



Coalition in the news

A major crime prevention initiative run by the Coalition's Injera Program in conjunction with Edmonton Police Service which ran between July 2 to July 6 2013, received major coverage in the mainstream media. It received coverage from the following media houses:

CTV News: To watch the news clip, follow this link:

<http://edmonton.ctvnews.ca/video?clipId=960559&binId=1.1203428&playlistPageNum=1>

The Edmonton Journal:

<http://www.edmontonjournal.com/news/edmonton/Youth+Police+Academy+gets+opening+tour+inner+city/8626148/story.html>

The Sun

Injera and EPS piloted new Youth Police Academy (YPA) declared a huge success

Empowering youth to strengthen trusting relationships and build safer communities | [See PHOTOS](#)



By Sanjaya Dhakal, Edmonton July 10 2013

The Injera Initiative is a community-partner project with the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition, the Edmonton Police Service, REACH Edmonton, and the City of Edmonton. The Injera Initiative with RIRI project of REACH Edmonton received the Alberta Crime Prevention Award in May 2013 for its innovative, grassroots approach to crime prevention.

The Edmonton Police Service, in partnership with the Injera Initiative, piloted the Youth Police Academy (YPA), which will strengthen trusting relationship and help empower teens and young adults in preventing crime and building safer communities. The goal of the Academy was to have all participants gain an understanding of how individuals, communities, and police work together to address crime issues. Participants become community safety ambassadors, who can assist their community in navigating and collaborating with police and civic agencies more effectively.

To help achieve this, youth underwent training in leadership development, conflict resolution, communication, and community capacity building, which will aid them in establishing lifelong

skills. Youth also received hands-on training by going on patrol with EPS Beat Officers on neighbourhood problem-solving exercises, and taking the physically-challenging Recruit Skills Challenge to help prepare them for possible law enforcement careers.

“Youth are an invaluable component of our society and our future, but there are increasing concerns of youth committing crimes or being victimized because of social inequalities,” says EPS Const. Chapman Lee, YPA Coordinator. “The Academy aims to bridge the gap between police and youth at a critical time in their lives when they are at risk. By connecting with the youth directly, we can help them understand the roles and responsibilities of police, listen to their concerns and priorities, and provide them with the resources to assist their community.”

The 40 participants in the YPA ranged in age from 15 to 25 years old, and were selected by the Injera Initiative Animators because they are emerging leaders in Edmonton’s newcomer communities.

“The Youth Police Academy was unique because it was directed towards ethno cultural communities whose youth often face barriers and inequalities,” says Sanjaya Dhakal, Program Coordinator with the Injera Initiative. “The Academy was designed to be a fun, inspiring, and engaging environment where participants examine community policing issues within a cultural safety framework, and get them active in finding solutions. Youth were able to construct relationships that will be beneficial to themselves, to police, and to their communities.”

The Youth Police Academy pilot ran July 2 to 6, 2013. Participants attended graduation ceremony on July 6, featuring EPS Deputy Chief Danielle Campbell, Superintendent David Veitch and Somali born Canadian poet Ahmed Ali aka Knowmadic.