

IMPACT REPORT



2022



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR **ASHIF MAWJI**

2022 WAS A YEAR OF MANY EVENTS, SPECIAL EXPERIENCES AND SOME FIRSTS. HERE ARE A FEW THAT STOOD OUT FOR ME.

1. **Let Kids be Kids:** We helped ensure another successful Horsepower for Hope event which raised over \$500,000 for Kids with Cancer. Through that, we provided special experiences for numerous kids battling cancer and helped put smiles on their faces and for that day at least, allow them to be kids and forget about their challenges. We met Cecily and Mason, two amazing warriors who are battling cancer. They got to visit various EPS facilities/teams, including Tactical, Canine and others and built strong relationships with our EPS members. Since then, Cecily has become one of our foundation's strongest fundraisers and helped raise tens of thousands of dollars.
2. **Connecting with the community:** Our Operation Sole event helped newcomers to Canada, Indigenous Youth and others by providing shoes/sneakers to help these youth start the school year with their best foot forward. It brought these youth closer to our EPS members and made for a better mutual understanding of each other, while building trust and a bond.
3. **Christmas, Holiday season and time to reflect and do better:** Our annual calendar with the canine team this year featured our Edmonton Oilers and some of their furry family members. The calendar was a huge hit and the highest on record in terms of sales (sold several thousand at \$20 each). More importantly, it highlighted the importance of our Canine Unit to the broader community and was a great Christmas gift for many. In addition, our Operation Find Santa was a tremendous success that helped 10 incredibly deserving indigenous families from the Bent Arrow Healing Society by highlighting the love the community has for them and showered them with gifts and things they need to make their lives better. The holiday season can be tough for some, and we wanted to help ease the burden and make it brighter and joyful for these families.

After such an impactful 2022, I am looking forward to what we can accomplish in 2023.

1. **Solving for our most vulnerable:** Like most major cities, Edmonton has seen an increase in its most vulnerable population and EPF is looking at ways to help. We're working with our partners and our TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator (TELUS CSW), which is very unique, to produce incredible outcomes and help bring solutions to our most pressing challenges. In addition to helping generate jobs in Alberta and inspire entrepreneurship, the accelerator has attracted some of the brightest in the world to come see what we have to offer. The opportunity to work with EPS and community partners is very attractive to these ventures. One of our key goals is to help deliver solutions within our region that will help our most pressing community wellness and safety related challenges.
2. **Innovation and thinking out of the box:** Our TELUS CSW Accelerator which is very unique in the world, is producing incredible outcomes and helping bring solutions to our most pressing challenges. In addition to helping generate jobs in Alberta and inspire entrepreneurship, the accelerator has attracted some of the brightest in the world to come to the province and see what we have to offer. The ability to work with our EPS and community partners is very attractive for these ventures. One of our key goals with EPS and our community partners is to help with our most pressing community wellness and safety related challenges.
3. **Ramping up fundraising to deliver outcomes:** Our fundraising for 2022 exceeded that for 2021 and we are working on strategies, initiatives and programs to ensure 2023 is even better. We look forward to working with our donors and stakeholders in ensuring we're accountable and are truly delivering expected outcomes and results. We welcome ideas from all of you, so please do let us know how we can be better and deliver more.

In closing, 2022 was an incredible year for our foundation and thanks to our donors, the community, EPS, our incredible volunteer board of directors, our team and all our stakeholders and partners, we overachieved on our objectives and goals. Still there's a lot more work needed, and we need to continue on our mission. We know that Edmonton can be one of the safest and most livable cities in the world, and that this goal can be achieved if we all work together as one force. In fulfilling this objective, we need to act as one, be more inclusive and tolerant and respect each other in every aspect. There's a lot at stake and the future of our kids and their kids is definitely worth our efforts. Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

The best gift we can give is to say a big Thank You. Without our volunteer board, our incredible team (especially Elisha Jackson), our partners at the EPS, our incredible donors, and all our stakeholders, we just couldn't do this without you and we are so very grateful and appreciative of your continued support, guidance and stewardship.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF

CHIEF DALE MCFEE

I SPEAK ON BEHALF OF THE ENTIRE EDMONTON POLICE SERVICE (EPS) WHEN I SAY IT FEELS GOOD TO BE BACK OUT IN THE COMMUNITY ATTENDING EVENTS AND GETTING TO KNOW EDMONTONIANS BETTER. The past few years have been tough on everyone but have reminded us how valuable community connections are in building a strong, safe, and vibrant city.

I'm grateful for the work of the Foundation, and I'm equally grateful for the vision of Chair Ashif Mawji. There was no shortage of memorable moments this year that wouldn't have been possible without the support of an incredible board of directors and a lengthy list of volunteers, donors, stakeholders, and partners. The work we've accomplished together will undoubtedly have a lasting impact on our city.

As crime and disorder become increasingly entwined with other social issues like mental health and addictions, innovative thinking and collaborative approaches become crucial to finding long-term solutions that benefit all Edmontonians. Work done through the Community Solutions Accelerator and the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator in bringing entrepreneurship together with police, academia, and private industry gives us new perspective that can fundamentally change how we approach some of society's biggest challenges.

I appreciate the many opportunities I had through the Foundation to connect with community members this year. I'm also proud of our officers who got involved in events like the Beeping Eggs Project, Operation Find Santa, and Operation Sole. It's rewarding to see the impact these events and opportunities have had on Edmontonians and on our officers.

Bringing police and the public together through positive interaction is key to community safety and well-being and forwards our vision of the EPS being an extension of the community we serve.



EDMONTON POLICE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

ASHIF MAWJI
CHAIR

SHARLEEN OBOROWSKY
VICE CHAIR

JONATHAN CHIA
TREASURER

**DEPUTY CHIEF
DEVIN LAFORCE**
SECRETARY

JILLENE LAKEVOLD
DIRECTOR

DOUG GOSS
DIRECTOR

CRAIG HARDER
DIRECTOR

RICHARD KIRBY
DIRECTOR

KEVIN LOWE
DIRECTOR

CHIEF DALE MCFEE
EX OFFICIO

CONNECTING POLICE TO COMMUNITY, AND COMMUNITY TO POLICE.

The Edmonton Police Foundation (EPF) is dedicated to supporting the Edmonton Police Service (EPS) in building strong and positive relationships with Edmontonians. We work with EPS employees and volunteers on projects that have a meaningful impact on community safety and well-being.

2022 WAS A YEAR OF GROWTH FOR EPF. THANKS TO OUR DONORS, WE RAISED \$806,554 TO HELP CREATE NEW PROGRAMS AND BUILD ON EXISTING ONES. A FEW OF THE PROGRAMS WE FUNDED THROUGH YOUR DONATIONS INCLUDE:

Beeping Eggs Project

Horsepower for Hope

Oskayak Police Academy

**Police and Youth
Engagement Program**

Operation Sole

EPS Half Marathon

Bridge of Reconciliation Project

**Catalytic Converter
Theft Project**

**TELUS Community Safety
and Wellness Project**

Operation Find Santa

EPS Canine Unit

Not included in the above fundraising total is funding from Alberta Innovates for the TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator. Alberta Innovates, as our key partner, distributes the grant money on behalf of a funding consortium, which includes Edmonton Unlimited, the Province of Alberta and Prairies Can. The money funds all aspects of the TELUS CSW, including program delivery, staff, marketing and support services.



BEEPING EGGS PROJECT

EPF partnered with the EPS Bomb Unit for the Beeping Eggs Project in April 2022. Detective Ryan Katchur and members from the Bomb Unit built large, beeping eggs for a very special Easter egg hunt. Families from the Canadian National Institute for the Blind and the Alberta Society for the Visually Impaired were invited to participate in the Easter egg hunt at Emily Murphy Park. This event was geared towards the ears rather than the eyes so that blind and sight-limited children could participate independently in an Easter egg hunt – some for the very first time!

"Last year, our family participated in the Beeping Eggs project put on by EPF and EPS.

Our daughter Alexandra was born with a severe visual impairment, which requires her to use a cane to navigate and use braille for reading. The event really meant a lot to her and to our family - we have always modified our annual egg hunt over the years to make it accessible to Alex, usually to make it more of a treasure hunt with clues. To have a whole event where police took the time to develop devices specifically engineered for her felt very meaningful and important, as this is the very definition of accessibility and equitable access. It was also just generally a great family event with a lot of different fun activities for kids of all different abilities.

More broadly, it was also great to see EPS engaging with the community in this way, and definitely something I would love to see their organization do more of across all spectra of the people that call Edmonton home."

Kieran Halloran, 6 year old Alexandra's Dad



HORSEPOWER FOR HOPE

For the fifth year in a row, EPF sponsored Horsepower for Hope in support of the Kids with Cancer Society (KWCS). Horsepower for Hope is a group of passionate car owners who host a car rally to raise money for families going through cancer. We partner with the EPS Training Section, Canine Unit, Tactical Unit, and Flight Operations to help make the event memorable for the participants and the kids from KWCS. In 2022, we provided a special EPS VIP experience for 9-year-old Cecily and 6-year-old Mason. They were escorted around the city in an historic EPS vehicle with a special stop at a toy store. After that, they received a tour of the Canine Unit and a special one-on-one interaction with the Tactical Unit and Air-1 members.

"Me and Cecily waved the flag! I rode in a police car! We went to a toy store! We went to the Canine kennels! I got to sit in the tactical truck and the helicopter. It was my favourite! I loved everything!"

Sergeant Mason Mendenhall, 6 year old cancer survivor



OSKAYAK POLICE ACADEMY

In 2022, EPF partnered with the Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund and TC Energy to present Oskayak Police Academy. The objective of the program is to build relationships between Indigenous youth and police officers. This is done by creating a culturally safe space where trans-formative dialogue and relationships can be actualized. The program is hosted in partnership with Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society for two weeks. Indigenous youth spend time with community organizers and police members, learning together through experiential traditional customs as well as engaging with police culture and customs. Activities such as traditional hand drum making, Canine demonstrations, community volunteerism events, and medicine picking are all highlights of the academy.

"2022 marked the 6th year I had participated in the Oskayak Police

Academy. I started volunteering my time at Oskayak with hopes of improving my Cree language skills and because I love to teach youth about forensics. Ultimately I was the one who ended up learning a lot more from the youth that were participating in the camp. I have gained so much more insight into my heritage and am now embracing a culture that I was raised to hide. I've been able to invite police officers to come to participate in activities in the camp and am broadening their understanding of this culture through this process. Last year one of the police officers who participated in the camp told me that this was a life-changing experience for her; she is now on our planning committee for 2023. These are the experiences that we need to embrace and continue to share with other members of the EPS. Last year one of the biggest takeaways for me was seeing the youth go from strangers to friends and go from being shy, reserved, and not overly trusting of police to coming full circle and confiding in some of us. I was working extra duty at K-Days on the last day of the Oskayak Camp in the evening and had students from the camp approach me on the grounds of K-Days and give me hugs. Youth that two weeks prior wouldn't have spoken to a police officer were hugging one in public, it was huge for me. These are connections that will have lasting impressions on both the youth and the police officers who participate."



Detective Nicole Lougheed, Child Protection Section

POLICE AND YOUTH ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM

EPF has supported the Police and Youth Engagement Program (PYEP) since 2014. In 2022, we partnered with TELUS Friendly Future Foundation to fund 48 newcomer youth to participate in PYEP. EPS collaborates with REACH Edmonton on this 2 week-long summer program that gives youth and police officers a unique chance to communicate one-on-one, build positive relationships and learn from each other. The program aims to bring police and youth together, remove misconceptions on both sides, build trust, and create a safe and comfortable environment in which dialogue can occur. It is focused on equipping youth with the tools and skills to become leaders in their own communities.

"I developed a new understanding of the difficulties experienced by the youth today of newcomer communities by taking part in the Police and Youth Engagement Program. As a first generation Somali-Canadian I shared much of their opinions and experiences, much of what youth face today. However, I better understood them through frank and open dialogue that I was fortunate to have as a police officer within the PYEP program. This new insight has made it easier for me to carry out my policing responsibilities with empathy and a greater awareness. I was able to collaborate with the youth with the long-term and shared purpose of making communities that are safer and more inclusive by forging closer relationships with community and the Edmonton Police Service.

Additionally, the program helped to foster a sense of trust between law enforcement and the youth. This trust is critical in ensuring a safer community as it allows the youth to feel comfortable reaching out to police when they need help or to report incidents. As a result, there is a larger chance that the community will become safer in the future and I hope more youth who see themselves within policing as a future career.

The Police and Youth Engagement Program was a very impactful and positive experience that has improved the way I serve my community. We can all work together to make communities safer and more inclusive by developing closer relationships with youth and the communities we serve."

Constable Abdirahman Kulmiye, EPS Community Relations Team



OPERATION SOLE

EPF created the Operation Sole program in 2022 to add to the Oskayak Police Academy and Police and Youth Engagement Program. The Edmonton Civic Employees Charitable Assistance Fund (ECECAF) and TELUS Friendly Future Foundation provided funds that allowed police officers to take the youth shoe shopping at Foot Locker. 75 youth had enough money to choose ANY pair of shoes they wanted in the whole store! Yes, even those Air Jordans! The goal of this program is to help the youth put their best foot forward into the new school year while creating positive memories with police.

“Operation Sole provided the perfect incubator for the EPS to engage with youth in a meaningful way. This innovative program brought youth and police together in a way that the context was driven by youth. They not only had freedom to select items they needed, but also items that expressed their personal style and outlook.

Programs like this help build trust in our communities, which aids in safety. This is what drew ECECAF as a financial supporter.”

Superintendent Derek McIntyre

Crime Suppression and Investigations Division & ECECAF Board Member

“It’s not often as police we get to be involved in events like this. It was awesome to see the joy on the kids faces while shopping and to share conversations with them.”

Constable Brady Dryer,
West Division Beats Team



EPS HALF MARATHON

After an eight year break, the EPS Half Marathon was revived and refreshed. Led by EPS staff, the event saw runners from all over Canada come out to the Alberta Legislature Grounds on September 11 to participate in the half, 10k, and 5k routes. Various EPS units set up at the family festival taking place during the run to show off the amazing work that EPS employees do every day. The event was a great way to connect police to the community in a fun and positive atmosphere.

"This year I was invited to be a Grand Marshal of the EPS Half Marathon with my friend Mason. We had so much fun, and I ran my very first 5k! I got to run with my friend Chief McFee at the start which was very special. I ran slow so he could keep up. After I ran forever and ever, I got a medal that I keep in my treasure box. I also got to visit with the Canine Unit and meet Duco, see the Bomb Squad, and visit with Tactical and try on their cool gear. They all gave me a patch too they were so nice! My favourite part was that I ran and didn't give up. I can't wait to run again next year!"

Cecily Eklund, 9 year old EPS Half Marathon participant



BRIDGE OF RECONCILIATION PROJECT

In September 2022, EPF was proud to support the Bridge of Reconciliation Project. Under the guidance of Elder Francis Whiskeyjack, this project is a collaboration between the EPS Alberta Avenue Beats Team, Spruce Avenue School, the Neighbourhood Empowerment Team, the City of Edmonton, and the Family Centre. EPF provided funding to paint the footbridge located at 97th Street and 115 Avenue in the colours of the Medicine Wheel. Elder Whiskeyjack also helped the students to create their artwork to add to the footbridge.

The goal of this project is to positively impact the students' feeling of safety within their community. It is also an approach to restoring and reclaiming Indigenous ideas and concepts to promote trust and reconciliation between community members.

"As a beat team in the Alberta Avenue area, we have the privilege of interacting with a diverse and vibrant population. Working directly in the community gives us the opportunity to positively connect with residents, businesses, groups and organizations in a time where police are often challenged for the way we do things."

The Bridge of Reconciliation project was the result of many heads coming together to solve a community problem. Not only were we able to empower those impacted by giving them back control over something they had lost, but we were also able to build connection between community and police in the process.

Seeing this unique project through to the end and making it something the entire community can be proud of would not have been possible without the support of EPF.

Everyday we drive by the bridge we're reminded that big ideas are achievable if we work together."

Constable Stephanie Bosch, Spruce Avenue Beats Team



CATALYTIC CONVERTER CHALLENGE



In response to the escalation of catalytic converter thefts, EPF partnered with EPS for the Catalytic Converter Challenge. We put out a challenge to the world to submit ideas and technological innovations to help solve the problem. The challenge offered up to \$50,000 in prize money for viable solutions through the generous support of the Millennium Insurance Corporation. There were more than 200 submissions that offered innovative ways to prevent catalytic converter thefts. The winners of the challenge were Mavis Shaw and Tamara Dolinsky from Foilem Fence.

“Innovators finding ways to protect catalytic converters directly leads to protecting property, something we’re always looking to help improve. As Albertans we rely on our vehicles heavily for both work and play, and I look forward to seeing how everyone who participated will advance catalytic converter protection in our vehicles.”

Aaron Perdue, CEO Millennium Insurance Corporation

TELUS COMMUNITY SAFETY AND WELLNESS ACCELERATOR

The TELUS Community Safety and Wellness Accelerator (TELUS CSW) is the first of its kind business development and community building endeavor in partnership with Alberta Innovates and AlchemistX. We support social impact tech startups from Alberta and beyond, to develop and scale their businesses, driving both economic development and relevant social impact solutions locally. Twice annually we deliver a proven, Silicon-valley accelerator curriculum to 20 startups, along with curating ongoing opportunities for new customers, pilot projects, investment pitches and purpose-driven leadership. TELUS CSW is a catalyst for the startups that go through the program as well as within the local innovation ecosystem through the unique and diverse cross section of local community agencies, businesses, corporations and governments that form the foundation of our partnerships.

“The information and resources shared through the TELUS CSW Accelerator are invaluable.

I have been able to cultivate a clear path to scale my business. Sounds easy but the support from our coaches, mentors, directors and support staff made all the difference. Selfishly, the program felt completely tailored to me and my needs while simultaneously providing the same experience to my cohort. I have built friendships that cross borders and will last a lifetime. This experience has changed me personally, because I was forced to confront my fear of public speaking & professionally, because now I’m a confident bad-ass boss! Thank you ;)”

Julieta Miranda, Program Participant, CEO, Kid-Drop Inc





OPERATION FIND SANTA

In December 2022, EPS needed some extra special help to solve a Christmas case.

10 families from the Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society were invited to the Fantasyland Hotel to have breakfast with Santa. It was soon discovered that Santa wasn't going to make breakfast because he was kidnapped by the Grinch! Chief Dale McFee gave the families a very critical assignment – to find Santa! The families teamed up with police officers to search West Edmonton Mall for clues (and many treats!). Once they gathered all their clues, they caught the Grinch and rescued Santa. That is when all their gifts and groceries were recovered.

One of the primary goals of Operation Find Santa was to connect police and Indigenous families in a unique way that builds positive memories on both sides. The nature and tempo of police work doesn't always allow them to see the public at their best, so these events create a safe space for police to have fun and laugh with families.

"From beginning to end this was the most amazing experience that these families have ever had. Every family I talked with said 'nobody has ever done anything like that for us, ever'. Many cried tears of joy and disbelief as the day unfolded and it is all thanks to EPS' passion and commitment to community."

I cannot thank EPS and EPF enough for picking Bent Arrow to be a part of this fantastic event. I shed more than a few tears out of pure joy for the families. To see the look on the children's and parents' faces was a true gift all on its own. To see the officer's truly connecting to the families, seeing children holding officers' hands, officers holding babies, it was everything I have been working towards for the last 26 years. The connection of community and police was absolutely amazing!!"

Sherry Fowler, Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society

"My granddaughter is Chief McFee's biggest fan. She just loved him and followed him around the mall like she had known him forever. Him and his wife Leanne lit up our lives. My 2 grandsons were so relaxed and asked so many questions about what a police officer does. Now they want to be police one day. I'm happy my grandchildren now have no fear of police. Oh and all the gifts they got! Pajamas, Build-a-Bear, candy! I don't know what kind of Christmas my grandchildren would have had if it wasn't for EPS. I hope no matter what happens in their lives, they take that day with them and remember how incredible the police can be"

Linda Gough, Darius, Demitrous and Ryleigh's Grandma

EPS CANINE UNIT

The EPS Canine Unit consists of 14 canine teams and single-purpose detection dogs (explosives, human remains). Canine teams provide 24/7/365 coverage in Edmonton and respond to a variety of requests to assist front line members and investigative work areas. The canine teams respond to 'in-progress' or 'just occurred' criminal events. The primary function of a police service dog is to provide support/assistance as a 'locating tool' to search for people and evidence through a canine's highly developed olfactory capabilities.

EPF supports the EPS Canine Unit by purchasing prospective police service dogs (PPSD), world class training, and specialized equipment to help keep EPS a top-dog for canine policing in Canada. In 2022, we purchased a K9 Storm Intruder Camera System. This special camera is harnessed on the dog's back and provides video feedback to help clear homes and buildings and help with search and rescue. The camera system allows the handler and other front-line officers to remain in a 'safer' position while the PSD is deployed to search. Thanks to Dr. Ray Muzyka, Leona De Boer and the Threshold Impact Dog Squad and Cecily Eklund, we purchased 11 K9 Storm Aerial Insertion Vests for the unit. These vests also have ballistic protection, so are critical in keeping the dogs safe while on duty.



"PSD Amok and I were dispatched to assist patrol with a residential break and enter. With the use of the K9 Storm Camera, PSD Amok was deployed to search all three levels of the residence while gathering intelligence on the interior layout prior to any patrol members entering. After PSD Amok had cleared the building, patrol members were able to safely search the residence and confirmed no one was inside. Patrol later located an attic hatch on the 3rd floor. To safely clear this area, I was able to visually search the attic space using the K9 Storm camera by mounting it onto an attic pole system and extending it into the unsearched space. The use of the K9 Storm camera provided all members a safer environment to physically search after PSD Amok was able to enthusiastically complete his job"

Acting Sergeant Tony Costa, EPS Canine Unit

PSD Zeus and I were dispatched to a Break and Enter to an industrial Compound. While searching the compound, two suspects fled on foot. After arresting the first suspect, PSD Zeus and I had to get over an eight-foot-tall fence with multiple strands of barbed wire on the top. Thanks to the protection offered by PSD Zeus' K9 Storm vest, I was able to get him over the barbed wire without getting injured or cut on the barbed wire and lower him down by his harness to the ground. Once on solid ground, PSD Zeus was able to track the second subject, all while wearing his K9 Storm harness to keep him safe from the brush and sticks in the wooded area. Without the protection of the K9 Storm harness, PSD Zeus could easily have gotten cut or injured on the fence or in the woods. He wears his K9 Storm harness every day!"

Constable Steve Den Boon, EPS Canine Unit

MOVING FORWARD

HELP THE EDMONTON POLICE FOUNDATION CONTINUE CONNECTING POLICE TO THE COMMUNITY.

You can make a donation at www.edmontonpolicefoundation.com or email elisha@edmontonpolicefoundation.com.

You can also become involved directly with any of the programs you just read about. Reach out to us to learn how you can help further the impact!



EDMONTONPOLICEFOUNDATION.COM