

City of Edmonton's Community Safety and Well-being Task Force

Vanessa Gladue is originally from Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation Alberta and was raised by her grandparents. She has been in and out of the judicial systems and struggled with substance use. She lived in a tent in the river valley and inner city off and on for three years until 2018, where she was removed by police from her camping spots. She has been in and out of the judicial system while being homeless in the City of Edmonton. She managed to get housing through E4C Housing First initiative and graduated from the program. She now lives in low income housing through the Capital Region Housing.

For the last 26 months she has been in recovery and feels she has regained a new sense of self confidence and belonging in the community. She now works for Boyle Street Community Services as an STI outreach worker and loves her job because it's her way of giving back to the community that she has been a part of for many years. She also has been attending numerous Indigenous ceremonies and is getting back to her roots finding out who she is as an Indigenous woman. Gladue is currently on the board of directors as acting Vice President with Alberta Addicts Who Educate and Advocate Responsibly, a province-wide peer advocacy society.