



ACT Edmonton Council 1016 Winter Newsletter

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We are located at: #16 - 10215 - 178 Street NW T5S 1M3 P: 780-452-7904

February and March 2025

"Making a Difference Together"

This combined February/March newsletter delivers a complete summary of your Council's activities, keeping you up to date on all important news.

Your Board of Directors

President – Dwight Hunter

P. 780-475-4499

dwight@planet.eon.net

Vice President – Charles Zylla

P. 780-466-3883

zylteck@shaw.ca

Past President – Dave Pagee

P. 780-456-1541

dipagee@telus.net

Secretary – Marian Melnyk

P. 780-478-9493

mamesworld@gmail.com

Treasurer – Sylvia Herman

P. 708-509-7244

theherms@shaw.ca

Director #1 – Wayne Gasmó

P. 780-910-9303

wgazmo10@gmail.com

Director #2 – Helen Melnyk

P. 780-478-9493

helensworld47@gmail.com

Director #3 – Dale Sutton

P. 780-203-1441

daleesutton1959@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor - Richard Colwell

P. 780-974-4155

rcolwell.rc@gmail.com

Birthdays in February

Richard Colwell, Larry Deptuck, Jenny Drouin,
Michelle Hunter, Jim Hunter, David Pagee

Birthdays in March

Dwight Hunter, Donald MacBeath, Rob
McGregor, Betty Lee Rivers



UCT/ACT: Charting a New Course

We are reprinting a summarized version of message from ACT Regional President – Chris Phelan from “*The Regional News*”, March 2025

“ACT is facing a significant disconnect between its name, 'United Commercial Travelers,' and its current identity. Recent events, including the closure of the Order of the United Commercial Travelers of America and our decision to remain independent, have made this issue urgent. We need to re-evaluate our branding as the current name no longer aligns with the membership's identity.

Options being considered include:

- 1. Removing "Commercial Travelers" while retaining the "UCT" acronym alongside "A.C.T.", or*
- 2. Eliminating "UCT" entirely, using only "A.C.T."*

However, rebranding costs are a significant factor, considering there is an inventory featuring “ACT” and “UCT”. The “A.C.T.” logo's historical importance is acknowledged as our Regional identity. A discussion and vote on these changes will occur at the upcoming May 2025 Regional Zoom Conference”.

Members are encouraged to review and provide feedback to: Chris Phelan at phelanchris112@gmail.com or A.C.T Regional Secretary, Tony Rumsey at actregional31@gmail.com.

February and March Breakfast Membership Winners

We are pleased to announce the recipients of the complimentary breakfast vouchers, selected at previous membership meetings - March 8: Mike Lynch, Lorna Pagee, and Rose Ostafichuk - April 5: Richard Colwell, Larry Deptuck, and Lorna Pagee.

Table Stakes winners: Wayne Gasmó (February) and Dave Pagee (March). \$100 Jackpot winners: Louise Bennett (February) and Chuck Benke (March). 50/50 winners: Dale Sutton (February) and Tyler Dobson (March).

Scheduled Events

Monthly Breakfast Meetings (Nova Hotel): Continuing in 2025, breakfast meetings will be held on the first Saturday of each month: April 5, May 3, and June 7. Meetings will be suspended during July and August.

Edmonton Council Volunteer Event (Fort Road Bingo): Edmonton Council will be volunteering at Fort Road Bingo on the following dates: Monday, May 2 and Friday, June 16. **Edmonton Council Volunteer Event (Century Casino):** The next Casino is scheduled for the fall/winter of 2026.

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 are shining the spotlight on the **Bissell Centre**.



History

Bissell Centre's history began in 1910 as a Methodist mission focused on aiding Ukrainian immigrants, evolving into the All-People's Mission in 1925 through a merger. It expanded services, including youth programs and camps, funded partially by early United Way predecessors. The Great Depression shifted its focus to poverty relief, leading to the construction of Bissell Institute in the 1930s. During wartime, it also hosted a Japanese congregation. In the mid-20th century, as the inner city's demographics changed, Bissell Centre adapted, increasing services for low-income individuals and families, including daycare. By 1989, it moved to a larger location and further expanded its programs, leading to the establishment of Bissell Centre West in 2005. Today, Bissell Centre provides diverse programs aimed at helping people transition from poverty to prosperity.



On behalf of ACT 1016, President Dwight Hunter presented a donation in December to Fatima Berro of Bissell Centre

What does the Bissell do in the Community

The Bissell Centre works with the community to empower people to move from poverty to cultural, social, and economic prosperity. They focus on building relationships, hope, and trust: *"Ending poverty may seem a distant dream, but Bissell Centre believes it's a self-fulfilling prophecy within our reach. The 15,759 lives changed by Edmonton's 10-Year Plan prove collective action works. Eliminating poverty isn't a solo effort; it's a community-wide invitation."*

Hope Terrace

Imagine trying to process the world around you when every sound, sight, and feeling seems turned up to the highest settings possible. This is a reality for some people who have fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD). Like a migraine that can interrupt your executive function (the skills used to manage everyday tasks like making plans, problem solving, and adapting to new situations), this can be a major barrier for some folks to be stable and secure in their housing.



This is why they operate Hope Terrace, a supportive housing building specifically designed for people with FASD. Today, 34 people call Hope Terrace home and are gaining the knowledge and skills to live independently

through the support that specifically addresses their unique needs.

The wraparound supports built within the building and its programs helps its tenants overcome their barriers to housing, learn to better manage their day-to-day needs to upkeep their housing, and ultimately gain independence to live with dignity and a good quality of life. By Chris Schieman, November 14, 2024.

Bissell Centre is dedicated to eliminating poverty in Edmonton by providing a variety of support services and advocating for systemic change. For further information: bissellcentre.org