



AIWCC

Alberta Immigrant Women & Children Centre

(aiwcc.ca)

Project Name: Collaborative Opportunities of Newcomers and Indigenous Communities

Funding Amount: \$29,960

Project Description

The project aimed to build anti-racism capacity through knowledge sharing, cultural exchange, and meaningful dialogue. Key activities included workshops led by respected immigrant community members and Indigenous leaders, offering participants an opportunity to deeply engage with the complexities of racism and colonialism.

Participants explored Indigenous culture and well-being practices, such as smudging, while sharing their own experiences of racism and triumphs in their new country. These rich discussions provided a platform for learning about the historical and present-day impacts of colonialism and its connection to racism.

Through this holistic approach, the project fostered a deeper understanding of anti-racism and empowered participants to advocate for inclusive, anti-racist practices and policies in their communities. The collective learning and exchange of ideas helped strengthen the participants' roles as active contributors to a more equitable society.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

The cultural exchange and knowledge sharing workshops were transformative for those who participated in the meaningful discussions between immigrant community members and Indigenous leaders on the intersections of colonialism and racism.

Participants reported that the workshops deepened their understanding of systemic racism and empowered them to become advocates in their communities. Additionally, participants shared personal stories of resilience and triumph, further fostering a sense of unity and collective empowerment.



SkirtsAFire Society
(skirtsafire.com)

Project Name: Nehiyaw Nikamowina ᐅᐃᐅᐅ

Funding Amount: \$35,000

Project Description

Nehiyaw Nikamowina ᐅᐃᐅᐅ was a Cree language concert immersing audiences in Cree song, dance, art and design. Performed by mother and daughter, Cikwes and Cheyenne Rain LeGrande, Nehiyaw Nikamowina left audiences singing in Cree, inspired to dance and eager to bring Cree language into their own life. Funding provided through the Anti-racism Grant Program, allowed SkirtsAFire to offer free tickets to Indigenous people, with a focused effort on reaching Indigenous youth.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

Nehiyaw Nikamowina ᐅᐃᐅᐅ brought together communities and educated on the atrocities that were enacted on the Cree (and other Indigenous people) who were keepers and protectors of this land for thousands of years before colonialism; when settlers arrived and changed the landscape through attempts to erase entire nations.

Contributing to creating a better Edmonton, audiences were able to see Indigenous women in their strength, armed with their language and traditions. Edmontonians had a small window of understanding into the trauma that is inherent when cultures, languages and traditions are lost and the beauty that is gained with the restoration of this history.

Elder Marjorie Wright expressed how impactful it was for the many Indigenous youth in attendance to see themselves represented through art. After the performances, many of the students stayed to meet one of the young performers and take pictures with her. It was clear they were drawn to someone in their age demographic, empowered to share her art on stage.

Another major success was having the ability to hire a deaf Cree language interpreter (Crystal Wolfe from Maskwacis) for this show. Because this show was about language, removing barriers for members of the deaf Indigenous communities was prioritized. Having a deaf Cree language interpreter as a part of the show added a whole other layer of magic to the event, as all the performers instantly connected. One of the deaf audience members was so moved, that they began singing/creating sounds out loud (which is uncommon for many deaf folks).



Southwest Muslim Community Centre (SMCC)

(masjidannoor.ca)

Project Name: Valuing Cultural Safety and Anti-racism in Edmonton

Funding Amount: \$9,950

Project Description

The impact of discrimination, especially when relevant to losing jobs, or credibility at the workplace, on the grounds of faith or ethnicity backgrounds, can sometimes be deeper than being solved by healing, support groups, meditation or psychotherapy. A process has to be initiated to protect individuals from being silent or defamed on the basis of ethnicity or religion.

This project worked collaboratively with organizations focused on anti-racism and combatting Islamophobia by identifying barriers to participation, analyzing causes of systemic and structural racism, supporting sustainable development for changes, and promoting healing and/or reconciliation. Some of the activities undertaken included: developing a website, advocating for anonymous documentation of incidents, building awareness through educational workshops, inspiring people to become a part of the change. and encouraging people to speak out or stand for fellow citizens when needed.

Anti-Racism Outcome Achieved

The interactive workshops were a success. People were interested and engaged, many staying after the session to ask additional questions and indicated that they were more aware of racism and ways to address Islamophobia and support fellow citizens. Additionally, this project was able to reach youth through training and capacity building.



Gradual Rising of Women (GROW) Foundation (growwomenleaders.com)

Project Name: Edmonton Building Bridges: Fostering Anti-racism Capacity and Innovation for Inclusive Hiring

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Project Description

Edmonton Building Bridges is a transformative project led by the Gradual Rising of Women (GROW) Foundation, aimed at promoting inclusive hiring practices and building anti-racism capacity within the community. The initiative addresses employment equity gaps, particularly benefiting Black, Indigenous, Women of Colour (BIWoC), and immigrant women in Canada. Through workshops, meetups, and interactive discussions, Edmonton Building Bridges connects employers with skilled women professionals and equips them with leadership skills to foster inclusive workplaces. The program provides resources for creating unbiased hiring practices and diverse organizational cultures, while partnering with community organizations, educational institutions, and government agencies to combat individual and systemic racism and promote an equitable, intercultural workforce.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

A significant success of the Edmonton Building Bridges program has been the measurable increase in inclusive hiring practices adopted by partner organizations. Through targeted workshops and hands-on training sessions, participating employers implemented changes such as more inclusive job postings, unbiased interview techniques, and anti-racism policies that directly support BIWoC and immigrant women. Additionally, GROW facilitated successful networking events that connected employers with skilled women professionals, resulting in new job placements and creating a positive shift in workplace diversity and culture. This progress reflects GROW's mission to bridge the employment equity gap and foster a more equitable workforce.



W. P. Wagner Catchment

Project Name: Journey to Anti-racism Year 2

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Project Description

Ten schools in the W.P. Wagner Catchment, all within Edmonton Public Schools, collaborated in a project that involved three distinct components:

- 1) Junior High and High School Symposiums and final K-12 culminating activity
- 2) Student classroom lessons on six anti-racism topics
- 3) Staff professional learning on six anti-racism topics

The overarching purpose is to create a baseline of anti-racist understanding and behaviours that are common between all of our schools. A committee of school representatives created the agendas for the student symposiums, classroom lessons and staff professional learning. Activities and lessons are rooted in provincial curricular objectives and the Edmonton School Board Strategic Plan.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

Many of W.P. Wagner Catchment staff and students shared that they feel more equipped and confident when dealing with racist behaviours and situations. They reported that they have a better understanding of what is and what is not acceptable behaviour in schools. Staff and students have created common strategies and support systems so that when they encounter racist actions, they can deal with them head-on, through a lens of education and personal improvement.



Free Play for Kids
(freeplayforkids.com)

Project Name: Welcome to Play

Funding Amount: \$25,000

Project Description

The Welcome to Play program's objectives are to provide newly-arrived refugee children and youth with:

- 1) opportunities to make new friends and experience social inclusion while learning social emotional learning (SEL) strategies to help them successfully navigate new challenges they are facing;
- 2) opportunities to participate in barrier-free play and physical activity with kids their own age, outside of their hotel rooms;
- 3) weekly opportunities to visit different amenities across Edmonton to increase their familiarity and sense of belonging in their new home city—Edmonton; and
- 4) opportunities to transition seamlessly into one of our after-school Free to Play programs once they are enrolled in school so they can receive continuous benefits of long-term, barrier-free and inclusive play, social inclusion, SEL, and belonging.

Three days per week, participants were bussed to a community hall or recreation centre. Once there, they were provided with daily snacks to combat food insecurity; unstructured/organic "free play;" team-building games; and creative "cool-down" activities. Activities were geared to all ages and were facilitated through a trauma-informed lens. On the fourth day of each week, participants were bussed to a different local amenity across Edmonton (e.g., Telus World of Science, Royal Alberta Museum, the Edmonton Public Library) where they got to explore the activities available on-site. This program was intentionally designed to be barrier-free, meaning that there were no registration fees, transportation was provided, language translation was available when needed, and any other obstacles to participation were mitigated.

Anti-Racist Outcome Achieved

Through an end of season survey conducted from 2023 to 2024, 97% of participants reported that they made new friends; 100% of participants reported that they felt safe in the program; 100% of participants reported that they felt a sense of belonging in the program; 71% of participants reported that participating in the program has helped them adjust to their new life in Canada; 86% of participants reported that the program has had a positive impact on the rest of their family; 97% of participants reported that they would like to join another Free Play program once they've started school.



PHIDEAS Philippine Edmonton Events & Arts Society

(edmontonfilipinofiesta.com/about-phideas)

Project Name: C.U.E. Connect, Unlearn, Expand 2 and Publish with Polyglot

Funding Amount: \$7,610

Project Description

PHIDEAS partnered with The Polyglot magazine to publish stories and art from artists from the Philippine community. The magazine was then launched at the Citadel Theatre, as part of the AB LitFest. It was the first time that there was an event featuring solely Philippine writing and art at a major literary festival in Edmonton, in a mainstream downtown venue. This opened up our stories to the Edmonton public. The publication of The Polyglot (Issue 13) titled Manaig (to prevail) has captured the narratives and visual art from the Philippines, and will now be accessible worldwide. The launch at the AB LitFest gave the audience a chance to converse with the 11 artists present at the launch, to learn more about the experiences from Philippine communities, challenges, ambitions and successes. The publication is the culmination of workshops and discussions, including intergenerational conversations among the community addressing the situation in the diaspora, as well as understanding racism – roots, history, and current situation, and our own prejudices and stereotypes that add to racism.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

The publication of Philippine poetry, stories and art in The Polyglot Magazine, as part of AB LitFest 2024, supported increased understanding between generations and amongst the Philippine community. It raised awareness and understanding of racism, formed connections among community groups addressing racism, and fostered inclusion.



Interactive Arts Alberta
(interactiveartsalberta.org)

Project Name: Game Discovery Exhibition (GDX 2024) - Indigeneity Summit

Funding Amount: \$75,000

Project Description

Our project was to introduce an Indigeneity and Diaspora Summit to our annual conference at the Game Discovery Exhibition. We were able to bring in folks from our community, as well as from around the globe, who spoke about both game development, as well as anti-racism work that can be done in an industry like games where marginalized, underrepresented, and underestimated communities are not often supported as creators or as entrepreneurs. Our summit was able to bring together folks to discuss the issues we are facing and to address actions that we can take in our communities to make the games industry a better place.

Anti-Racist Outcome Achieved

We had immense success with being able to bring in keynote speakers who are world-renowned in the games industry, including Rami Ismail. Rami's presence in Edmonton is something we could have only dreamed about before the opportunities that this program opened up for our organization.

We believe Edmontonians are more aware of racism and its impact and have a greater understanding of how to take action to address it; that Edmontonians will be knowledgeable of the community organizations that are working to dismantle individual, systemic and structural racism; and that Edmontonians will work together to build a diverse, inclusive and equitable city.



Project Name: Impacts of Structural Racism and Ableism on Access to Housing and Economic Security of Black People with Disabilities in Edmonton

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Project Description

Through this project, Africa Centre in partnership with Action Lab, co-designed three social innovation workshops that brought multiple stakeholders together to explore and learn the issues experienced by Black children and youth with disability, and their families, and identified early promising possibilities of action that Africa Centre can take to support Black Edmontonians with autism and development disabilities.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

A key success from our program was the ability to foster open dialogue among community members, caregivers, and service providers, which deepened understanding of issues with those who have disabilities within the African-descent community. These discussions allowed us to identify critical needs (such as culturally sensitive resources), ways to address systemic barriers, and informed actionable improvements. Additionally, we laid the groundwork for meaningful change by recommending partnerships to improve service access, creating inclusive community spaces, and raising awareness to combat stigma—establishing a solid foundation for ongoing impact in disability support.

Edmonton Multicultural Innovative Society

Project Name: Building Bridges

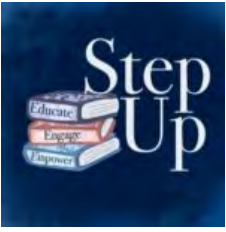
Funding Amount: \$5,300

Project Description

This was a new initiative, which engaged local community members to plan and implement intercultural and intergenerational anti-racist activities. Three in-person sessions included guest speakers, storytelling sessions, and musical performances, where facilitators drew upon a range of resources to captivate participants and encourage them to explore the realities of life in Edmonton. These sessions dove into topics like racism, privilege, and how to respond to racial injustice. The project culminated with participants creating and sharing their personal action plans for promoting racial justice.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

Over the past year, we celebrated significant successes through a series of impactful anti-resistance workshops, community partnerships, and well-attended events. We hosted three anti-racism workshops, bringing together speakers from diverse ethnic backgrounds, who offered valuable expertise in race relations and shared their insights on the challenges of resistance. We also hosted a free concert in Edmonton's City Hall and invited musicians across a wide age range, to perform with 200+ attendance. Our collaboration extended across various communities, including Black, LGBTQ, Filipino, and Chinese cultural groups, along with City of Edmonton councillors, creating a platform for powerful storytelling and sharing life experiences in Canada. These events not only provided educational content and engaging performances, but also drew increasing attendance, with 56 participants at the first event, 74 at the second, and 88 at the third workshop. This growing engagement underscores the success and meaningful impact of our efforts, strengthening our mission to promote understanding and resilience within our community.



Step Up Anti-Racist Association
(stepupaa.org)

Project Name: Step Up Anti-racist Workshops

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Project Description

This free event equipped youth with the skills necessary to create an anti-racist society. It provided them the opportunity to learn about different career paths related to anti-racism, hear powerful stories, and participate within an inclusive space that stimulated open discussions and proactive action toward anti-racism. Participants actively engaged in workshops regarding "Intersectionality through a Positive Lens" and "Mental Health in Communities of Colour". Additionally, participants had the opportunity to support small local businesses that were present at the event.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

Many youth left feeling more equipped to combat racism, with the ability to foster resiliency within themselves. Parents who accompanied their kids also gained a better understanding of the racism their children are facing at school.

This project supported the following outcomes:

- 1) Edmontonians are more aware of racism and its impact and have a greater understanding of how to take action to address it.
- 2) Edmontonians will work together to build a diverse, inclusive and equitable city.



Project Name: Young at Heart

Funding Amount: \$10,000

Project Description

This anti-racism project included three initiatives: A Thousand Steps, Count Me In and Young at Heart. A Thousand Steps focused on increasing awareness of racism and equipping Edmontonians with the knowledge and tools to act against it, through a series of innovative community-centred workshops and activities.

Count Me In, focused on empowering participants, by conducting local community-based participatory research involving community members (residents), stakeholders like the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues and local schools, focused on understanding and dismantling individual, systemic, and structural racism. The project included community engagement workshops and activities that shared information and created awareness among Edmontonians about the efforts of community organizations, including the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition, in tackling racism with an intersectional lens.

Young at Heart focused on workshops and events where participants (youths and seniors) shared experiences, perspectives and coping mechanisms, in dealing with individual and systemic racism. This intergenerational and intercultural approach, where seniors and youth from different ethnocultural communities shared their experiences, empowered participants, as it provided an opportunity for the exchange and blending of experiences and resources on anti-racism between communities.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

The initiatives helped educate the public about racism and its impacts on Black and Indigenous communities and people of colour. They empowered participants to be able to recognize and deal with racism through our "breaking racial barriers" workshops and activities. Additionally, we were able to build community capacity through various community engagement activities and facilitated socio-economic integration.



Alberta Hate Crimes Committee Ltd. (albertahatecrimes.org)

Project Name: Stop Hate

Funding Amount: \$30,000

Project Description

An anti-hate video will be shared through a targeted social media campaign in November 2024 and is presented by and targets racialized communities.

The initiative "Educate. Recreate. StopHate" will spread informed knowledge throughout Edmonton and surrounding areas to promote the usage of the StopHateAB reporting tool, while bringing forward awareness and education surrounding hate crimes and incidents targeting racialized communities.

Anti-Racism Outcomes Achieved

The hope with the online advertising campaign is to increase awareness about racism and its impacts on Edmontonians from equity-deserving backgrounds, particularly the Black and Indigenous communities.