

## EDMONTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

September 11, 2007

TO: Board of Trustees

FROM: E. Schmidt, Superintendent of Schools

SUBJECT: Delegation -Edmonton Youth Council: Presentation on Homelessness

ORIGINATOR: D. Barrett, Assistant Superintendent

RESOURCE

STAFF: Gloria Chalmers

### INFORMATION

The City of Edmonton Youth Council (CEYC) was formed in 1994 through the Safer Cities Initiative. It originally operated as an advisory group to the Community Services Department of the City of Edmonton. In January 2006, a new bylaw, accompanied by an increase in staff support and funding, supported the evolution of the CEYC into an advisory committee to City Council. In 2006-2007 membership included 34 members between the ages of 13 and 23, from which 7 are elected to the Executive leadership body. The group's primary mandate is to advise City Council and City Administration on issues, projects and developments that affect youth in Edmonton. The council has three standing committees and establishes ad hoc subcommittees to work on issues that the council identifies as significant.

The Poverty and Homelessness is one such ad hoc committee. The impetus to form a Poverty and Homelessness subcommittee arose out of a meeting between the council and the Boyle Street Community Services Cooperative. The purpose for the subcommittee is to contribute to positive change in the inner city and, in particular, to the worsening homelessness situation. The relationship with Boyle Street was formalized in March of this year.

The relationship between the subcommittee and the agency is fostered through regular meetings. It has resulted in two initiatives designed to increase awareness of the homeless situation and to contribute to solutions. The initiatives are the "HeART to HeART Contest" and the "Spare Change Fundraiser." Information about these initiatives will be presented by two council members, Lana Cuthbertson, who graduated from Ross Shepherd High School two years ago, and Justin Lui, who graduated from Old Scona High School this past June.

The board is being asked to express their support in principle for the two initiatives by dropping loonies into the Spare Change paint can. The administration will support the initiative by distributing information to all our schools and encouraging involvement in the initiatives and the youth council.

GC:ee