

LEGACY ACTION

25th
ANNIVERSARY
Edmonton
Community
Foundation



JIAN GHOMESHI

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A struggle for identity leaves the CBC host with a strong sense of self

FRESH START

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The Young Edmonton Grants program gives young artists a chance to pursue their creativity

BIG PLANS

p12

A two-time recipient of an award program for young Métis is excited for the future

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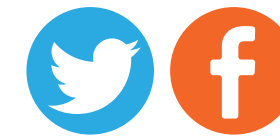
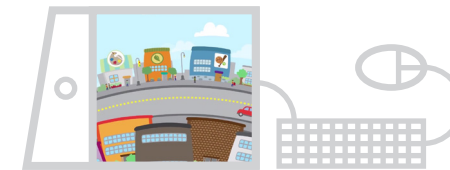
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Jian Ghomeshi photographed at
CBC Studios by Curtis Comeau



The Transformative Power of Music to Create Bright Futures

An important part of the ESO's work involves minimizing barriers to musical arts education. Our Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta (YONA-Sistema) outreach program provides under-served youth in Edmonton's city centre with opportunities to learn, grow and be inspired through orchestral music instruction.

Now entering its second year, YONA-Sistema's after-school programming will help forty students build confidence and self-worth, develop leadership skills, and incorporate the value of commitment into their lives.

In the hands of a child, a musical instrument can become so much more than a simple vessel for sound - it can become an instrument for growth, an instrument for development, and an instrument for change.

To learn more about this exciting initiative, visit us at YONA-Sistema.com.



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IN THE GAME

Leif Welz opens an endowment fund for student athletes, proving you're never too young to leave a legacy.





AS part of ECF's 25th anniversary celebrations, we're committing \$300,000 in matching funds to the Young Edmonton Grants (YEG) endowment fund, which support youth-led projects in Edmonton. ECF has a long tradition of providing grants to help youth and youth-focused organizations and you can read about the impact these grants are making this year on page 5.

To help you get the picture, we'll tell you about two particular youth doing their part to make Edmonton a great city. Leif Welz, 27, established a scholarship for multi-sport athletes in post-secondary education (page 14); and Jasmine Dionne, an 18-year-old Belcourt-Brosseau Métis Award recipient, is studying law so she can make a positive impact on indigenous peoples around the world (page 12).

We will also report on two ECF grants that are helping disadvantaged youth in Edmonton. The Children's Autism Services of Edmonton (CASE) received funding to provide equipment for observation rooms to help parents learn strategies they can use at home (page 11). And the Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta Sistema (YONA-Sistema) program aims to break the cycle of poverty with musical education (page 10).

The theme of youth continues beyond this magazine. Be sure to pick up your copy of *Vital Signs*®, when it's released on October 7th. *Vital Signs*®, a national initiative of Community Foundations of Canada, shows how our city stacks up with other Canadian cities and identifies priority areas for action in our community.

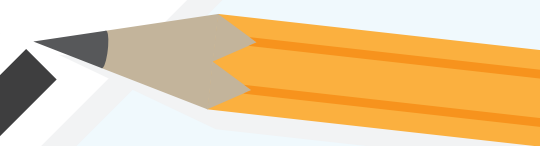
To complement *Vital Signs*®, we encourage you to mark your calendars for a special presentation by award-winning broadcaster and host of CBC Radio's Q, Jian Ghomeshi, on November 8 at 2 p.m. at the Myer Horowitz Theatre. Ghomeshi will share his thoughts on "Re-Thinking the Canadian Identity: Where do I Fit In?" Proceeds from this event will go to ECF's YEG fund. You can find out more about the event and Ghomeshi's personal struggles to find his identity as an Iranian-Canadian in our cover story on page 8.

We're pleased to bring you our third *Legacy in Action* magazine this year. This is the first time we have produced three magazines in one year — all part of our anniversary celebration. Thank you for helping us achieve so much in our first 25 years!

Martin Garber-Conrad, CEO



BLANK SLATE



ECF Grant Gives Youth Support to Make their Dreams a Reality

BY: CORY SCHACHTEL PHOTOS BY: GRAEME HAUNHOLTER



Tempo Sabatier grew up scribbling stories and poems in notebooks, and still considers herself a writer at heart. Nowadays, the 2014 Old Scona grad has taken up a more visually artistic hobby.

"When I have a camera, in those beautiful moments, I take pictures of homeless people I interact with, or really nice elderly people," she says. "I look for faces with lines, and life to them." She turns those lined faces into illustrations, capturing their created humanity with her pencil.

Despite her artistic upbringing, Sabatier isn't anxious to publish or gain exposure for her work. She's more interested in creating space for other young artists to flourish, something that, as a young artist herself, can be tough.

Last October, Sabatier found herself complaining in a coffee shop with her friend Grayson, a schoolmate and budding photographer. "We were talking about how Edmonton is such a great place for starting up creative ideas — it has a real entrepreneurial spirit — but, as youth artists, we find we are excluded from the community," she says. They brainstormed an idea to hold an event that would help young

artists show their stuff, and network with professionals.

A wonderful idea on its own, but not one easily pulled off by two high school students with no money, no venue, and upcoming final exams. Searching online, they discovered that their idea perfectly embodied a new grant created by Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF).

The Young Edmonton Grants (YEG) program started in 2011 when the John and Barbara Poole family approached the ECF, looking to fund a program that would help bring young people's creative ideas to life. Since then, the grant has launched 103 projects to the tune of \$223,882, with financial support from each of the Jones Eidem, Douglas and Jane Wilson and Eldon and Anne Foote Funds. In June 2014, ECF also announced that they, with the help of the Stollery Charitable Foundation and the Eldon & Anne Foote Fund, will commit \$300,000 in matching funds towards the establishment of a new Young Edmonton Grants endowment fund. The exciting part is that the gift matching is 3:1, meaning that for every dollar donated another \$3 will be added on top of it.

Tempo Sabatier is a recipient of a Young Edmonton Grant.



Congratulations to the Edmonton Community Foundation on so ably empowering individuals to give back to their community.

In addition to assisting with all your estate planning needs, we can help you give back to your community by including a charitable gift in your will.

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(L-R: Karen Platten Q.C., Kate Faught, Crista Osualdini)





Alex Draper started as ECF's Donor Grant Associate shortly after the YEG program began, and says that there are many great groups and foundations promoting youth involvement, "but they only direct funds to an existing youth program, not one that gets youth to come up with it and make it happen on their own."

The YEG program takes youth involvement so seriously that they're part of the approval process. Twice a year, a committee of six 13-22 year olds read online applications filled out by applicants under the age of 25. They then go to Draper and the Foundation with their recommendations to decide how many will receive funding, usually settling on about 15 out of 25 entries per deadline, doling out up to \$3,000 per entry, depending on funds. Applicants must partner with their school or a registered charity to accept the money, and while Draper and ECF will provide advice, making it happen is up to the youth. "The most important thing, for us, is that it's their own projects, and they bring them to life," says Draper.

In 2013, the YEG program helped fund several projects including the Alberta School of Business' Not for Profit Case Competition, and a promotional video for iHuman's Youth Speak Edmonton, a group of youths who provide their peers a positive, confidential space to discuss mental health and emotional issues. There was a Wake-A-Thon for juvenile diabetes put on by Avalon Junior High School, and the program provided a tablet computer and software to Jasper Place High School to help refine their student-run Global Café.

Successful ventures all, but in the program's existence, few events took on a life of their own like Sabatier's, at the Mercer Warehouse this April. It would be tough to come up with an idea more perfectly suited as a YEG

recipient, so Sabatier wasn't shocked when their idea was accepted. But she quickly realized receiving approval was the easy part. "It was more like, 'Ok, now we really have to make this happen,'" she says.

The team put invites out to the Edmonton Arts Council, local high schools and all over social media, trying to reach youth and professional artists alike, eventually landing Poet Laureate Mary Pinkoski. With live musicians, spoken word poets, improvisers and visual artists lined up, the two-day event was taking shape. All it needed was a name.

"We called it 'Tabula Rasa' which is Latin for blank slate," says Sabatier. "To us it spoke to the fact that as young people, we still have that time to self-invent and self-create."

Friday was the main event, held in Mercer's Vacancy Hall, where over 200 people took in the performances, surrounded by artwork, all by young local artists, many of whom received professional feedback for the first time. The next morning was a workshop-luncheon, where artists like Pinkoski gave advice and shared strategies with the young and eager audience.

"It certainly got to a level a lot of the other projects don't, where it grew beyond the initial proposal she came to us with," says Draper. "It was great to see."

Given the response of all involved, and the new Twitter followers gained, Sabatier says she plans on putting it on again next year, even if she doesn't get grant approval. "Based on the reaction we got from youth, I'd almost feel bad if we didn't do it," she says. "For myself, I'm less of an artist, more interested in social entrepreneurship, so I really loved being able to create this event where we helped other people make things happen for themselves. It really was one of the greatest moments of my life." ■

“WE called it 'Tabula Rasa' which is Latin for blank slate ... to us it spoke to the fact that as young people, we still have that time to self-invent and self-create.”

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Re-Thinking the Canadian Identity: Where do I Fit In?

An afternoon discussion with

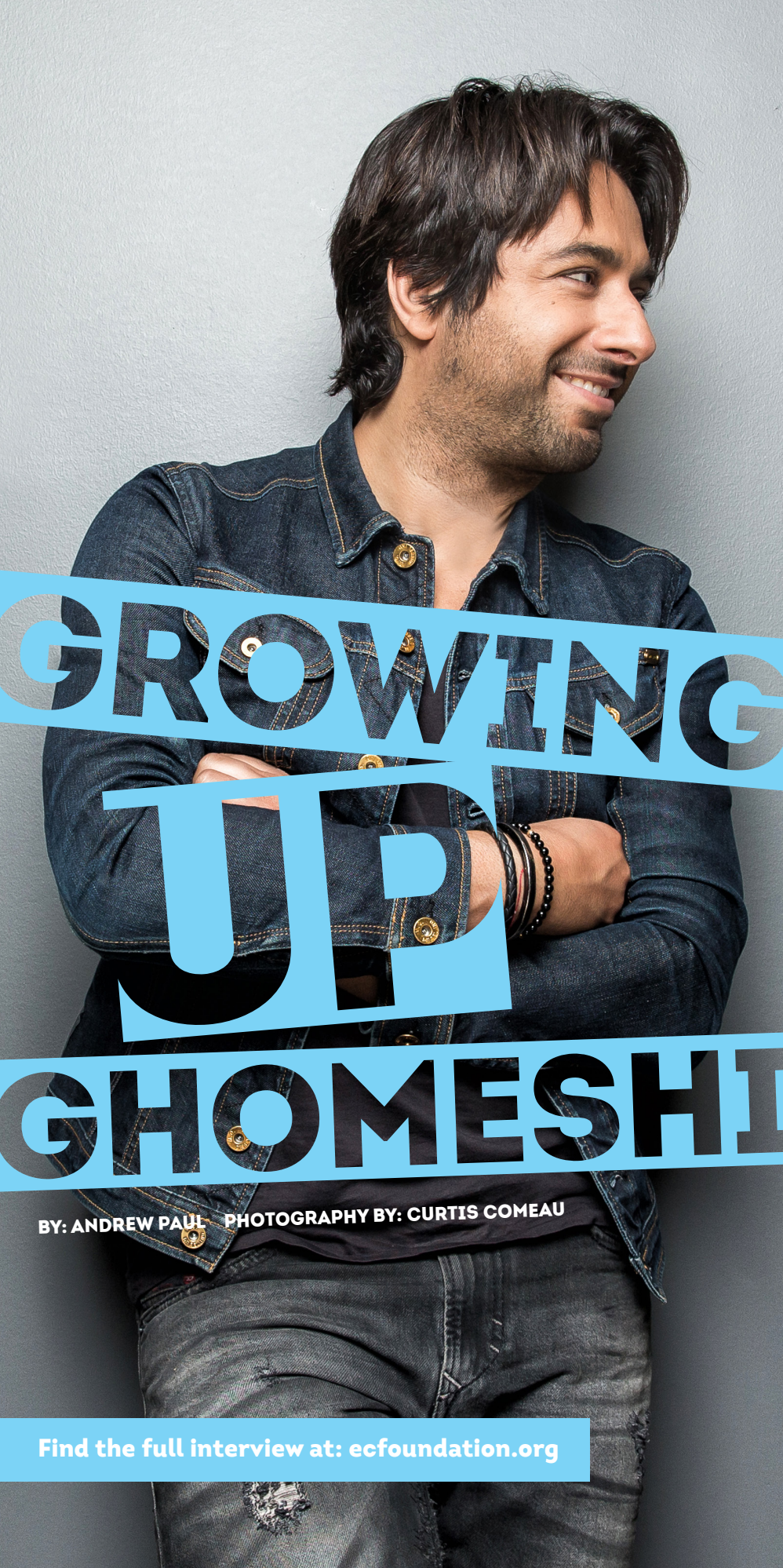
Jian Ghomeshi



Myer Horowitz Theatre
8900 114 St. NW
(U of A Students' Union Building)
November 8, 2014.
2 p.m. (doors open at 1 p.m.)
Tickets \$10 + service charge
To purchase tickets go to
www.ecfoundation.org



ECF will release their annual Vital Signs® report on October 7, 2014. This year's focus for the report is Youth. Proceeds from this event will go to ECF's Young Edmonton Grant (YEG) Fund.



GROWING UP GHOMESHI

BY: ANDREW PAUL PHOTOGRAPHY BY: CURTIS COMEAU

Find the full interview at: ecfoundation.org

When Jian Ghomeshi's parents emigrated from Iran in the 1960s they left at time when emigration from the country was somewhat rare. At the time, Iran was still in good standing with Canada and the United States and was prospering under the leadership of the Shah, Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

“They were really pioneers,” Ghomeshi, an award-winning broadcaster and host of CBC Radio Q says. “My father was always interested in coming to Canada, especially after Trudeau was elected. It seemed like this promise of a new progressive, tolerant land and it dovetailed into the work he was doing in the energy field as a civil engineer. There was a lot of opportunity in Canada.”

The Ghomeshi's road to Canada started with a detour to England where the family lived until the 1970s when they crossed the Atlantic and moved into an apartment in the Toronto neighbourhood of Don Mills.

It was in this culturally diverse community that Ghomeshi has some of his most fond childhood memories. But that was all about to change.

Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) caught up with Ghomeshi in L.A. to chat about his experiences growing up and his struggle to “come out of the ethnic closet” to find his identity in Canada.

On November 8, ECF will be presenting a special speaking engagement with Ghomeshi at 2pm in the Myer Horowitz Theatre on the U of A campus. Tickets are \$10 and can be found at ecfoundation.org.

What were some of the perceptions Canadians had of Iranians when your family moved to Canada?

At the time all I knew about Iranians were my family and relatives and that it was a very opulent and generous culture. I remember

doing a show-and-tell project in Grade 4 where I drew a big map of Iran and brought in some carvings, sculptures and a mosaic and showed photos and I was really proud of my heritage. This would seem normal if you didn't know that four years later I would be desperately trying to deny my background.

When did that pride you felt turn into self-doubt?

It was a collision of two events in my life. The first was the Iranian revolution in 1979 where everything that we had known about being Iranian was turned on its head. I went from coming from this place that people either didn't know or had a fond idea of, to jokes about being a terrorist and my parents almost not wanting to tell people what our background was for fear that they would judge us. This happened two or three years after we had moved to Thornhill. That was the other part of this collision.

How come?

I had moved from this little area where I had this rainbow of friends, who were also new immigrants, to this new place that was very white, very conservative, and very homogenous. Which was fine, but we became “the ethnic family” on the street. That was very difficult for me.

I was kind of wimpy and skinny growing up and I was desperately concerned about the fact that I had an English accent, brownish skin and a funny name that people couldn't pronounce or spell. There was nobody around in the community that looked like me and I came from this place that was now considered this evil country that's holding Americans hostage. That all teamed together to become quite toxic.

What helped you cope with these issues?

Music became an outlet of expression for me. It also became a place to find community. Being a fan of new wave and punk music became a way for me to identify with others who were also fans of the same music and helped make me feel like I had a place.

Though you had found a place of acceptance in the music scene, there was still a very difficult situation that managed to find you there. Can you tell us about your high-school experience singing a duet in the Thornhill vocal group?

It's impossible for me to tell the story now

without it seeming like a comedy — it's just too ridiculous and hilarious. I was in this vocal group, which was a collection of students very, much like the cast of *Glee*, but long before it was cool to be in a vocal group. The apex of success in the vocal group was to get to do a solo and I was going to be a part of this duet with Kim Richardson who was the best singer in the school. I was exhilarated and excited about this and we were going to perform this show at the Harbourfront Centre. The stage was set for me to make my big debut.

Our music teacher decided that the duet was going to be Stevie Wonder and Paul McCartney's “Ebony and Ivory.” At first that seemed fine, but it quickly dawned on me that Kim Richardson was black and so here I am, this kid who has been struggling with getting by with brownish-olivish skin and a big nose and a weird name and a Middle Eastern background who is desperately trying to fit in, being cast as ivory and basically singing the “I am white” parts of “Ebony and Ivory” — much to the disbelief of everyone watching.

“It's okay to be different. It's okay to be unique. Don't be afraid to be who you are.”

There's another comical passage in your book *1982* where you compare the technological capabilities of 1982 to present day through the lens of asking a girl named Wendy on a date to a concert called *The Police Picnic*. Considering that situation, how do you think social media would have affected your life as a 14-year-old?

Compared to today you would almost think I was talking about an ancient hunter-gatherer society. That's how prehistoric it was to try and get in touch with someone. What social and new media has done is make everyone accessible to us. That simply didn't exist 30 years ago. The idea of just being able to get in touch with a girl I'd been

smitten with for all of Grade 9 required deft planning and an entire blue print. Not to mention working up the courage to get a phone number, and once I got a phone number to call her house and hope that she answered. There were no answering machines at the time, or if there were they were the kind that everybody could hear. If I was in Grade 9 now, I would have just looked up Wendy's Facebook profile or found her on Instagram.

Do you think that new media might also be a double-edged sword?

It used to take three hours to go buy an album at Sam the Record Man. Because of that, there's a good chance that album would mean more to me than pressing a button and having it available to me now on Spotify or iTunes. In that way it was a real pioneer frontier with a bigger pay off because by the time Wendy agreed to go to the Police Picnic with me it had been a year of me trying to get her attention and trying to work up the courage to talk to her.

When did you start coming to terms with your insecurities and start affirming your identity?

There was a real turning point when I saw a movie called *Not Without My Daughter*. I can distinctly remember seeing this film for the first time and thinking, ‘I can't remain silent. This is something that I have to be honest with myself and the world about, because what I'm seeing on screen here as a ‘true story’ and its depiction of Iranians is an absolute lie that's playing into these negative generalizations that are the opposite of the truth I know.’

It was from that moment on that I started publically identifying as an Iranian-Canadian and talking about my background, because if any kid was going through what I had gone through and possibly hearing that Jian Ghomeshi is Persian and if they were a fan of my band (Moxy Fruvous) or thought what I was doing was cool or okay and that helped them, then that would make it all worthwhile.

What would you tell your 14-year-old self if you ran into each other on the street?

You're okay. It's okay to be different. It's okay to be unique. Don't be afraid to be who you are. ■



2014 Wills Week Schedule

Edmonton Community Foundation is pleased to present free public seminars that provide professional information on wills and estates.

Mon., Oct. 6 • 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Northgate Lions Senior Rec. Centre
7524 139 Avenue

Mon., Oct. 6 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
St. Albert Inn & Suites
156 St. Albert Trail, St. Albert

Mon., Oct. 6 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
TELUS World of Science
11211 - 142 Street

Tues., Oct. 7 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Hilton Garden Inn
17610 Stony Plain Road

Tues., Oct. 7 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Millennium Place
2000 Premier Way, Sherwood Park

Wed., Oct. 8 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Terwilligar Recreation Centre
2051 Leger Road

Wed., Oct. 8 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Holiday Inn Express, Spruce Grove
201 Jennifer Heil Way, Spruce Grove

Thurs., Oct. 9 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Whitemud Crossing Library
4211 106 Street

Thurs., Oct. 9 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Northgate Lions Senior Rec. Centre
7524 139 Avenue

Thurs., Oct. 9 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Central Lions Seniors Rec. Centre
11113 - 113 Street

Thurs., Oct. 9 • 6:30 pm – 8:30 pm
Leduc Royal Canadian Legion
5210 50 Avenue, Leduc

Fri., Oct. 11 • 9:30 am – 11:30 am
Central Lions Seniors Rec. Centre
11113 - 113 Street

Fri., Oct. 11 • 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm
Whitemud Crossing Library
4211 106 Street

Seminars are **FREE**, but seating is limited. **First come, first served.** Information may change, confirm at: www.ecfoundation.org

SAVING LIVES THROUGH MUSIC



Edmonton Symphony Orchestra uses music education to help at-risk kids thrive **BY: ALIX KEMP**

AT a rehearsal for an upcoming recital, seven-year-old Lily spends the entire time grinning. Along with 20 other grade two and three students, she is participating in the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra (ESO)'s Youth Orchestra of Northern Alberta Sistema (YONA-Sistema) program, practicing a violin medley in the school gymnasium. When the piece ends, she's the first to take an elaborate bow to the three-person audience, making a flourish with the bow of her violin. But Lily wasn't always so gregarious. When she joined the program in its inaugural season in September 2013, she was introverted and hesitant to make friends. "I was shy at first, because when I started and met up with all the other kids, I didn't know what to do," she says. Now, though, the instructor has to hush the chatty second grader between songs.

An intensive music education program inspired by El Sistema, a program created by economist and musician José Antonio Abreu in 1975, YONA-Sistema aims to provide at-risk youth with musical education. Five days a week, for three hours after school, approximately 20 grade two and three students at Mother Teresa Elementary School practice the violin. Despite the constant practice, the point isn't to become a virtuoso, but rather to foster independence, confidence, responsibility and leadership. Many of the students are first-generation Canadians, newly-landed immigrants or Aboriginal, and, like Lily, who is being raised by her grandparents, come from complicated home situations. The hope is that children, who are part of the program will stay in

school, eventually pursue post-secondary education and become active members of their communities. Alyssa Paterson, the educational outreach manager at ESO and manager of YONA, says the program is already seeing positive results. "It's been amazing. We've seen a lot of growth in terms of social skills and outgoingness, and we've gotten a lot of good feedback from parents."

YONA-Sistema received a \$40,000 grant from Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) for its first year, followed by a second \$40,000 contribution in 2014 to continue the three-year pilot program. Craig Stumpf-Allen, ECF's Director of Grants and Community Engagement says the foundation is impressed by what it has seen so far and expects good outcomes from the program. "It's really rare for ECF to provide a second year of funding for a program, but we have in this case because we think the potential for a positive impact warrants taking the additional risk of investing. They just need time to demonstrate that it works, and we're confident that it will."

The program will be expanding in its second and third years to include a second school, as well as a wider variety of string instruments. Paterson says that the goal is to have a full orchestra including strings, woodwinds, brass and potentially percussion with more than 100 participants. "We have a ton of support from the school boards and it's been amazing that people want to help us." Thanks to the support of ECF and other community donors, the program will be able to reach more kids like Lily. ■

ON CAMERA

How new recording and audio equipment is helping Children's Autism Services of Edmonton help kids **BY: ALIX KEMP**

Behind a one-way mirror at the Maier Centre Preschool, Nalini Ostashower gathers with a group of other parents and watches her four-year-old daughter play with her fellow students. Like Ostashower's daughter, all of the children are on the autism spectrum, and an educational aide stands by to explain the lesson that's unfolding. The preschool is one of the many support services offered by the Children's Autism Services of Edmonton (CASE), and the observation room is one of five that it installed during the construction of the Maier Centre for Autism Services. Ostashower says the observation rooms, outfitted with high-tech video monitoring and audio equipment, have helped her understand her child. "Any child, neurotypical or on the spectrum, is going to act differently when their parents are in the room. Having that venue, you learn sometimes that they can do more than you expected."

Completed in 2012, the Maier Centre is the first of its kind in the city. Offering a variety of programs for kids with autism and their families, ranging from preschool classes to respite care, the space centralized services that had previously been scattered throughout the city in community centres and church basements. During construction, CASE installed the observation rooms, which are attached to some of the program rooms, including the preschool room and gymnasium. One of the primary purposes for the rooms is to allow parents to come in for guided observations of their children during preschool classes or other group sessions. "They have the opportunity to see the strategies that work well for their kids, so parents can then take those strategies home and use them there," says Terri Duncan, the Executive Director of CASE. Because of the cost of recording equipment, however, the

rooms had no audiovisual support when the Maier Centre opened. Video recordings had to be done with hand-held camcorders, which were intrusive and distracting.

CASE turned to Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF) for help, and ECF came through with a \$31,795 grant to purchase and install cameras and real-time listening devices in the observation rooms. Craig Stumpf-Allen, the Director of Grants and Community Engagement at ECF says the organization saw the need for the equipment and how it could assist children and their families. "When kids are diagnosed with autism, the parents often don't know how to interact with their kids," says Stumpf-Allen, pointing to the many challenges faced by those with autism, who may have difficulty communicating with their family and peers.

The audiovisual equipment will also allow CASE to expand its staff training programming and research. The organization can now record staff and parent training sessions and store them in a video library for future viewing. The cameras can also be used for research, collecting data and doing behaviour analysis going forward. "We use the recordings to look at pre- and post- videos of the kids, seeing where they were at the beginning of treatment and where they are now," says Duncan. He is especially excited about the remote training program that CASE is planning to launch, which will allow families and professionals treating children with autism in northern communities to access live training sessions digitally.

Ostashower is thrilled with the progress her daughter has made thanks to CASE and what the organization has done for her family. "We made a connection, and she started to come out of her shell a bit more. She's happier," she says. ■

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BRIGHT FUTURE

A two-time recipient of the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards has big ideas about her role in the world BY: FAWNDA MITHRUSH

Born and raised in Fort McMurray, Alta., young Jasmine Dionne wields strong convictions regarding her role as a member of the Métis community. She recalls a leadership conference she attended in high school where students were each given a \$25 bill — the intent being to find ways to make the money grow for charitable purposes. Dionne ended up making \$300 to donate back to her school.

“Even though it doesn’t sound like a lot, it was so good to see \$25 grow to \$300 toward equipment that is needed for the students who are handicapped in my high school.” In her Grade 12 year, she was nominated for a regional Aboriginal Female Youth of the Year Award.

Her verve caught the attention of the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards committee, which awarded Dionne a Syncrude Scholarship in 2013. The awards — which are managed by Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), and are awarded to around 140 applicants annually — provide financial support to Métis students in post-secondary studies.

On applying for the award, Dionne was intending to embark on post-secondary studies in law. Even at 18-years-old, she demonstrated a mature understanding of her potential to impact not only Canadian Aboriginal peoples, but also others around the globe. Since receiving her first prize last year, she has completed her first year in the Law and Society program at the University

of Calgary. Dionne also received a second award to assist in her with costs of her education going forward.

“I think coming from a background where I already know the suffering, I would be able to give assistance and be more passionate,” Dionne explains, citing her grandmother’s experience in residential schools as one key to her interest in studying law. Eventually, she hopes to work for the United Nations on the Committee for Indigenous Peoples.

The largest non-governmental source of Métis student funding in Canada, the Belcourt Brosseau Métis Awards have granted over \$4.5 million to upwards of

700 Albertan students since Herb Belcourt, Orval Belcourt, and Georges Brosseau started the fund in 2001. The committee for the Awards was excited by Dionne’s spark and leadership traits, and also enlisted her to speak at last year’s award ceremony.

“She’s involved not just with her Aboriginal community, but she also volunteers and dances,” explains Craig Stumpf-Allen, Director of Grants and Community Engagement at ECF, pointing to Dionne’s involvement with Métis Days and Fort McKay Treaty Days, as well as putting in hours at her local SPCA and Santa’s



Jasmine Dionne is a recipient of a BBMA.

Anonymous charities. Somehow, she’s also found the time to keep up her skills in ballet, jazz, tap, hip-hop and contemporary dance. “She had been a bit of a role model in her high school years, and there’s a real sense of passion around the law and helping the Aboriginal community.”

Since receiving her scholarship in 2013, Dionne was also featured as a winner of

a Syncrude Scholarship by Syncrude’s *Pathways* magazine last year, and worked over the summer as an administrative intern in Syncrude’s government affairs department in Fort McMurray.

“I honestly would not have been able to go to University if it wasn’t for the BBMAs. That’s not just financially, but I probably wouldn’t have believed in myself either,” Dionne says, adding that she is grateful for her family members that taught her about her Métis identity. “I know who I am, and now I want other people to know who they are so that it’s never stripped away from them.” ■

I know who I am, and now I want other people to know who they are so that it’s never stripped away from them.

SPOTLIGHT

The Rose Margaret King Education Fund

Rose Margaret King, an immigrant from Eastern Europe, wanted to give deserving individuals from the inner city the opportunity to pursue their educational dreams. In acknowledgement of the significant role inner city schools have in the lives of young people, Ms. King provided a gift in her will in 2001 to establish a scholarship for individuals living in Edmonton who are in financial need and committed to completing their studies. Special consideration is given to former students of Alex Taylor School, who have cared for others, while demonstrating leadership in their school or community. In 2013, \$18,800 was awarded in total.

ON FUNDS

BY: ELIZABETH BONKINK

Community Scholarships

The Community Scholarships program was launched in 2009 with an endowment from the Stollery Charitable Foundation to support leadership development in the non-profit sector. Awards go to candidates that have a history of community leadership and volunteerism, are enrolled in a program that will enhance the applicant’s leadership ability in the not-for-profit sector and has a financial need. In 2013, nine scholarships totalling \$28,000 were awarded.

Probert Math Awards

The Probert Math Awards were created by David Cheriton, a former student of math teacher Elwyn Probert. Cheriton wanted to honour the teacher that had made a big impact on him. He noted that in 1967, this teacher was already calling his attention to computers as the future. The scholarship is awarded to the top student in math at Eastglen High School who will pursue post-secondary math-related studies. The awards are to recognise excellence in academic achievement in mathematics. Students are not required to demonstrate financial need in order to receive the award of \$4,000 per year over for the four-year term of an undergraduate degree.

HOW TO OPEN A FUND

1. Define your Objective

“Even if you only have a vague idea of where you want your money to go, give Edmonton Community Foundation a call,” says Kathy Hawkesworth, ECF’s Director of Donor Services. The Foundation will help you articulate exactly how your fund might work and help you define how you can make a difference by matching your support with organizations whose goals mirror your own. ECF’s only criterion is that the money be granted to a registered Canadian charity.

3. Get Started

A fund can be started for as little as \$10,000. You can donate it all at once or take up to 10 years to reach the total amount. The money is not immediately allotted; it is invested and approximately four per cent is disbursed annually. This means your fund will continue to give and grow now and in the future. That’s the power of endowment.

2. Make an Agreement

Once you’ve defined your objective, ECF will prepare an agreement. This will explain, in writing, the goal of your fund and the extent of participation you wish to have in allocating the money. It does not create any obligation for you. It simply provides you with assurance that ECF understands your wishes.

4. Maintenance

Once your fund has reached the \$10,000 mark it’s ready to disburse. Whether you want to be directly involved in the disbursement process, or allow ECF to take care of that for you, your amount of involvement is entirely up to you.

For more information visit ecfoundation.org or call our Donor Services Team at 780-426-0015



IN THE GAME

Leif Welz opens an endowment fund for student athletes proving you're never too young to leave a legacy

BY: FAWNDA MITHRUSH PHOTO BY: WARREN FENTON

Many young adults consider philanthropy a goal for their later years. Once they have established careers of their own, that's when most start to think about giving back, maybe to support someone like their younger selves in achieving their goals.

Leif Welz is one of those adults now, but at just 27 years of age, he's found a way to encourage student athletes to develop more well-rounded skills in sport. He's been coaching football at Strathcona High School since 2011, and recently established the Leif Welz Fund for Multi-Sport Athletes with Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF). Each year, the fund will offer an award to a post-secondary student that participates in multiple sports during their studies.

The idea for a multi-sport fund was inspired by Welz's own experience; he played with the varsity football team at the University of Alberta in his first two years of a Bachelor's degree in Sociology and Economics, and eventually expanded his extra-curricular involvement to become a more well-rounded athlete.

"During that time I met a number of athletes that did football as well as track and field, and you could see there was a big difference in their development; they were stronger, sharper," Welz says. In 2007, he decided to get back into track and field while maintaining his studies — and playing football at the same time.

"It was a very positive experience, it helped shape my present day character," he says. "With the award, I figured it would be a good way to motivate the kids that I coach now." To be eligible for the award, post-secondary students must participate at the varsity level on more than one team. "I want students to know that people can do this, that it's possible to go to university and be on more than one team."

As for getting the fund started, Welz says that ECF was suggested by one of his coaching mentors at Strathcona High School as a possible avenue for setting up a student award. Once Welz determined his goals for the fund, ECF helped him shape the parameters for his idea of a multi-sport student prize.

"Most donors that come through our door have a very good idea of what they want to accomplish, they just may not have expressed that to anyone before," Kathy Hawkesworth, Director of Donor Services at ECF says. "In Leif's case, he was a multi-sport athlete and that worked for him, so he's wanting to build a fund to provide that support for athletes."

Hawkesworth notes that while Welz is in the process of building his fund to the \$10,000 threshold, which is required by ECF before a fund can begin granting on its own, he is also supplying additional annual funds so that awards can be given in the years before

the fund matures. Once a fund reaches the granting level, donors may choose to build the fund further or simply allow it to grant in perpetuity on principal interest. "To me, to have a young person commit to putting \$10,000 towards a charity, whether it's today or over 10 years, I just think it's absolutely amazing."

She adds that Welz's efforts put him in league with other high-profile donors that came to ECF with a desire to support young athletes. A now-retired Edmonton lawyer who coached football at St. Joseph's Composite High School, for instance, started the Roy A. Phillion Fund; the fund's goal is to award players that demonstrate sportsmanlike conduct on and off the field.

"It's neat that we see a couple of donors that are generations apart, both doing something for young people in the community," Hawkesworth says.

While Welz's fund maintains that multi-sport participation is key, students should also demonstrate leadership and athletic skill, all while maintaining their grades.

"They're not just athletes; they're called student athletes for a reason," Welz says. "I think it's important that those kids going out of high school demand more for themselves, and get more out of life." ■

VITALSIGNS[®] EDMONTON YOUTH

What is Edmonton Vital Signs[®] 2014?

Edmonton Vital Signs[®] is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation (ECF), in partnership with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how our community is doing on a specific issue. This year we are looking at youth. Community Foundations across Canada are reporting on how their communities are doing and how Canada is doing over all.

Edmonton is Canada's youngest major city:

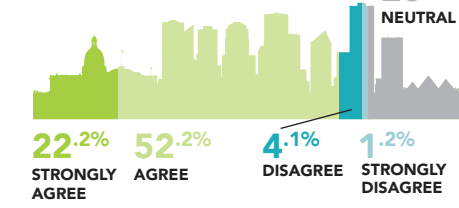
Edmonton Alberta has one of the youngest populations. The city of Edmonton is the only major Canadian city that actually got younger between 2006 (36.1 median age) and 2011 (36.0 median age). This may not seem like a large drop, but the national median age is 40.6.¹



What is the good news?

Edmonton youth are optimistic

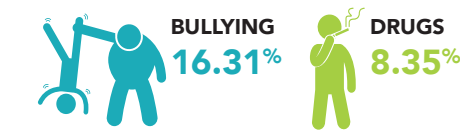
I am confident I am on track to achieve my goals - 74% positive.²



1. According to Stats Canada (2012) data.
2. According to a youth poll conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation (2014) of youth aged 15 to 24.
3. According to a Leger poll (2014) conducted with Edmontonians 18 years of age and older.
4. According to Alberta Health Services.

What are the biggest challenges facing Edmonton's youth today?

When asked, "What do you think the biggest issue facing youth today?" Youth answered bullying (16.3%), next to drugs at 8.35%.²



The Education Act defines bullying as: "repeated and hostile or demeaning behaviour by an individual in the community where the behaviour is intended to cause harm, fear or distress to one or more other individuals in the community, including psychological harm or harm to an individual's reputation."

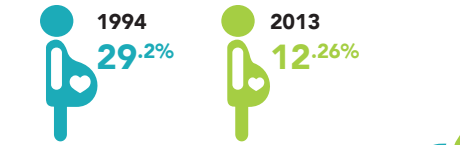
Adults don't think bullying is an issue. Only 4% felt this was an issue for youth.³ Youth think it is their biggest concern.²

ECF at Work

In 2013 ECF provided \$40,000 to the Concrete Theatre Society to produce The Bully Project — a project that delivers anti-bullying information to youth through participatory theatre. This approach allows students to engage in identifying and analyzing the behaviour of bullies while providing them new skills through the proxy of a 'character' in a dramatic situation. Concrete Theatre is one of the many youth-focused organizations that ECF works with.

Teen Pregnancy on the decline

Teen pregnancy rates show a significant long-term decline from 29.2 per 1000 in 1994 to 12.26 per 1000 in 2013.



What is youth? For the purposes of the Vital Signs[®] Report youth is defined as between the ages of 14 and 24.

Edmontonians feel community involvement is important

Both youth and adults feel it is important for them to be involved in their communities:

68% of both youth and adults feel it is important for youth to be involved in their communities.^{2,3} But only 7% of Edmontonians 18 and older feel that youth are actually involved. Less than one-in-ten (7%) Edmontonians 18 and older agree that youth are involved in their communities.³



Want more of this kind of information?

Watch for Vital Signs[®] 2014 on October 7th. Get your copy in the *Edmonton Journal*, by attending our launch at City Hall at noon, or by contacting our office at info@ecfoundation.org or calling 780.426.0015.

For more information about ECF at work go to the full Vital Signs[®] report.



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or get by, or maybe

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showing what we thousands banded
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the endeavour
to make things better

for generations still,
their dreams fulfilled,

it all gets built ...

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