



EDMONTON
SENIORS
COORDINATING
COUNCIL

LINK LETTER

Connecting you to Edmonton's age
friendly network!

April
2025

The Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council brings people, ideas, and information together to build collaborative approaches to services, supports, and circumstances affecting older adults.

Senior Sector Spotlight



Operation Friendship Seniors Society (OFSS) is a non-profit organization that offers assistance without judgement to adults 55 years of age or older. Since 1969, their community-based preventative social services have strived to improve the quality of life for seniors in need. With a focus on Edmonton's inner city, OFSS helps individuals live long, healthy, happy, and fulfilling lives.

OFSS has multiple programs and initiatives that offer support in many forms, including:

- **Community Distribution Centre** – designed to offer OFSS residents and seniors in need an opportunity to access clothing, housewares, and toiletries at no cost.
- **Geriatric Community Support Program** – Outreach workers respond to referrals from both agencies and the community. They visit seniors in their homes, hospitals, or wherever they may be. These workers act as friends and will link people to the resources and services they need. OFSS is a partner agency with the Seniors Coordinated Outreach collaborative.
- **Housing Facilities** – The organization has 5 housing facilities available to inner city seniors. A Geriatric Community Worker is the entry point for seniors who want to live in an OFSS facility. The worker will partner with landlords, other housing, and inner-city agencies to ensure they find the appropriate housing for each senior's needs.

OFSS provides safe, affordable, non-institutional housing options, support, and friendship. Visit their website to find out more about their services, initiatives, and

how to get involved!

To discover more about Operation Friendship Seniors Society, click the link to read a profile story written by our 2024 summer student, Breanne Harrison.

[Read the article >](#)

Collaborative Corner

Updates on collaborations that advance issues and seek better, sustainable ways of working together in support of older adults.



Annual General Meeting &



EAFA Event

ESCC's 20th Anniversary AGM is on **April 28, 2025 at 1 pm** at The Lodge at Snow Valley (13204 Rainbow Valley Rd NW). Catch a sneak peak at a new brand for one of ESCC's initiatives, and find out how we're celebrating our anniversary in 2025.

Following the AGM, join us for:

Power of Advocacy in the Seniors Sector - Advocacy Sprint + Network Gathering

This free and interactive event will focus on harnessing the power of advocacy, in all its forms, to tackle challenges within the seniors sector.

Keynote speaker, **Arlene Eaton-Erickson**, will address the different forms of advocacy. EAFA Action Hubs will lead discussion tables on key issues:

- Ageism

- Value of Senior Centres
- Seniors' Food Security

[Download the poster >](#)

[Register Here for the AGM and EAFA Network Gathering](#)

This event is the same day as the Federal election. **Be sure to vote in the Federal election!**

You can vote (early or late) on election day **AND** still join us, **OR** plan ahead with the following voting options:



[Ways to Vote >](#)

Edmonton Age Friendly Alliance



Save the Date

Seniors' Week 2025 Kick-off - Monday, June 2

The **Edmonton Age-Friendly Alliance** and **Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council** will kick-off Seniors' Week with a special event at City Hall.

Learning continues at all ages. Join us at this fun event to connect with others, enjoy lively entertainment, with a light lunch provided by the Canterbury Foundation.

[Register early for Seniors Week Kick-off 2025](#)



Social Prescribing

Exciting News! We are pleased to announce that as of April 1, 2025, clients of the Social Prescribing Program will have access to over-the-phone and video call **interpretation services** through Alberta Health Services - LanguageLine Solutions - when they meet with a Social Prescribing Program worker. Download this month's update to find out more about this new service.



[Download the Update](#)

Seniors Sector Inclusion Project

EDI Learning Community Continues!

We're pleased to share that the Seniors Sector Inclusion Project (SSIP) officially launched its EDI Learning Community on March 24th with the presentation of the **"What We Heard" report**.

Thank you to all who joined us - organization representatives, frontline workers, program coordinators and Executive Directors - to make the first session

memorable. We saw warm hearts and open minds, and we want to encourage more people to engage with us and participate in our learning community.

The report reflects the voices generously shared by community members, contextualized with research.



["What We Heard" >](#)

See below for the next Learning Community session or connect with the team to discuss customized support for your organization.

Muna Jimale, Equity Specialist – muna@seniorscouncil.net

Kabele Galgalo, EDI Engagement & Research Coordinator –
kabele@seniorscouncil.net

April Learning Community Session

Date: Tuesday, April 22

Time: 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Location: Building 4, Elm Business Park
#111, 9426 - 51 Avenue NW, Edmonton

[Register Here](#)

April's session: **Sharing Circle** led by Jacquelyn Cardinal of Naheyawin, and rooted in Indigenous methodology.

The Circle includes a smudge ceremony and a Sharing Circle, where participants can come together in community to share, listen, and learn. Grounded in values of respect, relationship, and reciprocity, the session aims to build trust, relationships and spark deeper dialogue as we work toward greater inclusion in the seniors-serving sector.

2025 Tax Clinics Seniors Coordinated Outreach Partners



Sage Seniors Association:

Participants can call **780-809-9424** and leave a **message**. The call back time is up to 5 days. Both phone and in-person appointments will be an option.

Clinic eligibility:

- Annual income - \$35,000 for a single person and \$45,000 for a couple
- Simple returns can only have T3, T4 and T5 slips (no self-employment income)
- Cannot have income from rental properties, farming or capital gains (capital gains listed on T3, T4 and T5 is okay)
- For ages 55 and over (can be younger if on AISH)
- Couples must file taxes together and both must be available for the appointment to give verbal consent to their taxes being filed



The Shaama Centre:

The service offers assistance with filing taxes and includes connections and referrals to various services and agencies.

Eligibility:

- Individuals or families with low income

Application Process:

- Call for more information about drop-off process or to confirm drop-off and pick-up schedule
- Telephone: **780-465-2992**

[Learn more >](#)



ASSIST Community Services Centre:

Free tax clinics services for seniors who are 55+ (no age restriction for permanent residents).

- By appointment only, please call to pre-register, 780-429-3111
- Taxpayers who are subject to file must be present
- The tax filing will be prepared by a volunteer under the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program

[Learn more >](#)



Operation Friendship:

Tax Clinics information:

- **In-person only**
- **Days:** Monday to Friday
- **Hours:** 8:00 am to 11:30 am;
 - CLOSED from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm;
 - 1:00 pm to 3:30 pm
- **By appointment:** call 780-429-2626
- Recipients have to bring their T4s



Strathcona Place Society:

- Free Tax Clinics for clients age 55+
- Provide pick-up and drop-off services
- Phone: 780-433-5807

[Learn more >](#)

Find out more information on free tax clinics through the CRA website:

[About free tax clinics](#)

Resources & Learning Opportunities



Discover ProCoroTV!

[Pro Coro Canada and Sage Seniors Association](#)

April 10 | 1 to 2 pm

Sage Seniors Association, 15 Sir Winston Churchill Square

Join Pro Coro Canada and Sage Seniors Association for an engaging information session about ProCoroTV, the new streaming service from Pro Coro Canada!

[Learn more >](#)

[Get the poster >](#)



April Events at the AGA

[Art Gallery of Alberta](#)

Cinema for Seniors - *Big Eyes*

Friday, April 11 | 2 to 4 pm

[Book tickets >](#)

Seniors Tours - *what we leave, what we take*

Friday, April 25 | 2 pm

[Reserve a spot >](#)



Earth Day Festival 2025

[SCAN! Edmonton \(Seniors for Climate Action Now!\)](#)

April 26 | 1 to 4:30 pm

Alberta Avenue Community League, 9210 118 Ave NW



Communications, Governance, and Human Resources Shared Services

[ECVO](#)

Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations

Join SCAN! Edmonton's Earth Day Festival outdoors for an Indigenous ceremony, a bit of comedy, speakers from local climate and social justice organizations, music, fun family activities, climate film screenings, interactive green technology displays, and food! .

[Learn more >](#)

ECVO's Shared Services provides project-based or ongoing communications, governance, or human resources support to both members and non-members that enhances organizational capacity with meaningful and relevant knowledge.

[Learn more >](#)



Healthy Aging Alberta

Carving New Pathways

A Collaborative Approach to Healthy Aging

['23 - '24 Annual Report >](#)



Healthy Aging Alberta

2025 HAA Summit: The Tapestry of Aging

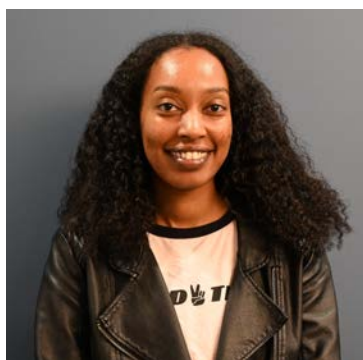
October 6 to 9

[Learn more or register >](#)

ESCC Updates

Welcome Kabele!

ESCC's EDI Engagement and Research Coordinator



Kabele is the newest member of the Seniors Sector Inclusion Project. She received her Bachelors degree in History and Political Science from U of A, and her graduate degree in Religion, Culture and Global Justice from WLU in Ontario. Kabele enjoys research and advocacy work related to racialized and marginalized communities. She has worked with international students, refugees and immigrants and the community at large, and strives to learn more

about ways to create an equitable society for everyone. Kabele is passionate about how her role at ESCC is going to engage and co-create policies with diverse seniors and community-based seniors serving organizations to improve diverse seniors access to services and programs.



Job Posting: EAFA Communications Lead

ESCC is looking to hire a dynamic communications professional with a diverse skillset and wide range of experience to fill the role of **EAFA Communications Lead**.

[See the job posting >](#)

April is...



**Eid
Mubarak!**



Eid al-Fitr

Evening of March 29 to April 1

Eid al-Fitr is the first of the two main festivals in Islam, the other being Eid al-Adha. It falls on the first day of Shawwal, the tenth month of the

Islamic calendar. Eid al-Fitr is celebrated by Muslims worldwide because it marks the end of the month-long dawn-to-dusk fasting of Ramadan.



Easter - April 18 to 21

Easter is one of the major Christian holy days recognizing the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ.



**NATIONAL
VOLUNTEER
WEEK 2025**
VOLUNTEERS MAKE WAVES

APRIL 27 - MAY 3

Volunteers Make Waves

Together, we create ripples of change.

During National Volunteer Week 2025, we come together to recognize and celebrate all the ways volunteers make waves from coast to coast to coast.

Each individual volunteer contribution, big or small, creates momentum and has the power to influence and inspire, joining a wave of positive change.

**THANK YOU
VOLUNTEERS!**

Disclaimer: We endeavour to acknowledge and honour days of significance to the best of our knowledge, which may be of interest to the senior sector that we serve. If you notice an error or omission kindly contact us at communications@seniorscouncil.net.



Want more events?

You can find additional events on our website calendar. We regularly post events here, so you can get event updates in between Link Letters. We post events and learning opportunities for both older Edmontonians and organizations.

Have an event to promote?

Submit it using our online submission form!

[Submit Event](#)

[Video Tutorial](#)

The latest editions of Link Letter are available on our [website](#).



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