



EVENT FLOW

5:30 PM DOORS OPEN

6:00 PM OPENING COMMENTS & SPEAKER INTRODUCTIONS

6:25 PM GETTING TO KNOW YOUR TABLE & POST-IT WALL

6:40 PM SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS & SPEAKER ROTATIONS

8:25 PM TABLE DEBRIEF, CLOSING COMMENTS & RAFFLE

8:50 PM NETWORKING

GROUND RULES

- Do not promote or campaign for political candidates
- Patience and compassion for yourself and others
- Respect for everyone in the room
- Listen to understand rather than to respond
- Embrace ambiguity
- Challenge your own assumptions
- Speak honestly and with intention
- What we share in the group stays in the group
- Expect unfinished business

Make sure to use our hashtag #interVivote

MEET OUR EMCEE

Sarah Chan she/her

Sarah Chan is a dynamic community leader with over 20 years of experience in youth engagement, mentorship, campaign strategy, and community development. As Engagement & Operations Lead at the Alberta Mentoring Partnership, she quadrupled partner recruitment and led province-wide mentorship campaigns. Sarah founded Make Your Mark, a United Way youth leadership initiative, and has helped raise millions through collaborative fundraising efforts. She is a passionate public speaker and a repeat interVivos emcee.

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1 for \$10 or 3 for \$20
Cash, credit, and debit accepted



MEET OUR SPEAKERS & THEIR TOPICS

Topic: Affordability and Taxes

Rachel de Vos she/her

Rachel de Vos is the Chief Policy & Advocacy Officer at Alberta Municipalities, where she leads the team advancing key municipal priorities across the province. Since joining in 2006, she has spearheaded initiatives such as the Municipal Climate Change Action Centre and the Future of Municipal Government project. Appointed to this role in 2023, Rachel works closely with municipalities, the province, and key stakeholders to strengthen relationships and advance effective policy solutions that foster sustainable and inclusive communities. She is also one of the co-founders of interVivos.

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Background by interVivos

- **Property Tax:** Edmonton city council finalized the municipal property tax increase at 5.7% in June 2025. With the 5.7% increase, a homeowner will pay about \$763 in municipal taxes in 2025 for every \$100,000 of assessed home value, an increase of \$51 from 2024 ([CBC, 2025](#)).
- **What's Included:** Property taxes include municipal taxes, collected by the city to pay for city services, and provincial education taxes, which the city collects on behalf of the Province to fund public and separate schools ([City of Edmonton, 2025](#)).
- **How It's Split:** Roughly 75% of this amount will help pay for city services, and the remaining 25% will go to the Government of Alberta to support education ([City of Edmonton, 2025](#)).
- **City Services:** Various City services are supported through the municipal taxes, including: police service, debt repayment (e.g. for large projects like the Valley Line), transit service, general expenses (e.g. corporate insurance), fire rescue services, neighbourhood renewal, parks & road services, support services (e.g. 311), capital projects, community recreation, city planning & infrastructure services, fleet & facility services, boards agencies & committees, governance & oversight, social development, and the public libraries ([City of Edmonton, 2025](#)).

Topic: Safety

Scarlet Bjornson she/her

Scarlet Bjornson is the External Relations Advisor at Bissell Centre, where she supports individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty while fostering community-driven solutions that promote dignity and inclusion. Her work has included raising awareness for housing programs and donation drives that help individuals transition into stable living conditions. Scarlet collaborates with community partners, local businesses, and policymakers to drive sustainable change and believes that by working together, we can end homelessness and build a future rooted in care and collective responsibility. She is also the founder of No Period Without. Since 2017, the organization has donated over 100,000 menstrual products across Edmonton and sparked citywide conversations on menstrual equity. It raises awareness about period poverty and advocates for accessible menstrual health products for everyone.

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Background by interVivos

- **Total Crime:** Edmonton's total crime rate dropped by more than 6% last year, according to statistics released by city police ([EPS, 2024](#)).
- **Violent Crime:** Edmonton police highlighted a 10.4% drop in the city's violent crime severity index (CSI), which measures the amount and severity of police-reported crime, as well as a 2.74% dip in its violent crime rate. However, Edmonton's violent crime CSI remains higher than the Alberta average for 2024 ([EPS, 2024](#)).
- **Nonviolent Crime:** Police say disorder calls and possession of drugs are on the rise, citing a 153% spike in possession of opioids charges (101 per 100,000), a 116% increase in possession of methamphetamines charges (331 per 100,000) and 75% more charges for possession of cocaine (123 per 100,000) ([EPS, 2024](#)).
- **Crime Perception:** In 2024, 48% of Edmontonians reported feeling a sense of safety, down slightly compared to 2023 (51%). In 2022, 62% of Edmontonians reported feeling a sense of safety ([City of Edmonton, 2025](#)).

MEET OUR SPEAKERS & THEIR TOPICS

Topic: Local Economy and Innovation



Danielle Miller she/her

Danielle Miller is Principal of On Point Consulting, an international business strategist, coach, and author. Known for her no-nonsense, results-driven approach, she helps entrepreneurs, businesses, and nonprofits gain a competitive edge through impactful strategy and meaningful action. Throughout her career, she has supported hundreds of entrepreneurs in turning their business dreams into thriving realities and guided numerous nonprofits through board training and strategic planning. Through On Point, she helps clients refine operations, strengthen foundational systems, and align goals to achieve sustainable success.

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Background by interVivos

- **Small Businesses:** Edmonton is home to over 38,000 businesses, with 95% being small businesses (fewer than 100 paid employees). For every \$100 spent at a small business, \$66 stays in the local economy ([City of Edmonton, 2025](#)).
- **Business Support:** Since the approval of the Economic Action Plan in 2021, Edmonton has taken steps to streamline regulations, offer business resources, and emphasize local procurement. During this period, the number of businesses in the city has increased by 5.5% ([City of Edmonton, 2024](#)).
- **Supporting Innovation:** The City has committed \$1.7 million in grant funding to support capital expenditures, such as equipment or facility upgrades, that enable new businesses to open and existing businesses to expand ([City of Edmonton, 2024](#)).
- **Technology & Research Investment:** Edmonton is becoming a hub for innovation and technology, attracting significant investment in high-growth companies such as Artificial Agency, an Edmonton-based start-up. Additionally, Edmonton is home to the Edmonton Research Park (ERP) a 300-hectare site that supports the development of the life sciences industry in Edmonton. The ERP is currently home to over 60 businesses contributing over \$200 million in revenue annually and supporting over 1,500 jobs ([City of Edmonton, 2024](#)).

Topic: Accountability

Self-Guided Conversation

Background by interVivos

- **Context:** The introduction of political parties and slates in municipal elections follows provincial changes made last October by the Alberta government and the then Minister of Municipal Affairs, who stated that political parties would make candidates' positions on issues more transparent. Parties and slates cannot be affiliated with existing provincial or federal parties. Parties must register with Edmonton Elections and field enough candidates that, if elected, their members would make up at least one-third of council. A slate consists of two or more candidates running together for the purpose of the campaign; however, unlike a party, a slate cannot raise money. Registered political parties are permitted to fundraise to support their campaigns ([CBC, 2025](#)).
- **Potential Pros:** Some political scientists, such as Dr. Chaldeans Mensah of MacEwan University, states that having parties run at the municipal level may "bring a bit of clarity" and structure to the process for voters as they will presumably have a specific program. "If you're voting for a specific political party, you know that the members are going to be rowing in the same direction on policy. Council (wouldn't) be a bunch of individual councilors, but they (would) be paying attention to the program of the party." ([CTV News, 2025](#)).
- **Potential Cons:** Other political scientists, such as Dr. Brendan Boyd of MacEwan University, states that, "The municipal level is often trusted the most amongst different levels of government by the public, [this] could lead to more skepticism, or even mistrust, or distrust of politicians feeling like they do less to represent their constituents." ([CBC, 2025](#)).