Edmonton Multicultural Coalition



2025 ANNUAL REPORT

www.emcoalition.ca

INTRODUCTION



The Edmonton Multicultural Coalition proudly presents our 2025 Annual Report, a reflection of a year defined by meaningful impact and deep community engagement. Through strategic partnerships and dedicated programming, we advanced our mission of supporting the socio-economic integration of newcomers, ethno-cultural communities, and equity deserving populations across Edmonton. In 2025, our work expanded to foster socio economic inclusion, health equity, youth empowerment, migrant engagement, and cross-cultural awareness. Guided by community voices and strengthened by collaboration, EMC reached thousands of individuals, creating pathways to belonging and opportunity.

This year's accomplishments highlight our commitment to empowering community members through employment initiatives, health education, youth development, civic participation, and intercultural understanding. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our partners, volunteers, and the diverse communities we serve. We extend our deepest gratitude for your trust and collaboration in building a more inclusive Edmonton.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dr. H. M. Ashraf Ali

Dear Friends and Partners,

On behalf of the Board of Directors, it is my honor to share reflections in the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition's 2025 Annual Report. This year has been a testament to the strength of collaboration, the resilience of our communities, and the vision that guides our organization forward.

The Coalition's work in 2025 demonstrated what is possible when governance, leadership, and community voices align. From employment initiatives that opened doors for hundreds of newcomers, to health and wellness programs that empowered women, to youth sports that built confidence and friendships across cultures, each achievement reflects our mission in action.

As a Board, our role is to ensure that this mission is carried out with integrity, accountability, and sustainability. We are proud to have supported the Executive Director and staff in securing resources, strengthening partnerships, and advancing policies that prioritize equity and belonging. The Migrant Action Plan, shaped by authentic community voices, stands as a powerful example of how inclusive governance can influence systems and create lasting impact.

We also celebrate the Coalition's ability to create spaces of joy and connection. Whether through cross cultural events, youth programs, or community dialogues, these initiatives remind us that diversity is not only Edmonton's reality—it is our strength.

Looking ahead to 2026, the Board remains committed to guiding the Coalition with vision and responsibility. We will continue to champion innovation, transparency, and collaboration, ensuring that the organization is well positioned to meet evolving challenges and opportunities.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our staff, volunteers, and partners for their dedication, and to our community members for their trust and engagement. Your stories inspire us, your participation strengthens us, and your resilience reminds us why this work matters.

Together, we are building a Coalition that reflects the very best of Edmonton: inclusive, equitable, and united in purpose.

With appreciation,

Dr. H.M. Ashraf Ali, President

Edmonton Multicultural Coalition

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



John Gaye

Dear Partners, Funders and Community Members,

It is with pride and gratitude that I present the Edmonton Multicultural Coalition's 2025 Annual Report. This year has been transformative—marked by deep community connections, impactful partnerships, and outcomes that touched hundreds of lives across Edmonton.

Reflecting on 2025, I am inspired by the resilience of the communities we serve. From newcomers navigating the labor market, to women accessing culturally safe health information, to youth discovering their potential through sports, each story represents a barrier overcome and a life changed.

Our achievements were made possible through strong partnerships. With the Edmonton Construction Association, 700 job seekers attended our fair, with 60% securing interviews and many finding long term employment.

> "one program, one conversation, one connection at a time."

University of Alberta OBGYN residents empowered 75 women through health workshops, while Women In Motion Canada expanded opportunities for holistic wellness and community building. Most significantly, our collaboration with the City of Edmonton on the Migrant Action Plan ensured authentic voices shaped policy through focus groups in Punjabi, Tagalog, Swahili, and Ukrainian.

Youth programs remain a source of joy and hope—130 young people built confidence, leadership, and intercultural friendships through basketball and soccer. Meanwhile, 200 participants in our cross cultural events exemplified our vision: spaces where diversity is celebrated and belonging is real.

As we look to 2026, we remain committed to advancing socio economic integration and cross cultural understanding. Challenges evolve, and so must our responses. We will continue to listen, adapt, and advocate for policies that create genuine opportunities for all Edmontonians to thrive.

I extend heartfelt thanks to our staff, board, volunteers, funders, and partners whose dedication makes this work possible. Most importantly, I thank the community members who share their stories and trust us to walk alongside them. You inspire us and remind us why this work matters.

Together, we are building a more inclusive, equitable, and connected Edmonton—one program, one conversation, one connection at a time.

With gratitude and optimism,

John Gaye, Executive Director

Edmonton Multicultural Coalition



Our impact in 2025

Employment & Economic Integration

In partnership with the Edmonton Construction Association, the EMC organized a major employment initiative designed to connect job seekers with opportunities in the construction sector
and beyond. Planning activities ran from January through July, culminating in a highly successful job and career fair in May 2025.





KEY OUTCOMES:

700+ job seekers attended the fair
22 companies participated as exhibitors
60% of attendees secured job interviews
90% of participants reported benefiting from the sessions
A significant number of attendees were successfully hired following the event

This initiative demonstrates the EMC's commitment to breaking down barriers to employment and creating pathways to economic stability for newcomers and equity-deserving communities.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Women's Health Workshop Series

Recognizing the importance of culturally responsive health education, the EMC launched a comprehensive Women's Health Workshop series in collaboration with the University of Alberta OBGYN residents.



The inaugural workshop addressed critical topics including female anatomy, cervical cancer screening, sexually transmitted infections, contraception and family planning, labour and delivery, and menopause. This educational session provided vital health information in an accessible and supportive environment.

- **45 women participated and benefited from the workshop**

WOMEN'S

EMPOWERMENT SERIES

Building on the success of the first session, a second women's empowerment series was held in November, expanding beyond health topics to include broader wellness and empowerment activities.

- 30+ women attended
- Featured a workshop with Dr. Anne Bello
- Included Pilates sessions in collaboration with Women In Motion Canada





These workshops provided safe spaces for women to learn, share experiences, and build connections while accessing important health information.





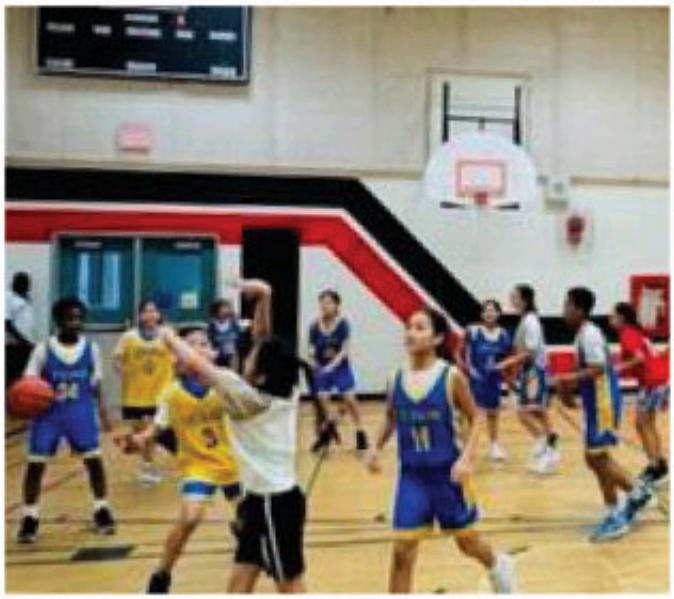
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

Youth Empowerment Through Sports

The EMC recognizes that sports provide powerful opportunities for youth development, building both physical skills and character. In 2025, we expanded our youth sports programming to include both basketball and soccer.

YOUTH BASKETBALL PROGRAM







This seven-month program brought together youth from various ethnocultural communities for weekly practice sessions and skills training under the guidance of experienced coaches. Beyond athletic development, participants engaged in leadership training with professionals, learning valuable life skills that extend far beyond the court.



YOUTH SOCCER PROGRAM JUNE - SEPT 2025

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT THROUGH SPORTS

The soccer program provided an exciting summer of athletic activity, teamwork, and competition. Youth participated in weekly practices that built skills and camaraderie, while two tournaments provided opportunities to showcase their abilities in friendly competition.



- 100+ youth participated in soccer activities
- 8 teams competed in two tournaments
- Programming included weekly practices and skill development

These sports programs served as vehicles for building confidence, fostering intercultural friendships, and developing leadership skills among young people from diverse backgrounds.







CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

MIGRANT ACTION PLAN FOCUS GROUPS

In partnership with the City of Edmonton, the EMC played a crucial role in ensuring that newcomer voices were heard in municipal policy development. We conducted focus group discussions with four distinct ethnocultural communities, each held in participants' native languages to ensure meaningful participation and authentic feedback.



Communities Engaged:

- Punjabi-speaking community
- Tagalog-speaking community
- Swahili-speaking community
- Ukrainian-speaking community

OBJECTIVE: To understand migrants' perspectives on specific actions the City of Edmonton and broader community can take to advance the six focus areas of the City's Migrant Action Policy.

By facilitating these discussions in native languages, the EMC ensured that language barriers did not prevent community members from contributing their insights and experiences to shape policies that directly affect their lives. This work exemplifies our commitment to amplifying marginalized voices in civic processes.



CROSS-CULTURAL UNDERSTANDING

INTERCULTURAL EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

A cornerstone of the EMC's mandate is promoting cross-cultural awareness and building bridges between Edmonton's diverse communities. Throughout 2025, we created numerous opportunities for intercultural dialogue, celebration, and connection.

Intercultural Dialogue Series

These vibrant events brought together community members through multiple forms of cultural expression and exchange.









ALBERTA CULTURE DAYS

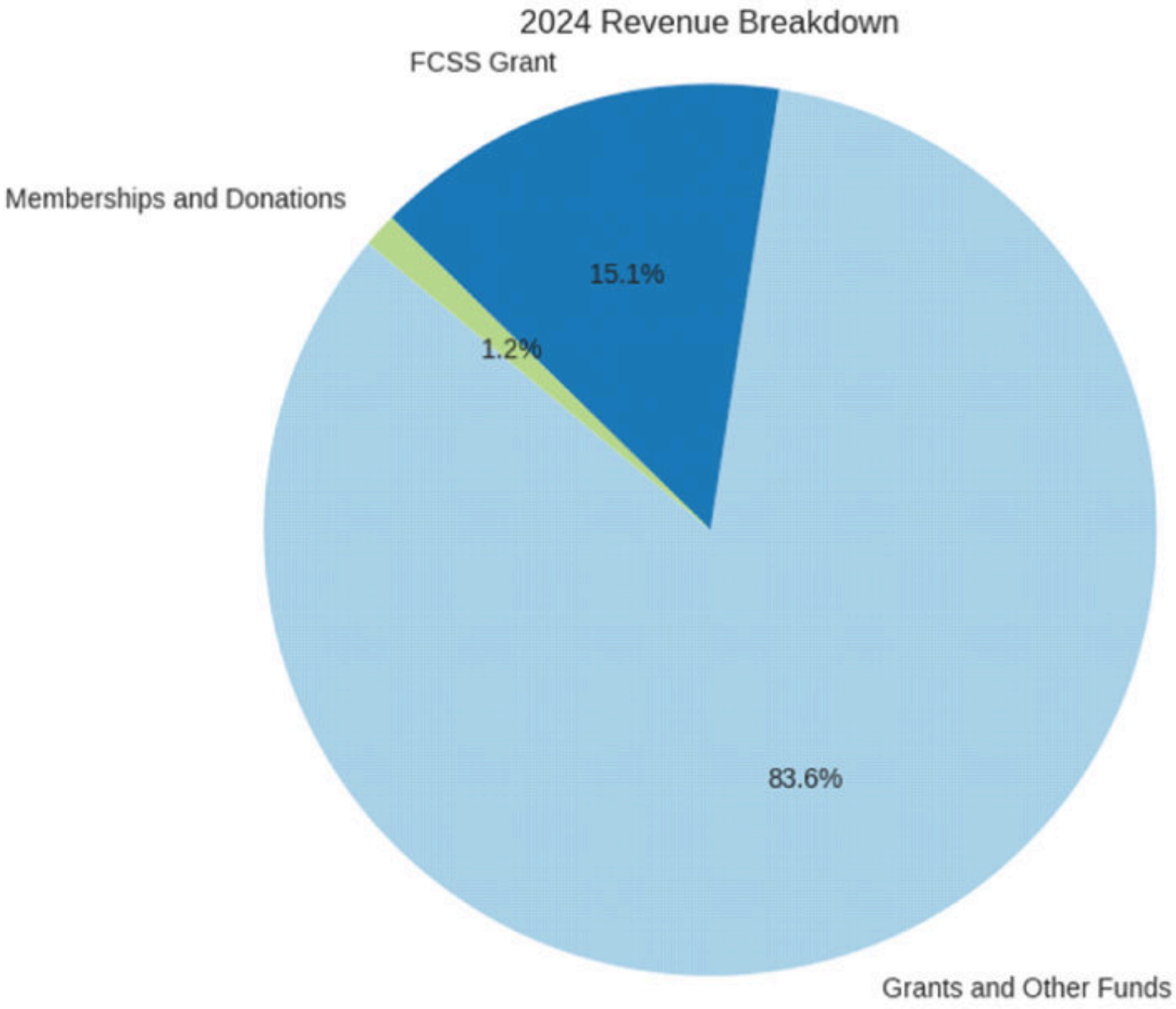
The EMC proudly participated in the provincial Alberta Culture Days the rich cultural diversity of Edmonton's ethnocultural communities and providing opportunities for cross-cultural learning and appreciation.

These events created welcoming spaces where people from different backgrounds could come together, share their cultures, learn from one another, and build the intercultural understanding that strengthens our entire community.

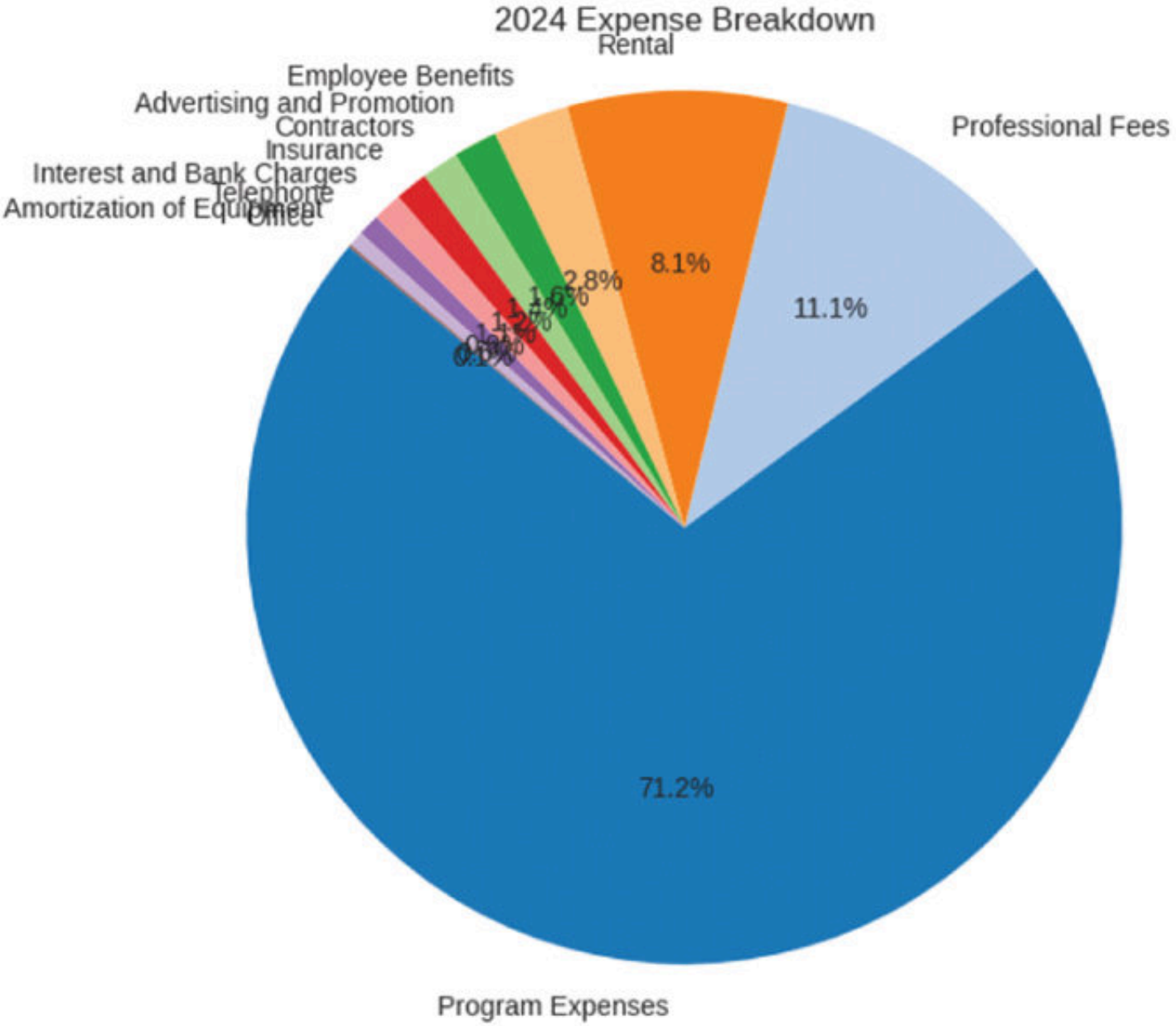




FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



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WHAT THE PIE CHARTS SHOW

Revenue Sources

Grants and other funds: $154,485 (≈84%)

FCSS grant: $27,948 (≈15%)

Memberships & donations: $2,268 (≈1%)

EXPENSE CATEGORIES

Program expenses

(salaries + program costs): $104,483 (≈71%)

Professional fees: $16,228 (≈11%)

Rental: $11,920 (≈8%)

Remaining categories (benefits, advertising, contractors, insurance, etc.) each under 3%.

Edmonton Multicultural Coalition

Our missiOn

through civic engagement, foster multicultural and socio-economic integration.



Our visiOn

a strong, vibrant community strengthened through equitable and reciprocal socio-economic integration.





emca housed on traditional land of treaty 6 territory.

emca acknowledges the diverse indigenous peoples whose ancestors' footsteps have marked this territory for centuries, such as cree, Dene, SaUlteaUX, BlackFoot, nakota SioUX,metiS anD inUit.

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