

2025

Report to the Community



780-496-6969

info@nesa1.ca

7524 139 Avenue

www.nesa1.ca

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3	MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT
4	BOARD OF DIRECTORS
5	MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
6	OUR TEAM
7	COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS REPORT
10	HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS
12	PROGRAMS
14	SOCIAL EVENTS
16	FUNDRAISING
18	CLUBS
19	VOLUNTEERS
22	FINANCIALS



OUR MISSION

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



OUR VISION

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

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge with respect that NESAs is located on Treaty 6 Territory, the traditional lands of the First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples who have stewarded this land for generations. We honor the histories, cultures, and traditions of the Cree, Dene, Sauteaux, Nakota Sioux, and Métis Nations, recognizing their enduring resilience, wisdom, and contributions.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MARILYN BUCHANAN

On behalf of the NESAs Board of Directors, I am pleased to share the highlights of our achievements in 2025 and our aspirations for 2026.

This past year marked a significant milestone for NESAs, as 2025 was our first full, uninterrupted year back in our home facility since the COVID pandemic. During the period when our building was closed, Nancy and her incredibly creative and dedicated team ensured that programs continued for our members with the help and support of our extended community. While we anticipated it might take time for members to return, we are delighted to report that not only have our members come back in force, but we have also welcomed many new members. Today, we proudly celebrate a membership of over 2,000 and growing.

NESA remains the largest seniors' centre of its kind in Edmonton, and possibly in the province of Alberta. This growth reflects the value of connection, wellness, and belonging that our centre provides to older adults in our community.

We would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the City of Edmonton for their continued support of NESAs. Their ongoing investment in seniors' services and community infrastructure plays a vital role in ensuring organizations like ours can provide accessible, meaningful programs and a welcoming space for older adults to remain active, connected, and engaged.

In 2025, we were also pleased to welcome three new directors to the Board, bringing us to a full and engaged Board of Directors committed to strong governance and strategic leadership.

Collaboration continues to be a key priority. Through our work with the Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council (ESCC), we have helped bring together the Boards of senior centres across Edmonton to strengthen a network of cooperation and shared learning. The collective voice of ESCC and the 15 senior centres advocating for the well-being of older adults is both powerful and meaningful.

We continue to look beyond our organization and into the broader community, seeking opportunities to expand our reach and respond to emerging needs. NESAs is deeply committed to supporting the community we live in through volunteerism and meaningful partnerships. This past Christmas, NESAs volunteers supported the Balwin community by preparing and serving a Christmas dinner for 600 Balwin School students. It was inspiring to see so many volunteers arrive on one of the snowiest days in December to peel and mash potatoes and prepare 30 turkeys. Additional community efforts included volunteers cooking for Amity House clients and supporting neighboring community leagues through bingos and casinos.

Building and strengthening partnerships with local community leagues will remain a key focus in the coming year as we work together to support one another through increasingly challenging times.



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

MARILYN BUCHANAN

NESA also continues to embed diversity, equity, and inclusion into the very fabric of our organization. Our social committees intentionally incorporate diverse themes and celebrations into events, while conversational circles foster inclusiveness and connection through regularly scheduled gatherings. We remain committed to continuous improvement to ensure all members feel safe, respected, and welcome. ESCC continues to support centres like NESA by providing guidance, awareness, and education that strengthens inclusive practices across our organization.

As I conclude my term as President, I do so with deep gratitude for the opportunity to serve this remarkable organization. It has been an honour to work alongside such a dedicated Board, an exceptional staff team, and passionate volunteers. I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together and confident that NESA's future is bright. Thank you for the trust, support, and shared commitment that make this community so special. NESA will continue to look forward to another year of growth, connection, and community impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Buchanan

President, North Edmonton Seniors Association (NESA)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Marilyn Buchanan
President



Gail Tricker
Vice President



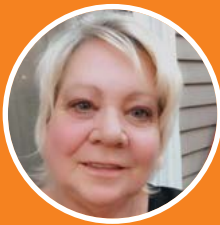
Orest Stachniak
Treasurer



Marie Tauber
Secretary



Angie Ewanchuk
Director



Darlene Arason
Director



Doug McFayden
Director



Liz Anderson
Director



Norm Godbout
Director



Sharon Styles
Director



Shelley Minor Stachniak
Director

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NANCY MELNYCHUK

A Message from Nancy: Celebrating Growth and Connection

As we look back on 2025, the word that best defines the North Edmonton Seniors Association is **resilience**. This year marked a historic turning point for NESAs; we didn't just recover from the challenges of the past few years—we surpassed them.

Our goal for the year was ambitious: "2025 members in 2025." Thanks to the dedication of our front-desk team and the vibrancy of our programming, we didn't just meet that target—we soared past it. We closed the year with **2,108 active members**, a significant increase from 1,865 in 2024. This growth represents more than just a number; it represents 2,108 lives enriched by community, activity, and shared purpose.

The true heartbeat of NESAs is found in the daily moments within our walls. Whether it is a first-time visitor taking a tour and exclaiming, "I had no idea all of this was here!" or the steady hum of conversation during informal coffee meetings, the energy in our facility is palpable. Our members are the architects of this culture, forming new friendships and fostering an atmosphere of excitement that greets everyone who walks through our doors.

Our community is as diverse as it is large. With an average age of 75 and a thriving "Gold Member" contingent of 320 seniors aged 85 and older, NESAs remains a vital hub for residents across Edmonton and surrounding areas like St. Albert, Sherwood Park, and beyond. While our demographics show a strong female presence, we continue to see our community broaden across all backgrounds and locations.

Innovation and collaboration are the engines of our success. We are profoundly grateful to the **City of Edmonton** for the Senior Centre Investment Program Grant, and to the **Area 2 Community Leagues** for their steadfast support. A special thank you goes to the **Northgate Lions Club**, whose continued generosity toward our Building Fund ensures we have a home to be proud of. We also thank every individual who donated to our **Transportation Program**, keeping our community accessible to those who need it most.

NESAs is thriving because of the people who call it home, thank you to the staff, volunteers, the Board, Caterology, and all of the members for the great experiences had by all. As we move into 2026, we remain committed to listening to your suggestions and evolving our programs to meet your needs.

Thank you for being part of this incredible journey. Please enjoy this report of the highlights, innovation, and collaboration that made 2025 our best year yet.



OUR TEAM



Nancy Melnychuk
Executive Director



Donna Barretto
Member Services
Administrator



Linda Cymbala
Evening & Event Staff



Kathe Debenham
Volunteer & Office
Administrator



Jollean Ferrari
Program Team Lead



Taylor Florek
Program and Fundraising
Event Coordinator



Haley Matijevic
Communications and
Donor Relations



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



Jon Allenby
COE Facility Liason



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 the sole trustee, manager and custodian for the Sustainability Fund. The Fund was established by a generous donation from the estate of a member, Therese Landry, who wanted to ensure that NESAs would always exist and be able to provide opportunities for all seniors in northeast Edmonton. Donations to this fund are invested and the income earned is used to fund programs approved by the Board of Directors. The fund has provided nearly \$60,000 to NESAs programs to date. Because member donations have helped grow the fund the amount available to NESAs increases each year. This year over \$30,000 has been budgeted to assist in funding programs. Your donations to this fund are important to the future of NESAs.

At the request of the Board of Directors, the Council of Governors also invests and manages the Building Fund. NESAs's Board of Directors is the sole authority for the use of this fund. In 2025, the Building Fund provided \$72,708 to the Board. This money was used for completion of last years renovations and for new equipment for the Fitness Center.

Both the Sustainability Fund and the Building Fund are "Protected Funds" and subject to Canada Revenue Agency regulations. Donations which you make to NESAs can only be used for the purposes which you identify when you make your donation. It is unlikely that we will be able to have another building expansion. Donations to the Sustainability Fund provide a reliable source of funding for NESAs programs and help ensure the long-term sustainability of the organization.



Hugh Newell



Vicky Sandouga



Randy Tomy



Ron Nichol



Sol Rolinger



Marilyn Buchanan



Tom Scott



Ed Gibbons

Building Connections at NESA

Arriving early and taking a seat in Room 210, Sharon Orescan felt a quiet sense of apprehension. She didn't know anyone yet and waited patiently for the Member Mixer to begin. Moments later, Gail Tricker walked in—also early, and feeling much the same.

Without hesitation, Gail made her way over to Sharon, introduced herself, and offered a friendly handshake. That simple gesture marked the beginning of a meaningful friendship.

After that first meeting, the two began getting together for coffee and lunch, gradually discovering shared interests and an easy connection. Before long, they both joined the Travel Club. One day, after attending a presentation about a polar bear excursion to Churchill, Manitoba, they found themselves chatting over coffee in the café, both intrigued by the idea. On the spot, they contacted the tour operator and booked the trip—setting off on their very first adventure together.

That trip was just the beginning. Since then, they've explored Atlantic Canada, travelled to Mexico, and are now looking forward to an upcoming Historic Canada tour through Ontario and Quebec.

Though different in nature—one an introvert, the other an extrovert—their personalities complement each other perfectly. Together, they've attended concerts, met each other's families, and shared holidays. They've laughed often, supported one another, and confided in each other as though they've been lifelong friends.

Reflecting on her first day, Sharon recalls that it felt a bit like high school—you might be hesitant to approach others at first, but over time, you meet people, find common ground, and form genuine connections.

From their first trip to see the polar bears to countless drives down the highway in Gail's convertible, Sharon and Gail share an effortless friendship built on laughter, adventure, and mutual respect.

All from a simple hello at NESA.





I feel really good about exercising, I'm very happy when I complete a craft - I find it really enjoyable to walk away with something that I've created. I've always enjoyed the presentations I have attended. I also have to say that most of the people I've met have been really good people, there is a sense of "companionship" in doing something that you enjoy doing (or learning about) with other people that have the same interests.

- NESAs Member



HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS

A Legacy of Service: Seven Volunteers Who Shaped NESAs

At North Edmonton Seniors Association, Honorary Life Memberships are among the highest recognitions we can bestow. They are not applied for or requested; they are nominated by peers and awarded to individuals whose service has left a lasting imprint on our organization and our community. This year, we are proud to celebrate seven remarkable volunteers whose dedication, leadership, and generosity of spirit helped build NESAs into what it is today.

Their stories are different, but their impact is shared.

When NESAs reached a pivotal moment in 2012—negotiating its first independent lease with the City of Edmonton—it was volunteers like **Vicky Sandouga** and **Randy Tomyn** who stepped forward to help guide the organization through uncharted territory. Vicky brought her professional experience in government to the negotiation table, helping prepare detailed documentation for City Council and ensuring the process was thoughtful, informed, and successful. She later served multiple terms on the Board, including as Treasurer, where she helped establish NESAs's risk assessment processes. Even today, Vicky continues to serve quietly but powerfully, whether through her role on the Council of Governors or by offering companionship as a Friendly Phone Call volunteer.

Randy's leadership during that same period — and in the years that followed — has been nothing short of legendary. Serving on the Board as Treasurer, Vice-President, and President, Randy guided NESAs through some of its most complex and challenging years, including the unprecedented uncertainty of the pandemic. His willingness to help has never been limited to titles; from Taste of Edmonton to event setups, bingos, and countless behind-the-scenes tasks, Randy has always been someone NESAs could count on. Today, his continued leadership as Vice-Chair of the Council of Governors helps ensure long-term stability and success.

If leadership built the framework of NESAs, fundraising and connection gave it heart — and few embody that spirit more than **Willy Moyes**. As Chair of Fundraising, Willy has been a driving force behind bottle drives, bingos, Taste of Edmonton, sales events, and more — initiatives that have generated thousands of dollars in support of NESAs's mission. But Willy's impact goes far beyond dollars raised. A familiar, friendly presence at nearly every event, he creates welcoming spaces where people feel seen, included, and valued. Whether facilitating clubs or lending a hand wherever needed, Willy models what it means to serve with heart.

That same deep sense of care is reflected in the work of **Carole Furgala**, whose volunteer journey with NESAs began in 2011. Carole's leadership of the Connections Program since 2014 has been transformative, supporting seniors living with social isolation through empathy, creativity, and adaptability. Her commitment extends to fundraising as well — particularly through years of volunteering at bingos and her involvement with the Wizards Club, whose work raises funds to support other seniors. From the first-ever Smile Day to her service on the Member Services Committee and at the front desk, Carole's contributions are rooted in understanding what members truly need.

HONORARY LIFETIME MEMBERS (continued)

For **Anne Stipdonk**, volunteering has been a constant thread woven through decades of NESAs life. From book and bake sales to flea markets, Wednesday night dances, and front desk service, Anne has always been ready to help. As a member of the 4Ever Young group, she brought joy and entertainment to countless events, and since 2017 she has led NESAs much-loved puzzle sales — a perennial favorite. Anne's warmth, positivity, and friendships are a reminder that community is built one kind interaction at a time.

Few people embody "doing it all" quite like **Brenda Doucet**. During her time on the Board, and through years of hands-on volunteering, Brenda has supported nearly every corner of NESAs. She helped shape vibrant social events, strengthened fundraising efforts, created the NESAs newsletter to keep members connected, and even volunteered her professional skills to complete income tax returns for those in need. From flea markets and puzzle sales to coordinating the Pins and Needles club and serving as a welcoming NESAs greeter, Brenda's energy and generosity continue to enrich our community.

Guiding much of NESAs long-term vision has been **Hugh Newell**, whose leadership as Chair of the Council of Governors from its inception has been invaluable. Hugh played a central role during some of NESAs most defining moments — including rebuilding after the roof collapse, negotiating license agreements with the City of Edmonton, and helping establish NESAs as a more independent organization in 2014. His nine years on the Board, including four as Board Chair, and his commitment to recruiting and mentoring new leaders have helped secure a strong future for the organization.

Together, these seven individuals represent the very best of NESAs: leadership, compassion, resilience, and community spirit. Their contributions are not just measured in years served or roles held, but in the countless lives touched along the way.

Their legacy lives on — in the programs we offer, the spaces we share, and the welcoming community they helped build.



Vicky Sandouga



Randy Tomy



Willy Moyes



Carole Furgala



Anne Stipdonk



Brenda Doucet



Hugh Newell

PROGRAMS

Programs: A Year of Growth, Creativity, and Connection

If 2025 had a theme, it would be New and Improved — More of Everything We Love. This year, we leaned into growth, creativity, and connection in meaningful ways, and our members responded with enthusiasm.

Participation reached new heights, with 11,377 total enrollments—an increase of 2,415 from 2024, representing 27% overall growth. Behind that number are thousands of moments of learning, laughter, movement, and shared experience that continue to define the spirit of NESAs.

Our program offerings expanded significantly, with 790 programs and clubs delivered throughout the year—178 more than in 2024. Among these, 303 were brand new programs, more than double the number introduced the previous year. From felting and drum making to Indigenous art workshops, floral design, outings, and an ever-growing selection of fitness and wellness opportunities, our programming reflected the curiosity, creativity, and diversity of our members.

This year also brought new energy to our spaces, as we welcomed over 50 new instructors and facilitators. Each brought unique skills, fresh perspectives, and a shared commitment to creating engaging, inclusive experiences. Their contributions have strengthened both the depth and variety of our offerings.

Member feedback continues to play a vital role in shaping what we do. In 2025, we received 1,055 completed program evaluations—more than double the previous year. Of those, 88% were rated as “Amazing” or “Good,” and a strong majority of participants shared that they would attend again. These insights not only affirm what is working well but also guide us as we continue to grow and evolve.

This has been a year of momentum and meaningful progress—more programs, more participation, and more opportunities for connection, creativity, and well-being. Thank you for being part of what makes NESAs not just a place to attend programs, but a place to belong.

2024		2025
8962 Total Enrollments	↑	11377 Total Enrollments
4592 In-Person Enrollments	↑	5806 In-Person Enrollments
4370 Online Enrollments	↑	5571 Online Enrollments
612 Number of Programs and Clubs offered	↑	790 Number of Programs and Clubs offered
35 New Instructors	↑	53 New Instructors
142 New Programs	↑	303 New Programs



PROGRAMS (continued)

Pickleball at NESAs: From a Dozen Players to a Thriving Community

Pickleball, you've probably heard the name but what exactly is it? And no, despite the name, there are no pickles actually involved! Instead, it's a fun and fast-growing paddle sport where two or four players use paddles to hit a lightweight plastic ball over a net. It's easy to learn, great for staying active and most importantly, a wonderful way to connect with others!

At NESAs, pickleball has become so much more than just a game. Over the past 12 years, it has grown into one of our most popular and vibrant programs.

What began as a small group of about a dozen curious players has transformed into a thriving community of over 180 participants each season, with more than 200 individuals having taken part in programs and workshops over the years. As interest continued to grow, so did our offerings. What started as just a few weekly sessions 12 years ago has expanded to 12+ weekly programs as of 2025 and we're still growing!

To meet this incredible demand, NESAs now offers pickleball at two locations: Northgate and Rundle Park. Even with this expansion, the courts buzz with energy and enthusiasm, often filled with players eager to join in the fun!

A key part of NESAs's success has been our commitment to quality programming. Over the years, our team has brought in certified pickleball instructors and coaches to help players learn the game properly, build confidence and develop their skills on the courts. Word spread quickly and soon our workshops and clinics became just as popular as our regular play sessions.

We've also introduced different skill levels to ensure everyone, from beginners to more experienced players, can enjoy the game in a supportive and welcoming environment. While NESAs's pickleball programs don't focus on competition, they are built around enjoyment, social connection and building skills together.

What we are most proud of is the community that has grown alongside the sport. Pickleball at NESAs is about more than rallies and scorekeeping, it's about connection, encouragement and having a great time together.

As we look ahead to 2026, we are excited to continue expanding our programs, adding more sessions and creating even more opportunities for everyone to play, especially those on our waitlists or hoping to play more often.

To everyone who has picked up a paddle, joined a session or cheered from the sidelines, thank you. You've helped build something truly special and we are so proud to have you as part of our pickleball community!

Jollean and The NESAs Team



SOCIAL EVENTS

Social Events: Bringing People Together

If there's one thing 2025 made clear, it's that our community values time spent together. Throughout the year, we delivered a full and varied calendar of social events designed to create opportunities for connection, celebration, and shared experience.

A total of 12 events were planned, with 11 successfully delivered. While one event was cancelled due to low registration and inclement weather, overall attendance remained strong, with most events welcoming between 160 and 200 participants. These gatherings continue to be a cornerstone of community life at NESAs.

Behind the scenes, 2025 was also a year of thoughtful operational improvements. We introduced comment card boxes, collecting over 500 responses and creating an accessible way for members to share their feedback. A credit and debit payment option was added at the bar, improving convenience and reducing wait times. We also transitioned to Eventbrite check-in tools, replacing manual processes and creating a smoother, more efficient arrival experience. Buffet service styles were tested and refined to improve flow and accessibility, and new volunteers joined our team, strengthening our ability to deliver high-quality events.



AHA Post Renovation Celebration



Christmas Concert



Tribute to CCR



Tribute to Elvis

SOCIAL EVENTS (continued)

Among the year's highlights was our first-ever Vintage Car Show and Shine, which brought together over 25 vehicles from the 1950s and 60s. Paired with live music and a classic diner-style luncheon, the event created a vibrant atmosphere filled with nostalgia and connection. The strong response—and enthusiasm from both attendees and car owners—has set the stage for its return in 2026.

Later in the year, we turned up the energy with our Fall Dance Night, featuring live music that filled the dance floor and carried the evening with a spirit of celebration and joy. Events like these continue to reflect what makes NESAs special: a community that shows up, participates, and creates meaningful moments together.

More than just entertainment, these events provide opportunities to connect, reminisce, and celebrate. With strong participation, continued improvements, and exciting ideas ahead, we look forward to building on this momentum in the year to come.

Thank you for being part of what makes our events so special.



Bumpers, Burgers & Bids

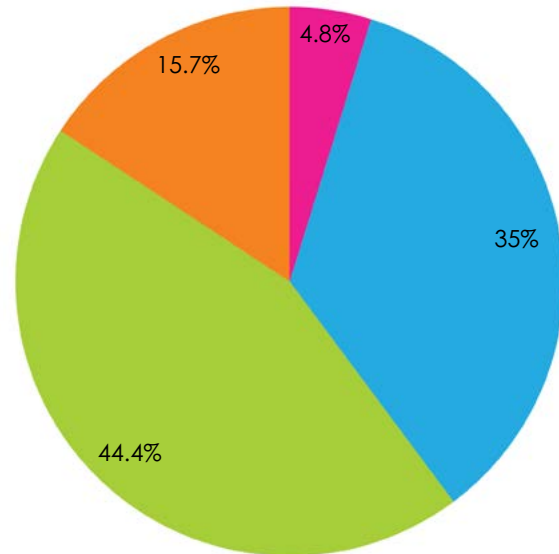


Fall Dance Night

FUNDRAISING

Fundraising Revenue

- Book, Puzzle & Jewellery Sales
- Event Fundraisers
(Bottle Drives, Silent Auction, 50/50 Raffles, Taste of Edmonton)
- Wizards Fundraising
- On-Going Fundraisers
(Bingo's, Grocery Gift Cards, Nevadas)



The year 2025 was a period of substantial growth and success for NESAs fundraising efforts. Our achievements included the most successful Book Sales ever, record attendance of over a thousand community members at the Holly Jolly Craft Sale to support both vendors and clubs selling 100% handmade items, and a generous \$5,000 donation from our Wizards of Odds 'n Ends to NESAs Supporting Our Seniors Fund. NESAs utilizes a diverse range of fundraising opportunities. Our ongoing initiatives include Nevadas Pull Tickets, volunteer-supported Bingos, and the sale of Grocery Gift Cards for the community. Larger event fundraisers are crucial for supporting the center's growth, such as our Monthly Bottle Drives (held the first Wednesday of every month), the refurbishment and sale of Vintage Jewelry by our dedicated volunteers, and our annual Celebration of Women's Day Pampering & Portraits event every March. These initiatives, along with many others, are vital in helping our community thrive and ensuring our members continue to enjoy our wonderful, fun-filled center!

Book, Puzzle, and Jewellery Sales

The Book, Puzzle, and Jewellery Sale remained a major fundraising initiative, with four sales held in January, April, September, and December, raising a total of \$46,243.00. In July, NESAs received a generous donation of 378 boxes of books from the Alberta Hospital. Thank you to the dedicated volunteers who helped pick up, transport, and sort this large donation, ensuring the books were ready for future sales!



July Book Donation Volunteers



Books waiting to be Sorted!



May Bottle Drive



Upon retirement I realized I had to find new outlets for socialization to ensure good mental health and also focus on maintaining good physical health through exercise, fitness, yoga etc. programs. NESAs plays a major role in how very positive my retirement experience has been and made it possible for me to make many new friends. This has really added to my retirement enjoyment. Thank you so much for everything you do.

- NESAs Member



CLUBS

The 2025 season marked a triumphant return for the NESAs Clubs, solidifying our recovery after the challenging 2024. The previous year involved disruptive change, renovation, and temporary relocation, which tested our community. Getting back into our beloved space for 2025, the NESAs community returned with inspiring vigour, showcasing true strength and resilience. We are profoundly grateful for the vibrant cross-section of interests thriving within our walls—artists, musicians, tinkerers, gardeners, travellers, card players, and discussionists—you are the vital threads of the NESAs community tapestry. Your energy and welcoming spirit benefit members and attract others. Thank you to all actively involved in leading, organizing, and participating in these numerous groups for your dedication, making these gatherings special, and ensuring they continue to thrive. The 2025 season was a powerful reminder that our community is at its best when we are all “Back in Action,” together.



Club Statistics

	Enrollments	Clubs
Winter 2025	486	23
Spring 2025	525	24
Summer 2025	125	11
Fall 2025	465	23

Canasta took the top spot as NESAs's most popular club of 2025, with Crib, Golf, and the Travel Club close behind!

The Jammers Club hosted their first-ever Open Mic in the cafeteria on May 9, followed by additional popular events on June 13, September 26, and November 21, bringing members together to share music and enjoy live performances.

BOOM! Or, Rather...BOO!!

By Lavonne Hailes from the Creative Writing Club

[We]...all heard a deafening, piercing, tremendous, gigantic, shattering crash!" Dianna read from her Halloween story.

The door to Room 206 was thrown open, in time with Dianna's words, and we jumped.

Vicky had just read her story about a ghostly presence in her home in Lac La Biche. We were in a spiritual world as Vicky described her invitation to the ghost to rejoin her own spectral family.

The stranger banged his formidable walking stick and came in; preceded by an ostrich flock in black bags and bird beak puppets.

They left us with a song, treats and hearts, slightly racing.



NESAs Staff Halloween Costume - Ostriches

VOLUNTEERS

Impact

At NESA, our vibrant community thrives thanks to the dedication of over 250 volunteers, each playing a vital role in our success. Their contributions span a wide range of activities—from leading clubs and supporting programs to assisting with events and fundraising efforts such as book, puzzle and jewellery sales, bingos, nevada ticket sales, and Taste of Edmonton. Many also serve on our boards and committees, while others contribute creatively by knitting for those in need or creating handmade items through the Wizards of Odd n' Edds Club to support fundraising. From supporting members at the Front Desk and assisting in the Fitness Centre to providing free tax clinics and supporting programs like Connections, NESA volunteers are at the heart of everything we do!

Statistics

Volunteer hours in 2025 increased significantly compared to 2023 and 2024, when we were away from the Centre for part of each year. In fact, 2025 totals were comparable to the 36,000+ hours recorded in 2022, when NESA was last operating at full capacity.

**39,805 hours contributed
by 258 volunteers!**



8%	Admin
3%	Clubs
3%	Fitness Centre
32%	Fundraising
4%	Governance & Committees
47%	Knitting from the Heart
3%	Programs & Services
1%	Special Events

Events

NESA held 3 volunteer recognition events:

- A Night on the Red Carpet - April 2025
- Knitting from the Heart Tea - May 2025
- Sweater Weather Get Together - December 2025

Thank You Volunteers!

We extend our heartfelt thanks to all of our volunteers for the time, energy, and dedication you share with NESA. Your contributions are at the core of everything we do, and we are deeply grateful for the impact you make. It's your passion and commitment that help NESA continue to grow as a vibrant and welcoming community.

[NESA] has allowed me to give back to the community while also giving me the opportunity to engage in valuable and enriching social interactions with NESA staff and my fellow volunteers.

- NESA Volunteer

VOLUNTEERS (continued)

A Friendly Face Every Day – Sydney's NESAs Story

Sydney's connection to NESAs began through her family, as her mom would bring both her grandmother and great-grandmother to the centre. What started as a familiar place soon became something more meaningful. Through volunteering, Sydney discovered that life can be about connection, enjoyment, and finding purpose in what you do.

As a Welcome Ambassador, Sydney helps create a warm and inviting atmosphere for everyone who walks through the doors. Whether she's greeting members, helping a member find their program, sharing a quick chat, or simply offering a smile, she focuses on making people feel comfortable and included. Over time, these small interactions have grown into meaningful connections, with members recognizing her and greeting her as a friend.

Sydney values being a consistent, familiar face in the community. From reconnecting with former teachers to chatting with members about the crochet projects she is working on while she volunteers, she finds joy in the everyday moments that bring people together. These shared interactions help build a strong sense of belonging for both her and the members she welcomes. For Sydney, NESAs is a place where people create connection and community simply by showing up and being part of that is what makes her role so meaningful.



Finding Connection Through Conversation: Darlene's NESAs Story

Darlene Arason first discovered NESAs through her mom, but it wasn't until retirement that she had time to get involved. She joined the Connections program and signed up for guitar classes, quickly finding a sense of belonging. Though she was initially nervous, the supportive environment helped her build confidence, and she still enjoys playing her guitar today.

Her involvement soon grew beyond programs. After hearing about board opportunities, Darlene joined the NESAs Board of Directors, where she now serves on the Diversity and Inclusion Committee and chairs the Member Services Committee. In this role, she has helped introduce initiatives like the Conversation Café and refreshed Member Mixers to strengthen member connections.

Darlene has also stepped into the role of guiding our Conversation Cafés alongside fellow volunteers. Conversation Cafés are designed as relaxed, welcoming spaces where members can connect through casual, guided conversations. Often described as a form of "speed friending," participants rotate through short chats using simple prompts, with volunteers helping to keep things flowing and inclusive.

For many, the Conversation Café is a gentle entry point into the NESAs community. Darlene often sees people arrive feeling shy or unsure, but by the end of the session, the room is filled with laughter and new connections. Many participants continue conversations beyond the event, building friendships that carry into other programs and activities. For Darlene, these moments capture what NESAs is all about; creating connection, confidence, and a true sense of community.



VOLUNTEERS (continued)

Building Community Through Member Mixers - Marie's NESAs Story



After retiring, Marie Tauber was looking for ways to stay active, meet new people, and explore her interests; something she hadn't had time for while working. Marie first joined NESAs in order to join the Fitness Centre. Through participating, she quickly met new people, and one important friend encouraged her to volunteer at the front desk. Marie spent many years welcoming members and visitors, forming meaningful relationships, and over time expanded her involvement to other volunteer roles, including serving on the NESAs Board of Directors.

Today, Marie leads our Member Mixers, guiding these gatherings which provide a welcoming first step for members to connect and learn more about NESAs. In a relaxed setting over coffee and conversation, small groups share experiences, ask questions, and discover common ground, with volunteers providing information, helping the flow and ensuring everyone feels included.

With simple icebreakers and a pressure-free atmosphere, participants often realize they're not alone in seeking connection; many seniors have recently retired, moved to the area, or are simply looking to stay engaged. By the end of the session, strangers are often laughing together, exchanging stories, and forming new friendships.

Through leading the mixers, Marie helps members feel comfortable exploring programs, volunteering, and other opportunities at NESAs. Seeing these connections form is one of the most rewarding parts of her experience and highlights the welcoming community NESAs provides.

Building Meaningful Connections – Lisa's NESAs Story

Lisa Coyne first discovered NESAs through a university course focused on aging and cognitive development. As part of her community service learning, she was required to complete volunteer hours and could choose from a range of placements. NESAs stood out right away; not only because of its focus on older adults, but because it offered the chance to build real relationships and be involved in planning activities with the Connections Program. What began as a course requirement quickly became something more, and Lisa has continued volunteering after completing her hours.



Through her role with Connections, Lisa found a space that highlighted the importance of genuine human interaction. Connections brings people together to share experiences, try new activities, and build friendships in a welcoming, supportive environment. For Lisa, it quickly became a place where she formed meaningful bonds with individuals who brought a wealth of life experience and positivity.

Connections also creates opportunities for participants to engage in new ways. Whether they're exploring modern slang, trying a new craft, staying active, sharing stories, or simply enjoying conversation, the program creates a space for both learning and laughter. Lisa has seen firsthand how the group helps combat isolation, creating a space where members feel valued and excited to show up; something she believes is powerful.

One of Lisa's favourite memories came during a conversation activity about moments in history. She spoke about the moon landing, only to realize the room was filled with people who had actually lived through it. Moments like these remind her of the richness of the Connections community, and the joy it brings keeps her coming back.

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, 2025

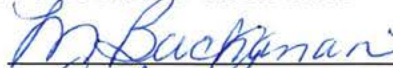
	2025	2024
REVENUE		
Program fees and admissions	\$ 425,599	\$ 329,746
City of Edmonton - Seniors Centre Investment	250,000	204,853
Fundraising activities (<i>Schedule 1</i>)	173,987	213,225
Donations	52,566	24,164
Memberships	46,040	35,220
Special events	26,334	-
Interest	7,437	6,164
Catering	7,185	2,704
Gain on disposal of equipment	-	4,157
	<u>989,148</u>	<u>820,233</u>
EXPENSES		
Salaries and benefits	454,763	409,525
Instructors	191,635	154,534
Amortization	85,210	87,804
Office	68,887	49,630
Facility rentals	65,907	75,736
Programs	55,446	31,005
Professional fees	46,366	49,233
Fundraising activities (<i>Schedule 1</i>)	45,708	59,636
Special events	39,554	15,355
Advertising and promotion	20,105	29,747
Repairs and maintenance	16,676	20,977
Bank charges	13,567	11,138
Insurance	11,846	11,606
	<u>1,115,670</u>	<u>1,005,926</u>
REVENUE UNDER EXPENSES BEFORE OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)	<u>(126,522)</u>	<u>(185,693)</u>
OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)		
Investment income	112,539	35,143
Unrealized gains on marketable securities	28,999	136,858
Donations to Sustainability Fund	2,521	11,694
Donations to Building Fund	302	6,702
Investment fees	(11,393)	(10,683)
Landry leisure passes	(16,462)	(7,600)
	<u>116,506</u>	<u>172,114</u>
REVENUE UNDER EXPENSES	<u>\$ (10,016)</u>	<u>\$ (13,579)</u>


FINANCIALS (continued)

NORTH EDMONTON SENIORS ASSOCIATION
Statement of Financial Position
December 31, 2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Cash and term deposits (Note 3)	\$ 357,557	\$ 443,293
Marketable securities (Note 4)	1,576,262	1,518,877
Accounts receivable	13,131	10,657
Inventory	19,835	22,529
Prepaid expenses	10,013	10,013
	<u>1,976,798</u>	<u>2,005,369</u>
EQUIPMENT (Note 5)	<u>59,736</u>	<u>83,547</u>
	<u>\$ 2,036,534</u>	<u>\$ 2,088,916</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS		
CURRENT		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 62,645	\$ 103,979
Deferred revenue (Note 6)	197,461	143,183
Deferred contributions (Note 7)	1,064	56,374
	<u>261,170</u>	<u>303,536</u>
NET ASSETS		
Invested in property and equipment	59,736	83,547
Internally restricted (Note 8)	1,579,095	1,521,659
Unrestricted	136,533	180,174
	<u>1,775,364</u>	<u>1,785,380</u>
	<u>\$ 2,036,534</u>	<u>\$ 2,088,916</u>
LEASE COMMITMENT (Note 9)		

APPROVED BY THE BOARD


 _____ Director


 _____ Director



Thank you to our funders and partners:

City of Edmonton
Northgate Lions Club