



ELIZABETH FRY
SOCIETY

Restoring Balance

TRANSFORMING
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE
PRACTICE

ANNUAL REPORT
2022

MESSAGE FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

As we celebrate another year working with EFry I am reminded of the immense responsibility we bear as stewards of EFry. We have a duty to uphold our values, pursue our mission, and create a positive impact in our community. I am pleased with EFry's commitment to restorative justice.

Restorative justice is a powerful framework that focuses on repairing harm caused by wrongdoing, rather than solely punishing offenders. It seeks to build understanding, empathy, and accountability between all parties involved, and strives for a more just and equitable society. It is an approach that aligns perfectly with our organization's values of compassion, fairness, and inclusivity.

Incorporating restorative justice practices into our work has a significant impact on our community. It can help to reduce recidivism rates, promote empathy and understanding, and strengthen relationships between individuals and groups.

We recognize that our society is far from perfect, and that individuals and communities continue to be affected by the legacies of injustice, oppression, and discrimination. As an organization, we must take responsibility for our role in creating a better world, and actively work towards healing and reconciliation.

“Justice is Truth in Action.”

- Benjamin Desraeli

EFry staff and volunteers, seek to engage our community in restorative dialogue and healing circles. We have worked to incorporate restorative justice principles into our policies and decision-making processes and hold ourselves accountable for promoting justice and equity.

I believe that by embracing restorative justice, we create a more compassionate, resilient, and interconnected community. We foster a sense of belonging and mutual support, and create spaces where individuals feel safe to share their experiences and perspectives. EFry builds bridges across difference and works towards a more equitable and just world.

I am proud of the funders, board, and the incredible team at EFry as we continue to build a strong, vibrant, and inclusive organization that serves as a model for others to follow.



VIRGINIA ASHLEY
Board President

MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

2022 was a transformational year for our organization as we further redefined our work from being prison focused to empowering change through preventative and restorative justice approaches. As we transitioned out of the impediments of the pandemic, we evolved our work considerably towards addressing the underlying factors which cause criminalization from a place of healing and wellness.

In most Indigenous languages, there is no word for crime. The traditional perception of justice is the person has behaved in error, made a mistake or committed a transgression. When understanding the concept of a criminal act from a cultural perspective, it is understood the action has negative consequences which disrupt relationships and affects the balance and harmony of the community. Similar to the western perspective of justice, the importance of safety is critical to restorative justice practices. Restorative processes consider the reparation of relationships and restoring the balance and harmony by addressing the accountability of the individual to take responsibility for the harm they have caused.

Alongside our work in restorative justice, we continue to identify the specific needs of Indigenous women whose lives have been affected by incarceration, criminalization and homelessness. Our core programs continue to focus on the stabilization of women in housing, employment readiness, and addressing mental health, trauma and addiction.

Overall, with the collaboration of our funders, our non-profit network, and government partners we are able to expand the potential of assisting our client population towards success. For this we are grateful and thankful for this enduring support.



KATELYN LUCAS
Executive Director



2022 STAFF

Administrative

Katelyn Lucas – Executive Director

Nicolle Hans – Program Manager

Katelyn Steinwand – Evaluation and Research Coordinator

Evan Rogers – Evaluation Specialist

Colin Harris – Volunteer Coordinator

Soksipaitapiisin and Restorative Justice Team

Ronda Dalshaug – Soksipaitapiisin Coordinator

Willow Burles – Restorative Justice Case Manager

Win Storm – Restorative Justice Case Manager

Roderick Eashappie – Restorative Justice Case Manager

Vanessa Ford – Community Intake Resource Worker

Cultural Programming

Pearl White Quills – Indigenous Program Coordinator

Kachina Raymond-McGillis – SAGE Coordinator

Legal Advocacy and Court Programs

Yaneth Rodriguez – Adult Legal Advocate [until March 2022](#)

Kymowyn Sugar – Youth Legal Advocate [April 2021 – March 2022](#)

2022 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Virginia Ashley – President

Emilie Cox – Vice President

Lindsay Bilkoski – Treasurer

Kate Baxter – Secretary [until September 2022](#)

Christine Hutcheson – Secretary [as of September 2022](#)

Kylan Kidd – Director [until March 2022](#)

Arno De Prez – Director

Colleen Ham – [as of April 2022](#)

WE WOULD LIKE
TO THANK THE FOLLOWING
ELDERS AND KNOWLEDGE
HOLDERS FOR THEIR SUPPORT
OF WORK OF EFRY:

Monica Chief Moon

Jackie Bromley

Laura Sitting Eagle

Corleigh Powderface

Clarence Wolf Leg

Gerald Sitting Eagle

Rod Scout

Rod Hunter

Lee Crowchild

Ashley Prairie Chicken

2022 STATISTICS

SOKSIPAITAPIISIN 159

15 RESTORATIVE
OUTREACH

13 DANA'S
HOUSE

705
COMMUNITY RESOURCE INTAKE

173 INDIGENOUS
CULTURAL
SUPPORTS

sage **14**

YOUTH
PREVENTION
PROGRAM
24

5 REGIONAL ADULT
LEGAL ADVOCACY

218 CALGARY ADULT
LEGAL ADVOCACY

YOUTH
LEGAL ADVOCACY
& MENTORSHIP
PROGRAMS **19**

ADULT CALGARY COURT LOBBY PROGRAM **25792**

AIRDRIE LOBBY COURT PROGRAM **300**

CALGARY LETHBRIDGE LOBBY
COURT PROGRAM **2823**



YOUTH COURT PROGRAMS CALGARY **683**

168 VOLUNTEERS





SUCCESS STORY *leanna*

Leanna is a single mother of 5 children ranging from 2 to 19. She was referred to Soksipaitapiisin by her lawyer who was hoping she would be connected to resources and her culture to aid her in her sentencing. Leanna admits at the time of referral she was struggling. She states, “I was in a bad space. I was struggling emotionally, mentally and spiritually, as well as I was stuck in my cycle of addictions.” She acknowledges her past substance abuse issues had an effect on both her current charges and charges she incurred in the past, such as charges for driving while suspended and a DUI (Driving Under the Influence). Leanna indicates her previous experiences in the courts were not supportive and indicates she did not have anyone to help her. She expresses, “I had previously been charged with a DUI in Edmonton and during the court process there was no offer of supports, but rather my lawyer just told me to plead guilty and pay the fine.”

“If this would not have been in Indigenous Court and I did not do the programs I did, it could have resulted in my spending time in custody.”

As a result of the hard work Leanna completed on her healing plan, she had her main charge withdrawn and received a traffic ticket fine which did not result in a criminal record. She explains, “If this would not have been in Indigenous Court and I did not do the programs I did, it could have resulted in my spending time in custody.” Leanna feels strongly her participation in Soksipaitapiisin had a positive effect on her sentence and her overall wellbeing.

For Leanna, she was able to recognize what she did was wrong and she was aware she needed to take steps to prevent herself from becoming involved with the justice system in the future. She describes her progress, “I did attend an inpatient treatment program to address the addiction and worked with my Soksipaitapiisin Case Manager, my Elder and the CMT table to help me connect to resources and supports to address the underlying issues of my addictions. So I have the skills now to remain sober and productive.”

Leanna feels the most important factor of her success was working actively with her Soksipaitapiisin Case Manager. She expresses, “I do not build relationships easily due to lack of trust. My Case Manager was straight forward and treated me like a person rather than someone on a lower level. She was always honest with me and showed patience when I felt I could not continue on, she encouraged me and had faith in me. Therefore, helping me to restore the faith I had in myself.”

Leanna completed a number of programs during her time in Soksipaitapiisin including addictions treatment and family counselling, regular attendance with a psychologist to address her childhood trauma, parenting and cultural programming. She continues to attend regular recovery programming and during this time also attended Riel institute and attended the Aboriginal Family and Youth Support Certification. She is currently working as a daycare worker.

Leanna's advice for others who are about to participate in Soksipaitapiisin is to take advantage of the opportunity to participate in a healing plan. She asserts, "The table and court will assist you with building bridges to supports and connect you to the right resources that can provide the proper programming for you. The healing plan process is a stepping stone to living a healthy life and it allows you to build the pathway through building the right networks for you to continue on your healing journey."

"The healing plan process is a stepping stone to living a healthy life and it allows you to build the pathway through building the right networks for you to continue on your healing journey."

leanna



daniel

SUCCESS STORY

Daniel was referred to Calgary Indigenous Court and the Soksipaitapiisin Restorative Justice and Case Management Table initially through the advice of his lawyer. During this time, he was having some challenges in his relationship with his partner and he didn't feel he had anyone to talk to about what was going on in his life. He states, "I did not talk to anyone about what was going on in my life, but then turned to alcohol and suppressed my feelings to a point where I just exploded in the worst possible way." Before this experience in the Justice system, Daniel had not been involved in any serious issues within the justice system.

Daniel relays he initially attended a western organization for counselling for domestic violence. He acknowledges, although he attended consistently and completed successfully, he wasn't receiving what he needed from the support. "I felt more like I was being judged on what I did and felt like I was being shamed there." Daniel attended programming and achieved all the expectations of him in regards to the initial recommendations from victim services. He did not connect to the services on any significant level, and although present and participatory he was not getting the depth of support from a cultural level. Through his participation with Soksipaitapiisin, Daniel was provided with a cultural counsellor. He advises, "I started my healing plan and getting back in touch with my cultural side again. It took me a few sessions to open up to the cultural counsellor, but once we broke that barrier, I was able to open up and finally let everything out." I was able to let go of that hurt and shame I was holding back and hiding. Going through this healing process and getting in touch with my cultural side has helped a lot."

Daniel took accountability for his offense. He acknowledges he had done wrong. He expresses, "I have not only hurt the mother of my child, my sister, but I hurt my son by not being around him when we needed each other the most. I realized that while I turned to alcohol, I pushed everyone away from me and became someone I did not even know." After Daniel quit drinking, he began to focus on getting the help he needed to get past the shame and hurt he had gone through and was able to put aside everything that led to his actions and be able to apologize to the people he had hurt. He states, "By letting go of all the hurt and anger I went through, life just started getting better, I was able to work things out with my ex and started to be around my son more." Most importantly Daniel has been able to repair the relationships in his life and has shared custody of his youngest son and full custody of his oldest son.

Daniel feels the most important factor in his success in his involvement with Soksipaitapiisin was the work he completed with his cultural counsellor. He had one on one counselling and began to help and attend the sweat lodge. This contributed to him helping his mother and attending society ceremonies.

Daniel's advice to others who may participate in Soksipaitapiisin is: **"Everybody goes through some traumatizing things in their lives, whether its losing a family member or being in toxic relationships. Best thing is not to turn to alcohol. Never suppress your feelings, talk to someone. There's always someone out there that cares for you and will help and understand what you're going through."**



A Soksipaitapiisin participant receiving the honour of their blanket ceremony upon completing their healing plan.

RECOGNITION 2022

2022 – Funders

Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission

Alberta Law Foundation

Cadillac Fairview

Calgary Homeless Foundation

Calgary Learns

City of Calgary – Crime Prevention Investment

Donors and Supporters

Government of Alberta – Community Initiatives Project

Government of Alberta – Ministry of Child Services

National Housing Strategy – CMHC

United Way

2020- 2021 – Fiscal Management

Calgary Homeless Foundation – Aboriginal Standing
Committee on Housing and Homelessness

Calgary Homeless Foundation – Creation Lodge

G4 Tribal Council – Aboriginal Standing Committee on
Housing and Homelessness

G4 Tribal Council – Creation Lodge

University of Calgary – Older Indigenous Adult Project
and Indigenous Managed Alcohol Program



2022 HIGHLIGHTS

ONE

We will utilize and apply evidence-based practices to enhance programming to be inclusive, strength based and break the cycles of dependency and vulnerability.

EFry continues to focus on revising and revamping our services to meet the needs and demands of the socio-economic and political environment. Evaluation is integral to understanding the quality of outcomes to achieve the level of services required to empower change. As an organization, we have moved from dependency models to engaging those who access our services in meaningful change. Realigning our work from working in the prison system to addressing preventative and community intervention as a priority has made a difference in our outcomes.

THREE

Build our brand and profile

EFry is currently working on an update to our Strategic Plan, reviewing our mandate, vision and values to align more effectively with our services. We are reviewing our branding and marketing strategies including updating our printed materials, website and social media accounts.



TWO

Leverage and enhance partnerships with community initiatives and service providers

Throughout 2022, EFry continued to collaborate and partner with community agencies to leverage our work and enhance opportunities to access services we do not offer. One of our main collaborations is with the Soksipaitapiisin Case Management Table, which supports advancing the support systems, address gaps and reduces duplication of services for Indigenous peoples.

FOUR

Enhance our transparency and accountability by assessing progress towards our goals

EFry works from the perspective of continuous quality improvement through evaluation of our services and supports, as well as focusing on analysis of our data to inform the direction of the agency.



FIVE

Expand and enhance the role of Board of Directors in funding, community engagement and accountability

Throughout 2022, the Board of Directors have provided their expertise in the areas of finance and policy development.

VOLUNTEERS

ADULT LEGAL ADVOCACY VOLUNTEERS

Klerysthon De Andrade Carolino	Apr - Oct 2022
Anna Dickow	Mar - Nov 2022
Olufunke Fasunon	Mar - Sep 2022
Buena Emily Galleposo	Oct - Dec 2022
Maria Mendoza	Nov - Mar 2022
Alen Mihajlovic	Jun - Dec 2022
Ivan Pena Narvaez	Dec '19-Jan 2022
Sonu Pawar	Apr - Dec 2022
Niloofer Taghavi	Jan - Apr 2022
Talita Torres	Oct - Dec 2022

COURT VOLUNTEERS: CALGARY & CALGARY REGION

Aliza Zia	Oct '21 - Apr '22
Abdualallah Abbas	Feb - Mar 2022
Aceil Ado	Jul '22 - present
Ashfia Ahmed	Feb '22 - present
Shuada Ahmed	Mar '21 - present
Majtaba Arshad	Dec '21 - present
Maryam Ashraf	Sep '22 - present
Sanya Awan	Aug '19 - Feb '22
Abul Azam	Apr - Jul 2022
Lauren Barr	Oct '20 - Aug '22
Kalkidan Bayisa	Dec '22 - present
Loveleen Bhargal	Sep '22 - present
Jasleen Bhullar	Aug '22 - present
Palveen Bring	Jul '22 - present
Anh Bui	Sep '22- Mar '23
Renn Chang	Oct '21 - Sep '22
Aiza Chaudhary	Sep '21 - present
Mona Chappellaz	Aug '22 - present
Bradley Clements	Jun '22 - present
India Cyr	May '21 - May '22
Ashna Dhalla	Aug '20 - Jan '23
Simran Dial	Oct '21 - -Aug '22
Kamila Djanabulova	Jul '22 - present
Jesper Domingo	Jul '20 - Mar '22
Obehi Ekatah	Apr '22 - Nov '22
Robin Egerton	May '21 - May '22
Arzoo Fatima	Jul '22 - present
Duaa Fatima	Sep '20 - present
Jashandeep Garcha	Oct '21 - Nov '22

Morgana Genn	Aug '21 - Sep '22
Jai Gill	Sep '21 - present
Ratinder Gill	Nov '22 - present
Rehat Gill	Oct '22 - present
Ajay Goel	Oct '22 - present
Harpreet Gosal	Oct '22 - present
Shalev Groot	Oct '20 - May '22
Nour Haj	Aug '20 - Apr '22
Fiza Hasan	Oct '19 - Aug '22
Manahil Hassan	Mar '21 - present
Troy Holland	Jul '22 - Feb '23
Azma Hussain	Jun '22 - Dec '22
Hear Jabbar	Sep '22 - Feb '23
Grace Kabengele	Oct '21 - Jul '22
Mapreet Kaur	Jul '21 - Feb '22
Calvin Krause	Mar '21 - May '22
Mia Kruger	May '22 - present
Nolan Lebioda	Mar '21 - Oct '22
Kaylee Lukawiecki	Nov '21 - present
Mikaela Ly	Oct '22 - present
Ameeka Malik	Jan '21 - present
Jaqueline McAlister	Mar '22- May '22
Maria Mendoza	Nov '19 - Mar '22
Kessa Millier	Nov '22 - present
Najeeba Mohammadi	Sep '21 - present
Carson Munro	Sep '22 - present
Bryna Nacomel	Sep '21 - Feb '22
Jae Neil Navarro	Jan '22 - Jul '22
Stephanie Navas	Jun '22 - Aug '22
Sharleen Nijjar	Nov '22 - present
Daniel Pecile	Jul '22- present
Ivan Pena Narvaez	Feb '20 - Jan '22
Hoda Rahimi	Jul '22 - Oct '22
Apsara Rajapaksha	Dec '22 - present
Shallen Redmond	Nov '21 - present
Jasleen Romana	Sep '20 - Jan '22
Catherine Roy	Sep '22 - present
Bhavya Sajja	Sep '22 - present
Ravdeep Sandhu	Oct '21 - May '22
Leyla Saunders	Sep '20 - May '22
Gurjit Seth	May '22 - present
Pranav Sharma	Apr - Jul 2022
Kate Shostak	Jan - Apr 2022
Fatima Sidhu	Mar '20 - Dec '22
Sarah Sohal	Mar '20 - present
Laura Somers	Oct '20 - Jul '22
Maguerite Sonmor	May '21 - present
Alykhan Teja	Aug '19 - Oct '22
Jason Tkach	Aug '21 - Mar '22

Yianne Tran	Aug '21 - Apr '22
Shirley van Noord	Nov '20 - Feb '22
Annabel Verrill	Nov '21 - Jul '22
Nadiya Zafar	Jan '22 - present
Rebecca Zeran	Sep '21 - April '23

COURT VOLUNTEERS: LETHBRIDGE

Avery Lane	Mar '22 - present
Jae Neil Navarro	Sep '22 - Mar '23
Rebekah Patrick	May '21 - Sep '22
Haley Pilling	Mar '20 - Feb '22
Amanda Tran	Feb '21 - May '23
Bjorn Verbeek	Dec '21 - May '23
Asha Victor	May '22- May '23

PROGRAM RESOURCE VOLUNTEERS

Bryna Nacomel	Oct '20 - Jan '22
Patricia Floyd	Feb '21 - Mar '22
Shuada Ahmed	Jun '21 - Jul '22
Thaea Deilami	Oct '21 - Jun '22
Amalle Osman	Nov '21 - Dec '22
Janay Kent	Mar '22 - present
Alison Law	Jun - Sep 2022
Victory Abraham	Jul '22 - present
Vipasna Nangal	Jul - Dec 2022
Monica Burns	Sep - Feb 2022
Mary Webster	Nov '22 - present

YOUTH MENTORS

Edmond Ferris	Sep 15, 2020
Dana Stan	Feb 9, 2021
Toni-Sky Fox	Sep 29, 2017
Arkadia Thronson	Jul 1, 2022
Shannon Snelling	Apr 2, 2022
Valerie Chin	Apr 20, 2020
Erin Ramsperger	Jan 8, 2020
Nana Asante	May 31, 2023
Anh Bui	Sep 2, 2022
Arnold Crowchild	Jan - Dec 2022
Janessa Kosar	Aug '22 - Jan '23
Roshani Puri	Aug '21 - Aug '22
Emily Carter	Nov '20 - Nov '22
Julianna Heard	Mar '19 - Apr '22
Ben Isenstein	Oct '20 - Jul '22
Saroo Virk	Aug '20 - Dec '22
Abby Adekugbe	Sept '20 - Jan '23
Sarah Newcomb	Sep '20 - Jan '23
Valerie Lennox	Dec '19 - Feb '22
Felicia Fuerstenb	Mar '18 - Dec '22
Ashna Dhalla	Jan '18 - Jan '23

YOUTH MENTOR 2022

*erin
ramberger*

Erin has been a Youth Mentor with EFry since January 2020. After several years of frontline work in some of Calgary's non-profit organizations, she decided to return to school full-time. Erin managed to continue to work part-time for the first year of her degree, but she really missed the personal fulfillment she got from human services work. She wanted a way to be able to continue to contribute to her community in that way, and was already familiar with EFry's mentorship program. Erin knew EFry was filling an important gap for youth involved in the criminal justice system, which seemed like a great fit for her experience.

In Erin's experience, the mentorship relationship provided personal growth opportunities for both the mentee and the mentor. She felt a sense of responsibility to her mentees. Erin wants to be a source of stability and the healthiest version of herself to model positive behaviour. Being a mentor encourages her to reflect on herself, and to be deliberate in her words and actions, which helps her to grow and build her capacity to help others. She states,

“The youth I've mentored come to the program with so many positive qualities and skills, but they are not always able to see that for themselves. I take a strengths-based approach to mentorship and try to provide feedback and support to help them build confidence and discover all of the potential they hold. The most significant benefit I have seen is youth believing in their own worth, which empowers them to identify and work toward achieving goals.”

Erin thinks it is very important for a youth involved in the criminal justice system to be able to separate their actions from their identity. She expresses, “They may have done a bad thing, but they are not a bad person. The youth I've worked with recognize the harm caused by their actions, but I think sometimes they internalize that to an unhealthy degree. They identify as a “criminal”, but positive mentorship can help them to understand that the rest of their life is not defined by the actions they have taken in the past. Where a youth has not had the benefit of support from a healthy adult, I also think it is absolutely essential to introduce that influence.” Erin believes every youth should know there is an adult who will be proud of them, who will recognize and celebrate their successes.

Erin believes the most important thing she has learned as a mentor is , “With my most recent mentee, I learned more about the extent of the potential for positive change. I was blown away by how quickly they were able to internalize more positive messaging about themselves, and to use that to fuel actions to make positive changes in their life. I think my experience has also helped to reinforce my belief that there are no bad kids. They all deserve unconditional love and support and to understand that they matter.”



PROGRAM RESOURCE VOLUNTEER 2022

janay kent

Janay Kent is a Program Resource Volunteer at the main office of Elizabeth Fry. She has been dedicated to her role for approximately a year. Her role is to provide administrative support and assistance to the programs. She assists those accessing EFry services with basic needs, items, and systems navigation of resources. She contributes to the day-to-day reception work of the agency while working on other special projects if needed.

Initially, Janay became interested in volunteering with EFry through Mount Royal University where she attends as a student completing a degree in criminal justice. She expresses, "I wanted to learn more about the programs that are offered in Calgary and get hands-on experience. After taking a class on restorative justice and then learning about EFry, I was excited about the prospect of being part of an organization that is dedicated to advocating for and supporting marginalized people in the community." She wanted to volunteer at an organization where the work would align closely with her own mission and values because she felt there was value in providing support, education, and resources to help individuals reintegrate into society.

Throughout her volunteer experience, Janay has gained valuable insights and learned lessons that have profoundly impacted her personal and professional growth. Volunteering has been a journey that has enriched her life in numerous ways. First and foremost, volunteering has taught her the power of empathy and compassion. She explains, "Working with individuals from diverse backgrounds, I have learned to listen attentively, suspend judgment, and truly understand the challenges they face. This experience has enhanced my ability to connect with others on a deeper level, and it has cultivated a sense of empathy that extends beyond the volunteer setting and into all aspects of my life."

Furthermore, volunteering has honed Janay's organizational and problem-solving skills. By being able to balance multiple responsibilities, and adapting to new situations has sharpened her ability to prioritize, strategize, and manage her time effectively. She states, **"These skills have not only benefited me as a volunteer but have also proven invaluable in my personal and professional endeavors."**

Janay feels volunteering with EFry has become very important to her, as it has allowed her to make a positive impact and give back to society. She expresses, "I enjoy supporting an organization that is close to my heart and helps me to support those in need. Volunteering has given me the opportunity to grow as an individual while learning more about the field that I wish to pursue. I continually learn from the individuals that I work with and gain important insights and knowledge. I am committed to continuing my volunteer efforts and encouraging others to join in this opportunity of service and compassion."



COURT VOLUNTEER 2022

ashfia ahmed

Ashfia began as a court volunteer in the Volunteer Court Program as of February 2022. She became interested in volunteering in the program as a student at the University of Calgary, majoring in Law and Society. Throughout her studies she spent a lot of time learning about how various social and economic factors can lead to criminalization. In particular, Ashfia discovered challenges in the justice system, which she felt were unfair and unequitable for vulnerable populations and felt she wanted to do something to assist.

She had heard from a friend about the EFry Court Volunteer Program. On her own time, she researched EFry and discovered her goals aligned with the mission of the organization. She took initiative to learn how to get involved. **“The more I learned about the program, the more I knew that this was the way wanted to give back to my community.”**

Through her time volunteering at the Calgary Court Centre, she indicates she has met many amazing people and was able to hear their stories about their lives and how they ended up in the system. “I was able to see everything I learned in the classroom in real life, and I realized how much of a difference some ‘free help’ could make.” Ashfia feels she has also gained personal knowledge of the limited resources and free legal resources available to the public, and the limited understanding individuals come to the court house with on the structure and procedures of the court system in Alberta.

Ashfia indicates her role as a volunteer has taught her skills in communication, problem-solving and has given her the skills to de-escalate tense situations with patience. She states, “I leave every shift with a sense of fulfillment knowing that I was able to make at least one person’s interaction with the court system easier or more pleasurable.”

Ashfia believes it is an incredibly intimidating process for individuals to come to the court house, whether it is for a traffic ticket, jury duty, to file divorce papers or present for a criminal trial. As a court volunteer she is able to assist many people get connected to community resources that they may have had struggles finding for themselves. She expresses, **“Even if I am unable to help them in that way [resources], I will have at least have been a friendly face they could talk to when feeling anxious or scared.”**

For Ashfia, being a part of the court volunteer team is her way of contributing to reducing the barriers, supporting others, and making direct change in what she considers an unfair system. She states, “Our justice system is unfair, in that people coming from lower socio-economic backgrounds, historically marginalized or minority populations, or those with language barriers can be unfairly disadvantaged. EFry’s programs are designed to help combat this, and now I have been able to see firsthand just how important programs, such as the Court House Volunteer Program are.” Ashfia has found her role rewarding due to seeing the results of her work. She finds the majority of those who she supports appear to be grateful for the support and the resources they receive to help them navigate their court matter. She advises, “This is why volunteering with EFry is so important to me, because I know I have been able to make a direct change and influence someone’s day.”



COMMITTEE WORK 2022

Aboriginal Standing Committee on Housing and Homelessness (ASCHH)
Canadian Association of Elizabeth Fry Societies (CAEFS)
Is kitsii gome Seven Brothers – Housing Circle
Inter-Agency Employment Board of Calgary
Indigenous Justice Centre Society of Calgary (IJC)
Law Society of Alberta – Indigenous Advisory Committee (LSA)
Sahwo mohkaak tsi ma taas Indigenous Advisory Council – Calgary Legal Guidance
Natoos'i Community of Practice – United Way of Calgary
Safety for Indigenous Women in an Urban Setting

PARTNERSHIPS 2022

Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Calgary Indigenous Court
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General – Calgary and Lethbridge Court Houses
Antyx
Arts Commons
Interfaith Food Bank
Horizon Housing
Leftovers
Legal Aid Alberta
Making Changes Association
Tribal Artists
Sunalta Community Centre
Vibrant Communities Calgary
Women in Need Society

SOKISIPAITAPIISIN CASE MANAGEMENT 2022

Aboriginal Friendship Centre Calgary – Smudge Vow
Alberta Justice and Solicitor General (AJSG) – Probation
Calgary Alpha House – Housing Program
Calgary John Howard Society – FASD Support Team
Calgary Police Services – Indigenous Liaison Officer
Homefront Calgary
Native Counselling Services of Alberta – Peacemaking
Sunrise Healing Lodge
Simon House Recovery Centre

COLLABORATIONS 2022

Miskanawah - Ka-pe-kiwehtahat Indigenous Housing Support and Tawaa Family Centre

A photograph of a herd of bison grazing in a field. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue rectangle in the center, which contains the text. The background shows a line of trees in the distance under a clear sky.

2023 OUTLOOK

As we continue to focus our work on restorative justice and individual wellness, we will continue to advance and strengthen our services and supports which reflect empowerment, and encourage healing.

RESTORING BALANCE

CONNECT WITH US


1731 – 10 Avenue SW
Calgary, Alberta T3C 0K1

Across the street from the Sunalta LRT station

reception@elizabethfrycalgary.ca
(403) 294-0737
T F 1 (877) 398-3656
FAX (403) 262-0285

elizabethfrycalgary.ca

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 Elizabeth Fry Society of Calgary