

St. Albert Youth Advisory Committee — 2025 Annual Report

It has been a privilege to serve alongside the members of the Youth Advisory Committee throughout 2025. I am grateful for the opportunity to contribute to a group that is deeply committed to representing youth voices and facilitating civic engagement here in St. Albert.

This year, the Youth Advisory Committee had a heavy focus on learning, collaboration, and capacity-building. Members demonstrated growing ability to thoughtfully engage with municipal systems, policy development, long-term planning—strengthening the committee’s role as an informed advisory body. Through a variety of educational opportunities, the committee has continued to build knowledge required to contribute meaningfully to discussions and provide perspectives unique to St. Albert youth.

The committee participated in several presentations from internal City departments, providing members with valuable insight into municipal operations and strategic priorities. Members collaborated with the Recreation and Parks Department through a walking tour, as well as a presentation focused on Grey Nuns White Spruce Park. The Environment Department delivered a series of presentations on energy efficiency, climate adaptation, and the City’s environmental initiatives; supporting members’ understanding of environmental planning, implementation, and communication at the local level. Additionally, members joined Council and city administration on a bus tour of the city, gaining insight to new projects and developments in our community.

Beyond internal learning opportunities, committee members engaged in several external leadership and advocacy opportunities. Two members attended an Online Harms Youth Policy Training through an invitation extended to the committee by the John Humphrey Center for Peace and Human Rights. This strengthened the committee’s awareness of digital safety, online advocacy practices, and emerging policies regarding cyberbullying and digital exploitation. One member participated in a Mobility Choices Strategy session, providing a youth perspective to accessibility, transportation, and mobility planning discussions. In April, members attended a regional youth conference, connecting with youth councils across the greater Edmonton region. We shared experiences and discussed common priorities and issues facing youth in our communities.

Collectively, these experiences reflect a committee that is committed to growth in confidence, professionalism, and purpose. The Youth Advisory Committee increasingly values informed dialogue, diverse perspectives, and evidence-based advocacy, positioning itself as a constructive thinking advisory body.

Looking ahead into 2026, the committee is well positioned to continue amplifying youth voices while strengthening relationships with Council and administration. I am proud of the dedication and thoughtfulness presented by committee members this year, and am optimistic about the impact the committee will continue to hold as it builds on this foundation.

Thank you to both Council and administration for the ongoing support of youth engagement, and to the members of the Youth Advisory Committee for their commitment to leadership and care for our peers. I would also like to give special thanks to Shannon Piller, our committee's staff liaison, and former City Councillor Natalie Joly, our 2025 council representative. Their contributions to youth across the city provide strong examples of leadership and compassion, and the Youth Advisory Committee has been extremely grateful to learn from them.

On behalf of the St. Albert Youth Advisory Committee,

Saige Yakemchuk

2025 Chair, Youth Advisory Committee