

JOHN HUMPHREY CENTRE FOR PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

ANNUAL REPORT 2023



info@jhcentre.org



www.jhcentre.org

BUILDING A CULTURE OF PEACE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Art by Mason York

TABLE OF CONTENTS

President's Report	3
Executive Director's Report	6
Endowment Fund	8
What we do	9
Our Vision	9
Our Mission	9
2023 Snapshot	9
How We Achieve Our Mission	10
JHC's Team	11
Board of Directors	11
Special Advisor	11
Staff in 2023	12
High Level Summary	13
Social Stride	15
Rural Anti-Racism	17
Anti-Racism Muslim Collaborative	18
Stride Advocacy Project	19
Righting Relations	21
Action on Ableism	23
Amplifying Food Justice Work in the Prairies	24
ACIFA - "You Are Not Alone"	25
75th Anniversary of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)	26
YEG Dignity	27
Human Rights Awards	28
Contracts and Trainings	31
Publications and Reports	32
Financial and Expense Overviews	33
Thank you to our Funders and Supporters	34

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Presented by Megan Lukasewich

I would like to begin by acknowledging that the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights is located in Amiskwacîwâskahikan (Edmonton), Treaty 6 territory - the traditional and ancestral homeland of the Cree, Dene, Blackfoot, Saulteaux and Nakota Sioux, historical Northwest Métis Homeland and the Métis Nation of Alberta North Saskatchewan River Territory, Districts 9 and 10. We acknowledge the many First Nations, Métis and Inuit people who have cared for these lands and waters since time immemorial, and are grateful for the caretakers and protectors of the land and waters, past, present, and future. Including the Papaschase First Nation who was displaced from their land in the current boundaries of south Edmonton.

We acknowledge the enduring impacts of genocide and colonial policies aimed to eradicate Indigenous Peoples across Turtle Island. It is our collective responsibility to work towards a future where Indigenous rights are honored, upheld, and respected. Collectively, the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights staff, volunteers, board members and supporters can amplify and work towards ending injustices, mobilizing knowledge in a way that educates and creates action, while honoring and respecting those experiencing ongoing colonial violence. We call upon our ancestors to guide us in our work together, uniting us in our commitment to create a more just and equitable world.

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as the Chair of the Board over the past year. 2023 unfolded against a backdrop of injustices and conflicts, underscoring the vital significance of the organization's mission to advance dignity, freedom, justice, and security through collaborative relationships and transformative education on peace and human rights. I am profoundly moved by the dedication of the JHC staff, volunteers, board members, and supporters. In looking back at the accomplishments over the past year, it is evident that our shared commitment to advancing human rights and cultivating peace has resulted in significant progress. I encourage you to read the 2023 annual report which provides fulsome descriptions of the breadth and depth of work accomplished and underway at the JHC.

At the board level we have been focused on building JHCs brand, growing relationships and organizational development, including strengthening board accountability and continuity. The board continues to dig into principles of white supremacy and how they show up in our work. The board held two full day strategic planning sessions over the year to ground in the Rights Relations Transforming the Non-Profit Sector toolkit "Addressing Toxicity in the Non-Profits Sector. Taking into consideration the characteristics of white supremacy, we developed the goals of the board and committees, including ongoing reflection and action to address white supremacy.

Throughout the last year, the Executive Committee focused on succession planning and supporting the Executive Director to strengthen project management across the organization including implementation of revised project management tools and templates. We renewed the committee's terms of reference, refining key duties and responsibilities and increasing accountability of committee members. The board also adopted a new internal conflict resolution policy. We would like to thank Natasha Larson and Egun Akomolafe, Community Service-Learning Board Interns, for their contributions to the board over the last year and for supporting policy reviews and renewals.

Over the past year, the Nominating Committee continued to work on improving and solidifying processes. We edited and streamlined the orientation package for new board members, ensuring that our new members are prepared with the information and support they need when joining the Board. We also had a healthy number of applicants during our board member recruitment, helping us add members to the board and include community members on board committees, bringing their perspective, skills, and expertise to the governance functions of the JHC. The Nominating Committee also updated our Terms of Reference, ensuring that our committee work is guided by a clear mandate and responsibilities.

2023 brought significant growth to JHC, and the Finance Committee supported this growth through several initiatives. The transition to a cloud-based financial reporting platform alongside new project management strategies to form an integrated planning system. The Finance Committee drove the creation of a quarterly forecasting tool to assess the current financial position and contribute to the long-term sustainability of the organization. In 2024, the Finance Committee expects to assess the total compensation strategy to align with the needs of the organization.

Awards committee

The Community Engagement Committee remained committed to building and expanding our network within all levels of government, local organizations, and University, aligning with the goals set out by the JHC board. In the past year, the committee actively participated in and attended events to support our partner organizations. It has identified opportunities to deepen our relations with all levels of government and support efforts of the staff to maintain relations with key stakeholders. To further that effort, we have also started recruitment for volunteer members to join the committee and expand its capacity for community outreach within the mandate set by the Board of Directors. We are thrilled to welcome our first non-Board Volunteer member to join the Committee and help us deepen the support to our community.

Looking forward to the year 2024, we are filled with anticipation as it marks the momentous occasion of the 25th Anniversary of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights. This milestone offers us a poignant opportunity to celebrate and honor the visionary leadership of the organization's founding members, whose bold dreams laid the foundation for our impactful work. Additionally, it serves as a time of reflection and gratitude, acknowledging the invaluable contributions of all individuals who have played pivotal roles in the remarkable success story of the JHC.

In particular, I want to express deep gratitude to Noelle Jaipaul and Darcy Bemister, for their board service. Noelle served on the Board of Directors for 9 years, of which she served as President for four years. I extend a heartfelt thank you for her incredible dedication and service as a member of our board of directors for many years. Her commitment has been an invaluable asset, guiding the Board of Directors through challenges and successes alike. We are truly grateful for the wisdom, passion, and leadership Noelle brought to the organization. Darcy, who started on the board as a University of Alberta Community Service Learning intern, was instrumental in setting up health and wellness benefits for JHC employees. Their dedication, expertise, and passion have left an indelible mark on our board, and we are profoundly grateful for the guidance and contributions over the years.

In closing, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to each member of JHCs dedicated team, every volunteer, board member, and supporter who has contributed to the achievements outlined in this annual report. Together, we have navigated challenges, celebrated victories, and remained committed to advancing human rights and fostering peace. With unwavering determination and a shared vision, I am confident that we will continue to make a profound impact in our communities and beyond. Thank you for your ongoing support and dedication to the mission of the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights.



Megan Lukasevich
President of the Board
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Presented by Renee Vaugeois

As we step into 2024, the world feels both surreal and precarious. We're witnessing a surge in migration and refugees, alongside environmental changes that continue to reshape our lives and interactions with the planet and each other. In Alberta and beyond, intolerance is on the rise, understanding of differences is lacking, and access to basic human rights like housing and food is increasingly limited.

Globally, conflicts and poverty exacerbate challenges related to food, shelter, education, and employment. As Canada welcomes more refugees, the demand for support to help them thrive grows while we continue to fail to meet the needs of others who already live on the land and who have been traditionally marginalized. Yet, in this midst of global conflicts, we must also critically examine our country's role in contributing to this instability and insecurity, including through the arms trade.

While technology advances rapidly, our journey towards healing feels slow, and disrupted marked by the lingering effects of the pandemic and the legacy of colonization and genocide. Urgencies surround us, from preparing for wildfires to supporting those without shelter. Despite progress in settling claims with groups like Sixties Scoopers and Day School Survivors, questions linger about the continued erasure of Indigenous rights.

The multitude of crises we face globally demand a reevaluation of how we navigate our relationship with the land, while also addressing economic rights, such as access to food and shelter, as outlined in international human rights instruments. While acknowledgments of past harms are made, systemic changes that dismantle colonial structures remain elusive. Law enforcement, prisons, child welfare, and healthcare systems are strained, lacking transformative visions that center the needs of marginalized communities.

The past year marked a significant milestone for human rights and for us at JHC. We commemorated the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the foundation upon which our organization was built. Our commitment to amplifying human rights messages and shedding light on violations was evident during the Ignite Change Convention, where over 1000 individuals from across the country convened to discuss crucial topics such as Indigenous rights, anti-racism, and gender-based violence.

Looking ahead, there's a growing commitment to embed human rights education and engagement into our collective consciousness. We invite you to contribute to this legacy by supporting the John Humphrey Centre's Trust Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation. These resources will foster innovative approaches to addressing human rights issues and expanding education efforts.

Looking ahead, there's a growing commitment to embed human rights education and engagement into our collective consciousness. We invite you to contribute to this legacy by supporting the John Humphrey Centre's Trust Fund at the Edmonton Community Foundation. These resources will foster innovative approaches to addressing human rights issues and expanding education efforts.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the dedicated staff, volunteers, members, and contractors who stand with JHC daily. Your tireless efforts are reflected in this report, showcasing the strength of our team and our commitment to building an organization that values each individual and fosters community engagement.

As we move forward, may 2024 bring us closer to a world where conflict fades, and safety, dignity, security and freedom are realized for all.



Renee Vaugeois
Executive Director
John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights

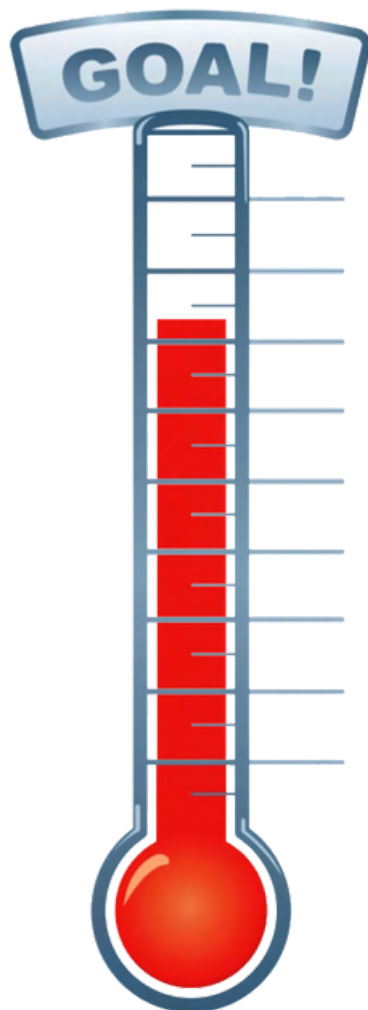


ENDOWMENT FUND

Join us in cultivating a legacy of peace and human rights. The John Humphrey Centre Trust Fund, in memory of our founding father Gerald L. Gall, strives to sustain our vital work in peace-building and human rights education. With your support, we aim to reach our \$40,000 goal by the end of 2024, ensuring a lasting impact for generations to come. Contribute today and help sow the seeds of justice, peace, and dignity for the future.

Contribute here:

<https://www.ecfoundation.org/funds/john-humphrey-centre-fund/>



Our Goal for 2024: \$40,000

**Amount Raised to Date:
\$32,564.16**

WHAT WE DO

Our Vision

A world that manifests a culture of peace and human rights.

Our Mission

Advancing dignity, freedom, justice, and security through collaborative relationships and transformative education on peace and human rights.

2023 Snapshot



**432 events
and activities**

**6,051 people directly
engaged in events
and activities**



**161 Stride Advocacy
cases supported**

How We Achieve Our Mission

- Engage children and young people in peace-building and human rights education.
- Foster adult learning and build community collaboration through education and dialogue on peace and human rights.
- Work with government, businesses and organizations to strengthen their application of a human rights lens.

The John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights (JHC) is dedicated to fostering societies grounded in the fundamental values of freedom, justice, dignity, and security. These values are upheld through four pillars ensuring access to human rights: protection from violations, remedies of violations, participation in decision-making, and access to basic rights. JHC's actions for change revolve around education, facilitation, documentation, and advocacy on human rights, recognizing their intersection and interdependence.

These actions for change form the cornerstone of JHC's efforts. Education provides knowledge of human rights to individuals of all ages and sectors of society. Facilitation involves fostering dialogue and collective action to build community solutions across diversity. Documenting human rights issues informs policy and decision-making, drawing upon community-based research and the arts. Advocacy connects individuals to resources and supports for immediate needs and empowers self-advocacy to address discrimination and rights violations.

Through these four pillars, JHC creates an ecosystem advancing a culture of peace and human rights. Centring on children, JHC aims for generational shifts in promoting human rights values, while fostering inclusive spaces for community engagement that break down stereotypes and prejudice. Through these efforts, JHC not only models human rights principles but also fosters connections that promote understanding and unity within communities.

Art by Davina Merritt



THE TEAM BEHIND JHC IN 2023

Board of Directors

A huge thank you to those volunteers who supported and served on the board in 2023 providing governance and leadership to the organization over the past year.

Darcy Bemister

Kylie Dwyer

Noelle Jaipaul

Andrew Lam

Megan Lukasewich

Syed Abbas Mehdi

Kevin Zentner

Huge shout out to **Ebun Akomolafe** and **Natasha Larson**, University of Alberta Community Service Learning Board Interns.

Special Advisor

Having supported the John Humphrey Centre since 1998, we are proud to thank **Christine Rapp** for her ongoing dedication to the organization and acting as our Special Advisor.



Art by JP Castellanos Alarcon



Staff in 2023

We would like to recognize staff of the John Humphrey Centre who worked hard in 2023 to make the work of the Centre a reality.

Nexi Alarcon, Communications and Marketing Director

Hanan Attitalla, Education Coordinator

Yaw Baayim, Stride Coordinator

Gurpreet Bolina, Social Stride Coordinator

Tim Chow, Education Coordinator

Esther Dimalanta, Communications Coordinator

Idara Effiom, Volunteer and Program Manager

Tiffany Efird, Project Development Coordinator

Jennifer Fedun, Communications Coordinator

Ramona Fernando, Chief Financial Officer

Jessica Kinsella, Project Coordinator

Xiang Li, Project Coordinator

Ivana Palacios, Stride Coordinator

Parveen Parmar, Human Rights Officer

Ana Laura Pauchulo, Director of Development

Angelica Quesada, Director of Research and Education

Renee Vaugeois, Executive Director

Deanne Vuzi, Social Stride Coordinator

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of other key people to the daily programming at JHC:

Donna Bulger, Action on Ableism and Communications

Carla Rae Taylor, YEG Dignity Lead Artist

Damian Abrahams, Filmmaker

Alison Crockford, Righting Relations Canada, National Coordinator

Lisa Odle, Righting Relations Regina Coordinator

Mehrangiz Monsef, Righting Relations Winnipeg Coordinator

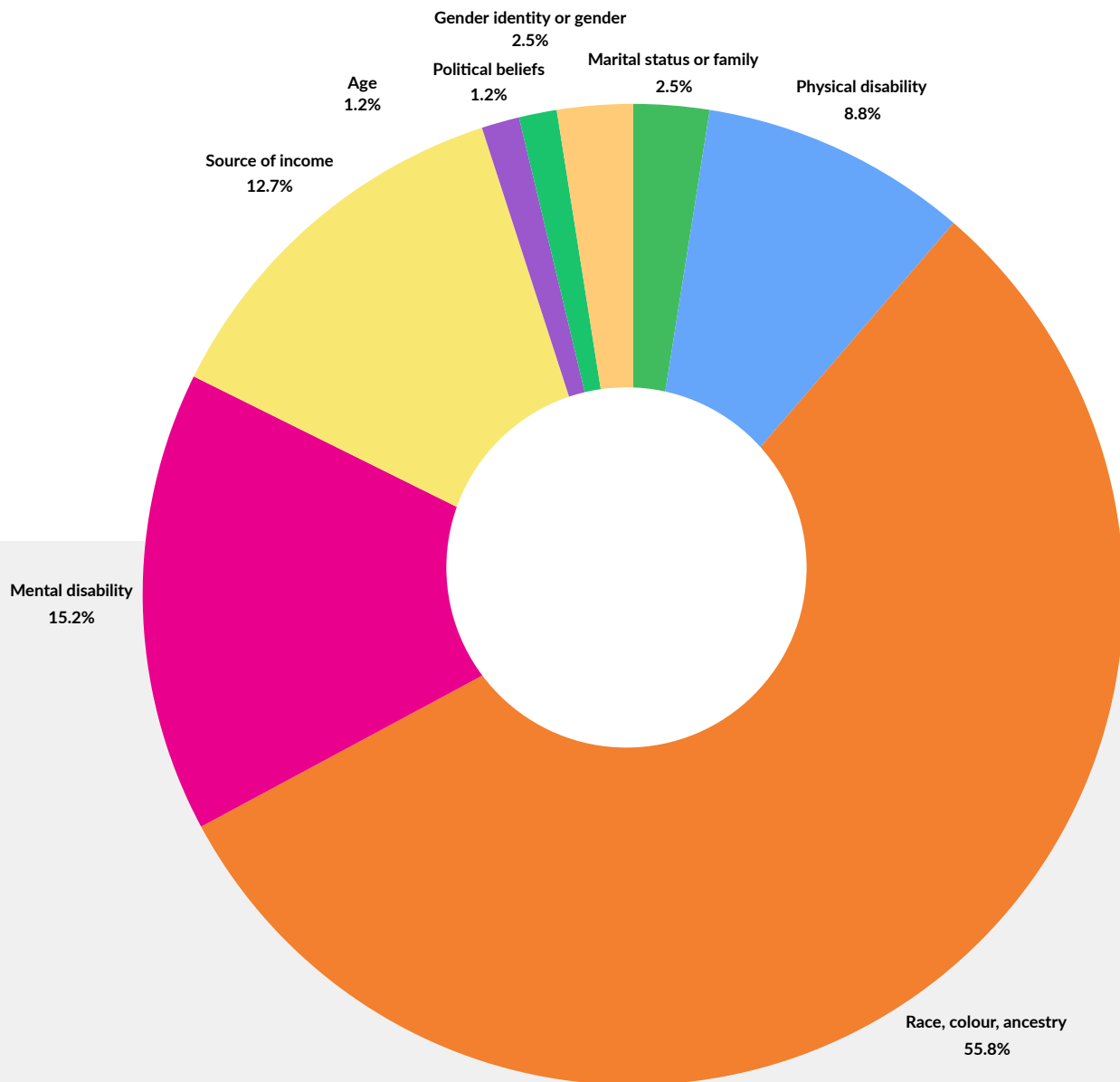
RJ Riad, Mental Health Support

HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY

In 2023, JHC delivered 432 events that engaged 175 volunteers and reached 6051 people.

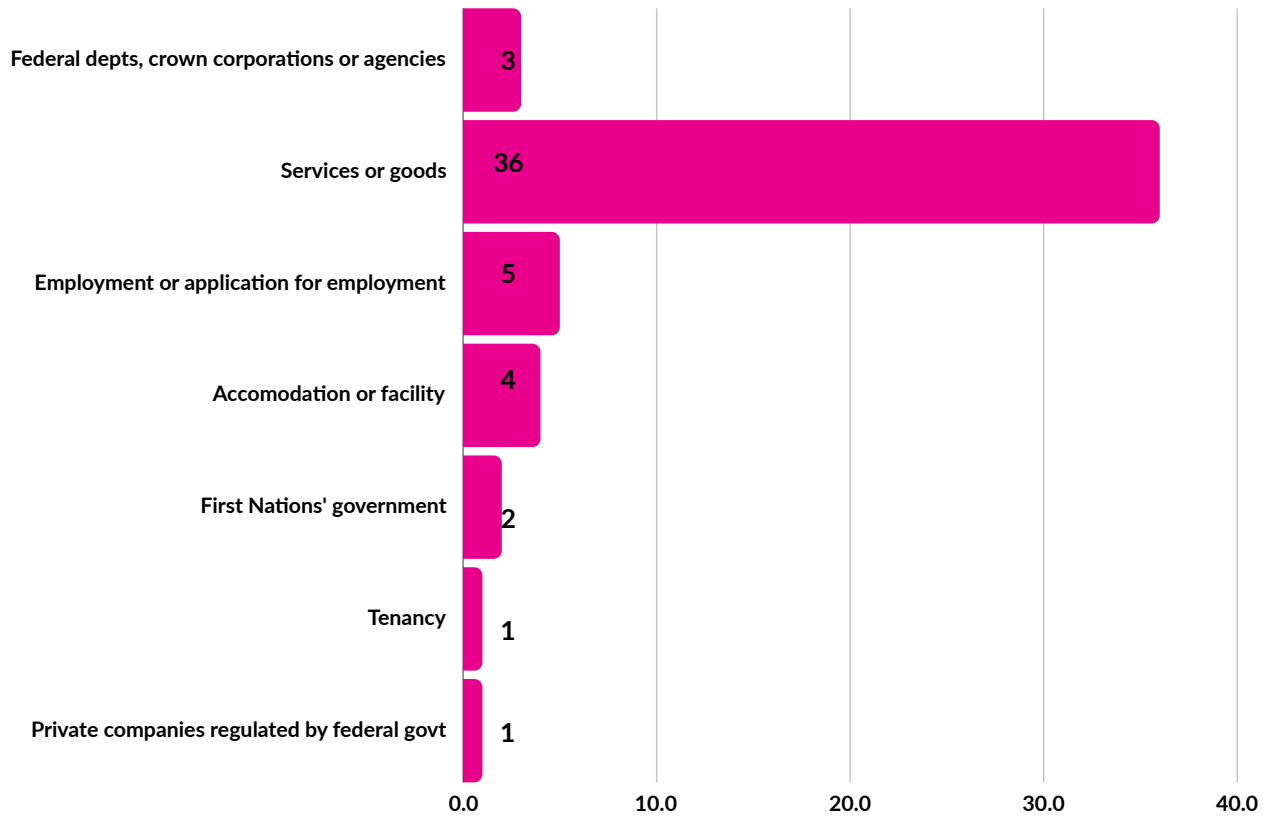
Our Stride Advocacy program supported 161 cases, 9 of which were complex systemic cases involving longer-term work and support.

Count of Protected Grounds



HIGH LEVEL SUMMARY

Count of Protected Areas



SOCIAL STRIDE

The Social Stride project focused on enhancing digital literacy and addressing online hate, discrimination, and misinformation among youth, teachers, and youth-serving agencies. It developed a comprehensive curriculum consisting of 10 sessions and organized the Making Social Strides Conference, engaging both youth and volunteers from the Social Stride Network across the country. The curriculum was delivered multiple times to various age groups and included sessions for parents, teachers, and service providers. The project also conducted focus groups to assess needs and inform content development, particularly for marginalized communities.

The project aimed to equip participants with the skills to identify and address online hate and misinformation, provide support to affected youth, and implement digital literacy education. Despite facing challenges such as social media content restrictions and changes in partner engagement, the project successfully exceeded its goals by delivering numerous workshops and engaging a total of 851 individuals directly. Through workshops, the social media campaign, and ongoing follow-up activities, the project significantly impacted participants' understanding of online discrimination and hate, fostering dialogue and empowering youth to lead conversations on prevention and safety in online spaces.

The project's success lies in its ability to elevate awareness and discourse on online discrimination, shifting adult perspectives and providing tools for addressing these issues effectively. By actively involving youth in dialogue and leadership roles, the project not only met the need for digital literacy education but also contributed to building a team of young facilitators capable of continuing similar initiatives in the future.

Profile of Social Stride at 75th

Over the course of three days, young people from across the country came together for the bi-lingual Youth Leadership Series and embarked on an exploration of how social media intersects with hate, racism, and discrimination. The series empowered and equipped the young people that attended to facilitate education on confronting issues in the online space. Day one laid the groundwork, immersing us in the complexities of our colonial past and the nuances of digital literacy education, setting the stage for deeper exploration and dialogue. Day two marked a turning point as we delved into practical learning and application, honing our facilitation skills through hands-on activities and reflective practice. Finally, day three was guided by the transformative artistry of Maigan van der Giessen and Carla Rae Taylor, leading us on a journey of reflection and unpacking through creative mediums of music and visual art. Together, eighteen young people created the Ignite Change Social Stride Series Zine to share and represent what they experienced over the three days and the transformative power of dialogue, learning, and artistic expression.

Re-Amplify

The stronger it gets, the better.
Regression never loses without a fight -
Generation of big voices and tiny people
Or the unfriendly vice-versas.
Corporate income is what's sucky
Cause in no way in heaven.
Should buoys be tough again*.
Cause in no way in eternity
Should trees stand up no more.
Too much greedy advantage.
Too much to deal with.
Time to get buffy again.
While sinning the inner slayer.

Poem by Summer Tong



RURAL ANTI-RACISM

The Rural Anti-Racism project is dedicated to advancing anti-oppression and anti-racism education within rural communities by empowering young individuals and fostering collaboration with community leaders and municipal governments. It aims to equip youth with the necessary skills and knowledge to champion anti-racism initiatives at the grassroots level. Additionally, the project seeks to educate community leaders about the pervasive nature of racism and oppression, emphasizing their roles in combatting these systemic issues within their respective spheres of influence.

In 2023, significant progress has been made towards achieving project objectives. Notably, efforts have focused on establishing partnerships and disseminating educational materials to rural communities. Direct outreach has been conducted with 771 rural contacts, and collaborations with organizations like the Leduc Beaumont Primary Care Network and Leduc Family and Community Support Services are providing anti-racism and anti-oppression training. The project has also engaged with municipalities in Fort MacLeod, Grande Prairie, Red Deer, Wetaskiwin, Lethbridge, Stony Plain and Slave Lake, tailoring initiatives to meet the unique needs of each community.

In August, the project achieved a significant milestone by establishing a robust Education Team comprising both urban and rural youth leaders. These dedicated individuals played a pivotal role in facilitating sessions, co-creating resources, and designing programming tailored to address the unique challenges faced by rural communities. Their expertise and dedication were instrumental in empowering rural participants and fostering meaningful dialogue on racism and discrimination.

Another notable event that was successfully delivered is Rural Anti-Racism Youth Retreat, a transformative weekend from October 13-15. Bringing together a dynamic group of 14 young minds aged 15 to 27, participants represented a tapestry of ages, ethnicities, and life journeys. Spearheaded by the dedicated team at JHC, the youth-led retreat challenged preconceived notions through the powerful catalyst of art, fostering education, and forging connections among the youth. Participants engaged in open dialogue, shared challenges, and expressed themselves artistically, showcasing the resilience and determination of rural youth to confront racism in their communities. The learnings from this gathering culminated in a [zine](#) that showcases and intersects their voices and art into a visually striking publication.

In conclusion, the project's multifaceted approach to anti-oppression education demonstrates a commitment to fostering inclusivity and equity within rural communities. By empowering youth and engaging stakeholders at various levels, the project aims to catalyze meaningful change and build a more just society for all.



ANTI-RACISM MUSLIM COLLABORATIVE

In 2023, the Anti-Racism Muslim Collaborative (AMC) remained committed to its mission of addressing and eradicating racist attitudes within Muslim communities in Edmonton. Formed in Fall 2020, the AMC brought together a diverse group of individuals from various sectors and backgrounds, united in their dedication to fostering inclusive and united Muslim spaces. Guided by the principles of community empowerment, advocacy, and education, the AMC embarked on a transformative journey to confront systemic racism within Muslim institutions.

One of the standout achievements of 2023 was the collaborative effort with Unbreakable Sisterhood and the MCE mosque. This partnership led to the successful launch of four Islamic-focused anti-racism dialogue, utilizing Islamic scripture and critical thinking questions in a world cafe format. The event was successful based on the participation, engagement and feedback. Building on this success, the AMC is committed to extending similar dialogue sessions to interested groups, tailoring them to specific needs and inquiries. Through continued collaboration, education, and advocacy, the AMC aims to deepen understanding, foster critical discourse, and implement actionable strategies to create inclusive and anti-racist Muslim spaces in Edmonton and beyond.

STRIDE ADVOCACY PROJECT

In 2023, JHC went on a journey of strengthening our learning and bolster capacity building and engagement in relation to international human rights mechanisms. JHC became more active in monitoring and engaging with UN Special Procedures/Special Rapporteurs visiting Canada, contributing to awareness-raising efforts through social media and network circulation.

Stride was able to evolve collaborative efforts with Action Canada, resulting in fruitful partnerships aimed at mobilizing Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) nationally. Additionally, gatherings were organized to foster relationships among CSOs across Canada and establish collaborative frameworks for engagement in processes such as the Universal Periodic Review.

In 2023, the team supported 161 cases of which 9 of these were complex systemic cases involving longer term work and support. Of these cases, an analysis highlights that race is the leading area of human rights discrimination in Stride cases followed by mental and physical disability and source of income. The prominent areas that people are experiencing discrimination in Stride include law enforcement, education, employment, healthcare, prisons, transportation and accessing community services.

JHC piloted and hosted virtual case conferences with legal professionals to provide guidance on navigating complex cases. This initiative aimed to strategize advocacy pathways for these cases.

In 2023, we adapted a five-day intensive advocacy training program into a more accessible three-day weekend format.

Collaboration was strengthened with numerous meetings held among partners to sustain engagement and foster collective action. Creating collaborative spaces focusing on various issues such as police accountability and youth services took place, which have led to tangible outcomes such as policy changes and advocacy initiatives.

In addition to advocacy efforts, the JHC also focused on research, resulting in the release of comprehensive reports on domestic human rights instruments examining barriers at both the federal and provincial levels. These reports were disseminated through various channels, including press conferences and online platforms.

JHC implemented an integrated communications strategy in combating systemic racism and discrimination. Through social media campaigns, workshops, and screenings of documentaries, the project aimed to raise awareness, educate the public, and mobilize action.

In 2023 Stride had a wide-reaching impact across communities in Edmonton, Alberta, and across Canada.



RIGHTING RELATIONS

West Hub Report

Righting Relations has entered its 9 year of work in the West Hub. During 2022-2023, the West Hub successfully hosted its third Regional Gathering, employing a hybrid approach to accommodate both in-person and online participation. In spite of some technological and logistical challenges, this gathering served as a platform for Change Labs (theme-based working groups) to showcase their work, facilitate knowledge-sharing, and share de-colonial practices and accessibility.

A significant achievement was the publication of three resources by Change Labs:

- [Reflections on Transforming the Non-Profit Sector. Addressing Toxicity in Non-Profits;](#)
- [Reflections on Transforming the Non-Profit Sector. A Survey Report;](#)
- [Building Utopia Zine.](#)

These publications garnered attention and stimulated discussion among adult educators and Righting Relations members at the national level.

In 2023, the West Hub focused on creating spaces for reconciliation, healing circles, skill-sharing, amplifying marginalized voices, and facilitating collaborations with external organizations. The Hub made an important effort to improve Internal communication by creating a regular newsletter, clarifying responsibilities around information flow and strengthening advisory circles. Unexpectedly the West Hub saw the emergence of two new Change Labs that joined the three we already held (the West hosts the NPO, 2SLGBTQIA+, Ableism, Anti-Oppression Organizational Development and Women of Colour), increased national engagement through online sessions and book clubs, and learned to successfully navigated hybrid event dynamics. Member observed the development of skills, confidence, and relationship-building.

Unfortunately, this past year the West Hub was challenged by resource constraints and managing an extensive workload. Righting Relations members are enthusiastic and committed and bring up many important ideas that we support. Moving forward, the Hub aims to maintain Righting Relations original focus on capacity building for adult educators, spaces for caring, learning from each other, and network expansion while exploring separate funding streams for action-oriented initiatives.

Regina Circle

Over the past year, the Circle/Hub undertook meaningful actions such as hosting Healing Circles, facilitating empowerment through choice theory and organizing a gathering of stakeholders for Food Security. Efforts to attract younger participants and ensure diverse voices are heard are ongoing. Conflict within the Circle prompted the development of conflict resolution protocols, fostering growth amidst difficulties.

RIGHTING RELATIONS

Winnipeg Circle

The Circle has actively organized Healing Circles and participated in ceremonial activities, fostering trust and deeper connections among members while expanding membership. The transition to increased virtual meetings allowed younger voices to contribute effectively. Communication tools like Zoom and Doodle Polls facilitated collaboration. Important lessons highlighted the significance of a deliberate, slower approach and prioritizing self-care within the group. Moving forward, the Circle intends to nurture supportive relationships and seek partnerships to address community needs, emphasizing ongoing collaboration and growth.

Edmonton Circle

The Circle in Edmonton has undertaken impactful actions, including collaborating with Nékem to address food insecurity and conducting training sessions on migrant worker experiences. Achievements include hosting educational events that reached 144 people and producing a documentary about Nékem. The circle hosted fewer in-person meetings and focused on relationship-building and collaboration with local stakeholders.

National Network

City circles focus on local community issues while maintaining national connections to foster allyship and meaningful intersecting change. JHC is the anchor organization of the West Hub, and as other anchor organizations we play a crucial role in supporting RR's growth and development, contributing to capacity-building, knowledge sharing, and community engagement. In the same way, Righting Relations practices continue to influence JHC's everyday actions, worldviews, approaches and has fostered national connections for us. We are also committed to Righting Relations West Hub independence and will continue to hold until the Hub is ready to sustain its work solo and in connection with the rest of the Hubs.



ACTION ON ABLEISM

Action on Ableism works to promote accessibility and inclusion for persons with disabilities, with the continuing goal of decreasing ableist discrimination in all areas of society.

The first phase of this project brought a team of artists living with disabilities together to discuss issues faced related to disability, specifically, “ableist” attitudes they have encountered. Storytelling training, discourse on main areas of focus, the implementation of a social media campaign on inclusion and ableism, and sharing valuable resources through newsletters and blog posts were among the key initiatives included in the project. The ongoing goal of Action on Ableism continues with the collaboration and engagement of diverse stakeholders, including individuals with disabilities, advocacy organizations, government entities and the general public.

During NAAW 2023, the project team came together for a retreat where in-person discourse continued and numerous artistic pieces expressing what “Action on Ableism” meant to each member were created. Notable achievements from this phase include the successful delivery of a full day of programming during the 75th Anniversary of the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which attracted over 200 participants and facilitated discussions on disability justice and inclusion. Additionally, the team piloted a public sector training with the Government of Alberta receiving positive feedback, paving the way for further initiatives in NAAW 2024.

In 2024, an expanded team works to develop further training materials incorporating the artistic pieces from phase one, as supplemental materials. Outcomes for these trainings continue to be increasing engagement in our action on ableism through both storytelling workshops and ongoing social media campaigns. Efforts to increase awareness, improve understanding, reduce stigma, and share best practices have shown promising results, with increased engagement and advocacy observed among participants.



AMPLIFYING FOOD JUSTICE WORK IN THE PRAIRIES

This project set out to elevate food justice efforts across the Prairies by fostering education, collaboration, and advocacy in partnership with diverse grassroots organizations and stakeholders.

Throughout the year, we trained 18 facilitators to lead discussions on colonization, food equity, and intersectionality. This initiative culminated in the successful delivery of Anti-Oppression training sessions held in Edmonton, Regina, and Winnipeg, drawing participation from over 110 stakeholders representing more than 60 agencies. These gatherings served as vital platforms for knowledge exchange and partnership-building, underscoring the necessity for a centralized resource hub to facilitate networking and resource-sharing among non-profits and grassroots entities. By nurturing spaces for dialogue and education, our project addressed systemic barriers and advanced principles of reconciliation, inclusivity, and community engagement.

In addition to the anti-oppression trainings, we engaged 358 individuals through 18 events and meetings held across the Prairies, fostering dialogue, learning, and collaborative efforts towards food security.

In Edmonton, 5 sessions convened, engaging 167 attendees. Working in tandem with Indigenous partners at Nékem, a series of three sessions raised awareness about the unique challenges faced by Indigenous communities in accessing services and shed light on the experiences of Indigenous frontline workers within agencies. These sessions provided a nurturing environment for healing, receiving overwhelmingly positive feedback.

In Regina, 5 sessions brought together 86 participants, while in Winnipeg, 5 sessions engaged 69 individuals. In both cities, a full-day workshop on anti-oppression and networking was conducted, further strengthening collaborative ties within the food advocacy sphere. Additionally, Regina facilitated educational outreach at Buffalo Days. At the regional level, we organized 3 online gatherings, attracting 36 participants, with one session featuring grandmother teachings on growing and harvesting practices.

Art by Dal



ACIFA - “YOU ARE NOT ALONE”

The “You are not Alone” project was initiated in June 2021 **by the Executive Council of the Alberta Colleges & Institutes Faculties Association (ACIFA)**. The need to better understand how discrimination is experienced by academic staff in Alberta Colleges emerged from the lack of data ACIFA encountered on this topic when trying to develop policy back when social and political mobilization to address racism and discrimination reverberated across North America in response to the Black Lives Matter movement.

Goal and objectives

The project aims to better understand ACIFA’s members’ experiences of discrimination in 13 different academic institutions. This will inform strategies that ACIFA could incorporate and propose to address discriminatory practices in colleges broadly and in their own union business. With the interests of its members in mind, ACIFA and JHC aims to complete this study in 2025.

The specific objectives of the research are to:

1. Understand the experiences of ACIFA academic staff with discrimination in their workplace; and,
2. Submit a detailed quality assurance and improvement study report to ACIFA’s Executive Council, which they can use to initiate policy and practice changes that effectively address discrimination in the workplace.

After a slow start of this project due to internal requirements and changes in ACIFA, in 2023 JHC secured the ethics review of the project and started 2024 with the creation of an advisory team formed by ACIFA members who will contribute to the review of data gathering tools, language and outreach. The eight members of the advisory will be meeting to review the human rights assessment survey that will be launched in August 2024.

75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS' UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS (UDHR)

The Ignite Change! Convention held from December 1-10, 2023, attracted a significant participation of 972 individuals online and an additional 360 attendees in person. The event featured over 300 speakers across 178 sessions, revolving around ten themes exploring race, culture, and identity rights. Participants could freely navigate sessions and access replays. During the Convention participants spent an average of 12 hours and 16 minutes within the Convention space.

The Convention aimed to foster dialogue, learning, and collaborative action among civil society, academics, and decision-makers on human rights. At its core was the aim to amplify public discourse on the principles of the United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights, especially on its 75th Anniversary. The objectives were multifaceted:

- Facilitate the sharing of work among human rights advocates and defenders
- Enhance connections, collaboration, and action within the human rights community
- Strengthen skills for effective human rights advocacy
- Provide learning opportunities and strategies for advancing human rights goals

Activities included education sessions, skills-building workshops, civil society dialogues, and youth-led programs, fostering engagement and learning opportunities. Art-based activities and film screenings provided avenues for creative expression and discussions. Notably, exhibits and events like the Genocide Memorial underscored the Convention's diverse and inclusive nature. Feedback highlighted the value of learning from diverse communities and committing to solidarity work. Participants lauded the event's ability to amplify marginalized voices and promote inclusive practices.

Youth engagement was prioritized, with various sessions tailored to young participants and a youth-led cypher. The integration of youth perspectives enriched discussions on racism and hate, emphasizing the importance of youth empowerment in driving social change.

The final day focused on strategizing collaborations within civil society to advance human rights goals, resulting in a [two-page strategy document](#). Post-event feedback reflected deep insights gained, including the need for continuous learning, empathy, and updated approaches to inclusivity.

Testimonials praised the Convention's educational value, inspirational content, and effective organization, highlighting the impact on attendees' understanding and commitment to social justice. The event's professionalism and diverse content were commended, reinforcing its significance in fostering dialogue and action towards a more equitable society.

Huge thank you to our hosting partners [Righting Relations Canada](#), [Canadians for a Civil Society](#), [Shiloh Centre for Multicultural Roots](#) and [National Association of Japanese Canadians](#).

YEG DIGNITY

The project titled "Creating Dignity: Shifting Narratives through Public Art, Popular Theatre, and Storytelling" embarked on the completion of art panels, representing diverse styles under the overarching theme of Mother Earth and Edmonton's historical and contemporary relationship with nature, ready for installation in June 2023.

Led by JHC, a team of 16 artists collaborated to depict stories of the land and its significance to various cultures. Through a launch event and media coverage, the project engaged Edmontonians and highlighted the importance of public art in fostering community dialogue.

The project achieved the completion of diverse art panels representing Edmonton's historical and contemporary relationship with nature. Approximately 120 individuals, including municipal representatives, attended the project launch event. The mural was integrated into public art tours and digital platforms such as Story City for broader community access.

The mural represents Edmonton's diverse communities, fostering a sense of belonging and safety. It promotes positive social interactions and cohesion in the downtown core. Furthermore, it enhances public spaces as welcoming environments for reflection and connection, contributing to ongoing cultural dialogue and understanding in Edmonton.



HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

On the International Day of Peace, which is commemorated annually on September 21, the John Humphrey Centre for Peace and Human Rights celebrated local human rights heroes at the 15th Annual Human Rights Awards, hosted once again at Government House.

We express our heartfelt thanks to JHC patron, the Honourable Lieutenant Governor Salma Lakhani, and her office for supporting in planning and hosting this important event. With the autumn colours on full display, the sun was shining and folks came together to celebrate and honour those who are striving to promote, amplify and uphold human rights in Alberta.

Human Rights Champion Award Recipients

Mark Brave Rock

From humble beginnings, Mark built a committed Blackfoot-led group that started in October 2018 and which has been instrumental in upholding people's human rights, called SAGE Clan - standing for Serve, Assist, Guard and Engage. Along with a team of volunteers, the Clan patrols multiple times a week in the areas of Lethbridge, Alberta, ensuring those experiencing homelessness and addiction receive basic needs and supplies, while providing companionship and building relationships. When Mark received his award, his words were humble and he thanked everyone who has been a part of SAGE Clan.

Vee Duncan

Vee Duncan (1987-2023), half-Secwépemc, half-Squamish Nation, battled intergenerational trauma with addiction, incarceration, and homelessness. In March 2021, he trekked from Calgary to Edmonton with a shopping cart to spotlight homelessness and Indigenous mental health, founding Né'kem, a nonprofit. Né'kem, meaning "to change something," aimed to dismantle colonial biases, support the houseless, and mentor Indigenous Warriors. Vee, inspired by Indigenous teachings, sadly passed just before a Human Rights Awards ceremony. Né'kem's team accepted the award on his behalf, recalling his kindness and dedication. Her Honour, Salma Lakhani, praised Vee's legacy, noting his impact at a previous award ceremony. Né'kem vows to continue his work.

Sunpreet (Sunny) Singh Johal

Sunny Johal has been applauded by numerous supporters as a passionate advocate for social justice, combating hate crimes, and promoting anti-racism. Sunny has spearheaded groundbreaking initiatives at the local level, dedicating themselves tirelessly to empowering and advocating for marginalized groups. In their role with the Alberta Hate Crimes Committee (AHCC) and as a student researcher at Grant MacEwan University, Sunny's research and efforts have centered on hate crimes and the far-reaching impacts on community, raising awareness about human rights violations and implementing pragmatic solutions to address these pressing concerns.

HUMAN RIGHTS AWARDS

Rehma Khan

Rehma, an incoming MSc in Public Health student at the University of Alberta, advocates for social justice, health equity, and human rights. Focused on sexual and reproductive health advocacy, she works to improve outcomes for immigrant women and girls. Leading gender inclusivity and youth leadership initiatives in Edmonton and on campus, she collaborates with the Canadian Advisory of Women Immigrants to advance sexual and reproductive health rights. Addressing health barriers in Edmonton and rural areas, Rehma champions comprehensive sex education. Grateful for her journey, she credits her team for inspiring her impactful work, emphasizing community-informed research and support for immigrant women and girls.

Marco Luciano

Marco, director of Alberta's Migrante chapter, leads efforts for undocumented migrants and temporary foreign workers' rights. Founder of the National Committee of the Migrants Rights Network and the International Migrants Alliance, Marco and Migrante aid non-status migrants in gaining Canadian status, producing research and policy papers, and providing immediate support through advocacy and campaigns. Recognizing the resilience of undocumented migrants, Marco champions their cause with creativity and determination. Inspired by their struggle, he emphasizes the obligation to fight for human rights, echoing an Indigenous proverb from the Philippines: "We're drinking from the wells dug by our ancestors. It is our obligation to take care of those wells."

Adebayo Chris Katiiti

Adebayo Katiiti, a Ugandan-born Black transgender man, founded Raricanow to support 2SQTGLBI+ refugees and newcomers in Canada. Committed to ending oppression, he fights anti-Black racism while advocating mental health and social justice in gender-diverse communities. Adebayo serves as a board member, QTBIPOC liaison, and Black Trans elder, globally influencing movements for equity. As a multi-disciplinary artist and certified Life Coach, he pursues studies in Professional Counseling and Immigration Law. In his speech, Adebayo condemns global attacks on trans individuals, citing Uganda's anti-LGBTQ laws. Grounding himself in Indigenous lands, he calls for solidarity and peace, urging privileged individuals to combat transphobia and ensure safety for all.

Professor Temitope Oriola

Temitope Oriola was the recipient of the Gerald L. Gall Award. Prof. Oriola is a professor of criminology/sociology and associate dean in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Alberta. He is a scholar and public intellectual known for field-defining sociological research on terrorism and policing, leadership and service to his discipline, and commitment to mobilizing knowledge in support of informed public debate. Internationally, he is well-known for his research on terrorism. As one of the most sought after public intellectuals on police reform in Canada, Professor Oriola's scholarship focuses on policing and use of force and the implications for human rights.



CONTRACTS AND TRAININGS

Contracts and Training endeavours saw 24 contracts secured in 2023.

Contracts in 2023:

- Africa Centre
- Alberta Culture and Status of Women
- Alberta Ministry of Education
- University of Alberta Students' Union
- Kings University
- Portage College - Public Legal Education Program
- NorQuest College
- MacEwan University
- ACIFA
- Students Invested in Health Association (SIHA)
- Memorial Composite High School
- Beaumont Primary Care Network
- Leduc County
- Leduc, Beaumont and Devon Primary Care Network
- Stony Plain Youth Centre
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Northern Alberta
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Parent Councils
- Office of the Child and Youth Advocate
- Sturgeon Lake Cree Nation and Tribal Council
- ATCO Gas

Key developments in training

In 2023 JHC further developed five main lines of service provision to organizations and teams that are looking to address specific needs or issues.

- Human Rights-Base Advocacy and service provision that aims to ground organizations and services in human rights frameworks and obligations
- Anti-oppression series include the modelling team building, Equity-Diversity-Inclusion and Anti-oppression practices based on Human Rights
- Peace Building and Transformative Dialogues
- Building Human Rights Assessments
- Rights of Young People and In-Schools Human Rights Needs

PUBLICATIONS & REPORTS

- [Making Social Strides Conference Resources and Tips](#)
- [Social Media Report](#)
- [Social Stride Toolkit 2023](#)
- [Ignite Change Social Stride Series Zine](#)
- [Rural Unity Zine](#)
- [Final Report_ Alberta Human Rights Commission Research Project .pdf](#)
- [Final ResearchReport_ CHRC and CHRT.docx.pdf](#)
- [Stride Advocacy Toolkit_Feb 2024](#)
- [Reflections on Transforming the Non-Profit Sector. Addressing Toxicity in Non-Profits;](#)
- [Reflections on Transforming the Non-Profit Sector. A Survey Report;](#)
- [Building Utopia Zine.](#)
- [Mobilizing Civil Society Dialogue Two-page strategy document](#)
- [Journey of Food Sovereignty Educational Tool: Food Timeline January 2023.pdf](#)

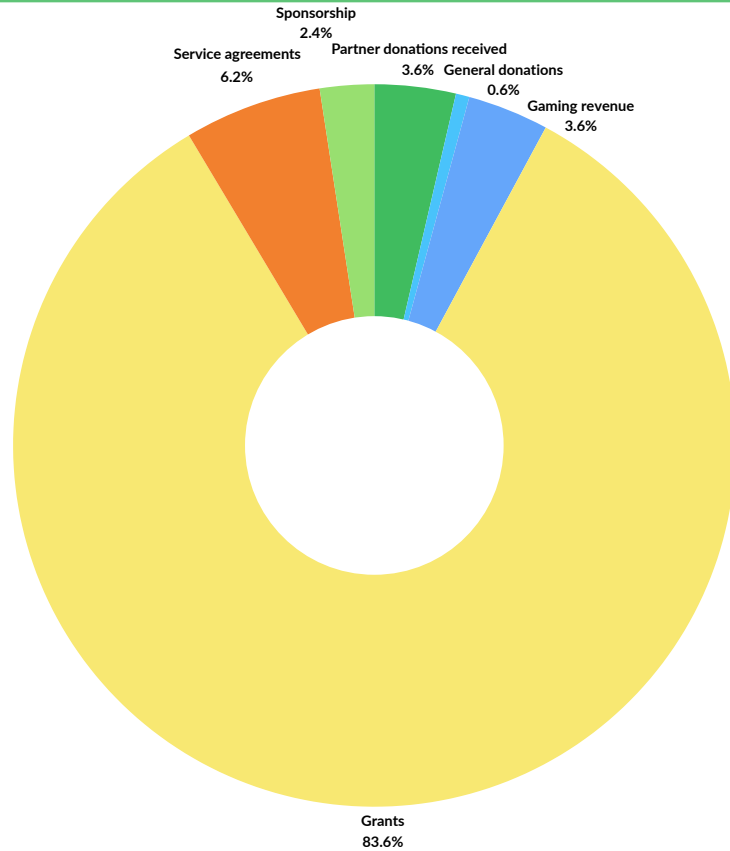
Film and Video Productions

- Social Stride Video Content: [Social Stride Anti-Oppression and Online Hate](#), [Social Stride Digital Literacy for Youth](#), [Making Social Strides Conference](#), [Online Self-Defense](#)
- [Journey for Justice](#) in collaboration with the Tacalusa Institute
- [Safer For All: The Police Accountability Bus Tour](#) trailer launch in collaboration with Lost Time Media
- [Nékem: To Change Something](#) in collaboration with Nékem and Indigital Media
- [What Was Lost](#) film in collaboration with Sixties Scoop Indigenous Society of Alberta and Indigital Media
- [Action on Ableism Retreat](#)

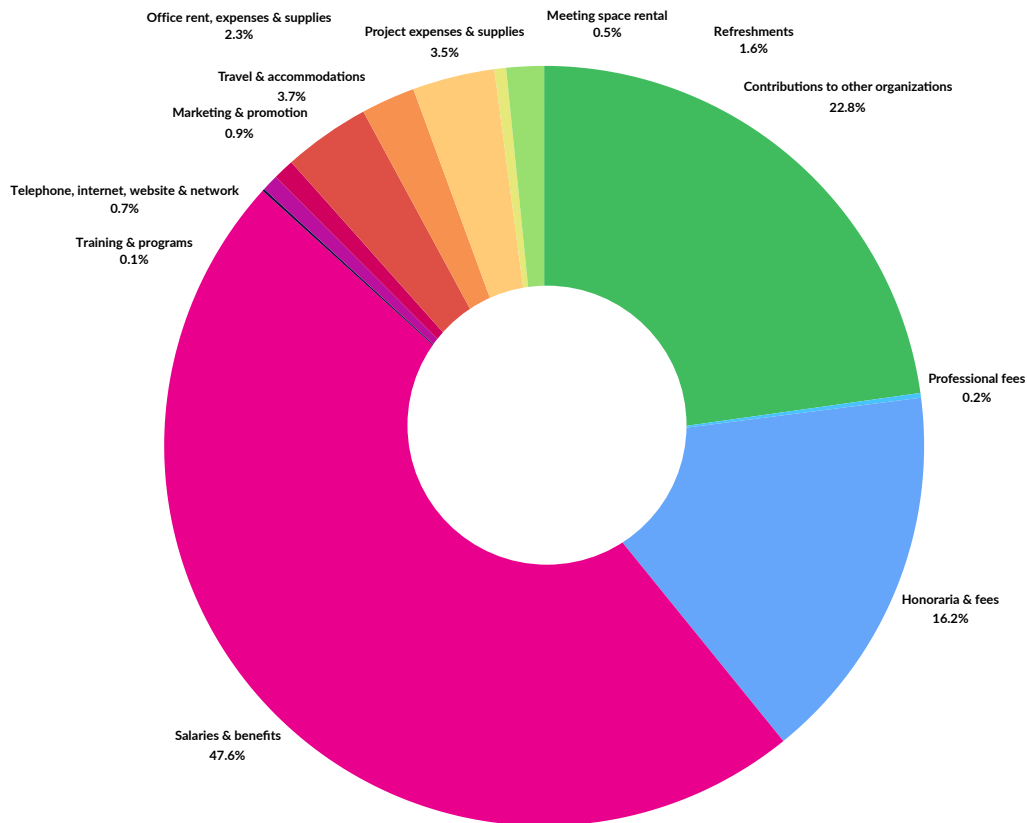
Artworks

- [YEG Dignity Mural](#)

FINANCIALS



EXPENSES



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS AND SUPPORTERS IN 2023

We could not have accomplished so much in 2023 without the support of funding from:

1. Government of Canada
 - a. Employment and Social Development Canada (National AccessAbility Week grant; New Horizons for Seniors Program grant; Community Services Recovery Fund grant)
 - b. Women and Gender Equality Canada (Community-Based Research grant)
 - c. Heritage Canada (Youth Take Charge grant; Community Support, Multiculturalism and Antiracism (CSMARI) grant)
2. Human Rights Internet
3. Canada Council for the Arts
4. Canadian Bar Association
5. Canadian Race Relations Foundation
6. Catherine Donnelly Foundation
7. McConnell Foundation
8. S.M Blair Foundation
9. Government of Alberta
 - a. Community Initiatives Program
 - b. Civil Society Fund
 - c. Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities
10. Alberta Law Foundation
11. Edmonton Community Foundation
12. Edmonton Arts Council
13. Edmonton Heritage Council
14. City of Edmonton (Downtown Vibrancy Grant)



John Humphrey Centre For Peace and Human Rights

#111, 4635 199 Street NW

Edmonton, AB T6M 0V1

780-453-2638

info@jhcentre.org

<https://www.jhcentre.org>

Stay Connected with us!

@jhcentre



JOHN HUMPHREY CENTRE
for **PEACE** and **HUMAN RIGHTS**
