

DAUGHTERS DAY

CITY HALL
EDMONTON

SEPTEMBER 6, 2014



PROGRAM



CHARAN KHEHRA

MESSAGE FROM DAUGHTERS DAY COMMITTEE CHAIR

WELCOME TO THE THIRD ANNUAL DAUGHTERS DAY CELEBRATION.

Daughters Day is the initiative of International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society that celebrates the lives, contributions and achievements of all daughters, and is dedicated to creating a culture of gender equality and eliminating violence and discrimination -- building a civil society that promotes, supports and enhances the dignity of all its members. We have had a busy year.

On October 11, 2013 we celebrated the international Day of the Girl Child at MacEwen University and, on December 10, Human Rights Day at City Hall. Both of these days will be regularly celebrated in future.

On April 15, Councillor Amarjit Sohi introduced the 2013 Daughters of the Year recipients in Council chambers, and Premier Dave Hancock recognized their contributions and achievements in the Legislature on April 23.

As the result of community consultations in Edmonton, Calgary, Red Deer, and Slave Lake, we captured the voices of about 150 women in our publication Together, creating a better world: A handbook for community work to end gender discrimination. This handbook, along with Truth, Love, Non-Violence: The story of Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, a prominent human rights activist and co-founder of Daughters Day, was launched at NorQuest College on June 18.

We wish to thank the Daughters Day founders, advisors, organizing committee, award selection committee, partner organizations, sponsors, donors, volunteers, and all orders of government for continuing support. We also wish to thank the MacEwen University and NorQuest College for being strong partners and making facilities available to us.

We are committed to collaborating, advocating, and advancing the interests of all daughters locally, nationally, and internationally. Remember, the elimination of gender discrimination and violence is everyone's business. No one should remain a mere spectator. Be engaged. Be inspired and inspire others. Enjoy the celebration.

CHARAN KHEHRA

PROGRAM OF EVENTS

12:30 PM

Please take some time to experience the Commitment Walk. You may choose to do this on your own using the map and guide in this booklet.

Or you are invited to join guided walks that will leave from the registration table at 12:45, 1:00, and 1:10 PM. The full guided walk will take about 40 minutes.

You are also welcome to visit the diverse organizations represented at the information fair on the west side of City Hall. Water and snacks are available for all.

1:55 PM

GRAND ENTRY OF DAUGHTERS OF THE YEAR

WELCOME: Elexis Schloss

O CANADA

GREETINGS FROM CITIZENS FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY: Charan Khehra

MUSIC: Tommy Banks

PROCLAMATION AND GREETINGS FROM CITY OF EDMONTON

MUSIC: Inner Voice

KEYNOTE MESSAGE: Dr. Jodi Abbott

MUSIC: Macha Abdallah

DAUGHTERS OF THE YEAR PRESENTATIONS

MUSIC: Maria Dunn

CLOSING COMMENTS: Elexis Schloss

DAUGHTERS DAY SONG: Paula Kirman

END OF EVENTS



PRIME MINISTER • PREMIER MINISTRE

I am pleased to extend my warmest greetings to everyone taking part in today's Daughters Day celebration.

This annual event, now in its third year, brings together individuals and families to champion the rights of women and girls and to celebrate their strengths, accomplishments, and contributions to society. All those present here today are to be commended for supporting initiatives towards the elimination of gender inequality, violence, and discrimination directed at women and girls.

Today, you also recognize several remarkable women whose vision, leadership, and tireless efforts on behalf of others are an inspiration for all Canadians. I would like to join with you in congratulating them on their remarkable achievements.

Please accept my best wishes for a successful event and for continued success.

The Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper, P.C., M.P.

OTTAWA
2014



Premier of Alberta

Office of the Premier, 307 Legislature Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada, T5K 2B6



**Message from Honourable Dave Hancock, QC
Premier of Alberta
Minister, Innovation and Advanced Education**

On behalf of the Government of Alberta, I am pleased to welcome everyone to Daughters Day 2014.

We are fortunate to live in a democratic society where women are free to openly stand against injustice and inequality. It was only 85 short years ago that five women from Alberta fought to be recognized as persons and paved the way for future generations of women to have the freedom to be active citizens in our country. Although discrimination still exists, even here at home, we must continue our fight to ensure every woman has the opportunity to reach their greatest potential and live without fear.

Recognition of rights of all people is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace. We need champions, practitioners, researchers, and advocates to help achieve this goal. I am hopeful that as we continue to raise awareness of women's issues we will also motivate others to join the force of change. I believe that the potential to make a difference rests within all of us.

My thanks to the International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society and to all the staff, volunteers, and community partners for your continued support and advocacy of girls' rights here at home and abroad.

Dave Hancock, QC

September 6, 2014



Message from His Worship Mayor Don Iveson



On behalf of City Council and the people of Edmonton, Alberta's Capital City, I'd like to welcome everyone to the third annual Daughter's Day celebration in Edmonton.

Daughters, making up half the world's population, are leaders, professionals, volunteers, wives and mothers. They are often the people who work hardest to bring communities together and support those in need. Yet all over the world, women and girls continue to face discrimination, and, tragically, abuse and violence.

Daughter's Day is a way for us to stand up for equality and celebrate our daughters, and I am proud Edmonton has embraced this wonderful initiative. With music, speakers, information fair and the 2014 Daughters of the Year Awards, today's event promises to be a meaningful celebration of the brilliant, talented and caring daughters who make our city a better place to live.

I thank the Daughter's Day steering committee as well as the many volunteers and donors who make this event possible. Your passion and enthusiasm help create a more welcoming, diverse and vibrant city for all of us.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Don Iveson', written in a cursive style.

Don Iveson
Mayor



KEYNOTE

DR. JODI ABBOTT became NorQuest College's President and CEO in 2010. At NorQuest she has led developments such as introduction of a Workforce Advisory Council representing the importance of industry partners in shaping the College, introduction of the Landmark Centre for Value Improvement, and initiation of construction of the new Centre for Learning. Jodi previously held executive roles in health care, with Canadian Diabetes Association (Prairies Area), Alberta Health, and Alberta Health Services. Jodi maintains a strong volunteer commitment to the sport of figure skating, judging on behalf of Skate Canada and the International Skating Union, most recently at the 2014 Olympics Winter Games. In 2011, Dr. Abbott was named one of Canada's top 20 most influential women in sport.



NICK LEES

HOST

A strong voice for women, **ELEXIS SCHLOSS** was the first President of Compassion House; a member of the Edmonton Homeless Commission; and recipient of the Rotary Integrity Award, the Queen's Golden and Diamond Jubilee Medals, an honorary Diploma as Distinguished Citizen from MacEwan University, and the Order of Canada. Committed to the success of new Canadians, she was a Mentor to Youth in Transition at NorQuest College, and in her international volunteer work has recently developed a comic book explaining HIV to children.



JENI ADLER

Jeni Adler's work at Jewish Family Services is marked by the effective creativity of the programs she operates, and the love and friendship she expresses to immigrant women and others with whom she works. Her career of helping has consistently demonstrated compassion as she teaches and supports people, and advocates for systemic change. She has devoted her career with several agencies to empowering people in disadvantaged or marginalized situations. Jeni is a role model, and many with whom she works aspire to emulate her. She is a devoted mother of a daughter who is herself an exceptional young adult.



SHREELA CHAKRABARTTY

After an active youth as a performer musically and in drama, Shreela Chakrabarty is now a pioneer film director and producer, whose recent Edmonton-made movie "Rock Paper Scissors Dice" has had a successful run in Canada and internationally. She has done many projects with FAVA, and produced films for use in India on issues such as health and micro-credit. She is a keen promoter of Eastern classical music and dance, and busy volunteer with many local organizations, as well as a human rights activist, especially in relation to Tibet. She worked on the sound for the Academy Award nominated "Water."



LAN CHAN MARPLES

Compassion, commitment and community – meet Lan Chan Marples, a social activist with a vision. She has led initiatives over the decades that have made a positive difference in the lives of many. Recently she chaired the first Edmonton Chinatown conference on the 100th anniversary of the community. Her work with the Chinese community has included leadership at ASSIST Community Services, and programs to combat family violence, engage isolated seniors, and connect with youth at risk. She has provided leadership with Canadian Multicultural Education Foundation's annual Harmony Brunch, chaired the first immigrant family violence conference in Edmonton, and led in the Heart Health Education forum.



JOAN COWLING

Joan Cowling has been a social justice leader since she became one of the first women graduates in Commerce at University of Alberta and fought rules that discriminated women. During four terms on Edmonton Public School Board she worked to have Francophone students welcomed, and spearheaded Aboriginal inclusion programs. As Chair of Canadian School Boards Association, she helped develop a model multiculturalism and race relations policy for school boards. She chaired the McKay Avenue School restoration project and was President of Canadian Federation of University Women, raising money for scholarships for women. Today, Joan is Chair of John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights and recently led a human rights case on age discrimination.



LINDA DUMONT

Linda Dumont has been of practical and immediate assistance to many of Edmonton's vulnerable and homeless, and has provided inspiration and a medium for expression for those without a voice. She started Edmonton (now Alberta) Street News in 2003 but worked with street papers in Edmonton from 1993. She began as a vendor but studied journalism. Alberta Street News provides a way for those unable to hold conventional jobs to make some money selling papers. Today she lives with her two daughters and two grandchildren, volunteers with House of Refuge, and supports herself as a yoga instructor. She is a published poet and talented painter as well as an articulate anti-poverty activist.



RAJVIR KAUR GILL

As Indo-Canadian Women's Association program director, Rajvir Gill is using the results of a report she authored to develop community activities around the elimination of violence against women in the name of "honour." With her strong commitment to women's and human rights, she also makes time to serve on the new WAVE Committee of the City of Edmonton and the REACH board. She was recently named one of the "Top 30 under 30" in Edmonton. City Councillor Amarjeet Sohi says, "She exemplifies what it means to be one of our community's shining examples of a daughter: someone who leads the way for the next generation."



PAULA E. KIRMAN

Paula Kirman is a multi-talented activist in community/independent media and social justice, using skills as writer, editor, photographer, videographer, and singer/songwriter to effect positive social change. She documents many social justice events and posts at her website Radical Citizen Media (www.radicalcitizenmedia.com) and has a community access program on SHAW TV (From the Ground Up), which features local activism. Paula is Editor of the community newspaper Boyle McCauley News, where she seeks to engage marginalized community members, many with physical and/or mental disabilities, in creative and community-oriented activities. She was on the founding committee of Daughters Day and wrote the theme song for the annual celebration.



LAURA MANICKARAJ

Laura Manickaraj has dedicated much of her life to living with people with developmental disabilities in L'Arche communities, since 1987 in Calgary. In a range of roles and duties, colleagues say she is a living testament to the value of inclusion and embracing diversity. She describes involvement with people with disabilities as a mutual opportunity for learning, not the strong serving the weak. For a number of years Laura has been living with cancer, which limits what she can do, but nominator Garth Reesor says, "Her commitment to the lives of people often supersedes her own illness." And Duncan, who lives at L'Arche, says, "I lost my mother. Laura is a second mother to me. She brings life to the community."



ZAINAB MOHAMOUD

Since coming to Red Deer in 2010, Zainab Mohamoud has become one of the city's most active and enthusiastic volunteers in her work fundraising for breast cancer research, including organizing a team for this July's "Batting Against Breast Cancer" tournament. She regularly cooks and sells Somali foods at a farmer's market to raise funds for girls' education in Somalia. She carries a heavy workload at Central Alberta Immigrant Women's Association as a social worker, where she works by supporting people to make their own decisions, and her networking skills are exceptional. One colleague says, "She has an intense passion and zeal to help people and build the community."



SHAWNA PANDYA

Dr. Shawna Pandya has achieved personally in many areas, while maintaining a strong involvement in local and global causes. Now a neurosurgery resident at University of Alberta Hospitals, she has a passion for space, with a degree from International Space University. She mentors for Cyber Mentor, encouraging women in technology and sciences. She has worked in many parts of the world with Doctors Without Borders, her tele-medicine work is helping Canadians in remote areas, and she was part of the team doing pre-clinical testing of the NeuroArm for robotic neurosurgery. One person who has worked with her says, "Shawna is unfalteringly professional, passionate, kind, energetic in her causes, and selfless in her time and energy."



BRIDGET STIRLING

Bridget Sterling models a dedication to make life better for girls and women. She has been a public educator with Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton and made presentations supporting survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. She has also helped organized Take Back the Night and International Women's Day events. Bridget takes civil society responsibilities seriously, so volunteers on the board of Edmonton Social Planning Council and was a candidate for Edmonton Public School Board. Her cultural interests are expressed in singing with a community choir and involvement with Edmonton Folk Music Festival. A friend says, "She steps up to make a difference in the lives of future generations."



MICHELLE VAN TEELING

Michelle Van Teeling spent years obsessing about being thin, until she concluded eating well and exercise was the real route to healthy body, and mind. This led her to body building, and her first competition in 2007. Recently, at age 42, she placed second in Northern Lightweights Women's Bodybuilding and Northern Masters, and now has the goal of qualifying at Nationals level. She sees herself a model for her three children and tells them, "You may not always win, but that makes you push harder. Believe in yourself and that makes you a winner." And she still gets up early in the mornings to create masterpieces of cake design, available through Yummy Mummy Cakes!

ENTERTAINMENT



INNER VOICE

Inner Voice is a community singing group that aims to be a voice for the community, especially men, women, and children who are poor or homeless. Their songs are of hope, and they seek to honour those who have endured, unfairly, life's hardships and to support social justice events with their voices. New members are welcome. The fall session will begin at Boyle Renaissance Plaza on October 2.



TOMMY BANKS

Tommy Banks is one of Canada's preeminent musicians but has also served the nation as a very active Senator from 2000 to 2011. His professional career in music began in 1950 and saw him earn Juno, Gemini and ARIA awards and named to Edmonton's Cultural Hall of Fame. He has played for the Royal Family and provided musical direction for the 15th Winter Olympics. He is a past chair of the music program at (then) Grant MacEwan College and served on the board of CKUA Radio and is an Officer of the Order of Canada.

ENTERTAINMENT



MACHA ABDALLAH

Macha Abdallah, is a young artist/performer and University of Alberta student, with talents as singer, dancer, and actor. She has been an Eskimos Cheerleader, 2011 Nominee for Mayor's Celebration for the Arts, and 2010 Award Recipient of Cultural Diversity in the Arts from Edmonton Arts Council. She sings R&B, Reggae, and Jazz, and is a back up vocalist for Burundi singer Kidum.



MARIA DUNN

Juno-nominated songwriter Maria Dunn writes and performs songs that tell powerful stories of real people. *We Were Good People* explored the stories of working people in Western Canada and *Piece by Piece* shares the lives of women who worked over the decades at Edmonton's GWG factory. Her busy summer included performances at South Country Fair and Edmonton Folk Music Festival.



LOOKING BACK ON DAUGHTERS DAY 2013

Daughters Day 2013 saw Edmonton's City Hall filled with hundreds of people on a warm August afternoon. There was time to visit displays from community organizations and enjoy refreshments, or to take a guided walk in the neighbourhood nearby to learn more about women in Alberta and receive a Commitment Bracelet to work for an end to gender discrimination. And then host Lewis Cardinal welcomed people to a program that included beautiful music from Darla Daniels, Sierra Jamerson, and Rosa Romero; a challenging keynote address by Christine Sokaymoh Frederick; and presentations to 10 women chosen as Daughters of the Year.





DAY OF THE GIRL 2013



To mark the UN creating the Day of the Girl as a new worldwide celebration on October 11, Daughters Day presented an event in Edmonton in 2013 that featured Rumana Monzur sharing her personal story of overcoming an attack on her life because of her commitment to pursue an education. Renee Vaugeois and Namrata Gill, past Daughters of the Year, added their experiences and comments on the importance of ending gender discrimination. The evening, co-hosted by MacEwan University and Mahatma Gandhi Foundation of World Peace, also saw a screening of the powerful documentary “The Three Deadliest Words in the World-- It’s a Girl.”

DAUGHTERS DAY: CELEBRATING THE LIVES, CONTRIBUTIONS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF ALL DAUGHTERS

WHAT WE DO

- Daughters Day engages people in celebrating the lives, contributions and achievements of all daughters in society, drawing attention to the importance of the full participation of every daughter and the benefits this brings to everyone.
- Daughters Day undertakes projects to see that the lives of every daughter can be free of all discrimination and limitations.

WHO WE ARE

- Daughters Day is associated with the International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society. Its activities are supported by community members who volunteer their skills and time and works with a wide range of community organizations and public bodies.

WHY?

- Celebrating the accomplishments and achievements of all daughters draws attention to the diverse and substantial benefits to all of society when every daughter is able to fully realize their goals, dreams, and aspirations.
- Educating and engaging the public and decision-makers in awareness of the inequalities, human rights abuses, and barriers experienced by many daughters and in engaging people to work towards the elimination of these problems increases the chance of building a truly civil society where all daughters experience justice and respect.

OUR ACTIVITIES

- Presenting an annual community celebration of Daughters Day (on or near September 1) in Edmonton, with a focus on honouring daughters of distinction, and supporting the development of companion celebrations in communities across Alberta
- Conducting and sharing research of inequalities, human rights issues, and barriers faced by daughters and drawing attention to initiatives to create a fairer society and world
- Advocating, collaborating, and advancing the interests of daughters locally, nationally, and globally
- Sharing information through social media
- Providing training and opportunity for engagement to people and organizations interested in working for full equality of all daughters



THE COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS WHO REVIEWED NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2014 DAUGHTERS OF THE YEAR AND MADE SELECTIONS WERE KAREN LEBOVICI AND LORI SIGURDSON (STANDING) AND DANIELLE MONROE, DANIELLE CAMPBELL, AND PHILOMENA OKEKE-IHEJIRIKA (SITTING).

Daughters Day is an initiative of the International Association of Citizens for a Civil Society.

CITIZENS FOR A CIVIL SOCIETY BOARD

- Mita Das, President
- Eric Schloss, Vice-President
- Poushali Mitra, Secretary
- Gurcharan Singh Bhatia, Treasurer
- Jiti Bhatia
- Satya Das
- Charan Khehra
- Elexis Schloss
- David Evans
- Miriam Thomas

DAUGHTERS DAY

STEERING COMMITTEE

- Charan Khehra, Chair
- Gurcharan Singh Bhatia
- Mita Das
- Satya Das
- Elexis Schloss

ADVISORS & AMBASSADORS

- Sonia Bitar, Chair
- Dr. Jodi Abbott
- Linda Duncan, MP
- Dr. Raj Pannu
- Dr. Fern Snart
- Miriam Thomas
- Rose Marie Tremblay

PROJECTS COORDINATOR

- Jim Gurnett

WEBSITE COORDINATOR

- Paula Kirman

IN MEMORIUM

Shortly after the 2013 Daughters Day, event one of the founders of the event, Didar Pannu, passed away. His life of service in the community and as an educator is deeply appreciated and honoured by many and he is much missed at Daughters Day. Activity is un-

derway to develop a continuing commemoration of his life and more information will be available about this soon.

SUPPORTING THE DAUGHTERS

DAY INITIATIVE

Daughters Day invites you to show your support. Your purchase of t-shirts and lapel buttons helps fund the costs of activities. Donations are always welcome as well. Most Daughters Day activities can only happen thanks to volunteer help. Contact Jim Gurnett (jimgurnett@yahoo.ca) to get more information or offer your assistance.

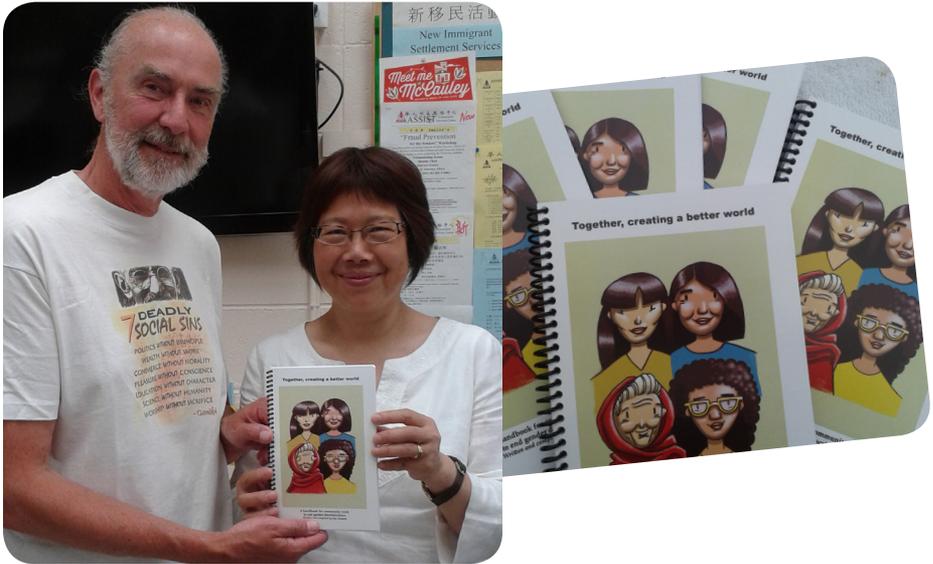
710-10150-100 STREET, EDMONTON

ALBERTA CANADA T5J 0P6

WWW.DAUGHTERS-DAY.COM

FACEBOOK.COM/DAUGHTERSDAY

TWEET US AT @DAUGHTERSDAY



OVER 500 COPIES OF THE HANDBOOK HAVE NOW BEEN DISTRIBUTED. HERE FLORENCE PANG AT ASSIST COMMUNITY SERVICES RECEIVES SOME BOOKS FROM DAUGHTERS DAY'S JIM GURNETT.

TOGETHER, CREATING A BETTER WORLD

Over the winter months in Alberta small groups of women gathered to share ideas about what a world free of gender discrimination would be like and to explore ideas about how to achieve such a world. In 15 animated meetings they talked about their own experiences of hurt and restriction, and offered suggestions to ensure a better future. These conversations form the heart of a new publication, *Together, creating a better world: A handbook for community work to end gender discrimination,* now available both as a print publication and on-line at the Daughters Day website.

This project by Daughters Day was made possible thanks to generous funding support from the Government of Alberta's Human Rights Education and Multiculturalism Fund and the City of Edmonton, as well as the support of many community organizations that invited women to take part, the skilled assistance of facilitators and recorders, and, most important, the 150 brave and caring women of all ages and backgrounds who took part. Most sessions were in Edmonton, but groups also met in Calgary, Red Deer, and Slave Lake.

The handbook is intended not as a formal text on gender discrimination nor as an instruction manual, but rather as a source of encouragement and places for groups to begin thinking, talking, and creating their own local actions.

Planning is underway for a workshop on October 11 to provide training for people interested in gaining skills in defining, designing, and delivering programs in their own communities. Details will be available at www.daughters-day.com and www.fb.com/DaughtersDay. There are also plans to move forward with having the handbook translated into other languages. Copies are available by donation at the Daughters Day registration table.

Celebrating all Daughters

Mayor
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don.iveson@edmonton.ca



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Ward 2 Councillor
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THE CITY OF
Edmonton

Mahatma Gandhi Canadian Foundation for World Peace

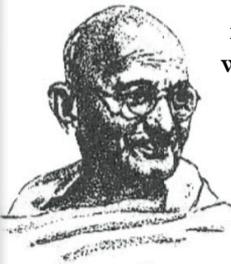
*Invites you to join us at the
following 2014 events:*

International Day of Peace
Sunday, September 21st – 1:00 p.m.
City Hall, 1 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Garlanding Ceremony
Thursday, October 2nd – 12:00 p.m.
Stanley A. Milner Library
7 Sir Winston Churchill Square

26th Annual Banquet
To honour Gandhi's birthday
Thursday, October 2nd – 6:00 p.m.
Fantasyland Hotel, 17700 87 Avenue
Advance tickets \$60 (charitable donation receipt will be
issued for allowable amount); students \$30

For tickets or more
information please visit our
website or call (780) 718-1696



Mahatma Gandhi

Canadian Foundation for World Peace

www.gandhifoundation.ca



EDMONTON
HERITAGE COUNCIL

Edmonton's shared heritage is about all Edmontonians making their place in the city. The Edmonton Heritage Council is committed to partnerships and projects that:

- *provide a forum for discussing and sharing heritage and culture in Edmonton*
- *advocate for vibrant heritage programs*
- *unify Edmonton's heritage community and give it a voice*

www.edmontonheritage.ca

Proudly Supporting
DAUGHTERS DAY 2014



#201, 10812 - 178 street
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Toll Free: 1.877.471.2171
E-mail: iaaw@iaaw.ca



*“Strength
& Beauty”*



PROUD SUPPORTERS OF
Daughters Day 2014

NorQuest College is a vibrant, inclusive and diverse learning environment that transforms lives and strengthens communities. Today, on Daughter's Day, we proudly honour the 80% of NorQuest students who are female for their commitment to learn and determination to succeed.

Step Forward
norquest.ca





**YMCA of
Northern Alberta**

*The YMCA of Northern Alberta is an
all-inclusive organization focused
on providing life-enhancing
opportunities for all people.*



*Daughters mean the
world to us*

Celebrating Women Throughout Our Communities

The YMCA is proud to support the development and empowerment of women as part of our mission to build healthy communities. We stand united with the Daughters Day Organizing Committee in seeking a better life for all women, beginning in our own community. Join us on September 6, 2014 to celebrate the amazing daughters of the world and all they do for us.

northernalberta.ymca.ca

**Charitable Registration Number:
11930 7122 RR0001**



YMCAofNorthernAlberta



@YMCANorthernAB



Honourable Gene Zwozdesky,

MLA, Edmonton Mill Creek
Speaker, Alberta Legislative Assembly

“Best Wishes and ‘thank-you’
to everyone for another great
Daughter’s Day celebration!”

Constituency Office: Phone 780 466 3737
Email: edmonton.millcreek@assembly.ab.ca

**Daughters Day
should be
*every day***

ALBERTA'S
NDP
OPPOSITION

The Alberta NDP stands in solidarity with all
of those who work towards a better future
for girls & women.





INDO CANADIAN
WOMEN'S
ASSOCIATION

9342 – 34 Avenue Edmonton

Phone: (780) 490-0477 Fax: (780) 490-0478

Established 30 years ago, ICWA works through settlement assistance, skill building community activities, and adult education to ensure immigrants are able to feel at home in Canada. Our approach to preventing violence against women is by raising the status of women through dialogue and community mobilization. An attitude shift about the way women are portrayed and treated is essential and we believe small shifts in attitudes about women can create a large overall impact and raise the status of women in our communities. That is why we are proud to say, ICWA has been changing attitudes since 1984!



**R K
Jewellers**



**9258-34 Ave
Edmonton
T6E 5P2**

*House of
fine gold
jewellery*

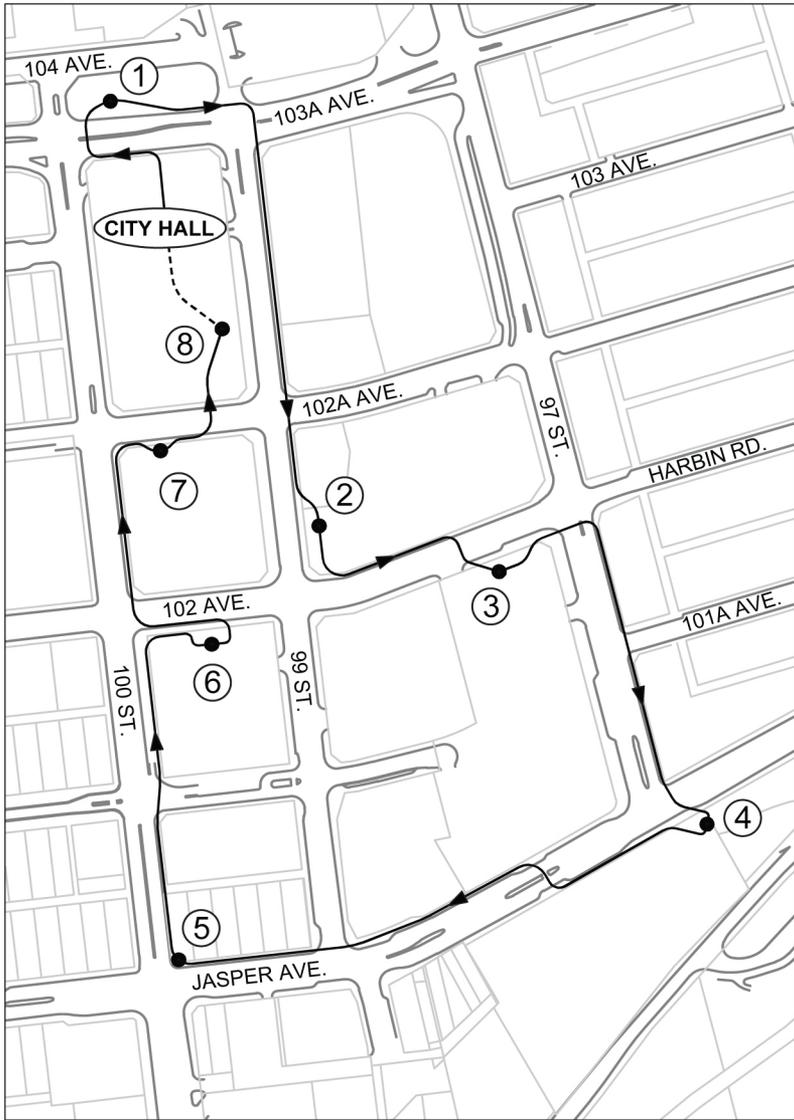
**Phone:
780.469.2838**

THANK YOU SUPPORTERS

Daughters Day is grateful to the generous financial support of people and organizations that support the celebration and the other activities throughout the year.

Madhu & Sundri Bhambani
Gurcharan Singh & Jiti Bhatia
Gurvinder Singh and Aimee Hill Bhatia
Mita & Satya Das
James S. Edwards
Carol & Russel Flint
Jim Gurnett
Pritam Singh Hoonjan
Joan Johnston
Charan & Surinder Khehra
Alexis Kielen
Lynn & Scott Kiser
Salma & Zaheer Lakhani
Karen Leibovici
Geeta & Rajiv Malhotra
Nazir B. Mulji
John & Mary O'Neill
Didar Singh Pannu
Raj & Swinder Pannu
Naresh & Urmila Rastogi
Dr. Davinder & Pancy Rehsia
Eric & Elexis Schloss
Dr. Balbir & Anjana Singh
Dr. Fern D. Snart
Arvind Koshal Prof. Corp.
Cameron Development Corp.
Heritage Seniors Centre
Living Sounds Hearing Centre
RSG Investments
Suraj Mukhi Mgmt. & Holdings

Thank you to Chuck Hunt, the cartographer for the Commitment Walk route map.



COMMITMENT WALK ROUTE MAP

Total Route - 2.0 km

THE COMMITMENT WALK IS A TIME FOR YOU, ALONE OR WITH OTHERS, TO THINK AND TALK ABOUT THE LIVES OF OUR DAUGHTERS, TO NOTICE ACHIEVEMENTS AND AREAS WHERE ATTENTION IS STILL NEEDED.

It is a time to renew a personal commitment to ensure the future is better for every daughter, as you walk. After the walk, please come to the registration table and get a commitment bracelet to wear as a reminder of your learning from the walk and the personal commitment you make regarding being part of creating a community free of gender discrimination.

Visit as many of the stations as you wish. The map suggests a route, you may choose to use. These notes provide information about each topic. If you do not go to all the stations, you may like to return another day-- or to think of other locations that speak to these issues in your community.

1. HOMELESS MEMORIAL

Women often have a special identity as home-keepers. But in Canada in recent years it has become more difficult to even have a house where people can create a home, because of high costs. In Edmonton hundreds of women and children are homeless or in precarious housing. This affects ability to eat well, makes schooling for children chaotic, even leads to families being broken up. Poverty is especially high for single-parent women. There is no family emergency shelter in the city and the shelters for those escaping domestic violence are over-full. Many tiles on this sculpture were created by homeless women to express their experiences. How can all of us ensure adequate housing is available so every woman can create a safe healthy home for herself and her family?

More information:

http://www.equalityrights.org/when/newPDFs/FactSheet_1.pdf

www.ecohh.ca

2. WINSPEAR CENTRE

Winspear Centre is a place where creativity finds expression in diverse ways. Nearby are other centres of creativity too-- Citadel Theatre and the Art Gallery of Alberta.

Canadians appreciate artistic creativity, but many would have trouble naming women of achievement, beyond perhaps Emily Carr, Margaret Laurence, and Anne Murray. The journey has never been smooth for women artists, and most struggle hard to earn recognition and break into a male-dominated world. Familial obligations and gender bias compound the challenge of the arts as a career option. Today, however, more women are doing well in the cultural arts. What measures can we take that would support women to achieve more success in the world of arts, culture, and literature? Do women artists in First Nations and newcomer communities have access to resources to pursue careers in culture? Can you find the names of women in Alberta who are making a mark in areas of culture? Have you sampled their creative works?

More information:

Library and Archives Canada: <http://www.collectionscanada.gc.ca/women/030001-1150-e.html>

Vancouver Art Gallery: <http://www.vanartgallery.bc.ca/pdfs/Canadian%20Women%20Modernists%20Study%20Guide.pdf>

3. WOMEN IN ELECTED OFFICE

Canada Place is home to many federal government offices. Despite some progress, elected politics remains male dominated. Edmonton has had only a single woman as mayor in its 110 years as a city and in the 2013 municipal election only one woman was elected to City Council. How does the representation of women in elected office in Canada compare with other countries? What could individuals do locally to improve the gender balance in federal politics? Do you consider gender as an issue when you are making decisions in an election?

Not far from Canada Place, along the river, is Louise McKinney Park. It celebrates the Famous Five, whose work made Canada a more inclusive democracy. Louise McKinney was one of five Alberta women who initiated the Persons' Case that earned Canadian women suffragist rights and made them eligible to run for public office in the early twentieth century. Today, women have equal voting rights, but remain under-represented in elected office. In other parts of Edmonton you can find parks dedicated to other women who were part of the Famous Five. Do our children learn enough about the Famous Five and the Person's Case in school? Despite women's legal rights, is Canadian democracy all-inclusive and participatory for women?

More information:

Campbell, Kim, "Canadian politics needs a commitment to gender parity", *Globe and Mail*, January 29, 2013 (www.theglobeandmail.com/commentary/canadian-politics-needs-a-commitment-to-gender-parity/article7924473/)

Status of Women Canada <http://www.parl.gc.ca/ParlInfo/compilations/parliament/WomenRepresentation.aspx?Language=E&Parliament=1924d334-6bd0-4cb3-8793-cee640025ff6>

Equal Voice: www.equalvoice.ca

4. INDIGENOUS WOMEN

Like this Inukshuk overlooking the river valley, indigenous women have played a navigational and inspirational role in their communities in deep and essential ways. Aboriginal women had responsibilities for running the home, caring for children, gathering and preparing food, as well as in substantial positions of social and spiritual leadership. Today, often women are single parenting at a young age risking education and social/physical well being, the on-going consequence of residential schools and other assimilationist actions. Dreams and ambitions are pushed to the margin to meet financial and social needs of the family. In Edmonton, two out of five aboriginal people live below the poverty line. Indigenous women are the subjects of violence far more often than other women. In the midst of this difficult situation, the leadership of women in the Idle No More movement and the annual Esquao Awards of the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women provide evidence of women turning things around.

More information:

www.idlenomore.ca, www.walkingwithoursisters.ca, www.iaaw.ca

5. WORLD TRADE CENTRE

This historic building is home to Edmonton Chamber of Commerce, formed in 1889. It took 107 years before the first woman was elected president in 1996. Why did it take so long – are women lacking in leadership and entrepreneurship skills? Are women better at home as the caregiver of the family? Today 47 percent of small and medium sized businesses in Canada are run by women; nearly a million Canadian women were self-employed in 2011. Between 2001 and 2011 their number increased by 23 percent, while the number of men grew by only 14 percent. So why do so few “make it to the top”? Is it gender barriers or lack of a broad public strategy? Who are some of the Edmonton women who have achieved senior leadership positions in business?

More information:

<http://www.tradecommissioner.gc.ca/eng/businesswomen/home.jsp>

http://www.huffingtonpost.ca/2012/10/02/women-entrepreneurs-canada_n_1932636.html

6. MILNER LIBRARY

The public library is a great place to find all sorts of information about women, in many media, fiction and fact, as recent as today, or from the ancient classics. At a special display for Daughters Day a small glimpse into the vast offerings of Edmonton's public libraries is offered. And at the EPL display at City Hall you can receive a FREE library membership so you can begin to use all this valuable information.

7. WHERE ARE WOMEN IN THE TRADES?

At this bench we see a working man relaxing at lunch. The gender discrepancy in trades, and the transportation and construction industry is high. Only six percent of workers in these generally high-paying sectors are women. What is keeping women away from these trades? Do trade work sites need to be more non-discriminatory in wages and behavior to encourage more women's participation? In the 1990s women earned 72.5 cents compared to a dollar for male colleagues. In 2008 it had increased to 83.05 cents on the dollar, but far too many of the lowest paying jobs are still filled by women.

More information: <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/start-debut-eng.html>
<http://www.swc-cfc.gc.ca/index-eng.html>
www.womenbuildingfutures.com

8. A PROUD HISTORY

This sculpture honours pioneer women of Alberta who worked hard to develop agriculture and industry in Alberta from the time settlers began to arrive here. Many local histories published by communities all over Alberta have memoirs of pioneer women in those settlement years. The sculpture is a reminder that not only in Alberta, but around the world, women work hard, and yet too often have been denied even basic rights to hold property or enter into legal agreements. Often fundamental issues related to their health and life choices have been made by men. Who are some of the women in your family who have remarkable stories of achievement? Are you capturing their information and experiences?

More information:
Grant MacEwan Mighty Women, Vancouver: Greystone Books, 1995
Visit Royal Alberta Museum (information at www.royalalbertamuseum.ca)

ABOUT THE COMMITMENT BRACELETS

The bracelets are hand-crafted of straw and glass beads by women's co-ops in Brazil and China, creating fair income for women in these communities. Marketed commercially as Wish Bracelets, they were donated for use by Daughters Day but they are available for purchase at tourist attractions in Edmonton or at www.WishBracelets.com. Leah Henderson began the foundation that brings them to Canada, and proceeds support development projects for women.

DAUGHTERS DAY SONG

BY PAULA E. KIRMAN

Songs of survival
Emerging from the darkness of fear
Begin with our arrival
A lifetime on a road led by tears

And there's lots of joy and lots of pain
Sunshine and wind and rain
Blood flowing through our veins
With the strength and the wisdom of years

Obstacles surmounting
Overcoming them one by one
Towards freedom we are counting
And changes have already begun

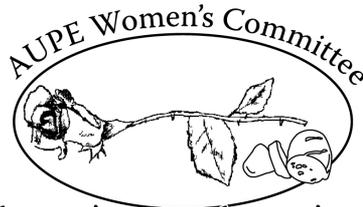
When we're writing our own history
Breaking through the mystery
Standing up for all to see
The battles that we've won

So here we stand before you
Daughters of all ages today
Proclaiming something so true
We're ready and willing to say

Stand for love and hot for hate
Our rights are not for debate
Join with us-- it's not too late
For we will not go away

And there's so much we can celebrate
Here on Daughters Day

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



Strong Women, Strong World



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780.434.7373

