

Zine & HEARD

Amplifying Voices of Youth From Care

AUGUST 2025
ISSUE #31



We respectfully acknowledge that we reside on Treaty 6 Territory; traditional lands of many First Nations & Metis people & we are committed to learning the true history of Canada & the true meaning of truth & reconciliation.

WHO

Youth from care speaking out & making a difference.

WHAT

A zine to amplify our voices & raise awareness.

WHEN

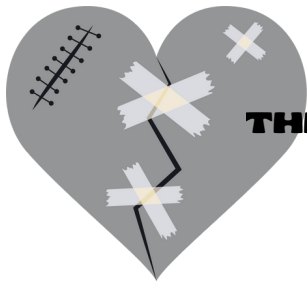
We publish around the 15th of every month.

WHERE

We are based in Edmonton but are for youth from care everywhere.

WHY

Because we can. Our voices have been silent for too long.



THE STRONGEST HEARTS HAVE THE MOST SCARS

*Thank you for
your support.*

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REDRUM MC

WHO'S INSIDE

KEVIN (BOOGS) COLE

A4YC CONFERENCE

ALL STARZ ZINE PROJECT

CREATING HOPE SOCIETY

INNER CITY HIGH

OCYA YOUTH DAY

REDRUM MC

REDSPIRIT WMRC

WE OUT HERE

YOUTH IN CARE CHRONICLES

YOU ARE NOT FORGOTTEN

**HOPE
WILL
NOT BE
CANCELLED**

One way to prevent choking on one's food

I'm going to treat this space like my supper table today, where there is no discussion of politics or religion or anything that makes people angry. It's a good rule when you're eating. Especially when you live in Alberta and the chances of slamming your fist on the table and flipping a full plate of spaghetti over are pretty good.

Let's talk about something helpful like the A4YC Conference.

Let's talk about something outstanding like Inner City High.

Let's talk about something fun like Pride Parade.

Let's talk about something meaningful like Truth & Reconciliation.

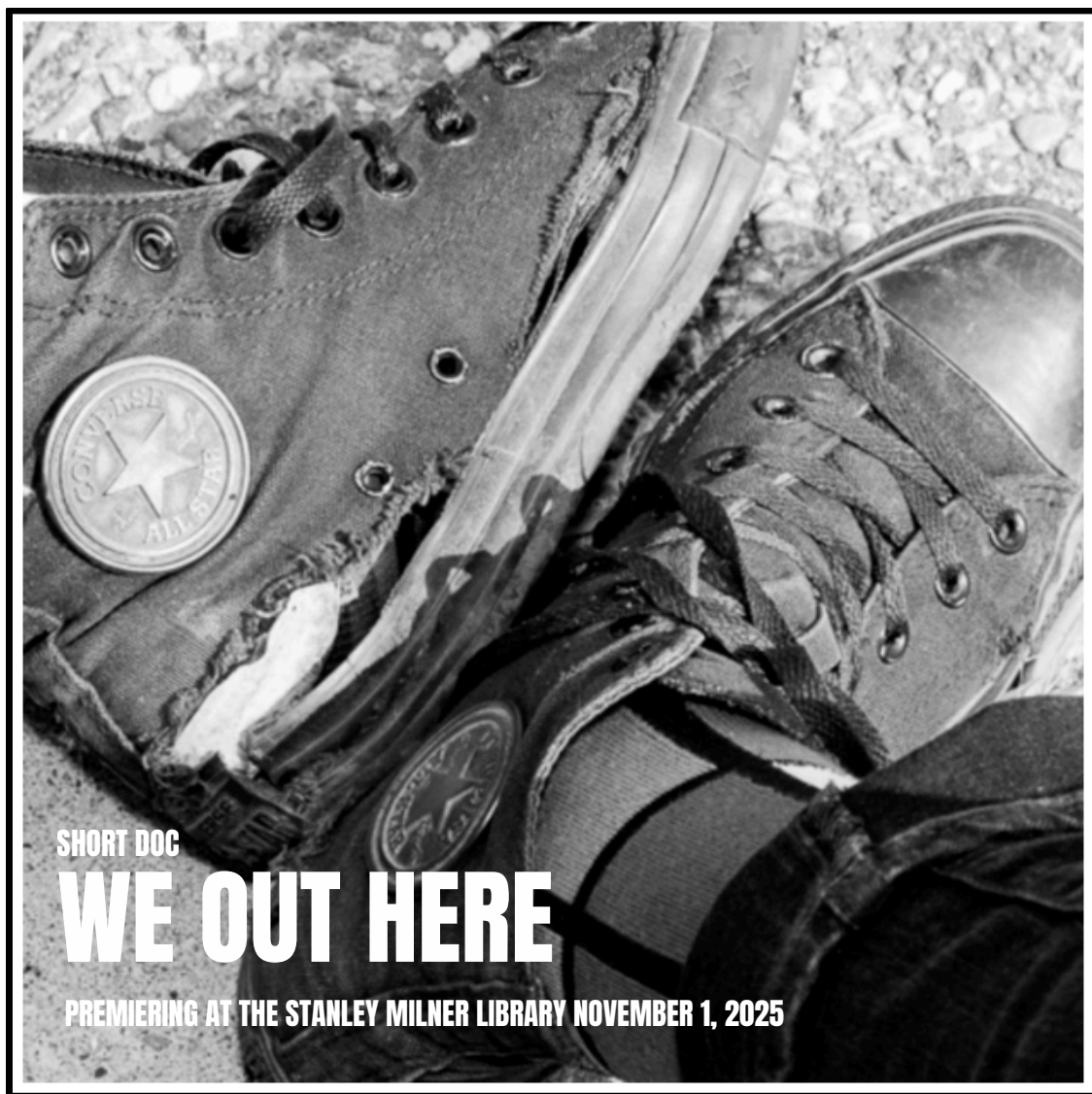
Let's talk about something beautiful like the WE OUT HERE doc.

Let's talk about something to look forward to like Smudge The Blades.

**Let's talk about
anything funny,
wholesome, peaceful,
uplifting, inspiring,
fair, just, nice,
heartwarming,
whimsical,
fantastical,
magical,
and most
of all,
hopeful.**

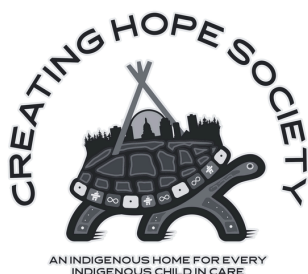
**With love,
Penny Frazier
Editor**





During the months of July - September 2025, we will be mentoring and working with marginalized youth in the City of Edmonton to create a short documentary regarding the harsh realities they face on a daily basis with a specific focus on the challenges they experience pursuing music on a serious note. The documentary will include interviews, clips of live performances and also commentary from established hip-hop artists with lived experience.

This project provides music education to youth in the justice system & storytelling through documentary filmmaking.





A High School That Believes In You.

We are a central Edmonton school that offers in-person accredited classes with extra supports to help 15-19 year old youths succeed.

NO TUITION. NO FEES. FREE HOT LUNCH. CARING, DEDICATED STAFF.

SIGN UP FOR A REMINDER

**Visit our website to sign up for
a text or email reminder about
fall classes.**

THEN COME IN AND REGISTER

for fall classes starting

**August 27
at school.**



**Inner City High School
& Youth Engagement Program**

Tel. (780) 424-9425

www.innercity.ca



This Fall Join A New Circle



at Inner City High School.

Have you heard of Inner City High School? It's an independent accredited senior high school in central Edmonton. For over 30 years, they've offered academic and arts based classes for students aged **15 to 19**. The school helps Edmonton's marginalized **Indigenous and other urban youth** earn a high school diploma.

Inner City offers flexible but structured learning with small class sizes. There's arts, academics, sports and cultural activities.

Students receive individual and small group supports to address their unique needs and to help bridge gaps in their education. All students have direct access to Youth

Engagement staff who help students solve legal, medical and housing issues. Plus, **there's free breakfasts and free hot lunches** provided.

Inner City's graduates are equipped to attend Alberta's colleges and universities or move into the world of work.

INTERESTED?

Fall registration begins **August 27** at the school. All during August, you can sign up as 'interested' on their website (www.innercity.ca) and get a reminder about key dates then come to the school to register.

Questions? Call **780-424-9425** or visit their site www.innercity.ca



YOUR STORY MATTERS TO US

If you are a youth from care please share your story, art, music, culture, thoughts with Zine & HEARD. There are no age or literacy restrictions.

PLEASE CONTACT


@zine_and_heard on INSTAGRAM
Or EMAIL editor@zineandheard.ca

THANK YOU



PERSPECTIVES NEEDED

Drug Data Decoded writer Euan Thomson is working on a new investigation and seeking perspectives of people who have been forced into addiction treatment through the former PChAD system (Protection of Children Abusing Drugs Act) or the new Compassionate Intervention Act. Pseudonyms are accepted and consent can be withdrawn at any time. If interested, please reach out to:
Euan at info@drugdatadecoded.ca.



Zine & HEARD is honoured to feature interviews with Jessica Desmoulin of REDSPIRIT WMRC and Kevin (Boogs) Cole of REDRUM MC about their work in the community and their support of the upcoming Ride To Reconciliation event for Creating Hope Society. We are grateful for the time they took to share their stories with us and for all that their brothers and sisters do here at home and worldwide.

We encourage you to visit
redrummc.com and redspiritwmrc.com
to find out more about their history and mission.



RIDE TO RECONCILIATION

SUPPORTING 

SATURDAY, AUGUST 23, 2025

RIDE

REGISTRATION: 8AM - 10AM
KICKSTANDS UP: 10:30AM
FEE: \$50 (BREAKFAST INCLUDED)
INDIGENOUS MARKET
REGISTER: BLACKJACKSROADHOUSE.COM
TIME: 10AM - 4PM
STALL: \$50 (10X10) / \$75 (10X20)



KIDS CORNER PRIZING 50/50



\$500 CASH PRIZE DAY OF RIDE TO ONE REGISTERED RIDER
DONATED BY LO-COST AUTOMATIC TRANSMISSIONS



MOTORCYCLE RAFFLE WITH CUSTOM PAINT JOB
DONATED BY LOCO GRINGO CUSTOM DESIGNS
\$50/TICKET DRAW HLD WHEN ALL 500 TICKETS SOLD

PRESENTING SPONSOR 

PLATINUM SPONSORS 

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2110 SPARROW DRIVE NISKU, AB



Jessica Desmoulin

**RedSpirit Women's
Motorcycle Riding club**

I love that being a part of RedSpirit has given me the confidence and support to take on things I never would've had the opportunity to do on my own. From being brave enough to ask cooperation's for donations for fundraising to knowing I have support and encouragement to think big and do big things for others in need.

How long have you been a member of RedSpirit WMRC and what drew you to become part of the club?

I've been honoured to be a part of RedSpirit WMRC for about 4 years. I found RedSpirit WMRC after I found Redrum MC. I was a solo rider for about a year and wanted to find other like-minded women riders, and I struggled finding anything locally or finding a group that wasn't some kind of party group as I don't drink or do drugs. I've been sober for over 8 years. So, one day, my husband and I were out getting bike parts and we saw a group of Redrum MC brothers and I noticed right away that the symbol they had on their patches was Indigenous, that the brothers were also all different ethnic backgrounds, all the colours of the medicine wheel, lol.

So I looked them up and was excited to see they had a sister group called RedSpirit WMRC. I reached out and got involved right away. At the time, I was the only RedSpirit in Canada. I was not the first, there was others before me that changed paths, but I was the only one in Canada when I joined. From meeting the brothers and getting to know them and their amazing families and all the amazing good they were doing in the community, I knew I wanted to be a part of it and help the best I could.

What do you love most about being part of RedSpirit?

I love that being a part of RedSpirit has given me the confidence and support to take on things I never would've had the opportunity to do on my own. From being brave enough to ask cooperation's for donations for fundraising to knowing I have support and encouragement to think big and do big things for others in need.

I love that no matter how alone you think you might be, there is always a sister or a brother with their hand out to help.

The sisterhood and brotherhood is worldwide and when you have a brother from Germany seeing what you're doing with others and letting you know that you're doing something amazing it is a truly gratifying experience. That a sister in Oklahoma will send donations and offer help, even though they're so far away. It's rewarding because you know that positive things are being spread worldwide and hopefully it inspires others to keep spreading that positivity. I love that no matter how alone you think you might be, there is always a sister or a brother with their hand out to help.

I also found I learned a lot about my culture and different cultures around the world. I am Biigtigong Anashnabe, Ojibway of the Pic River Nation which is in Thunderbay, Ontario. I am pretty far from my home. I'm what you would call a byproduct of what Residential Schools have done to our Indigenous communities. My grandmother is a residential school survivor, and once her children (my aunts and uncles) started being taken to residential schools, my grandmother moved away from the reserve, as she was scared they would go through what she survived. Which is my first disconnect from my culture. My grandmother was also taught to 'hate the Indian', so my mother was never allowed to be a part of anything to do with our culture, no language, no teachings, no ceremonies. Which caused a lot of rift between my mother and grandmother. Because my mother never was able to connect with her own culture and felt disconnected she decided to leave Thunder Bay and moved west which is another disconnect from my culture. I'd like to add that my grandmother has done a lot of healing since our country has become aware of residential schools, and my mother and grandmother have healed their relationship. My grandmother has even learned her language again and is reconnecting to her culture through much healing, reconciling with what she's been through.

And finally, I grew up in a white environment, my father was white, my family I grew up around was white, and all my mom and dad's friends were white, which means all my friends were white. Not saying I wasn't loved, I was very loved and supported by my family. But that was my final disconnect. I knew nothing about my culture and that was normal. I knew I was different from racism as I grew up, and so I never even identified as Indigenous till I was about 25 years old. I was ashamed, and it was never cool to be Indian as I was growing up.

So, like a lot of Indigenous people struggling with their own identity, I ended up struggling with mental health and addictions. So I turned to art and I started painting as a way to heal and deal with my mental health. I also had high hopes that it would help me reconnect with my culture. I've actually done pretty well as an Indigenous artist in Canada. I have been in the Bearclaw Gallery in Edmonton for about 15 years. I was painting in a way that was indicative to my own heritage and culture. And came to realize later that it was blood memories. That my art style is called Woodland influenced. This helped me be brave enough to finally identify as Indigenous. But I was still finding that I was having trouble reconnecting to my culture. When I became part of RedSpirit WMRC, I had finally attended my first powwow, I had been a part of a naming ceremony, I was a part of round dances, and had the pleasure of hearing many teachings and songs. If it wasn't for the support from RedSpirit WMRC and Redrum MC, I don't know if I would have ever had these amazing experiences and opportunities to participate with my culture. So for this I am so very proud to be Indigenous and thankful for all the brothers and sisters who have been there for me. This is why I love being a part of RedSpirit WMRC and Redrum MC.

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It's hard to wrap our heads around the sheer volume of the charitable work your organizations do in communities all over the world. Is it possible to measure the impact that it has?

It's definitely difficult to measure, as it spreads worldwide. There are brothers and sisters across the world that have impacted their communities. From giving a hot meal to those in need in the cold winters to popsicles and water on hot days, to Xmas dinners and presents for those who fall through the cracks, to major awareness rides for MMIP in Albuquerque New Mexico, to fundraising for amazing organizations such as Creating Hope Society here in Alberta. How can you measure that, really?



L-R Jessica Desmoulin Charity Loubacon Roberta Alook

Do you have any special stories you would like to share from your work in the community?

Every Xmas, the brothers and sisters in our area gather donations for Xmas dinner. We all work together and gather as much as we can for a Xmas dinner feast and presents for children. And then we spend a day and deliver these to homes in need. We don't advertise that it's Redrum or RedSpirit, so my favourite story, is when we dropped off at one home, the family was a fan. They were so happy and excited to see us that one of the family members screamed with excitement, they wanted pictures with us, told us how they follow us on Social Media, and just the overwhelming support they felt from us was just so very special in my heart. And it made us all feel like what we were doing matters.

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How long have you been doing Ride 2 Reconciliation?

We've been a part of the R2R for about 4 years now, we were just asked to help out the first year and then it's just expanded and become bigger and better each year.

How are you connected with Creating Hope Society?

Since being a part of R2R, we've developed and amazing relationships and friendships with CHS. And have been invited to many round dances and events they've either organized or participated in.

How do you feel this event raises awareness around Truth & Reconciliation?

I've been privileged to be able to be a part of the Ride To Reconciliation. This ride helps raise awareness about indigenous issues and also helps an amazing nonprofit organization such as a creating hope society. This event highlights a lot of injustice that has happened to the indigenous community. We have special guests that always come and share their stories. For me this event gives me the opportunity to thank our allies. Being in a motorcycle community, there is a lot of different ethnic backgrounds. And a lot of the people are hearing some of these stories for the first time. They are learning about the Indigenous issues that affect our community. So when I speak to the biker community that shows up for a ride such as this, I thank them for being there, and let them know that they are the voice in some spaces where Indigenous voices are not heard. I thank them for being there and supporting us and remind them to support us when we are not in the spaces that sometimes we need support. The biker community is a pretty tough community in the way that they stand up for injustice, they defend the young, and they stick up for those who need it. And when they come to an event like the Ride To Reconciliation and learn about the Indigenous community, then it gives them more power to be able to be our allies.



L - R Jose Hill Charity Loubacon Roberta Alook Jessica Desmoulin Don Olson Ty Leicht

What can people expect to see and do at the event?

That this event is family friendly and everyone is invited. We will have a space for all, even face painting for children. And adults if that's your thing, lol. Vendors of all kinds, from Indigenous crafters to Harley Davidson gear.

As well as, this year Creating Hope Society has a motorcycle raffle. A one of a kind custom Harley Davidson with an amazing custom paint job, whitewall tires, custom leather seat and so much more. As well as other raffles and amazing prizes. This event only gets bigger every year and all are welcome.



Ride To Reconciliation 2024, Blackjack's Roadhouse, Nisku AB

“REDSPIRIT Women’s Motorcycle Riding Club stands on the foundation of community, motorcycling, positivity, responsibility, fundraising, mutual support, and sisterhood.

As an organization, we are conscious and caring for our families, our environment, and our communities. Our founding principles and values are based on Indigenous principles, but we favour no single race or ethnic group and membership is open to every ethnicity. The race we represent is the great Human Race, all humanity.

The foundation of this club is bringing together and unifying women in a larger collective voice and visibility to create opportunities for women to flourish, not just in motorcycling but in the world at large.”



Please visit redspiritwmrc.com for more information



Kevin (Boogs) Cole

**Secretary, Big River
(Prospective Chapter) Redrum MC**

How long have you been a member of Redrum MC and what drew you to become part of the club?

I've been a part of Redrum MC for 4 years now. Initially what drew me to the club is a shared passion for motorcycles and the related activities, events and "culture" that goes along with that. However, what keeps me in the club is much more than that.

What do you love most about being part of Redrum MC?

The club's values and the focus on the responsibility to yourself, your family your brother and your community. Redrum's values are Indigenous based, which not only guide the operations and functions of the club but also encourages and supports each member to think and act in an honourable and just way.

The journey to become a member of Redrum and the paths that got us here were different for each of my Brothers. We come from all walks of life. Most of us have a past. Some of my Brothers have been involved with gangs as youth and adults. Some of us have struggled with addiction issues and may still do. Others have lived through abuse and neglect and still live with the residual trauma. While other Brothers may not know any of their blood relatives because they were raised in foster or group care, some may have been raised in their first families. I never graduated from High School. I was the first in my family to attend University. I returned to school at age 36 and now have a master's degree in social work. I will tell you what I have told my children. Should you choose to go to school, because that is your path, it does not make you smarter or better than anyone, it may just give you options.

There are many things in life that we may not have control over, like the family you are born into or the things that may happen to us, that we have no responsibility for. All these things we experience, influence us and leave messages engrained in us, they help form our soul and shape who we believe we are, but ultimately, they don't get to define us..... we get to do that. It took me a long time to realize this and with the support of Elders and the mentors I have met along my journey, I realized the one

thing I had control over was that I get to define who I want to try and be.

Everyday I work to try and be the man who I want to be. Some days I'm good at it and some days I'm not. I also get to decide who I call Brother or Sister or Nephew or Niece, or Son or Daughter. We consider each member of Redrum our Brother and each member of RedSpirit our Sister. We have a saying in our chapter "Big River" Family of Choice. What holds us together is our shared values and responsibilities and our commitment to each other. I know that I have the support of my Brothers should I need it. I also know that they will correct me and point me in the right direction should I get lost. Redrum promotes the Indigenous concept of seven generations.

We come from all walks of life. Most of us have a past. Some of my Brothers have been involved with gangs as youth and adults. Some of us have struggled with addiction issues and may still do. Others have lived through abuse and neglect and still live with the residual trauma. While other Brothers may not know any of their blood relatives because they were raised in foster or group care, some may have been raised in their first families.



Supporting our Brothers & Sisters living outside.

When making decisions, consideration needs to be given to how our choices may affect our children, our children's children and so on. Redrum values family. We support each other and we build Brother's up, not tear Brother's down. Family first. We support our communities where we can and when we are asked. Traditionally, members of a community understood their role and responsibility in maintaining the wellness of their community and protecting the collective.

We were never meant to be alone, alone is death. The process of colonization has eroded this fundamental concept, and we continue to see the damage this has done within our communities. Drugs, alcohol, violence, poverty, greed, isolation etc, continue to remain prevalent in communities and poisons not only them, but the families and people living in them. Redrum understand the importance of being "Warriors for the People" and doing whatever we can to rebuild, support and protect our communities. We always strive to resolve conflicts first, but we will fight to protect and to fight for what is righteous and just.

It's hard to wrap our heads around the sheer volume of the charitable work your organizations do in communities all over the world. Is it possible to measure the impact that it has? Do you have any special stories you would like to share from your work?

You never know who is watching you and you might never realize the positive effect you may have on someone and that's OK. I'm not sure how one would measure the positive effects of our work, but I like to think I'm one of the positive effects. Just through my membership, Redrum has helped me be a better man. I have been blessed to have had many positive and heartwarming interactions with people during my travels. The most precious are the unexpected interactions with strangers, whom Redrum has touched in a positive way.

I recently had an Elder, whom I didn't know, ask to give me a hug and to offer thanks to me. She was expressing gratitude for something other Brothers from a Redrum chapter in another city had done. They had just recently rode and supported a community who was in mourning, due to a young girl they had just lost. We have recently had some local communities reach out and request to speak with us to explore how we might support them and their youth initiatives. To us that is success.

**Redrum understands the importance of being
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to resolve conflicts first, but we will fight to protect and to fight
for what is righteous and just.**



BIG RIVER NEW PROSPECTS

L - R Jose, Don, Kevin, Ty, Jayson, Cedar, Jess



**BIG RIVER
CHRISTMAS**

L - R
Ty
Jose
Cedar
Don
Kevin

How do you feel the Ride To Reconciliation event raises awareness around Truth & Reconciliation?

There is still considerable ignorance and misunderstanding, within the general population, as to what Truth and Reconciliation really means. It is difficult to have conversations about Truth and reconciliation, when people still have no understanding of the Indian Act or Treaties in Canada. The average Canadian still does not understand the importance of the Canadian Charter and the included affirmation of Indigenous Rights and what that means. It is our hope that these types of events we sponsor, such as The Ride for Truth and Reconciliation, if nothing else, provide opportunity for engagement, discussion and enlightenment.



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Kevin (Boogs) Cole

**Thanks again to Kevin (Boogs) Cole REDRUM MC & Jessica Desmoulin
REDSPIRIT WMRC for sharing their stoies with us. So appreciated.**



**MOUNT ROBSON PROVINCIAL PARK
JULY 11, 2025**

Teepee built by our fallen brother, Laurent Isadore



Allies For Youth Connections Conference

Save the date

Empowering Hope through Authentic Connections

Conference on Oct 6-7th, 2025

Fantasyland Hotel, West Edmonton Mall

For additional details please visit A4YC.ca

SAVE THE DATES!



A4YC.CA

A4YC CONFERENCE KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Doucet has been working to improve the lives of youth in care for over 15 years, starting in her home province of New Brunswick, and now based in Montreal, Quebec. She is a former youth in care, holds a PhD in Social Work, and is a member of the Centre for Research on Children and Families (CRCF). Her doctoral research, titled Relationships Matter for Youth ‘Aging Out’ of Care, provided a platform for youth from care to develop child welfare research, policy and practice recommendations based on their lived experience expertise. As part of the project, she mounted a successful photo exhibit, which drew the attention of government policy makers and community based organizations. In collaboration with her co-researchers, she compiled an extensive report, which was released in 2018 through the BC Representative for Children and Youth and received national attention. Her efforts have also received high-level acclaim including SSHRC and Pierre Elliott Trudeau Foundation Doctorial scholarships and awards. Dr. Doucet’s research aims to provide a platform for the voice of youth from care in proposing specific recommendations relevant to child welfare policies, programs and intervention strategies targeted to young people in care transitioning to adulthood.

DR. MELANIE DOUCET

Dr. Doucet has been involved in various youth engagement initiatives and child welfare focused organizations in her home province, Quebec, British Columbia, and nationally. As one of the first leaders of the New Brunswick Youth in Care Network (NBYCN), she presented at the first N.B. Youth in Care hearings in the provincial legislature in 2012, and is working with the Department of Social Development on child protection services policy reform efforts. Dr. Doucet is also the co-founder of the Montreal Youth in Care Alumni Student Association (MYCASA), a peer support group for former youth in care pursuing post-secondary education in the Montreal area. She has served as a Board Member for the International Foster Care Organization (IFCO) and C.A.R.E Jeunesse. Prior to relocating to Montreal, Dr. Doucet was a Project Officer for the Government of N.B.’s award winning Integrated Service Delivery (ISD) project for children and youth with emotional, behavioural and mental health issues and was pivotal to its province-wide implementation.

Dr. Doucet is a renowned public speaker on the importance of equitably supporting youth in and from care from a rights-based and humane perspective, and has organized multiple panels with other youth in care alumni in various academic and community settings across the country. She is a passionate mentor to and advocate for youth involved in the child welfare system, and continues to work on child protection policy reform initiatives across the country as part of the National Council of Youth in Care Advocates. In her current role of researcher at the CRCF, Dr. Doucet is currently leading the digital arts-based project titled Youth in Care Matter: Examining the experiences of ‘aging out’ of the child welfare system during the COVID-19 pandemic in collaboration with Director Dr. Delphine Collin-Vézina

A4YC CONFERENCE BREAKOUT SESSIONS

OCTOBER 6th & 7th, 2025

Myths & Mantras: Getting Real in Our Work with Youth

Speaker: Peter Smyth & Heather Peddle - Organization for the Prevention of Violence

Are we truly using trauma-informed, strength-based approaches, or are we unknowingly relying on outdated myths? This session challenges common mantras in youth work—like "we must not work harder than our clients"—and explores whether these beliefs help or harm young people. Prepare for an eye-opening conversation about what actually works in practice.

A Reflection on Connections, Allyship, and Working Together

Speakers: Arlene Eaton-Erickson & Chris Schwab - Social Workers Association of Alberta

What does it take to truly connect with high-risk youth? In this powerful session, a former 'high-risk youth' and their social worker share both sides of their journey—challenges, breakthroughs, and the lessons they learned along the way. Discover how relationship-building, strengths-based practice, and harm reduction can change lives.

Calling for Change

Speaker: Kimberly Spicer - Office of the Child and Youth Advocate, Alberta

After reviewing 48 cases of young people who passed away or were injured while receiving services, what key lessons have emerged? This session explores the urgent need for stronger mental health support, substance use interventions, and post-18 resources. Learn what's being done—and what still needs to change.

Amplifying Voices of Youth from Care

Speaker: Penny Frazier - Zine & HEARD

Youth from care have powerful stories to tell—are we listening? Discover how zines (DIY magazines) help young people express themselves, share their experiences, and heal.

This session explores how art, music, and writing can be transformative tools for self-discovery and advocacy.

No More Pamphlets: Rethinking Life Skills Education

Speaker: Faye Hamilton and Rebecca Stiller

MacEwan University, Community-Engaged Researcher

Traditional ways of teaching life skills—like handing out pamphlets—aren't working. Young people want interactive, real-world learning. This session shares research-backed insights on how youth prefer to develop critical life skills, with a focus on leveraging technology and participatory approaches.

Mentoring Youth and Young Adults Transitioning from Care

Speakers: Al Chapman & Amy Jeske - Big Brothers Big Sisters Alberta

Mentorship can be a game-changer for young people leaving care. This session introduces a specialized mentoring program designed for youth transitioning to adulthood.

Learn about the program's impact, guiding principles, and how to connect young people with mentors who can provide guidance and stability.

Sexual Exploitation – Raising Awareness

Speakers: Crystal Croft & Meghan Duffy

CSS PSECA Community Follow-Up Program, Government of Alberta

How can we protect young people from sexual exploitation? This session explores warning signs, emerging trends, and the role of social media in exploitation. Learn about PSECA legislation, community supports, and how to take action to safeguard vulnerable youth.

Strategies for Building Child and Adolescent Resilience

Strategies for Building Child and Adolescent Resilience

Speaker: Dr. Michael Ungar - Dalhousie University, Resilience Research Centre

What makes some youth thrive despite adversity? Using real-world case studies, this session explores resilience-building strategies for children and adolescents facing trauma, poverty, racism, and systemic challenges. Gain practical tools to support youth in overcoming obstacles.

Pulled Into the Darkness: Supporting Youth Engaging with Extremist Content Online

Speaker: Laura Stolte

Organization: Organization for the Prevention of Violence, Evolve Program

Online extremism is a growing concern—how do we protect youth from being drawn in? This session identifies warning signs, risk factors, and effective intervention strategies.

Learn how to foster critical thinking and digital literacy to prevent young people from engaging with harmful ideologies.

Creating Connections to Promote Wellness and Growth

Speaker: Pamela Thompson - Trauma-Informed Practitioner

What stops young people from making meaningful changes? Explore the hidden barriers—like unmet emotional needs—that prevent youth from thriving. This session offers practical insights and strategies to help youth move past obstacles and develop healthy connections.

Overcoming Trauma: From High-Risk Youth to Foster Parent

Speaker: James Dorsey Organization: Author & Foster Parent

James Dorsey's journey—from foster care and homelessness to mentorship and advocacy — is a testament to resilience. Hear his personal story and learn the relationship-based strategies he uses to support at-risk and high-risk youth today.

Who Am I in Helping High-Risk Students Thrive?

Speaker: Monica Kindle - Youth Advocate & Educator

Do you see the potential in high-risk youth? In this interactive session, Monica shares her personal and professional experiences in overcoming systemic barriers. Gain practical tools to build authentic relationships with youth and inspire meaningful change.

ALLIES 4 YOUTH CONFERENCE 2025

PLEASE VISIT A4YC to REGISTER

a4yc.ca



Call for Youth Artisans

Showcase Your Work at the Allies 4 Youth Conference 2025!

We're excited to invite youth to submit their creative work for the Artisan Shop at our upcoming conference on October 6 & 7, 2025!

This is a fantastic opportunity to showcase your talents and have your work featured for sale during the event.

Whether you're into handmade crafts, artwork, jewelry, or other unique creations, we want to see what you can do. By submitting your work, you'll not only gain exposure, but also have the chance to network with professionals and attendees.

How to Get Involved

- ✓ **Submit your work for a chance to sell at the conference**
- ✓ **Build your portfolio and gain experience as a young artisan**
- ✓ **Be part of a vibrant community of youth creators.**

Don't miss out on the chance to share your craft and connect with others at the Artisan Shop at A4YC!

Send your submission including your craft to a4yccommittee@gmail.com



The Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Help Us Understand Youth Houselessness in Alberta

Have you ever been without a place to live or know someone who has? We would like to hear from you.

Who we're hoping to hear from:

- Youth aged 12–24 who are or were unhoused
- Parents, family, and natural supports
- Service providers
- Adults 25+ with lived experience of houselessness

Share your insights on:

- Preventing youth houselessness
- Supporting unhoused young people
- Helping youth find and keep stable housing

Get involved:

- Take part in a survey
- Share this survey with young people with lived experience

YOUR VOICE MATTERS.

IT CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

TAKE THE SURVEY NOW!

Visit the QR codes below or **ocya.alberta.ca/news** to complete the survey:

Survey for:

- Young people aged 12 to 24 who are currently unhoused or have experienced houselessness in the past.

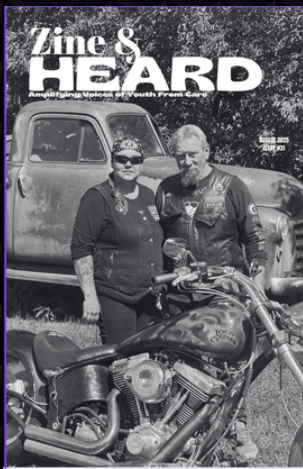


Survey for:

- Parents, family members, and natural supports of youth who are currently unhoused or have been in the past
- Service providers who work with currently or previously unhoused youth
- Adults 25+ with lived experience of youth houselessness



Open until **August 31, 2025.**

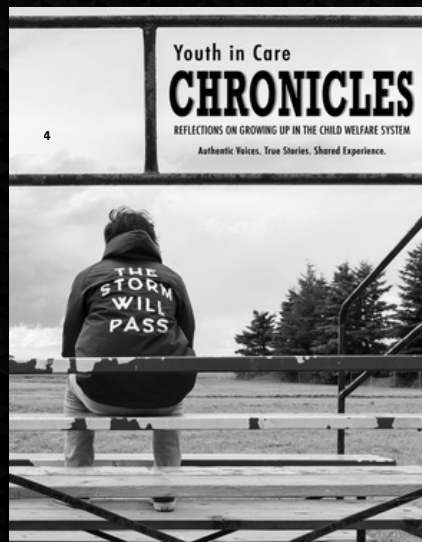


Many thanks to the Friends of Zine & HEARD

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18 former youth in care from
Alberta tell their stories in
YOUTH IN CARE CHRONICLES:
Reflections on Growing Up in the
Child Welfare System

Available at
Amazon
&
Audreys

All proceeds go to fund
projects for youth in care.

DENZEL LOUIS-SMALLBOY



Red Deer, Alta. – Red Deer RCMP are seeking the public's assistance in locating missing 16-year-old Denzel Louis-Smallboy. He was last seen on July 14, 2025 in Red Deer. There is concern for his well-being.

Denzel is described as:

6 feet 2 inches and approximately 155 pounds.

Black hair and brown eyes. Medium complexion.

Last seen wearing a black hoodie, black skinny jeans, black shoes, and a black toque

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of Denzel, please contact Red Deer RCMP at 403-406-2200. If you wish to remain anonymous, you can contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 (TIPS), online at www.P3Tips.com or by using the "P3 Tips" app available through the Apple App or Google Play Store. To report crime online, or for access to RCMP news and information, download the Alberta RCMP app through Apple or Google Play.

SAMUEL BIRD



For Immediate Release: 11-Jul-2025 @ 8:41 AM

MRU #: MP25R028

The Edmonton Police Service (EPS) is seeking the public's assistance in locating a missing 14-year-old male. Samuel Bird, 14, was seen on the evening of June 1, 2025, leaving his residence to visit a friend in the Canora neighbourhood in west Edmonton. He was later reported to be seen leaving the friend's residence on foot, but never returned home. He has not been seen by friends or family since.

The EPS Missing Persons Unit has actively investigated several reports of sightings of Samuel since his disappearance, but these have not been confirmed.

Samuel is described as a 14-year-old male who is 5'8" with a slim build. He has brown hair and brown eyes. He is known to frequent West Edmonton Mall and is familiar with both west and south Edmonton. The length of Samuel's disappearance is out of character, and he has no phone or access to money. As such, police and family are concerned for his wellbeing. Anyone with information about Samuel Bird's whereabouts is asked to contact the EPS at 780-423-

4567 or #377 from a mobile phone. Anonymous information can also be submitted to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.p3tips.com/250.

You are not forgotten.



*You
are
not
forgotten.*

A very high percentage of missing & murdered Indigenous women & girls, men & boys & Two-Spirit persons spent time in the child welfare system.

**ALL STARZ
ZINE PROJECT**
CREATING HOPE SOCIETY



Creating Hope Society, Zine & HEARD and All Starz Zine Project
extend their gratitude to the brave young men
who shared their writing & music with us.
It was a privilege to spend time with you.
Your words will bring others hope.

