Inglewood Community League
Annual Report
24 October 2026

BOARD MEMBERS

President (interim) Joelene (Joe) Mackey

This has been a difficult and defining year for the Inglewood Community League. Following the resignation of the President, I stepped into the role of Interim President in March. I did so with the knowledge that the Board was carrying far more than its usual load, and knowing that the community needed steady hands and clear communication while the League worked through the financial loss and its aftermath.

My focus since March has been simple to state and harder to do: keep the team together, make sure every Board member is heard, and ensure that we, as a Board, remain open and transparent with the community we serve. Alongside that, I have taken on the work of fundraising and of building relationships with local businesses and the Business Improvement Areas around us, so the League can rebuild on a stronger footing.

Keeping the Board Together

A board under this kind of strain can fracture quickly. My first priority was to make sure that did not happen here. I worked to keep meetings regular, respectful, and productive, to ensure that every Board member had a voice in the decisions we faced, and to share the weight of the work so that no one person carried it alone.

The response to the financial loss demanded expertise and hours well beyond what any volunteer board expects to give. I am grateful to Morgan Smith, our Interim Vice-President, for taking on the coordination of that response. JoAnne Burek carried three roles this year: as our bookkeeper, working closely with the forensic auditor; as Interim Treasurer, introducing the new accounting controls that will protect the League going forward; and as our Interim Communications Director, producing the monthly newsletter that kept members informed. I am also grateful to Leslie Stewart for streamlining our hall booking procedures, many of which were outdated or did not exist at all. Her work made it possible for the league to hire a Hall Booking Coordinator and put that work on a proper footing. I also want to recognize Lynne Moulton, our Secretary and the only member of the previous executive to remain. Her skill, experience, and steady hard work kept us on track, and the continuity she provided saved this Board a great deal of backtracking. My own role was to support that work, keep the Executive aligned on strategy, and make sure the rest of the League's business did not stall while it was underway.

Transparency with the Community

Trust is rebuilt in the open or not at all. From the outset, the Board agreed that our members deserved a full and honest account of what had happened, what we knew, and what we were doing about it, within the limits set by the ongoing legal and investigative processes.

We held a Special General Meeting in May to present the findings on the financial loss and to answer questions directly. Beyond that meeting, I have tried to make openness the Board's default: communicating decisions as they are made, explaining the reasons behind them, and being candid about what we do not yet know. Members should never have to wonder what their Board is doing on their behalf.

Fundraising and Community Partnerships

With the League's finances under pressure, fundraising and partnership-building became a central part of my work this year. I have focused on connecting the League with local businesses and with the Business Improvement Areas in and around our neighbourhood, building relationships that bring in support now and lay the groundwork for ongoing collaboration.

Norwood Dental has been our biggest supporter by far, sponsoring the Community BBQ in August, Community League Day in September, and the upcoming Fun Casino Fundraiser. I am also grateful to Worry Free Plumbing & Heating and Leading Wealth Management for their cash donations toward the casino event, alongside personal contributions from JoAnne Burek and myself, and I thank every business that has contributed goods, services, or prizes to our events. These partnerships matter well beyond the dollars involved. They signal to our members that Inglewood is a community worth investing in, and they give the League a wider circle of allies as we rebuild.

Fun Casino Fundraiser

The largest single effort of the year is the Fun Casino Fundraiser, which takes place this evening, October 24. It is designed to do two things at once: raise the funds the League needs to stabilize its operations, and give the wider Edmonton community a reason to rally behind a small neighbourhood league that has had a hard year.

Planning the event has meant securing sponsors, cash donations, and prizes from local businesses, coordinating with our marketing partner, Black Box Media, on promotion, and organizing the volunteers who make an evening like this run. Holding it on the same day as the AGM lets us bring members together in the afternoon and open our doors to friends and neighbours in the evening.

The funds raised will go directly toward keeping our programs and our hall serving the community, and I hope to see many of you there tonight.

Looking Ahead

The League is not yet where it needs to be, but it is on firmer ground than it was in March. The incoming Board will inherit three clear priorities: supporting the continued effort to recover the missing funds, seeing the new financial controls fully in place, and turning this year's partnerships into lasting relationships that sustain our programs.

Just as important is the work of rebuilding community. That means growing our volunteer base, bringing more members to our events and our meetings, and giving residents of Inglewood every reason to feel that this League is theirs. A board can steady a community league through a crisis, but only an engaged membership can make it thrive.

With Thanks

I want to thank the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues for their guidance, help and support through this year. We worked diligently with the EFCL to restore our relationship and trust. And I want to specifically thank EFCLs Sandra Johnston, for her coaching and wisdom.

I am deeply grateful to my fellow Board members, who gave far more of their time and energy than anyone could reasonably ask; to our volunteers, who showed up again and again; and to our sponsors and community partners, who chose to stand with us. A great deal of this year's work happened quietly and out of view, and I do not take any of it for granted.

This year tested the Inglewood Community League. It also showed what this community is made of. It has been a privilege to serve as your Interim President, and I look forward to seeing what this community builds in the year ahead.

Vice-President (interim) Morgan Smith

It has been a particularly challenging year for the Inglewood Community League. The resignation of the President and subsequent suspension of the Treasurer placed significant demands on the remaining Board members, who stepped up to ensure the League continued to operate and serve the community.

The discovery of a significant financial loss added considerable complexity, requiring the Board to address matters well beyond its usual responsibilities while maintaining day-to-day operations.

To ensure continuity and oversight, the Board assigned me overall responsibility for coordinating the League's response to the financial loss. This has required a substantial commitment of time and effort to understand the circumstances, safeguard remaining resources, coordinate with the professionals and organizations involved, and pursue avenues for recovery.

With the Board's support, my responsibilities included identifying and retaining legal and forensic accounting expertise; coordinating with financial institutions and insurance brokers; and working with lawyers, auditors, police, detectives, and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL). Alongside other Board members, I gathered, reviewed, and organized League documentation for the civil action, facilitated meetings and discussions, and worked with the Executive Board to assess available information, determine an appropriate strategy, and establish a path toward recovering the missing funds.

I also helped prepare and present information at the special community meeting regarding the financial loss. The Board recognized the importance of providing the community with an open and comprehensive explanation of the findings, while respecting the limitations imposed by ongoing legal and investigative processes.

Despite these challenges, the League continued to advance important operational and community initiatives. I completed the League's fire safety plan and developed the hall's emergency response plan, which is posted at the main entrance and beside the second-floor kitchen. I also assisted with planning and participating in the August Community League BBQ and September Community League Day, and supported the planning and promotion of the League's casino fundraiser.

A Hall Booking Coordinator was hired to manage bookings and establish a more consistent revenue stream to support League programs and operations. I assumed temporary oversight of this new paid position to help ensure hall rentals contribute to the League's financial sustainability.

As part of the new accounting measures being introduced by the Treasurer to reduce the risk of future financial mismanagement, I participated in the financial review and oversight of the League's 2026 financial statements presented by the Treasurer. This past year has reinforced the importance of strong financial controls, accountability, transparency, and appropriate Board oversight.

Considerable work remains. My priorities are to continue supporting efforts to recover the missing funds, rebuild financial stability, and sustain community programs and events. Increasing our volunteer pool, strengthening relationships with community partners, and encouraging greater member engagement will also be essential to the League's future.

I extend my sincere thanks to the Board, our volunteers, community partners, and everyone who has continued to support the Inglewood Community League throughout this difficult year. Much work has taken place behind the scenes, often unseen by the broader community, and I greatly appreciate the time, expertise, and commitment of everyone who has contributed.

While this year has presented significant challenges, it has also demonstrated the importance of community, accountability, and dedicated volunteers willing to step forward when needed.

Treasurer (interim) JoAnne Burek

I took over as bookkeeper on February 11. At the outset there were three priorities – to produce a clean set of books for moving forward, gather information for the forensic audit, and improve business controls and record keeping.

Business controls and processes

The new accounting books were populated from the bank transactions from September 1, 2024 to the present. It was important to capture the full prior fiscal year, so that we would have a previous year to compare to for the financial statements presented today.

I also established a filing system in our Google shared drive so that all the receipts are captured and organized for complete transparency and to ensure we are always audit-ready.

In March I was appointed treasurer and we implemented a procedure to have the monthly financial statements be reviewed by another board member before the board meeting. A big thank you to Lee Ann Pedersen, and then Ella Mayer for stepping up to do this task.

Financial services changes

Our banking is with ATB. There we strengthened the access controls so that even administrative changes to the account require a second approver. That closed a big hole that had enabled the misappropriation.

We converted all the existing financial services providers to new ones. This includes Stripe for credit card processing, Float Financial for prepaid credit card, and Zoho Books for invoicing. Each service is set up with multiple administrators to prevent the incidence of losing access

when someone leaves. We are also in the process of capturing and storing all the account login information for an in-case-of-emergency-break-glass situation.

Payroll

In August we hired a booking coordinator as an employee. The League now has a business number and a payroll account with CRA. We remit payroll deductions quarterly.

Grants and Fundraising

This year we received $12,000 from the EFCL Community League Operating Grant (CLOG). This is the minimum allotted, as the grant application that was submitted for it was deeply flawed. The next CLOG application is due at the end of November.

We raised funds to cover our legal fees in a number of ways. Through GoFundMe we collected $850 as of October 9. Our hotdog sales at our August 16 barbecue and the September 19 Community Day event raised $462, and we received another $244 from direct donations. As of October 9, we raised $1,556. Our legal expenses incurred so far is $12,122.

We are extremely grateful to Norwood Dental Centre for sponsoring our August 16 and September 19 barbecues. Their generosity went a long way to making the event possible. The hall cleaning company, 7 Solutions Cleaning, has also been very generous in their support.

Thank you to all the volunteers and especially our auditors for their help and for making my time as bookkeeper and treasurer so gratifying.

Secretary Lynne Moulton

The League Secretary role is primarily to maintain league records, meeting organization and document management, communicating with groups the league works with like the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, along with general inquiries. Annual processing and submission of government documents such as bylaws and change in board membership.

This year roles on the board overlapped in order to ensure the continued running of the league. This opened up opportunity to be engaged with other aspects of the league business.

Secured our current commercial cleaning company, 7 Solutions Cleaning Ltd. in October 2025. This has proven to be a very successful relationship. 7 Solutions Cleaning now communicates with the Director of Facilities and the Booking Coordinator after each cleaning to inform as to any cleaning issues, furniture or equipment issues.

Lead the negotiations with representatives of Muttstock last December with the intent for the annual Muttstock 2026 being held at our league in July. By March Muttstock withdrew from the discussions noting this was due to their financial concerns.

Coordinated with Crossroads Business Improvement Area and the company they employee for November 2025 *Light Up the Night* event. The Inglewood League Hall was a pivotal location as the horses and wagons were staged from the parking lot. The actors (Santa Claus, Grinch, Frozen Princess, the holla hood princess and the musical acts) the wagon and horse team staff and the North Edmonton Dental Centre staff utilized the loft space for costume changes, refreshments and warming up. Volunteers from the community and the board supported and supervised the light refreshments and staged in the main hall.

Fulfilled being the contact for the City of Edmonton annual Green Shack Program (29 June to 21 August) being held in the park space adjacent to the league hall. A successful summer program despite the soggy July.

With the revision to the security and management of league finances, I took up the role as one of the signing officers. In order to fulfill this role, the Treasurer requires everyone involved with league finances is to have a criminal record check with Edmonton Police Services.

Director of Membership Andrew McGregor

The membership registration system was moved from Communibee back to Communal for the 2026/2027 membership year. This was done to streamline operations by not having two systems to manage. This new membership year is also the first year that Inglewood Community League has charged a member fee.

At the end of the 2025/2026 membership year, we had 227 memberships.

For the 2026/2027 membership year which starts on August 1st 2026 we have set our membership fee at $20 per family. As of October 1st 2026, we have 70 members signed up.

Volunteer Co-ordinator – interim Andrew McGregor

When Clayton Salkeld left the position to fight forest fires in Alberta, I took over this role

Director of Facilities Darren Ryan

Given the current financial situation there were no major projects undertaken during this membership year.

Thereby the focus has been on facility maintenance along with addressing issues identified in the EFCL Building Condition Assessment + Site Amenities Inventory that was conducted by Senaltek Architecture Planning + Design Ltd in August 2025. Specific areas addressed were –

- Replacement of all fire extinguishers
- All the emergency lights in the hall have been inspected and lights replaced as needed
- A revised Evacuation plan – this has been approved by the Edmonton Fire Rescue Service and posted in all areas of the hall
- Replacement of the main floor hot water heater
- In progress is signage for a Muster point and Fire Lane in the parking lot
- Kitchen useability / revitalization – the stove / oven has been inspected; minor repairs to cabinet doors. Other specific work is in progress
- Managing keys for the various spaces in the hall. This is of particular issue as we have various keys that are assigned to board members, and in the hands of renters, so tracking of same is a security concern
- Electrical outlet covers replaced

Our hall cleaning company 7 Solutions Cleaning Ltd. have consistently provided a high standard of cleaning since commencing with us last October. After each cleaning session they submit an

email report on any deficits, damage noted, suggestions for equipment or furniture repair or replacement and updates on hygiene supplies required. Although they are a contracted service, 7 Solutions has proven to be a valued member of our Facility team.

We are also fortunate as the Tai Chi group (in the hall Tuesday and Thursday mornings) have been our *canary in a coal mine,* alerting us to the recent temperature fluctuations (hence the furnace motherboard replacement).

Along with the monthly checking of the hall systems and security the following maintenance and repairs have also been completed -

- The main hall furnace motherboard was recently replaced
- The solar panels and their control board had been reviewed
- Seasonal changes from summer to fall thermostat controls have been reviewed and tweaked
- Led lightbulb replacements as required
- Door stop hardware has been replaced
- Securing access to the league safe (skilful sleuthing)
- A major clean out of the facility gutters
- Evacuation of a bird (deceased) and nest from the kitchen ventilation system, with new mesh coverings
- Garden Club area fencing (seasonal) and grounds maintenance

Director of Communications (interim) JoAnne Burek

The Communications Director is responsible for managing the website content and social media, and the production and distribution of the newsletter. I was appointed to this role in December 2025.

Newsletter

Our email newsletter comes out within a few days of the beginning of each month, 12 months a year. My intent with the newsletter has been to produce something that people look forward to receiving in their inbox. That means a newsletter chockful of useful or interesting information that's also easy to read or scan.

The newsletter currently has 700 subscribers, which is about 30% of the households in Inglewood. In August we introduced paid advertising, limiting the advertising space to just two ads per issue, and a size that looks good on a phone. We have sold 3 ads so far.

Website

We lost access to the website around the time that we removed our former treasurer. Fortunately, we managed to recover a lot of content from the Internet Archive. So, we created a new WordPress website. If you go to the home page, you'll see that we're calling it a "temporary" website. The next iteration, which is underway, will have a more user-friendly design, be easier to update and support, and contain more useful content, including a Hall Rental FAQ.

Social Media

Our social media is on Facebook and Instagram. I want to give a big thank-you to Maria Belle for keeping on top of our social media for us.

Director of Programs & Events Leslie Stewart

Overview

The 2025–2026 year was an exciting one for programming and community engagement at Inglewood Community League.

Since joining the board as Director of Programs & Events in October 2025, my focus has been on creating more ways for neighbours to connect, offering accessible programs, and improving the systems behind our events and hall.

My goal has been to build a calendar with something for every age, interest, and stage of life, while keeping our events welcoming, community-focused, and financially responsible.

Year at a Glance

- **[5]** community events hosted
- **[4]** weekly summer programs launched
- **[433]** total attendees across events and programs
- **[68]** volunteers involved
- **[1]** local sponsor (Norwood Dental Centre)
- **[5]** Community partners & program facilitators
- **[11]** catering, supply and service vendors

Community Events

Winter Blues Breaker (March 14)

A cozy, beach-inspired evening to shake off the winter blues. We transformed the hall into a warm coastal hangout with live music, activities, and good company. We welcomed **30 adult participants from 18 households** (including 11 member households), supported by **8 event volunteers**. Live music was provided by **Benjamin Williams**, and **Pebre & Co.** kept everyone fed with empanadas.

Inglewood Mother's Day Brunch (May 9)

A special Mother's Day celebration for moms, grandmas, caregivers, and mentors in our community, featuring gentle yoga & grounding sound bath session led by Isabel Fry from BreatheYEG, followed by an elegant high tea-style brunch catered by **Duchess Bake Shop**, **Dutch Delicious**, and the **Italian Centre Shop**. Kids and partners enjoyed a custom Mother's Day craft upstairs during the wellness session. **39 total participants** attended (29 adults and 10 children across 14 RSVPs), supported by **14 volunteers** and special on-site sponsorship and gifts from **Norwood Dental Centre**.

Clothing Swap (June 13-14)

A volunteer-led, two-day sustainable clothing swap where neighbours brought gently used clothing and items to trade. The event drew **43+ participants** and diverted approximately 400 donated items from landfills, backed by **4 volunteers** contributing 21 volunteer hours. Leftover clothing was donated to local community partner organizations, including Jasper Place Wellness, the Pride Centre, and Goodwill.

Community BBQ (August 16)

A summer community BBQ at the hall featuring hot dogs, chips, freezies, and family activities. The event operated on a pay-what-you-will donation model to keep it accessible for all neighbours, drawing **88 attendees** and supported on-site by **9 volunteers**. The event was generously sponsored by **Norwood Dental Centre**, which contributed $1,200 in financial sponsorship.

Community League Day (September 19)

Our biggest event of the year, drawing an **attendance of 77 neighbours** with free admission and something for every age. The day featured a community BBQ, a wellness station hosted by **Nurse2Go**, face painting, a balloon artist, carnival games rented from the **EFCL**, and a popular toy swap organized by neighbour Michelle Neilson, with unclaimed items donated to local organizations. The day was made possible by **11 volunteers** contributing 66 total hours and was proudly sponsored by **Norwood Dental Centre**.

Perennial & Seed Exchange (October 4)

Hosted by the Inglewood Garden Club, this cozy fall swap invited neighbours to bring seeds and perennials to trade while connecting with fellow local gardeners. Open to Inglewood and surrounding neighbourhoods, **11 attendees** participated, with 2027 Community Garden plots available for reservation. The event was made possible by **4 volunteers**.

Summer Program Series

This summer we built our first ever Summer Program Series from scratch, giving neighbours regular, low-pressure ways to connect each week.

- **ICL Run Club:** Tuesday evenings along a 3.5K neighbourhood loop across **12 sessions**, bringing out **30 unique runners** and keeping participants refreshed with cold popsicles supplied by **Loblaws City Market**.
- **Inglewood Tennis League:** Monday evenings at Coronation Park (reserved through the City of Edmonton's MoveLearnPlay program) in a fun round-robin format. The league ran across **6 weekly sessions** averaging 4 to 6 players per session and kicked off with treats supplied by **Duchess Bake Shop**.
- **Inglewood Craft Drop-In:** Tuesday afternoons at the hall, running across **10 sessions** with **15 participants** bringing their own creative projects to work on alongside neighbours.

- **Inglewood Garden Club:** Launched July 16 on Thursday afternoons across **3 regular sessions**, drawing **14 active participants**. The series kicked off with a composting and soil education workshop facilitated by **Waste Free YEG**. We partnered with the City of Edmonton's Partners in Parks program, with volunteer co-leads Gloria and Larica leading park beautification efforts at Winnifred Stewart Park.

All programs shared a consistent look across our newsletter and social media so neighbours could easily recognize ICL programming.

Membership & Community Feedback

Recognizing that successful programming starts with understanding what residents actually want, we prioritized gathering direct community feedback and embedding intentional membership engagement across all our initiatives:

- **Community Programming Survey:** Designed and distributed a comprehensive community survey that gathered **123 verified resident responses**, yielding valuable insight into neighbourhood interests, schedules, and priorities.
- **Data-Driven Program Planning:** Analyzed survey results to identify key activity preferences such as a strong demand for arts & culture (76.4%), social gatherings (72.3%), and environmental initiatives (66.7%). This helped guide decisions for current offerings and laid the groundwork for future events and program series.
- **Member-Focused Value & Benefits:** Shifted toward a membership-first strategy focused on increasing accessibility, enhancing member perks, and fostering stronger long-term connection with the league.

Behind the Scenes

- **Hall Bookings & Operations:** Stepped in as interim Booking Coordinator in January and managed hall bookings for **7 months**, building an automated system to streamline availability checks and renter inquiries. Drafted the job description and operating documentation to help the board establish a permanent paid Booking Coordinator position, and fully cross-trained Holly to take over the role in August.
- **Communications & Outreach:** Wrote and distributed all social media campaigns, print flyers, and direct volunteer/speaker outreach across all events and program series throughout the season.
- **Board & Organizational Development:** Proposed the creation of a new Director of Grants and Funding board position to establish dedicated grant-writing capacity, expand external funding streams, and support future league initiatives.

Thank You

None of this happens without people. A huge thank you to our incredible volunteers, my fellow board members, Garden Club co-leads Gloria and Larica, Michelle Neilson for organizing the toy swap, Holly, and all our valued partners, vendors, and facilitators:

- **Sponsor:** Norwood Dental Centre
- **Community Partners & Facilitators:** Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL), City of Edmonton / MoveLearnPlay, Waste Free YEG, Isabel Fry, and Nurse2Go
- **Vendors & Caterers:** Pebre & Co., Benjamin Williams, Duchess Bake Shop, Dutch Delicious, Italian Centre Shop, Magic Pixie Entertainment, 7 Solutions Cleaning, Staples, Canadian Tire, Etsy.

Thank you for your generosity, energy, and dedication to strengthening our Inglewood community.

Looking Ahead

- **Fun Casino Night Fundraiser:** Hosting a fun casino night at the hall on Saturday, October 24, complete with games, prizes, silent auction, and a catered dinner to raise essential funds for community programs and hall initiatives.
- **Cozy Coffee Social:** A new monthly drop-in coffee morning at the hall on the second Saturday of each month. Neighbours can pop in for a coffee, and get to know each other in a relaxed, cozy setting. Each session will feature a special local guest, such as a local business owner, a police or fire community liaison, a local historian, or a librarian. keeping it welcoming and politically neutral.
- **Seasonal events:** Christmas events are in the works.
- **Garden Club:** Returning in the spring with monthly drop-in sessions through the summer, led by the garden leads and committee to drive neighbourhood greening projects.

I'm excited to keep building on this momentum next year. If you have an idea for an event or program, or want to help make one happen, reach out to programs-director@inglewoodcl.com.

Director At-Large Jenna Crispin

This year, my work as Director at Large focused primarily on supporting the Community Garden Coordinator.

With encouragement of the Board, I drafted a Board Code of Conduct to establish clear expectations for respectful conduct, communication and accountability among board members.

The Garden Coordinator has continued to lead the garden's day-to-day operations and has a strong understanding of what is working and where challenges are arising. My role has been to support her in navigating differing opinions among plot holders and considering how garden decisions affect the broader group.

A survey was distributed asking gardeners what the League should start, stop and continue doing. This will help ensure that future decisions consider feedback from the garden community as a whole, rather than being shaped by only the most vocal participants.

The League also took advantage of the Edmonton Federation Community League's seed-sharing kit offer. Feedback from gardeners will help determine whether this was useful and whether similar opportunities should be pursued in the future.

One suggestion raised this year was installing fencing around the garden to restrict access. Fencing does not appear to be a widely adopted practice among Edmonton community gardens, particularly as a temporary measure. Before committing to the project and its associated cost, the survey feedback should be reviewed to determine whether gardeners broadly support it and whether there is a clearly identified need.

If disagreements or conduct concerns continue, the League could consider a garden-specific Code of Conduct. This should be led by the gardeners, with support from the Garden Coordinator and the Board, so that expectations reflect how the group wants its shared space to operate.

Director At-Large Ella Mayer

Inglewood Community League's interim Treasurer, JoAnne Burek, has done an incredible job implementing a fully transparent accounting process for revenue and expenses for the league. Full financial statements are prepared monthly, submitted to a designated board member for cross review and then presented monthly to the Board. As of March, I picked up this role when the previous designated board member withdrew from the Board.