

Edmonton Stories

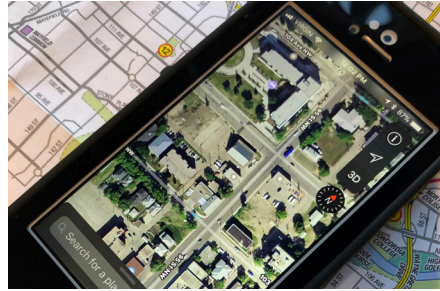
- NOVEMBER 30TH - DECEMBER 14TH 2017 -

Howdy! During these 2 weeks we've been busy collecting stories of Edmontonians living "rough." We've been in and out of shelters, food lines, outreach teams, libraries, McDonalds, and mini-marts. We do this to get a grounded understanding of the every day realities of Edmontonians using services, and those who don't.

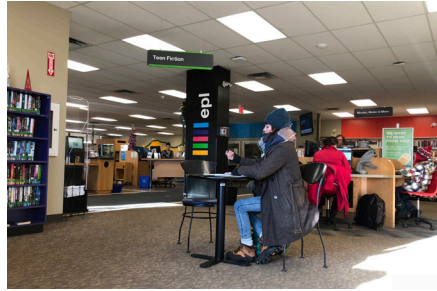
Why are we collecting stories? We do this to learn what's working, and what's not from the perspective of people spending time in these places. We believe this *thick data* offers important intelligence for developing new systems, services and supports that don't just help people to survive, but enable people to thrive.



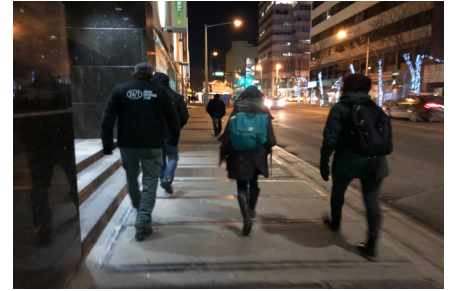
8:30am Thursday: Introducing ourselves to staff at an agency and getting a tour.



12:30pm Thursday: Meeting REACH team and learning about places to go and who to meet.



1:00pm Thursday: seeking out the "unusual suspects" who prefer informal supports via the library.



6:30pm Friday: meeting folks on the streets with the 24/7 Crisis Diversion team.



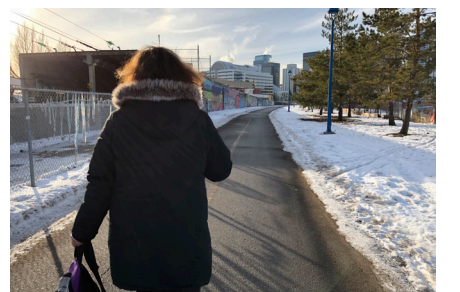
9am Saturday: Recruitment Pop Up Sock Consultancy "let us match you with the perfect pair of socks."



8pm Saturday: meeting people like Dougie, and going with them to their favourite hang outs like McDonalds.



5pm Sunday: joining the evening meal at Hope Mission, the local shelter.



11am Monday: shadowing Clare as she buys cigarettes, gets mail, collects belongings from her ex.



8pm Monday: stopping by the Mustard Seed at closing time to see where people go when drop-ins close.

Contemplating change

"I've always taken little steps but now they're just absolutely tiny. Whenever I can, I do the step that I can do. But it doesn't really help. My inner functional level isn't helped."

"I came here to get away from everything, to try something. This is the furthest I've ever been. My older brother kept talking about Edmonton, so here I am. But I've been here 6 weeks and nothing is happening. I want to get out there. I want to get going."

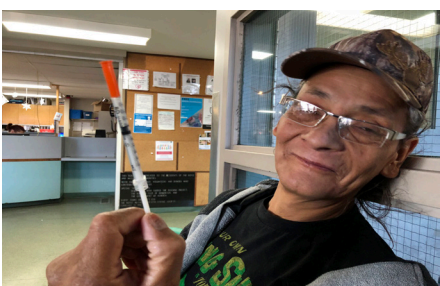
"In my head I'm really an artist, a musician. If I can get to that place again then I will be fine."



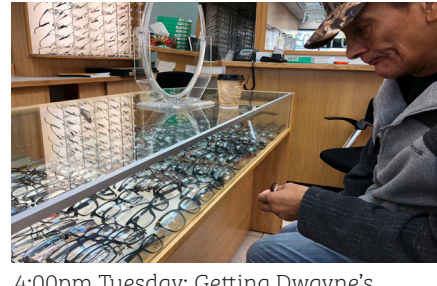
10pm Monday: joining Jen and friends for coffee at the mini mart, a favourite informal hangout.



11:30pm Monday: hearing why Sammy, the mini mart owner, is so welcoming to Jen and others.



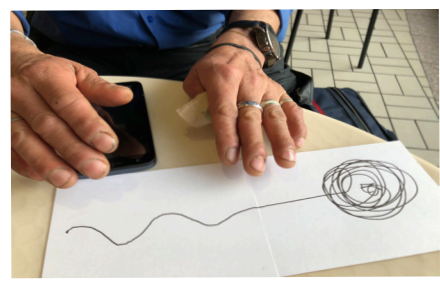
10:30am Tuesday: accompanying Dwayne as he goes to a doctors visit, visits the bank, pays rent.



4:00pm Tuesday: Getting Dwayne's broken glasses repaired - just checking things off the list.



8:00pm Tuesday: invited by our new friend, Jen, to join Karaoke night at the Mustard Seed.



7am Wednesday: meeting Matt and Sean at the temp jobs centre. Speaking to those who don't get work today.



11am Wednesday: accompanying Al to the bottle depot to find a new cart for all his bags.



9am Thursday: using tools to learn about Brandon's motivations, outcomes, and what's "helpful help."



11am Thursday: Accompanying Brandon to a continuing education centre for info on working the pipelines.



7am Friday: Out with an outreach team to meet the less usual suspects - people like Shannon living in camps down at the river valley.

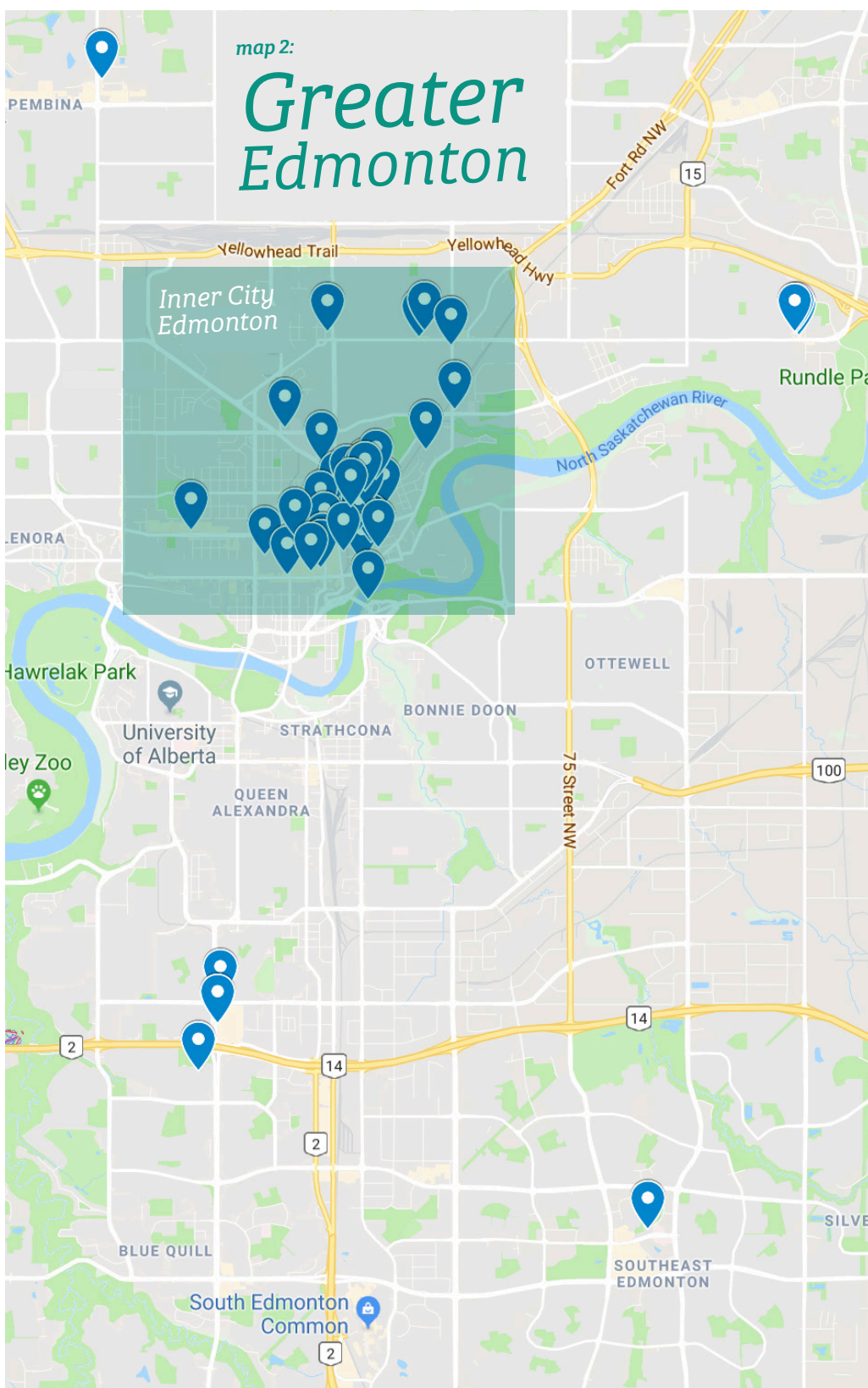
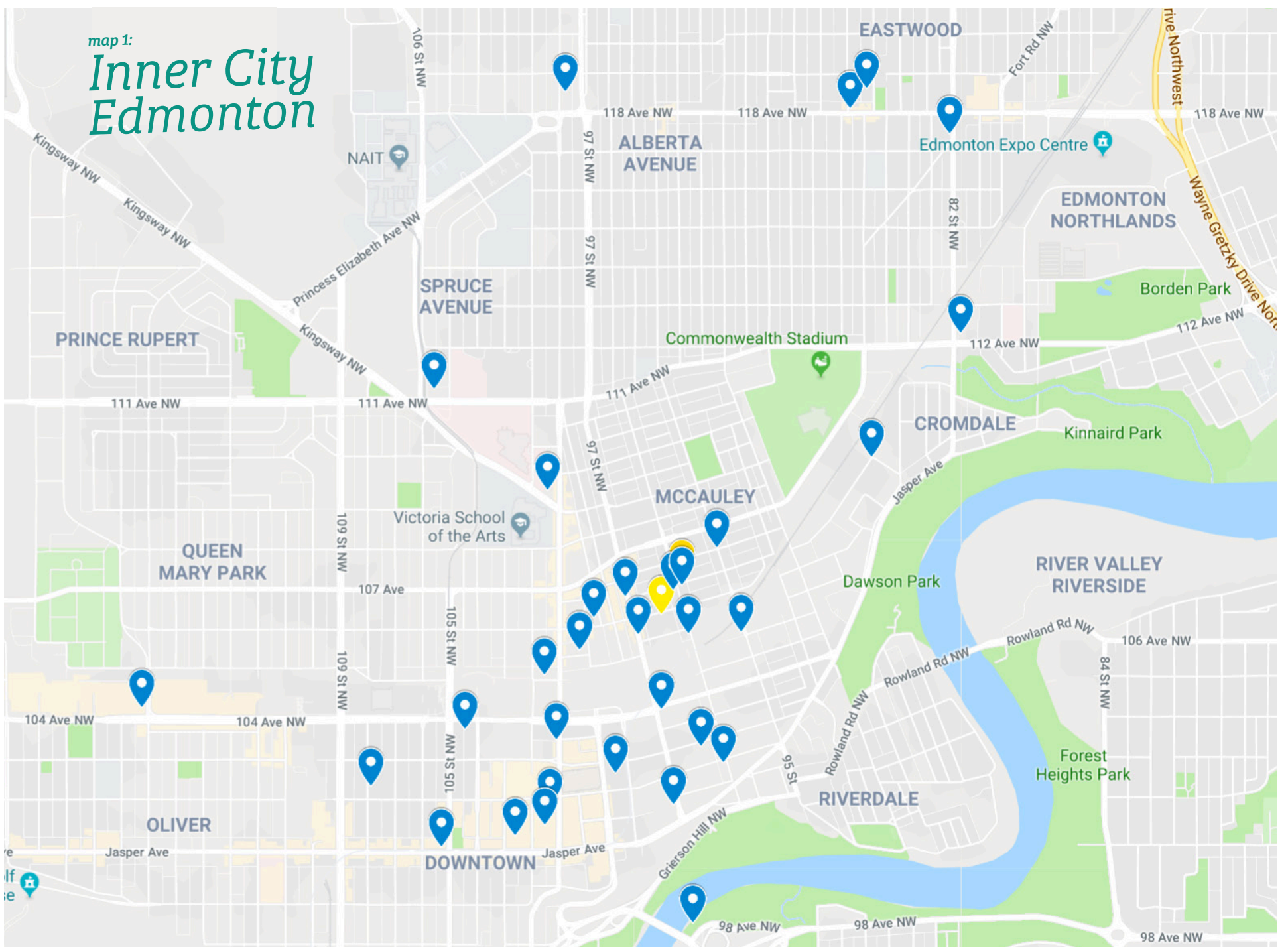
Early themes & opportunities

Large segment new to the streets, and new to downtown. How might services serve as a broker out of downtown?

Grief, loss, and shift in relationship status often the precursor to street life. What might a different response to grief and loss look like?

Shame preventing mobilization of existing social networks. New networks form fast on the street - how might services enable that?

"I moved to Edmonton in 1992. I was supposed to go to school. If I'd stuck to the plan, everything would have worked out. I spent the money that was supposed to last a year in a few months. Spent it all. I would just do some of the regular drugs but wouldn't get too high. But then with my last \$20, a guy took me to the shooting galleries, that was what these houses were called back then. They'd give you 10 units of cocaine in a syringe. I'd never injected before. I mainlined it, and I've never been the same since."



We've met people in over 50 places, around downtown and further away.

- Tim Hortons
- Salvation Army Men's Shelter
- Canada Place
- NorQuest College
- Quasar Bottle Depot
- Southgate Transit Centre
- McDonalds 10520 111 Ave NW
- Esso Parking Lot
- Herb Jamieson
- Hope Mission
- Boyle Street Community Services
- Abbottsfeld Edmonton Public Library
- Boyle St bar night @Rocky
- Mountain Ice House
- Ambrose Place
- iHuman 9635 102A Ave NW
- JOEY Bell Tower
- Tyson's Sports Bar and VLT Gaming Room
- Travelodge Edmonton East
- 24/7 Crisis Diversion Stop: South East Police Division
- 104 Youville Dr E Northwest
- 24/7 Crisis Diversion Stop: Confederation Leisure Centre
- 24/7 Crisis Diversion Stop: Michael Manor
- 24/7 Crisis Diversion Stop: 14003 127 St NW
- The Mustard Seed Street Church
- River valley camps
- Subway
- Luxe Eye Care
- Home of service User
- RBC Royal Bank
- RBC Royal Bank
- Tim Horton's
- Handy Bakery
- Boyle McCauley Health Centre
- Sir Winston Churchill Square
- Clare's House
- Norwood Convenience Store
- convenience store
- Bissell Centre
- McDonald's
- Mini Mart
- Mint Health Church Street
- Italian Bakery
- Enterprise Square & Library
- Liquor on 96