighbourhood Organizing Initiative](#), where it is funded under Pathways to Belonging: Newcomer-led Solutions for Community Participation and Neighbourhood Safety.

ROTARY DISTRICT INDIGENOUS COMMITTEE

This committee aims to provide educational opportunities to local Rotarians, who do philanthropic work internationally and locally. To this end, the committee aims to help Rotarians build relationships with Indigenous communities.

In 2025, this committee hosted six in-person sessions about the historical context of Indigenous issues in Canada and the local region. This was named the Gilman Cardinal Speaker Series, to honour the late Elder, who worked closely with REACH. Going forward, Elder Bert Auger, of Whitefish Lake First Nation, will carry on his work in helping REACH build sincere relationships with Indigenous communities. As Rotarians are often influential in their communities and leaders in business, this work aims to educate on the impacts of colonization and the justice system on Indigenous people.



MITIGATING ADDICTION AND MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

There is reduced stigma associated with addiction and mental health through better awareness, education and collaboration.

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of Addictions Don't Discriminate (ADD) exhibits held	1
Number of people who attended ADD exhibits	48 people attended through 3 training sessions throughout the exhibit
Number of overdoses responded to by 24/7 Crisis Diversion	207
Number of mental health first aid trainings held	2 Mental Health First Aid workshops, where 28 people received certification
Percentage of people who had an increase of awareness about stigma and mental health after attending an exhibit or training	80.4% of REACH Training participants strongly agreed "it is likely that they will implement what they learned from the workshop they attended."

ADDICTIONS DON'T DISCRIMINATE

[Addictions Don't Discriminate](#) is an in-person interactive exhibit in Edmonton, Alberta, that takes participants on the journeys of real people whose lives have been impacted by addiction.

The Addictions Don't Discriminate Exhibit offers space to explore overdose trends and community efforts that build empathy, counter bystander reluctance noted in local discussions, and encourage open talks on substance use drivers like stress and trauma. This supports REACH's goal of incremental stigma reduction using accessible, data-informed learning.

There was one exhibit hosted in 2025 during National Addictions Awareness Week in November. Alongside the exhibit, REACH hosted two community learning sessions as well as naloxone training.

COMMUNITY LIAISON COMMITTEE, PARTNERS IN DRUG POISONING PREVENTION

REACH strengthens the work of this committee by leveraging its established role in the 24/7 Crisis Diversion program alongside the Partners in Drug Poisoning Prevention Committee with other community partners. These connections help link immediate crisis responses to longer-term prevention and recovery through coordinated supports. As one collaborator in Edmonton's continuum of care, REACH supports ongoing community efforts to build resilience against persistent overdose challenges.

SUBSTANCE USE AND ADDICTIONS PROGRAM

Communities for Drug Poisoning Prevention is a project that aims to address the issue of drug poisonings in Edmonton. Through community engagement and the support of community driven ideas, we hope to make a positive impact on the lives of those who are at risk of drug poisonings and the communities they are a part of.



BUILDING SAFE AND INCLUSIVE NEIGHBOURHOODS

**LONG-TERM
OUTCOME**

Community safety and well-being is advanced through community leaders and improved community vibrancy.

Initiative Level

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of community leaders engaged	47
Number of safety assessments/reports produced	5 (YEG Ambassadors)
Number of pilots or prototype initiatives to advance vibrancy	2 (YEG Ambassadors) 5 (NOI)

High-Level Snapshot

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
All reported violations	Estimated crime severity index of 101.1 in Edmonton, down 5% from 2023 (Statistics Canada, 2024)
Perceptions of safety, neighbourhood crime	65% Edmontonians feel safe walking after dark (22% very safe, 43% somewhat safe) (Edmonton Police Service, 2024 Annual Report)
Proportion of people with high self-reported trust in neighbours	59% of Edmontonians report some trust in neighbours; 35% feel community is “close-knit” (Community Foundations of Canada, 2023 National Vital Signs Report)

SUPPORTING HEALTHY AND SAFE COMMUNITIES IN AFFORDABLE HOUSING BUILDINGS

The Supporting Healthy and Safe Communities in Affordable Housing Buildings project at the Civida O-day'min Village was a two-year pilot project funded by the City of Edmonton's Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) Grant. The program focused on creating a greater sense of community and belonging for residents at the Civida O-day'min Village building. Work on this project ended with the conclusion of the grant at the end of February 2025 and the final grant report accepted by the City.

Evaluation included insights from residents regarding perceptions of safety within the community, perceived inclusivity and social cohesion, access to services and opportunities and overall well-being. A key finding was that accessible events created under the grant supported community-building and connection at the site for groups that experienced cultural isolation, as well as combatted social isolation among residents.

Since then, the City of Edmonton has reached out to engage REACH and Civida as they pursue their own prototyping going forward based on the work that this grant developed, as well as learnings from the Soloss prototypes conducted by REACH and InWithForward.

DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION COALITION (DRC)

The DRC is a group of downtown business and community leaders, both for-profit and not-for-profit, united by their dedication to downtown Edmonton's success.

The group is led by a steering committee who work and live downtown and are united. Their goal is to use their collective experience, expertise and voice to help build a vibrant and thriving downtown. REACH is a partner in this work.

NEIGHBOURHOOD ORGANIZING INITIATIVE **(NOI)**

Highlights:

- **25** neighbourhoods supported
- **2** active safety councils
- **277** projects/events/meetings supported
- **\$35,590** distributed for grassroots projects

The NOI aims to build capacity within communities to develop community-driven responses to safety and well-being issues. The program employs a community member-centred design approach to working with communities to address issues related to community safety and well-being.

Over the past number of years, the city has experienced a noticeable rise in tension and uncertainty, particularly around issues of safety, and this was true for 2025 as well. Residents have been more vocal in their concerns and are increasingly relying on NOI for guidance, intervention and reassurance.

Amid this heightened climate, NOI remained a consistent and constructive force for neighbourhood organizing. The NOI team stepped up to address complex social problems with practical solutions, calm leadership and a strong and increasing neighbourhood presence in new communities. The challenges of the year underscored NOI's value in the community as a trusted partner helping residents navigate uncertainty and as a steady problem-solver advancing community safety and well-being across the city. Challenges persist in aligning existing resources with rising demand. Safety issues have become more acute, particularly incidents involving gun violence, gang-related activity and conflicts between community members.

An accomplishment from 2025 includes more connected and strengthened partnerships with groups including Standing Together, Mary Burlie Black Angel Society, Lee's Convenience Store, Age Friendly Alliance, South East Community League Association (SECLA) and other community partners.

In Chinatown, NOI continued to convene the Chinatown Safety Council. Highlights included supporting the hosting of the annual Peace and Friendship Walk, developing a community engagement campaign with key messages, and hosting a media mixer with Mayoral and Ward O-day'min candidates in lead up to the 2025 municipal election. Support for the RE:VITA group was also made available to support monthly clean-up events in the Chinatown area.

NOI supported Mâmwî Nîpawîwin Standing Together's Orange Shirt Day Walk on September 30 by covering costs for the orange shirts, food, travel for elders and general supplies.

NOI made new place-based connections in Canora and implemented a neighbourhood connecting campaign, along with newcomer support, in the area. This project has led to the creation of a community mentorship model which can be used in other neighbourhoods.

Southeast Edmonton was engaged for the first time in 2025 as well, where REACH, through NOI, played a role in the success of the first South East Community League Association (SECLA) Resource Fair 2025, which was held in response to safety issues in the area. Due to the event's success, SECLA is now planning for a second annual event in 2026. In addition, a new community initiative, Bike Bus Edmonton, kicked off with the start of the new school year in September in the Bonnie Doon and Strathearn neighbourhoods and NOI provided support for bicycle lights to support the safety and accessibility of the project.

The NOI team also scaled their reach to new communities and leaders through the development and offering of new Community Safety and Well-Being (CSWB) workshops to build understanding of CSWB topics and how they relate to neighbourhood organizing, with four sessions held in 2025. Social Safety Kits were also developed in 2025 and distributed to communities looking for a way to kickstart organizing.

NOI maintained connection throughout areas of the city where it has previously established relationships. Support for areas with longstanding, but light-touch NOI support included the McCauley neighbourhood and the Alberta Ave District.



In these communities, community leadership support and sponsorship of Coffee with a Cop monthly events hosted by the Carrot Coffeehouse continued. NOI also continued to support ongoing meetings between Youth Empowerment Support Services and nearby community members.

Lastly, NOI engaged a credentialed evaluator in 2025 to lay the framework to update evaluation on the current offerings of NOI. An updated theory of change and logic model were produced for the initiative in 2025, with evaluation processes continuing throughout and to be concluded in 2026.

SOLOSS

[Soloss](#) is an eclectic community of folks – artists, musicians, poets, dancers, breathwork practitioners, tattooists, healers and more – making space for grief and loss. In 2025, the Soloss Network was supported by the City of Edmonton’s RECOVER Urban Well-Being team, REACH Edmonton and social design shop InWithForward. Because grief and loss underpin so much pain, disconnection and unwellness, this partnership tests how to resource and grow a novel approach to community care.

Throughout 2025, Soloss continued to offer support and capacity building for community care, with offerings including prototyping the Soloss model in multiple capacities. A funding agreement with the City of Edmonton supported Soloss to test and scale this model, including the development of the Soloss Grief Garage concept. This concept resulted in Soloss hiring seven people for the role of Losstender and a number of Grief Garage offerings held in the community, including a Loss and Found event held at the Parkdale Cromdale Community League. About 50 people attended to share experiences of grief and enjoy live music together.

Two grief circles were prepared for Boyle Street Community Services staff, as requested following three deaths at their congregate living site. This was a two-day experience, where the value proposition of fee for service was tested. Two Grief Garage workshops were also held in November in partnership with the Chinatown Safety Council to explore how the community can respond to loss for neighbours, business owners and community members.

Soloss also started a Memorandum of Understanding process with George's House, a hospice home for people who were previously unhoused and are facing a terminal diagnosis, operated by the George Spady Society. With funding awarded through the City of Edmonton Anti-Racism grant, a two-day retreat was held for Losstenders and a Circle of Support to begin prototyping with George's House for six months alongside an Elder. This cohort ran until the end of November, which was the end of the grant period.

Soloss also tested a co-lead role in 2025 that was offered to current network members, with a community cohort developed in Edmonton and a Vancouver-based cohort that were supported by Soloss. In Edmonton this resulted in a youth cohort that ran for 12 weeks starting in June.

This innovative prototyping model also brought opportunities to share learnings widely with staff presenting at the C2UExpo conference held at MacEwan University in May. Soloss was also invited to present on a panel at the 4th International Research Seminar European Association for Palliative Care Reference Group on Public Health and Palliative Care in Victoria in June. Soloss co-hosted Health Excellence Canada along with George's House and Indigenous Wellness Clinic to share this impactful model applied in a palliative care setting.

The work throughout the year faced many challenges. In providing non-institutional care in institutional settings, there were sometimes tensions between paid roles and unpaid roles. The rising demand for Soloss was also a challenge.

While funding for this project has ended, offerings of Soloss will continue to be available through InWithForward. Reports and learnings will continue to be available on the Soloss website.

YEG AMBASSADORS

The [YEG Ambassadors](#) program connects businesses, individuals and organizations to services and resources to build safe, vibrant and economically thriving communities in Edmonton.

Through consistent project collaborations, YEG Ambassadors has fostered closer working relationships with the Alberta Ave Business Association (AABA), Chinatown and Area Business Improvement Area, North Edge Business Association and the Stony Plain Road Business Association (SPRBA). This work positions the YEG Ambassadors as a connector and partner. The project focused on grounding the work in community, supporting Business Improvement Area priorities and advancing economic development through safety and well-being initiatives.

Two of the most significant pieces of work this year included the evaluation of the YEG Ambassadors initiative and reaching a shared agreement with BIAs on how the program can best support them moving forward. This resulted in a practical toolkit and a finalized set of priorities, providing clear structure and measurable direction for how the YEG Ambassadors will support the four partnering BIAs in 2026.

The program grew capacity in organizing, gathering and translating community data into meaningful insights. This summer, YEG Ambassadors promoted community vibrancy and well-being through financial, evaluation and volunteer support for five AABA's Night Markets and eight SPRBA's Music in the Park events.



YEG Ambassadors advanced data-driven work by designing and implementing a comprehensive data collection tool for the AABA Place-Based Scan, and producing reports, visualizations and presentations based on the findings. Together, these accomplishments show YEG Ambassadors' commitment to supporting BIAs through collaboration, operational leadership and organized, evidence-based practices.

Throughout the year, 21 volunteers engaged through the five Alberta Ave Business Association Night Market series, totaling 84 volunteer hours and 30 total engagement hours. Additionally, eight Stony Plain Road Business Association Music in the Park events were supported, with 45.5 total engagement hours and 39 volunteer hours, with approximately 546 community members attending.



PREVENTING VIOLENCE

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Through partnership there is an established and complete continuum of violence prevention service provision.

Initiative Level

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of clients or program participants	OPV's main intervention program, Evolve, maintains an active caseload of between 70 and 80 individuals.
Number of research reports published or knowledge mobilization products.	OPV published 3 significant research reports focused on local threats, trends, and evidence-based progress measurement.

High-Level Snapshot

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Hate crime incident rate	8.7 incidents reported to police per 100,000 people in Edmonton CMA, up 4.6% from 2022 (Statistics Canada, 2023)
Online incidents of hate and violent extremism victimization	209 reported incidents in Canada, up 138% from 2018 (RCMP, Statistics Canada, 2022)
Response capacity for instances of gender-based violence	31,248 people turned away from shelters in Alberta, a historic high (Alberta Council of Women's Shelters, 2023-24)

BLUEPRINT FOR VIOLENCE PREVENTION (BVP)

BVP promotes the need for a shared response from many sectors. It is intended to evolve areas of focus as needs change. Based on a 2023 motion from City Council, BVP takes an initial focus on youth, increasing safety within neighbourhoods most impacted, and targeting specific areas of concern. It also supports local initiatives that fix the underlying issues that lead to violence.

REACH continues to support this City of Edmonton-led work, which provides a structure for collaboration across sectors for a safer city. REACH's Executive Director sits on the oversight board for this city-led initiative. Staff also represent REACH at this table on the issue of data collection and interpretation, working with community groups to decide what data to use.

COUNTERING HATE-MOTIVATED VIOLENCE

The [Organization for the Prevention of Violence](#) (OPV) is an expert-led, non-government organization devoted to understanding and preventing hate crimes and hate-motivated violence. The OPV is a global leader in effective, evidence-based intervention and prevention strategies for all forms of targeted violence. The OPV has three main lines of effort: research, training and direct intervention.

2025 saw demand for services grow at an accelerating rate, largely driven by growth in religiously and ideologically motivated violent extremism. The OPV continued to produce high-quality research, which is viewed as a source of credible expertise by local and national media. OPV continues to develop expertise in hate crimes response and prevention, which has led to opportunities to contribute to the development of police policy and legislative reform.

OPV's main intervention program, Evolve, maintains an active caseload of between 70 and 80 individuals characterized as either involved in some form of targeted violence (60%) or individuals negatively impacted by violence (40%).

By far, the most significant and sustained trend that OPV observed over the past year is the downward trend in the average age of participants. The growth in participants under the age of 18 has been driven primarily by individuals involved in various facets of ideologically motivated violent extremism, specifically what has been termed “nihilistic violent extremism” (i.e. the network known as 764). Many of these individuals have some form of justice system involvement, with complex and intensive needs. This has been rewarding but demanding work for the team.

In 2025, OPV published three significant research reports: two specifically focused on local threats and trends and one highlighting the development of OPV’s evidence-based approach to measuring participants’ progress. The content and themes in these reports reflects the OPV’s core approach to research: a deep understanding of the local context informed by global trends and a desire to share this knowledge around the world. To disseminate and mobilize this research, the OPV cooperated with the Alberta Association of Chiefs of Police and the BC Government’s SHIFT project to host an international conference in Alberta.

The OPV’s Hate Crime Project assists community, government and police to enhance strategies, responses and management of hate crime and violent extremism. The project includes four initiatives: research and develop community education webinars and in-person workshops; research and develop enhanced police hate crime training; facilitate access to the OPV Evolve program for specialized multidisciplinary psychosocial support to hate crime survivors; and create a hub of hate crime expertise.



PROMOTING CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY WELL-BEING

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

Children, youth and families have productive, healthy and safer futures through supported, coordinated and targeted initiatives.

Initiative Level

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Number of children and youth reached in direct support programs	1,983 Out of School Time (Joint Use) 1,528 Out of School Time (Summer Camps) 60 WrapED
Number of partner organizations who leveraged another organization's strengths as a result of a REACH facilitated connection	20 community organizations (Accessed school spaces through Joint Use)
Number of Out of School Time partners who received an OST Summer Grant	17
Number of Joint Use agreements facilitated	36 local school spaces accessed
Number of trainings or development opportunities for front-line workers offered	20 (1 Allies for Youth, 1 Empire Fighting Chance, 17 Out of School Time, 1 WrapED)

High-Level Snapshot

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
High-school graduation rate	88.1% of Alberta students completed high school within 5 years (Alberta Education, 2023-24)

ALLIES FOR YOUTH CONFERENCE

This conference brought together youth serving professionals from justice, education, housing and community organizations to strengthen relationships and foster practical partnerships focused on early intervention and prevention for vulnerable youth. It strengthens cross-sector collaboration. REACH supports this work through the planning process.

The conference had high engagement and knowledge exchange. The strong attendance and active participation across panels, workshops and discussions demonstrated a shared commitment to improving youth outcomes, with attendees reporting increased knowledge, inspiration and practical takeaways to apply in their work.

Youth played an active and meaningful role in the Allies for Youth Conference by participating on the steering committee and contributing directly to the event through emceeing, sharing lived experiences and cultural drumming. Their leadership brought an authentic youth perspective that deeply resonated with attendees, enhanced the quality of the conference and reinforced the importance of youth-informed and youth-led work.

Despite postponing to later in the year to maximize marketing efforts and work around the teachers' strike, the conference saw more than 280 attendees, which was beyond the committee's goal.

CHILD AND YOUTH NEWCOMER SERVICE COORDINATION

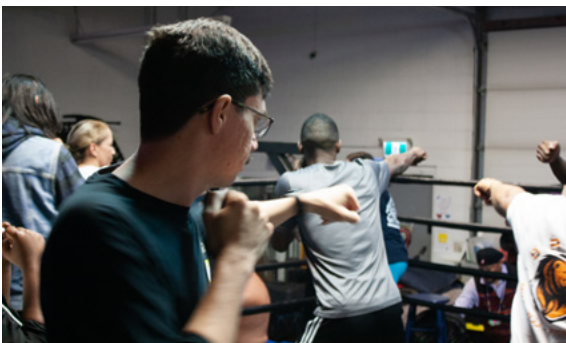
This project's funding has ended, however REACH continued to participate in Immigrants Refugees and Citizenship Canada-funded tables to offer support to community groups and ensure ongoing alignment with OST work.

In 2025, REACH continued to address needs and gaps identified by partners serving newcomer youth. Partner groups have expressed their gratitude and motivation to continue participating in this table and the broader Out of School Time Collaborative through subsidized training and capacity building opportunities.

EMPIRE FIGHTING CHANCE (EFC)

Highlights:

- **Eight community partners trained staff and began piloting** sessions using Empire Fighting Chance methodology.
- **100% of these eight sites that launched programming** reported youth enthusiasm, with staff noting positive behaviour shifts.
- **58% of youth engaged were aged 13–17**, aligning with the program's target demographic.
- **86%** of youth showed high engagement during sessions, a strong early indicator of program relevance and psychological resonance.



Empire Fighting Chance is dedicated to transforming the lives of young people through psychologically informed non-contact boxing programs in Bristol, UK.

Introduced to Edmonton in 2025 thanks to a private donation, this new program saw quick growth through creative problem-solving and adaptive leadership.

The initiative launched informally in June, with a team from EFC Bristol travelling to Edmonton to deliver training to local community partners. The momentum built in training sessions led many partner organizations to leverage their existing infrastructure (e.g. snacks, spaces, youth workers) while integrating EFC resources like boxing kits and program guides to begin offering programming while waiting for sustained funding.

Some early wins include:

- Completing the four-day Empire Fighting Chance training in June 2025, with eight organizations participating and frontline staff trained.
- Strengthening relationships with partners, particularly youth-serving organizations across the city.
- Launching the EFC SharePoint site as a centralized hub for resources, communication and collaboration.
- Designing simple yet effective tracking tools to capture grassroots implementation during this early phase.

Looking ahead to 2026, REACH aims to increase support for partners by securing continued funding, which will strengthen their capacity to deliver sustainable programming.

“We really want to share this program with as many organizations as possible. But we don’t want to disrupt their amazing work, we want to add to what they’re already doing.”

-Sam Kotadia, Sports Psychologist, Empire Fighting Chance

OUT OF SCHOOL TIME (OST) COLLABORATIVE

The OST Collaborative aims to improve the resiliency of children and youth through quality, widely accessible out-of-school-time programs.

2025 was difficult as OST struggled to find funding to maintain programming.

The Out of School Time Conference hosted 211 staff and summer student attendees, providing 17 training sessions targeted to local needs, as well as networking opportunities. This translates to a value of \$37,980 total in cost savings to participating organizations.

The Summer Access program, an OST Collaborative partnership with the City of Edmonton's Joint Use program and 3 local school boards, brokered 36 local school spaces for 20 community organizations during the summer. This enabled community groups to provide programming for 1,983 vulnerable children and youth. Joint Use made possible 4,584.5 hours of programming for a total of \$302,578 in rental cost savings for program providers.

REACH continued to provide value to OST partners, who have been appreciative of and willing to advocate for the initiative. Additional focus on telling the OST story more effectively will help in seeking more funding and support in 2026.

REACH also plans to engage OST partners to determine the best way forward so that the initiative can continue to do good work while maintaining efficiencies and working with given resources.

“Participants showed significant growth in their math, science, and literacy skills through daily academic activities. Parents reported that their children were more eager to read, solve problems, and explore new subjects, which set them up for success when returning to school.”

-OST Staff

WrapED

[WrapED](#) provided services and mentorship to over 60 high-risk youth this year, continuing to successfully divert youth from deeper involvement with the justice system.

One of its key successes was integrating cross-agency collaboration. WrapED youth received mental health support, education, and family-based interventions in a timely manner because partners used their resources as a team instead of individual organizations.

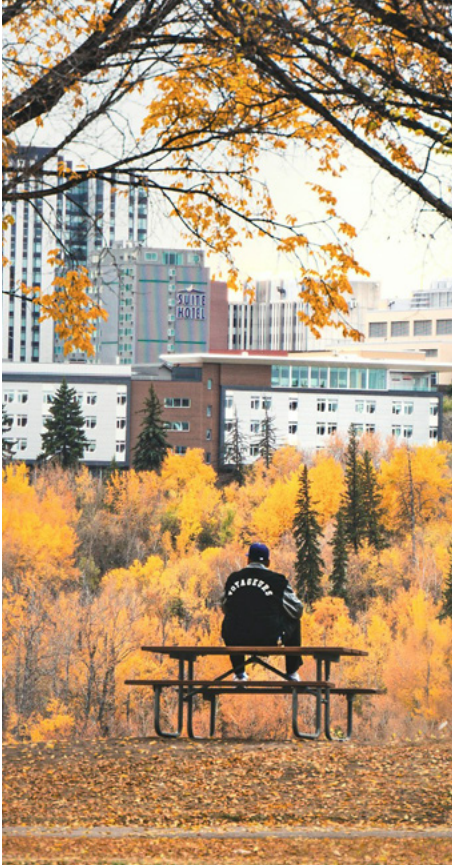
REACH increased capacity in WrapED in 2025, reducing a waitlist of 12 youth at the highest point, to zero.

Throughout the year, finding youth housing remained a significant barrier. WrapED also had two deaths in the program which affected families and youth as well as staff.

Staff participated in a two-day Trauma-Informed Training session, reporting that they found the training extremely valuable for their roles.

The biggest success of the program was providing equitable support to youth as it continued to remove barriers for these high-risk youth by meeting them where they are at, keeping them engaged in the program and helping them make meaningful change in their lives.

YOUTH HOUSING UPON RELEASE



This group meets to address the challenges of youth being released from custody into precarious or non-existent housing situations.

The group has been meeting with partners to talk about youth who are at high risk and need extra support. Working together has helped find solutions for these individuals.

The group has coordinated transition planning, ensuring the alignment between justice and housing teams.

There were not a lot of options for youth, and wait times and barriers with housing was a challenge. Some youth spent time on the streets because housing could not be found for them.



SYSTEMS CHANGE

LONG-TERM OUTCOME

The community safety and well-being ecosystem’s effectiveness is improved through leveraging multi-sector partnerships and best and next practices.

Indicators and Outputs	2025 Results
Formal partnerships with REACH	35 initiatives including 2 new prototypes (13 REACH led or co-led, 22 supported)
Involvement in key local, provincial, national and international initiatives	<p>Local: Beyond the Status Quo (now Human Services Council), Downtown Recovery Coalition, Edmonton Capacity Building Organization Network, Hospital-Based Violence, Social Policy Collaborative - Edmonton</p> <p>Provincial: Alberta-wide human trafficking initiatives</p> <p>National: Canadian Centre for Safer Communities</p> <p>International: Peace in Our Cities</p>
New or revised policies or practices as a result of REACH’s collaborative work	<p>Contributed to the development of the Blueprint for Violence Prevention</p> <p>Letters through Social Policy Collaborative – Edmonton</p>
Choosing and implementing evidence-based strategies and initiatives	All core programs have robust evaluation that informs implementation

BEYOND THE STATUS QUO

In 2025, REACH Edmonton was a key partner in planning, coordinating and hosting the first ever Beyond the Status Quo Summit on April 9. This sold-out event saw 500 people from across Edmonton's social serving sector gather to participate in workshops exploring the future of the sector as Edmonton prepares for a population of 2 million people by 2050.

REACH staff assisted with organizing the information from the workshops, which was shared publicly in the final report.

The newly formed [Human Services Council](#) (HSC) was formally announced at the Summit. The Human Services Council is a collaboration of Metro Edmonton based non-profits committed to systems change in Edmonton's human services ecosystem. The Council is a sector-led, community-driven body that amplifies the collective voice of Edmonton's human services organizations.

Since the summit, members have been in the process of establishing this entity, housed under ECVO, including governance and strategic planning. The Social Policy Collaborative Edmonton will fall under the HSC.

CANADIAN CENTRE FOR SAFER COMMUNITIES

REACH continued to work with the [Canadian Centre for Safer Communities](#) around Urban Safety Monitoring, with Edmonton as a pilot site. This ongoing work is exploring how to define well-being beyond crime rate statistics to include things like health determinants and community inclusion.

REACH's Executive Director served their final year on the Board of CCFSC in 2025 and continues to serve as past Chair for the Board while sitting on the Executive Director's Performance Committee. REACH's Executive Director and a Leadership staff member both attended and spoke at the CCFSC conference in 2025.

REACH will continue to be a member of CCFSC to learn and share best practices in community safety and well-being.

PEACE IN OUR CITIES

The cities engaged in the [Peace in Our Cities](#) network form a collective body of knowledge equipped to reduce urban violence by at least 50% before the year 2030.

In order for cities to participate in Peace in Our Cities, they require the collaboration of both the municipal government and a civil organization. REACH Edmonton and the City of Edmonton are co-signatories with Peace in Our Cities.

We know all cities are facing similar challenges, and this is an aspirational piece of work as cities work to reduce violence in their communities. This is an opportunity to learn from other jurisdictions around the world about new approaches that work. An example of this is the emerging partnership with [Empire Fighting Chance](#), which began when REACH's Executive Director connected with co-founder Martin Bisp at a Peace in Our Cities gathering in South America.

Through this international network, REACH has been held up as a model across the world. REACH is often called upon to host delegations, participate in webinars and share information. As a part of this work, REACH hosted a delegation from the City of Casper, Wyoming including the Chief of Police and other local representatives. This exchange visit aimed to share local expertise on shared challenges. This included connecting with Indigenous community agencies, a tour of an [Out of School Time](#) program, and meetings with [24/7 Crisis Diversion](#) partners.

It's the municipalities that have responsibility for safety. They may not have all the power but they have the motive. Everybody wants to live in a safe city.

-Jai-Ayla Sutherland, Peace in Our Cities

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