

City of Learners timeline

2008-2009

- Under the leadership of then Councilor Don Iveson, a group of learning sector stakeholders came together to explore the idea of a *learning city* project. The impetus to develop Edmonton as a learning city was a belief that lifelong learning is critical to improvements in social and economic wellbeing in a changing world and the belief that we can make substantial gains by working together more effectively in our diverse urban setting to improve lifelong learning for all (A Proposed Framework for Moving Forward, 2008).
- The City of Learners Initiative employed UNESCO's four pillars.
 1. **Learning to Know** – involves the development of skills and knowledge needed to function in the world. These skills include literacy, numeracy, critical thinking and general knowledge.
 2. **Learning to Do** - refers to the acquisition of applied skills that are often linked to occupational success, such as computer training, managerial training and apprenticeships.
 3. **Learning to Live Together** – involves developing values of respect and concern for others, fostering social and interpersonal skills and an appreciation of the diversity of Canadians.
 4. **Learning to Be** – refers to learning that contributes to the development of a person's body mind and spirit. Skills in this area include personal discovery and creativity, and can be acquired through reading, arts, sports and leisure.
- Partnerships were formed with fifteen organizations invested in the various aspects of lifelong learning. These partners have been called 'Founding Partners':
 - City of Edmonton
 - Edmonton Catholic School Board
 - Edmonton Public Library
 - Edmonton Public School Board
 - Junior Achievement
 - MacEwan University
 - NorQuest College
 - Northern Alberta Institute of Technology (NAIT)
 - Alberta Committee of Citizens With Disabilities
 - Public Interest Alberta
 - The Alberta Coalition for Healthy School Communities
 - The Book Publishers Association of Alberta
 - The Centre for Family Literacy
 - The Edmonton Community Adult Learning Association
 - The Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers
 - The Seniors Action and Liaison Team

- University of Alberta
- Success By 6®

2010-2012

- Under the leadership of the 'Founding Partners', two City of Learners Dialogues were hosted to gather input from individuals and learning organizations on lifelong learning in Edmonton.
- Based on this input, three priority areas were identified:
 1. Literacy
 2. Early Learning
 3. Health and Learning
- In each priority area, a group of individuals with knowledge and experience were gathered together to create strategies, design effective approaches, and clarify and align efforts. These strategies, which are documented in the Community Foundational Learning Plan, were intended to guide the future actions and activities of City of Learners Initiative. The literacy recommendations however led to immediate action resulting in the formation of the Edmonton Literacy Coalition which is continuing to promote literacy and collaborate on service delivery.

2013-2014

- The Community Foundational Learning Plan was released in April 2013. It highlights the three priority areas and identifies actions and strategies for each.
- The Next Steps identified in the Community Foundation Learning Plan aim to:
 1. Ensure a community-based governance model.
 2. Have Edmonton Public Library serve as the 'home' of the City of Learners Initiative. Edmonton Public Library has identified that 'EPL is the Home for Edmonton's City of Learners' in their 2014-2016 Business Plan and Strategic Goals.
 3. Advance work with the Edmonton Literacy Coalition who are continuing to drive the promotion of literacy as well as collaboration on service delivery.
 4. Align and work with City of Edmonton Community Services and related guiding strategies (e.g. ELEVATE, Child Friendly Edmonton, Diversity and Inclusion, Seniors, Poverty Elimination).
- During the transition of the City of Learners Initiative the Edmonton Public Library held two facilitated discussions (February and May 2014) with the City of Learners 'Founding Partners' and vested stakeholders. The purpose of the discussions was to acknowledge the work of the previous committee, highlight the transition to EPL and explore possible next steps.

- EPL developed a governance model, to establish a Community Steering Committee to serve as a consultative advisory resource to enhance planning and decision making related to the City of Learners Initiative.