



# 2024 REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY



780-496-6969



[www.nesa1.ca](http://www.nesa1.ca)



[info@nesa1.ca](mailto:info@nesa1.ca)

**Northgate Lions Seniors Recreation Centre | 7524-139 Avenue**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT	3
BOARD OF DIRECTORS	4
MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	5
STAFF TEAM	6
COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS REPORT	7
PROGRAMS	8
SOCIAL EVENTS	9
FUNDRAISING	10
CLUBS	11
VOLUNTEERS	12-13
PHOTOS	14-18
FINANCIALS	19-20

## Our Mission

Supporting the mental, physical, social, and emotional well-being of adults 55+ by encouraging and enabling them to participate in NESA programs and activities.

## Our Vision

To foster a diverse and inclusive, vibrant community that supports the well-being of adults 55+.

## Land Acknowledgement

NESA acknowledges that we are on Treaty 6 territory, a traditional meeting grounds, gathering place, and travelling route to the Cree, Saulteaux, Blackfoot, Métis, Dene, and Nakota Sioux. We acknowledge all the many First Nations, Métis, and Inuit whose footsteps have marked these lands for centuries.

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARILYN BUCHANAN

On behalf of the NESA Board of Directors, I am pleased to present the highlights of our achievements, the challenges we faced throughout 2024, and our aspirations for 2025.

Throughout much of 2024, NESA's members, staff, volunteers, and the Board continued to serve our community through various programs and activities hosted at external venues. We would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to our partners who generously shared their facilities with us, including McClure United Church, Steele Heights, Londonderry Community League, Kilkenny, and the ACT Centre. Your support has been invaluable.



In September, we were thrilled to welcome our members back to our newly upgraded building, which had undergone significant improvements through the City of Edmonton. These upgrades included enhanced lighting and mechanical systems, a new front door, an elevator, and repairs to the parking lot. Thanks to the generosity of the NESA Building Fund, we were able to further enhance our space with fresh paint and new flooring, making our home more inviting and comfortable for all. We deeply appreciate the City of Edmonton and their dedicated on-site staff for their excellent work and coordination throughout this process.

The Board remains focused on its role of providing oversight to NESA's operations, ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of our members while maintaining financial sustainability. The strategic plan developed in September serves as a roadmap for achieving our goals, ensuring clarity in our priorities, promoting transparency, and building trust with our members through performance reporting.

Since its founding in 1978, the North Edmonton Seniors Association (NESA) has been a cornerstone of our community. Over the years, we've witnessed our membership and facilities grow, and today, our success presents new challenges. As the population of aging adults continues to grow, the demand for senior centers like NESA increases. Our mission is more critical than ever, as we combat isolation and provide programs that enhance the quality of life and well-being of seniors. The Board is committed to working closely with stakeholders to meet the needs of the growing aging population, ensuring we continue to offer high-quality recreational and social programs for both current and future members.



## Message from the President (continued) and the Board of Directors

Led by Nancy Melnychuk, NESAs staff are committed to fostering diversity and inclusion in everything we do, including our clubs, social events, and programs. Research from the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council (ESCC) indicates that 33% of Edmonton's aging population are immigrant seniors, a group whose numbers are steadily increasing. "The time to plan for the future is now," as the need for inclusivity and accommodation grows. NESAs remains focused on this essential mission.

In closing, I want to express my deepest thanks to our entire community and the City of Edmonton for your unwavering support. A special thank you to our dedicated staff, whose adaptability and perseverance have been instrumental in overcoming the challenges of the building closure and bringing us back home. I also want to extend my heartfelt appreciation to our Board members for their foresight and commitment to ensuring the continued success of this remarkable organization. Finally, to our members, who are the heart of NESAs, thank you for your continued support. We remain dedicated to serving you, and we will not disappoint.

**"We do not exist independently."**— Thich Nhat Hanh

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Marilyn Buchanan  
President



Sharon Styles  
Vice-President



Marie Tauber  
Secretary



Norm Godbout  
Treasurer



Ron Nichol  
Past-President



Liz Anderson  
Director



Darlene Arason  
Director



Doug  
McFayden  
Director



Gail Tricker  
Director



Marilyn Witte  
Director

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

## NANCY MELNYCHUK

It was truly a great relief to receive the official confirmation and date for our return to the Centre. As others will highlight the contributions of our valued community partners in this report, I reflect on the time spent at venues like McClure United Church, Kilkenny, Steele Heights, Londonderry Community Leagues, and the ACT Centre. As I pass by these locations, I am reminded of how swiftly time has passed and the countless hours spent moving tables and chairs!

Those who were part of NESA in 2011 will remember the professionalism of Lorac Construction, who expertly reconstructed the building after the roof collapse. Many of the same individuals returned as the City's primary contractor for both the rehabilitation work and NESA-funded projects. Our heartfelt thanks to their team for consistently putting our organization's best interests at the forefront of their work.

In 2024, we were excited to welcome our new partners, Caterology. Mario DeLuca and his sister Maria Runco, lifelong residents of the north side, have been joined by their family member Angela and Chef Keith Bramley. Together, they have embraced the various seasons of our programs with enthusiasm and dedication.

The NESA team delivered a full array of fall programs, and by the end of the year, we proudly saw our membership and attendance return to pre-pandemic levels. Many new members joined us during our displacement, and it was a pleasure to give them a tour of the newly renovated building.

Our staff is deeply grateful for the unwavering support of our members and volunteers. Your dedication truly inspires us, and we are continually reminded of the profound impact we make together in the community. Thank you for being an essential part of our mission.







# OUR TEAM



**Nancy Melnychuk**  
Executive Director



**Donna Barretto**  
Member Services  
Administrator



**Linda Cymbala**  
Evening & Event  
Staff



**Kathe Debenham**  
Volunteer & Office  
Administrator



**Jollean Ferrari**  
Program Lead &  
Communications



**Karlie Marrazzo**  
Program & Fundraising  
Administrator



**Willy Moyes**  
Event Staff



**Amber Ritco-Schneider**  
Program & Special Events  
Coordinator



**Luisa Bonifacio**  
COE Custodian



**Dawn Linman**  
COE Facility Manager



**Shelly Lesa**  
COE Booking Coordinator



**Irish Santocildes**  
COE Facility Liaison



**Mario DeLuca**  
Caterology



**Maria Runco**  
Caterology



# COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS REPORT

## HUGH NEWELL

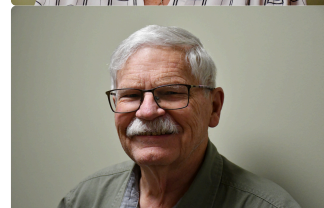
---

The Council of Governors was established by the membership of NESAs at the Annual General Meeting on May 15, 2014. The purpose of the Council is to act as sole trustee, manager and custodian for the Sustainability Fund. The Fund was established by a generous donation from the estate of Therese Landry and grows through investment returns and donations from members. Therese wanted to ensure that no one was excluded from activities at NESAs for economic reasons. Donations to this Fund are invested and the income earned by the investments is then used to fund programs at NESAs. To date almost \$45,000 has been paid to NESAs to fund programs like the Landry Leisure Pass, as well as start up funds for an emergency food bank and the Connections program.

At the request of the Board of Directors, the Council of Governors also manages and invests the Building Fund. NESAs's Board of Directors is the sole authority for the use of this fund. The fund was created many years ago and has been strategic through two expansions to the building. The building fund has also enabled installing new windows in some upstairs classrooms as well as equipping rooms with sinks and cupboards after the roof collapse. Most recently the Building Fund covered the cost of painting, new flooring and the water bottle filling station after the recent infrastructure upgrades. The funds from the Building Fund have improved conditions in the building however, the building and the improvements are the property of the City of Edmonton.

Both the Sustainability Fund and the Building Fund are "Protected Funds" and subject to CRA regulations. Donations which you make to NESAs can only be spent for the purposes which you identify when you make your donation. It is unlikely that we will be able to have another building expansion. Growth of the Sustainability Fund will help ensure the long-term sustainability of NESAs and provide the opportunity to initiate new programs with revenue generated.

In order: Hugh Newell, Randy Tomy, Vicky Sandouga,  
Marilyn Buchanan, Ron Nichol, Sol Rolingher,  
Ed Gibbons, Murray Berry





# PROGRAMS

## A Year of Growth, Resilience, and Community

The North Edmonton Seniors Association (NESA) had an eventful 2024, marked by adaptability, community spirit, and an exciting return home. Despite a temporary relocation due to renovations, our members remained dedicated and engaged, embracing challenges and proving that fun, learning, and connection have no boundaries.

In 2024, NESA offered 612 programs and clubs, welcoming 8,962 enrollments throughout the year. While our facility was under renovation, we operated out of multiple community venues, ensuring our members could continue participating in their favorite activities.

The dedication of our members was inspiring—despite parking challenges, temperature fluctuations, and noise in shared spaces, they showed up, helped set up, and stayed engaged. Many took advantage of the concession service at Kilkenny Community League, turning class time into a social experience.

After a limited summer session back at Northgate, we were thrilled to fully return home in the fall, offering 230 programs and clubs—our largest seasonal selection of the year!

**8,962**

Total Enrollments

**4,592**

In-Person Enrollments

**4,370**

Online Enrollments

**612**

# of Programs and Clubs Offered

**35**

New Instructors

**142**

New Programs

## A HEARTFELT THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**509 Evaluation forms were completed!**

### Program Feedback

91% of participants were satisfied with their program

90% indicated they would return to NESA for future program offerings

Our temporary relocation was made possible by generous community partners, including:

- McClure United Church
- Kilkenny Community League
- Steele Heights Community League
- Rundle Park ACT Centre
- Hope Lutheran Church
- Central Lions Seniors Association
- South East Edmonton Seniors Association
- P&J Ceramics

While we bid farewell to these spaces, we are excited to continue offering Pickleball at Rundle Park, expanding our options for this ever-popular sport!





## SOCIAL EVENTS

### TRIBUTE TO CCR – OCTOBER 25, 2024

This highly anticipated event brought together nearly 200 attendees for an unforgettable evening of music, dining, and dancing. Guests enjoyed a delicious meal catered by Caterology, featuring roast beef, roasted potatoes, hot vegetables, salad, and dessert. From the first note to the final encore, the dance floor was packed, with attendees raving about the energy and talent of the band. The success of this tribute night has sparked excitement for future themed events, reinforcing the community's love for live music and social gatherings.

### REMEMBRANCE DAY CEREMONY

A heartfelt and poignant tribute to veterans and fallen soldiers, this ceremony brought together 85 attendees for a moving program filled with music, spoken word, and reflection. The event featured special guests, including Mac Torrie and the Royal Canadian Legion Kingsway Branch 175, the 12 Edmonton Royal Air Cadet Squadron, and Jo-Ann Rauschenberger on bagpipes, whose performance added a solemn and reverent touch. A highlight of the ceremony was a special presentation by Past President & NESA Member, Ron Nichol who read a poem written by long time member Jacqueline Black, and led an interesting reflection of the past 100 years. Guests enjoyed coffee, tea, and Cherries Jubilee, courtesy of Caterology, while sharing personal stories and memories in a warm and respectful gathering.

#### Remembrance Day Tribute & Tea November 8, 2024, 2-4 pm

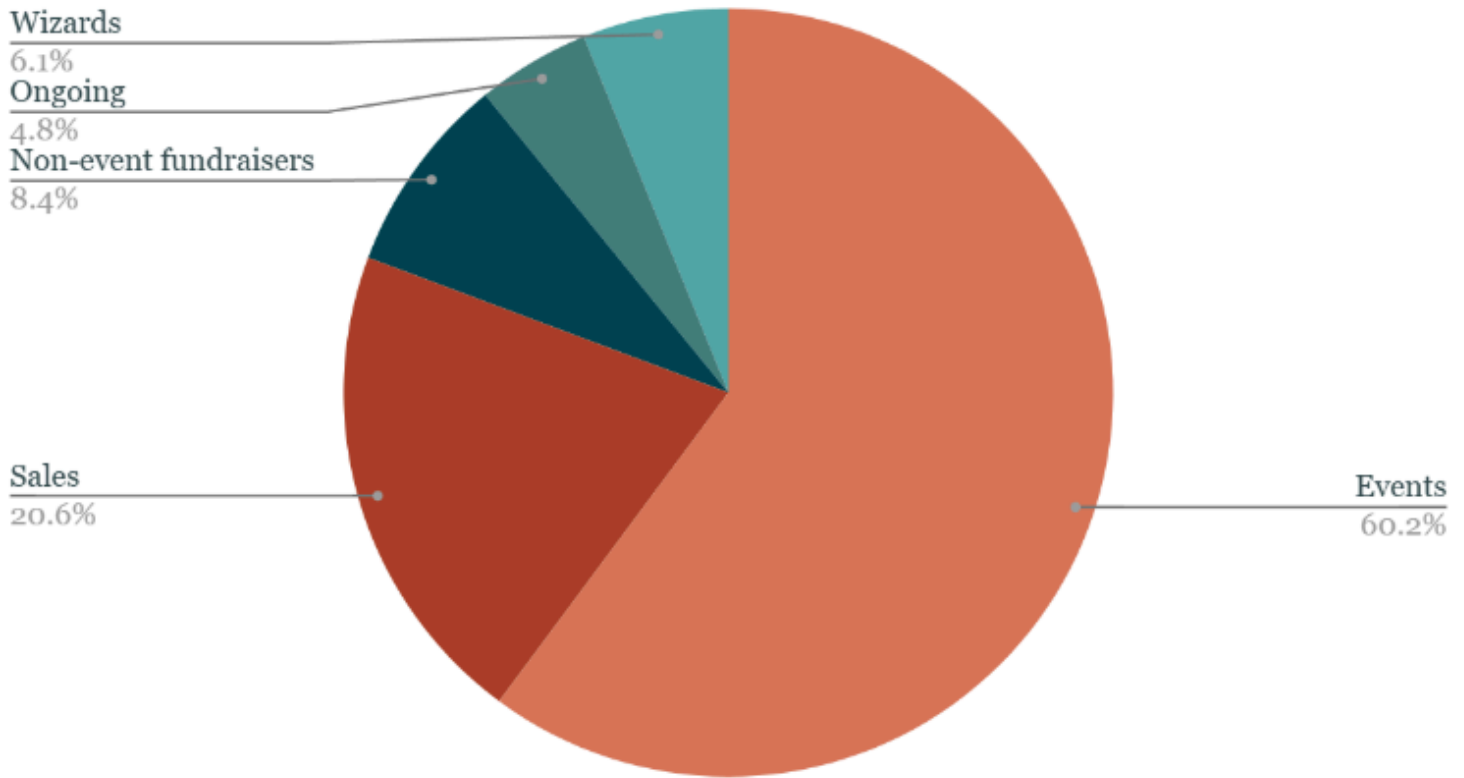
Welcome	Sharlene Wyness
Sgt-at-Arms March on the Colours	RCL Kingsway Branch 175, Jo-Ann Rauschenberger
Oh Canada	Everyone / Video Recording
Pause - At Ease	RCL Kingsway Branch 175
Poem - "No Longer Here" by Jacqueline Black	Ron Nichol
Special Presentation (1918 - 1944)	Ron Nichol
CAF Speaker Presentation	Video Recording
In Flanders Fields	Royal Canadian Air Cadet/ Everyone
The Maple Leaf Forever & Amazing Grace	Jo-Ann Rauschenberger (Bag Pipes)
Pause - Come to Attention	RCL Kingsway Branch 175
Wreath Presentation	Royal Canadian Air Cadets
Last Post	Video Recording
2-minute Silence	Everyone
Lament	Jo-Ann Rauschenberger (Bag Pipes)
Rouse	Video Recording
Act of Remembrance	Mac Torrie
God Save the King	Everyone/Video Recording
Sgt-at-Arms March off the Colours	RCL Kingsway Branch 175

#### Special Acknowledgement

Mac Torrie & The Royal Canadian Legion - Kingsway Branch 175  
 12 Edmonton Royal Canadian Air Cadet Squadron  
 Jo-Ann Rauschenberger - Bag Pipes  
 Ron Nichol - Poem and Special Presentation  
 Sharlene Wyness - Master of Ceremonies  
 Jacqueline Black - Author of Poem-No Longer Here  
 Refreshments prepared by Caterology



# FUNDRAISING



## BOOK SALES

During the renovations at NESAs, we faced the challenge of keeping our fundraising efforts alive. Linda, our dedicated book room coordinator, and her group of loyal volunteers came up with the idea to hold Lil' Book Sales at McClure Church. Every Monday, they set up flats full of books in the book room and in the hallways. The sales quickly became a favourite for both NESAs members and friends from the community. Each Monday, McClure was busy with bookworms browsing the fresh selection of books. The space was smaller than what we were used to, but the energy was always big, thanks to the hardworking volunteers and the continual influx of donated books. We also held a two-day Arts, Crafts & Book sale in the spring which was a huge success!

Many of the book room volunteers were regulars at NESAs, so hosting the Lil' Book Sales at McClure was the perfect way to continue socializing, volunteering, and fundraising for NESAs. It became a wonderful social event, with volunteers reconnecting and chatting with customers. One particularly devoted customer came to every sale, both to purchase new books and puzzles, and to chat with the volunteers. Linda particularly enjoyed seeing younger faces amongst the crowds of shoppers, chatting with them and helping them find books to enjoy. From Linda and all of the book sale volunteers: "Thank you to everyone who came to support us, we really appreciate it."

Since returning to NESAs in July 2024, our volunteers have seamlessly transitioned back into their familiar routine. A special highlight was our book sale in the auditorium in August, which was a huge hit. It feels great to be back in the larger space, and we're excited for the future!

# CLUBS

During NESA's relocation in 2023/2024, we were able to provide alternative meeting spaces for most of our displaced clubs. Venues included the Steele Heights and Kilkenny Community Halls, and McClure United Church. Despite the change in environment, the sense of community and enjoyment remained strong. Whether through music, art, crafts, and artisan talents, or for monthly club meetings for gardening, travel, or book discussions, we were grateful for the continued support from all who adapted to the new locations and schedules. Thank you for helping keep our clubs alive during this transition.

## CLUB ACTIVITY HIGHLIGHTS

The Garden Club held a Garden and Plant sale mid-May of 2024 and sold an impressive \$1500 worth of plants. The Cribbage Club hosted a tournament at Steele Heights and filled the seats with fellow crib enthusiasts! The Wizards of Odds 'n Ends, NESA's talented artisans who make a wide selection of knitted, crocheted, and hand-sewn items, hosted a very successful sale at Rundle Park in the late Fall of 2023 and raised over \$1000 for the NESA community. A big thank you to all of the members who were involved in this fundraiser!

## CLUB STATISTICS

Winter 2024 – 300 People registered in 17 clubs

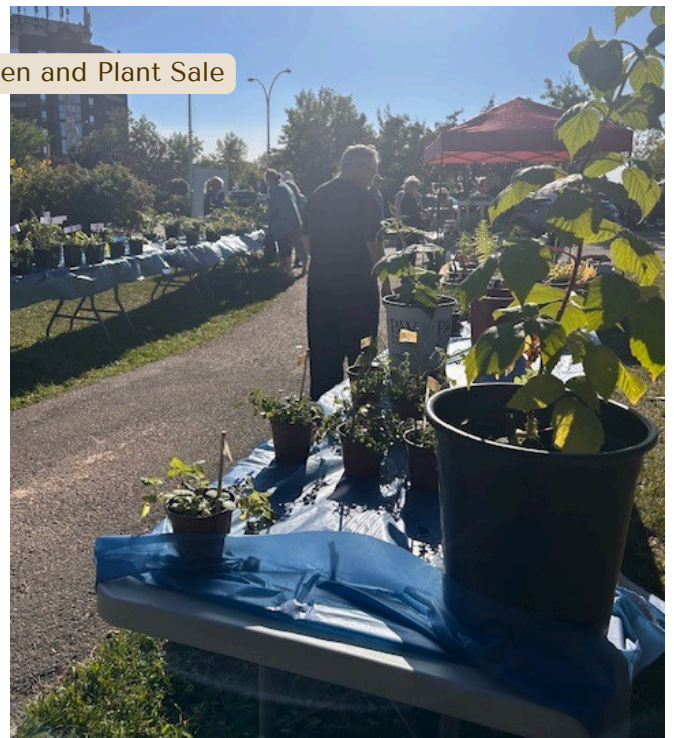
Spring 2024 – 303 People registered in 17 clubs

Summer 2024 – No clubs enrolled during this season

Fall 2024 – Return to NESA – 462 people registered in 24 clubs



Northgate Garden and Plant Sale





# VOLUNTEERS

*“I enjoy meeting people. Volunteering puts me in a position where I can interact with people on a more one to one basis as opposed to just taking a course where it takes a little longer to make more in depth friendships.”*  
- NESAs Volunteer

## IMPACT

At NESAs, our vibrant community is successful thanks to the dedication and commitment of over 200 volunteers who are vital to our operations.

Our volunteers actively participate in a diverse range of activities, from managing our clubs, programming and fundraising initiatives to assisting with special events. We also have volunteers who contribute to board governance and committees, while others knit warm items for Edmontonians in need. They play a crucial role in fundraising events like book, puzzle and jewelry sales, bottle drives, bingos, casinos, Nevada ticket sales, and Taste of Edmonton. Our Wizards of Odd n’ Edds Club consists of volunteers who create beautiful handmade items for sale using donated materials, with 100% of the proceeds returned to NESAs. Whether providing administrative support at the front desk, assisting members in the Fitness Centre, offering free income tax services, or helping with programs like Connections, our volunteers are the backbone of NESAs, exemplifying the spirit of community and fun!

## STATISTICS

The hours logged in 2024 were quite similar to those in 2023, as we were away from the Centre for half of both years. We expect that volunteer numbers in 2025 will be comparable to the 36,000+ volunteer hours recorded in 2022.



**29,728 hours**  
contributed by  
**222 volunteers**

***“As a senior living alone, the volunteering I do is a lifeline to get me out of the house, meet new people and be involved in life.”***

*- NESA Volunteer*

### EVENTS

NESA held 3 volunteer recognition events:

- Casual Volunteer Social - May 2024
- Knitting from the Heart Tea - November 2024
- Jingle & Mingle - December 2024

We're excited to bring back our big volunteer appreciation dinner in April 2025!

### DID YOU KNOW?

NESA volunteers help with odd jobs like maintenance, gardening, signage, photography, deliveries, and posterings.

### BACK AT HOME

When the relocation ended in the summer of 2024, we were excited to welcome back some of our volunteers that had been away, while other volunteer positions changed or ended with our move back to the building. For example, the volunteers that were acting as Hall Hosts at Steele Heights and Kilkenny Community Leagues had to be reassigned. Some of these volunteers went back to volunteering with Nevadas when it started up again in September, other volunteers joined our Front Desk volunteer team. In September, we launched several new volunteer positions, including New Member Liaisons, Welcome Ambassadors, and Presentation Hosts which provided more opportunities for new and returning volunteers.



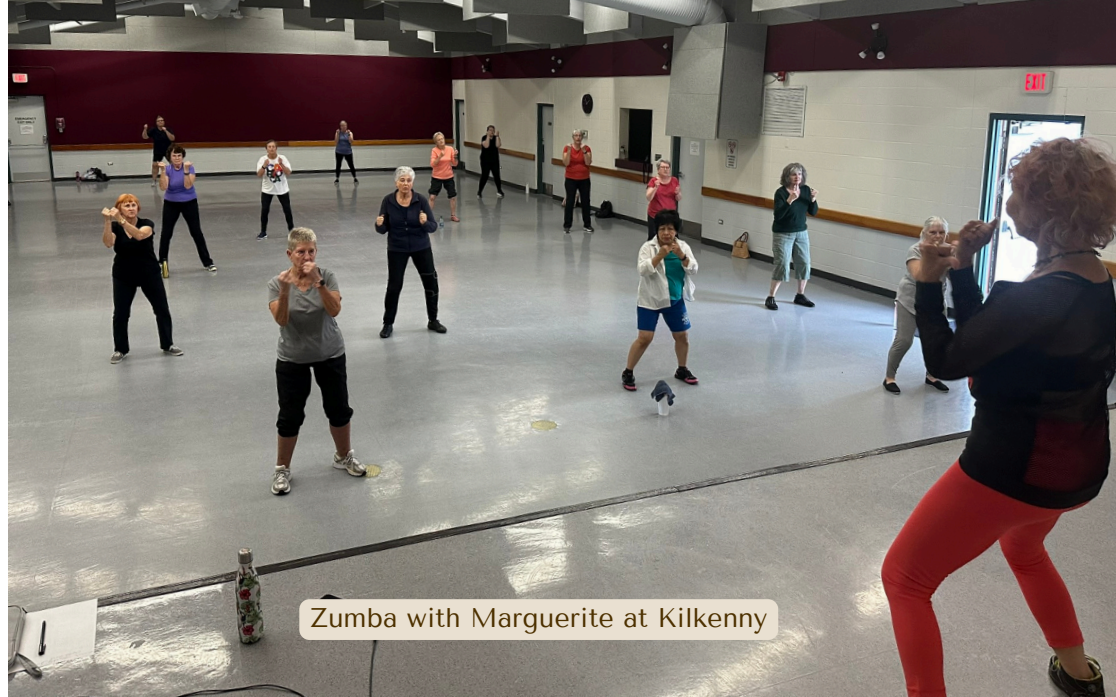
### THANK YOU VOLUNTEERS!

We sincerely thank each and every one of our volunteers for their invaluable time and dedication. Your contributions are the foundation of our success, and we truly appreciate everything you do. NESA would not be the thriving community it is without your passion and commitment!





Fitness Fun with Falon



Zumba with Marguerite at Kilkenny



Creative Greeting Card Workshop at Steele Heights



Guitar with Gilles



Cribbage at Steele Heights



Art Programs at Kilkenny



Yoga with Christine at Rundle Park



Rundle Park Table Movers Team





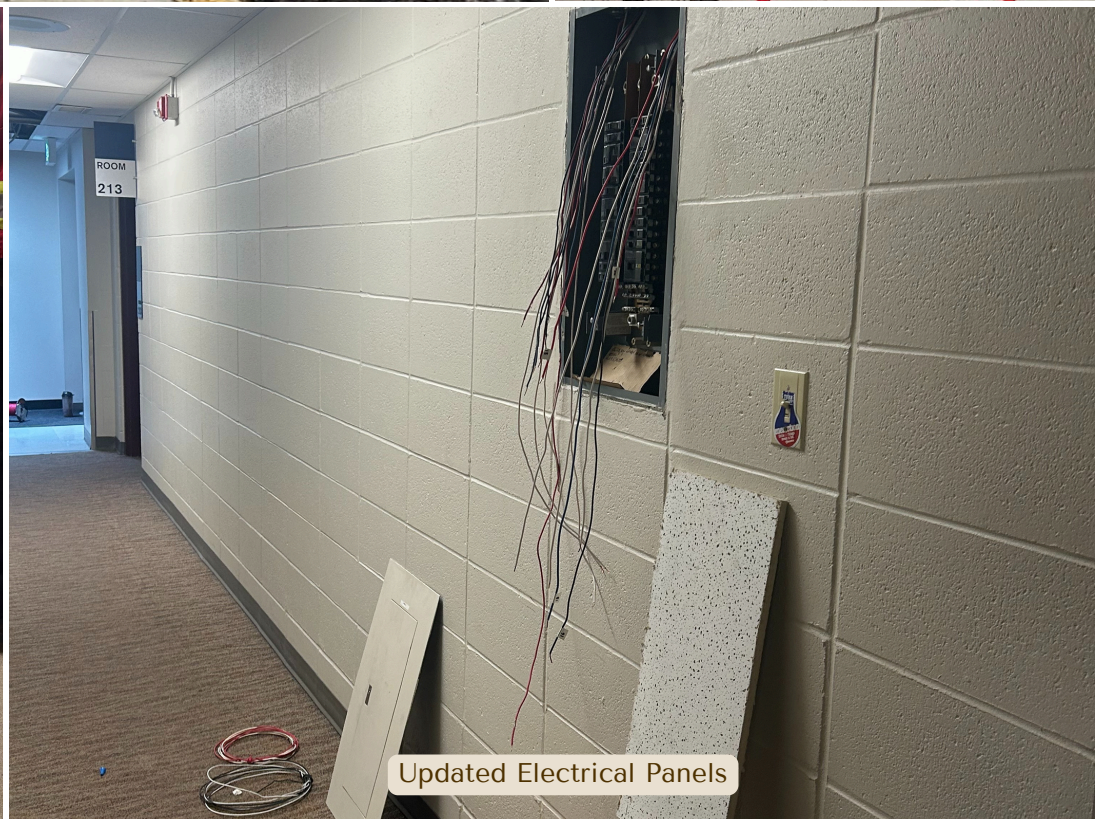
Partial repaving in the Northgate Parking Lot



New Accordion Doors in the Gymnasium



New Electrical at Northgate



Updated Electrical Panels



Lighting Replacements (Building-wide)



Automatic Doors Installation

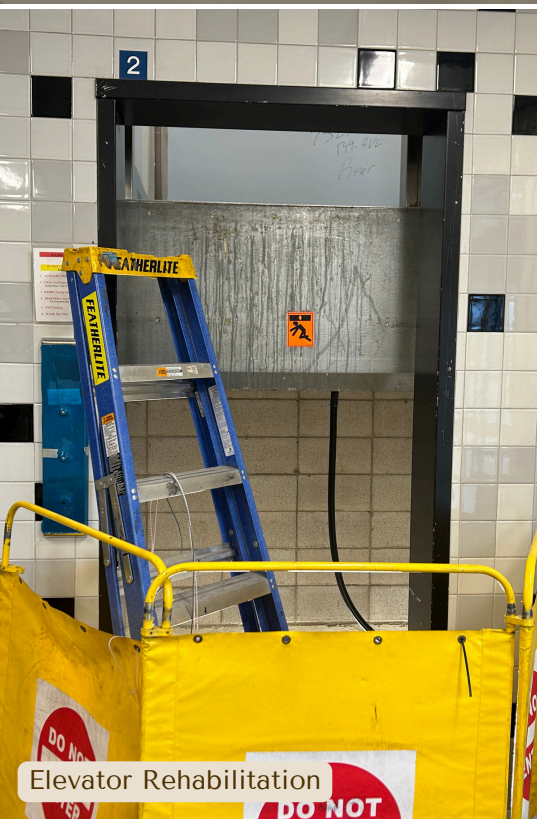




Auditorium Lighting Replacement



Changeroom Flooring Tile Replacement



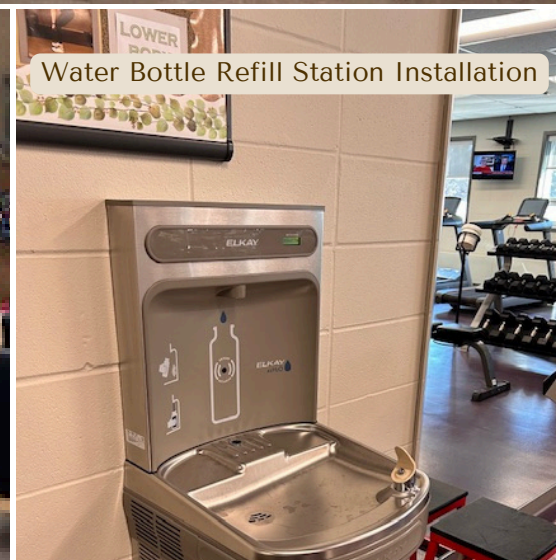
Elevator Rehabilitation



New Flooring



New Lobby Furniture



Water Bottle Refill Station Installation





Continental Treat Bistro



Citadel Theater Outing



Front Office at McClure United Church



Peaceful Valley Outing



Pampering and Portraits



Taste of Edmonton Volunteering



Police Dog Training Outing







Jingle and Mingle Volunteer Appreciation Event



A Gorilla Guest Conductor in Handbells (Halloween)



Handbell Concert



NESA welcomes Caterology to Northgate



Handmade items from the incredibly talented Wizards of Odds 'n Ends Club



# FINANCIALS

AUDITED BY PETERSON WALKER LLP CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS.  
THE COMPLETE AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST.

## NORTH EDMONTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION

### Statement of Operations

Year Ended December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>REVENUE</b>		
Program fees and admissions	\$ 329,746	\$ 322,147
Fundraising activities ( <i>Schedule 1</i> )	213,225	162,392
Grants ( <i>Note 10</i> )	204,853	281,509
Memberships	35,220	19,400
Donations	24,164	24,113
Interest	6,164	18,553
Gain on disposal of equipment	4,157	-
Catering	2,704	2,431
Special events	-	4,500
Club contributions	-	26,329
	<u>820,233</u>	<u>861,374</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Salaries and benefits	409,525	526,511
Instructors	154,534	163,673
Amortization	87,804	9,629
Facility rentals	75,736	52,275
Fundraising activities ( <i>Schedule 1</i> )	59,636	52,124
Office	49,630	44,316
Professional fees	49,233	15,790
Programs	31,005	25,006
Advertising and promotion	29,747	27,884
Repairs and maintenance	20,977	37,972
Special events	15,355	3,242
Insurance	11,606	10,866
Bank charges	11,138	9,903
Moving expenses	-	2,839
	<u>1,005,926</u>	<u>982,030</u>
<b>REVENUE UNDER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>	<u>(185,693)</u>	<u>(120,656)</u>
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>		
Unrealized gains on marketable securities	136,858	42,435
Investment income	35,143	105,015
Donations to Building Fund	6,702	20,000
Donations to Sustainability Fund	11,694	3,722
Investment fees	(10,683)	(11,047)
Landry leisure passes	(7,600)	(6,652)
	<u>172,114</u>	<u>153,473</u>
<b>REVENUE (UNDER) OVER EXPENSES</b>	<u>\$ (13,579)</u>	<u>\$ 32,817</u>



# Financials (continued)

## NORTH EDMONTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION

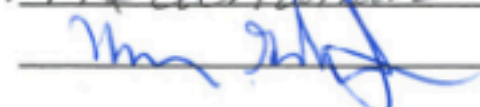
### Statement of Financial Position

December 31, 2024

	2024	2023
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Cash (Note 3)	\$ 443,293	\$ 509,815
Marketable securities (Note 4)	1,518,877	1,457,258
Accounts receivable	10,657	4,723
Inventory	22,529	26,604
Prepaid expenses	10,013	10,013
	<u>2,005,369</u>	<u>2,008,413</u>
EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	83,547	29,779
	<u>\$ 2,088,916</u>	<u>\$ 2,038,192</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 103,979	\$ 44,025
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	143,183	97,353
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	56,374	97,855
	<u>303,536</u>	<u>239,233</u>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Invested in property and equipment	83,547	29,779
Internally restricted (Note 8)	1,521,659	1,459,966
Unrestricted	180,174	309,214
	<u>1,785,380</u>	<u>1,798,959</u>
	<u>\$ 2,088,916</u>	<u>\$ 2,038,192</u>
LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 9)		

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

 Director

 Director



## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our funders and partners  
City of Edmonton  
Northgate Lions Club

North Edmonton Seniors Association  
7524 139 Avenue  
Edmonton T5C 3H7  
[www.nesa1.ca](http://www.nesa1.ca)