



ACT Edmonton Council 1016 Winter Newsletter

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January 2025

"Making a Difference Together"



As we welcome 2025, we reflect on the past year with gratitude for your continued support and trust. Wishing you a New Year filled with health, happiness, and prosperity! This newsletter presents a comprehensive overview from the past year.

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Birthdays in January

Happy Birthday to Orest Baron and John Zylstra.

Charities in 2024

Your Edmonton Council supported several charities in 2024:

- **Bissell Center**
- **Camp He Ho Ha**
- **Crystal Kids Youth Shelter**
- **Edmonton Food Bank**
- **Hope Mission**
- **Jasper Food Bank**
- **Little Warriors**
- **Meals on Wheels**
- **Mustard Seed**
- **Veterans Food Bank**
- **Youth Emergency Shelter**
- **Zebra Foundation**



2025 Membership Report

Ongoing challenges include aging and declining membership. It is essential for us to develop strategies and initiatives to retain our current members while attracting new individuals to join. Additionally, we must enhance our visibility within the communities and increase awareness of the valuable contributions made by ACT.

Moving Forward: As we step into 2025, we recognize the importance of adapting to changing times. Our focus will be on creating engaging programs and events that cater to diverse interests and age groups, fostering a sense of belonging and community.

Incentives for Growth: Your Council will continue to receive \$35.00 for each new member who signs up. We understand that recruiting new members can

be challenging, but with your help, we can build a thriving and dynamic community. Let's work together to spread the word about the benefits of being an ACT member and encourage friends, family, and colleagues to join us.

Get Involved: We encourage all members to participate actively in our initiatives and share their ideas for improvement. Together, we can overcome these challenges and ensure that ACT remains a vital and vibrant part of our community.

December Breakfast Membership Winners

At the membership meeting on Saturday, December 14, several individuals were randomly selected to receive a complimentary breakfast voucher for our upcoming January meeting. To claim their voucher, recipients must attend the meeting in person on January 4, 2025. Congratulations to: Chuck Benke, Jenny Drouin and Marie Sharp.

Table Stakes were won by Dale Sutton for \$30.00. The \$100.00 jackpot for December was won by Paul Taverner. 50-50 was won by Caroline Deptuck for \$80.00.

Following the meeting's agenda, we enjoyed a few rounds of bingo. Bingo winners each received a gift card.

- **Round One Winners:** Larry Deptuck, Paul Taverner, Carol Baron, Wayne Gasmó, and Jenny Drouin.

- **Round Two Winners:** Orest Baron, Bob McGregor, Daryl Burns, Dale Sutton, and Sylvia Ewashko

Edmonton Council will be volunteering at the Bingo game on Saturday, **February 1, 2025**, at Fort Road Bingo, located at 13403 Fort Rd.

Future breakfast meetings: Continuing in 2025, our breakfast meetings will take place at the Nova Hotel on the first Saturday of the month. The specific dates are **February 1, March 8, April 5, May 3, and June 7**. We will not be holding meetings during July and August.

2024 A.C.T. Grey Cup Raffle Results

On November 17, 2024, the 111th Grey Cup was played in Vancouver. With the Winnipeg Blue Bombers taking on the Toronto Argonauts. A.C.T. holds a raffle during this time. Funds raised from the raffle are donated to our charities that we support. Congratulations to the following winners:

- Darrell Burns won the \$50.00 at the end of the first quarter with the score East – 03 and West – 07
- Bob MacLean won the \$100.00 at the half time with the score East – 09 and West – 10
- Al Medcke won the \$50.00 at the end of the third quarter with the score East – 17 and West – 13
- Denise Brost won the \$400.00 for the final score of East – 41 and the West – 24

Thank you to everyone who participated and made this raffle such a success.

Charity Profile In this section, we will feature a profile of one of the charitable organizations we assist through our volunteer-driven fundraising initiatives. This month, we're shining a spotlight on the Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre.



Before the Zebra Centre opened in 2002, children who had suffered abuse found themselves waiting outside an interview room at police headquarters. They were surrounded by strangers in uniform walking through the halls, with concrete walls enclosing them and the buzz of fluorescent lights overhead.

There were no toys, blankets, dogs or other comforts to distract them, nor any trained advocates to guide them through the upcoming process or offer a reassuring smile. When called in for their interview, the children would enter a cold, grey room—the same one used for interviewing suspects. After the interview, the children were left to face the intimidating criminal justice system and healing process on their own. They often had to recount their traumatic experiences repeatedly, in various buildings, to numerous adults. Each retelling grew more challenging. That was 20 years ago. Today, when a child experiences abuse, they arrive at our Centre.

The Zebra Child & Youth Advocacy Centre stands as our community's beacon of hope in the face of child abuse. From the moment a child enters our doors, they are met with unwavering support from dedicated Child Advocates who walk alongside them every step of the way. Our multi-disciplinary team, a true embodiment of a supportive herd, collaborates seamlessly to provide comprehensive services and unwavering support throughout the entire journey of healing. At the Zebra Centre, children's resilience shines brightly every day, evident in the laughter that echoes through our halls. Here, every child's voice is believed, and their bravery is celebrated.

As children leave the Zebra Centre, they carry a piece of our support with them – the knowledge that they are valued, understood, and supported throughout their entire journey, both during and beyond their time with us. We share in their optimism for a bright future filled with hope and possibilities.

Why did Council 1016 Support Zebra

Council 1016's support for this charity stems from recognizing that the Zebra Centre's positive impact: providing comprehensive care, fostering healing and resilience, and ultimately giving children who have experienced abuse a chance at a brighter future. The implication is that supporting the Zebra Centre is supporting the well-being of children and a more just and compassionate community.



At our November 2, 2024, breakfast meeting, we welcomed Emily, the Philanthropy Lead from the Zebra Child and Youth Advocacy Centre. Emily spoke to our members about the importance of their contributions to the community and graciously accepted our cheque.