



# EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT

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*EBC was founded in 1980. Now 35 years old, we have launched festivals; led a Rails to Trails campaign that spurred the creation of a shared-use path connecting to the High Level Bridge; helped fund the first bike racks on ETS buses; and we continue our work today to make Edmonton a better city to live and ride in.*

## ABOUT THE EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY

We work with children, youth and adults to make cycling accessible for everyone, because we believe that making Edmonton better for bicycling improves our city's quality of life.

Whether riding a few times a week, 265 bike-friendly days a year, or year-round, the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society (EBC) provides the tools Edmontonians need to enjoy cycling. Established as a non-profit society in 1980, EBC operates two volunteer-run community bike workshops, provides training for children, youth and adults, hosts events during Bike Month and all year-round, and represents Edmonton cyclists at City Hall.

Learn how to fix your bike and ride in traffic. Buy a refurbished bike, or donate a disused one. Meet other cyclists, and help us advocate for a bike-friendly city.

Our mandate is to make cycling in Edmonton safer and more accessible and widespread as a means to improve quality of life in the city. We provide bicycle services, resources, education and representation, to promote the bicycle as a healthy and economical mode of travel.

# VISION STATEMENT

Everyday cycling in Edmonton is safe, widespread, and accessible to people of all comfort levels.

## MISSION

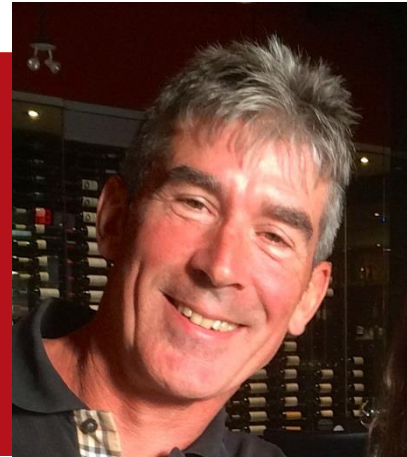
EBC is a non-profit society dedicated to making everyday cycling in Edmonton safer and more widespread by providing bicycle services, education, and civic representation. We promote the bicycle as a healthy, economical, and ecologically sound mode of transportation.

## OBJECTS

1. To provide, administer and maintain a multi-use facility for Edmonton and area dedicated to providing cost-effective, do-it-yourself bike repair facilities and access to an environmentally sustainable, economical means of transportation,
2. To educate the public by providing courses, seminars and workshops about bike mechanics and/or safe and effective riding,
3. To extend services to marginalized members of the community as well as new-comers,
4. To facilitate communication between cyclists and governments or others to improve bicycle infrastructure and policy, and
5. To assist the Edmonton community at large in the promotion, encouragement and understanding of cycling culture.



# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



**JONATHAN WOELBER**  
President

This past year has been a remarkable and exciting year of changes for the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society.

## The Year in Review

At our last Annual General Meeting, an almost complete turnover of the EBC Board of Directors left only two directors remaining from the previous board. We thank all the outgoing board members, especially Leila Sidi, Kristen Flath, Caylie Gynra and Steve Andersen. Although no longer board members, their continued commitment to the success of EBC is undoubted. In particular, I would like to thank returning director, Anna Vesala, who tirelessly oriented the new board to the various EBC systems and protocols. Without her guidance, our achievements of the past year would not have been possible.

One of the first tasks facing the new board was to address the growing demand for programming and services offered by EBC. Increased demand was making it difficult for the Executive Director and BikeWorks Manager to efficiently manage EBC operations. The Board and staff developed role profiles and responsibilities for two new staff positions. Shortly thereafter, a Program Coordinator and an External Relations Coordinator were successfully recruited. These roles have strengthened our relationships with stakeholders, partners and volunteers and are providing much needed support and capacity to the Executive Director and BikeWorks Manager.

In August, after much research, debate and consultation, the EBC Board of Directors voted in favour of submitting an application for charitable registration with the Canada Revenue Agency. This will be a significant development in the evolution of the organization, allowing EBC to increase revenues substantially through fundraising, grants and donations that are accessible only to charitable organizations that can issue tax receipts for donations. Our youth programs, You Can Ride 2 and The Spoke, have waiting lists and most of our seminars are oversubscribed. Greater financial resources

achieved through charitable status will contribute significantly to our ability to satisfy the growing needs of the Edmonton cycling community.

## Looking Forward

We look forward to another year of growth and change as we strive to provide relevant programming and services for Edmonton cyclists. 8 of 12 Directors intend to continue to serve on the Board next year, bringing stability to the governance of EBC. We say good-bye to Chris Corrigan, Christopher Haworth, Michelle Fisher and Alex Hindle and thank them for their contributions to EBC.

We will be improving our governance documents, clarifying and strengthening our Human Resources policies, as well as evaluating existing and new programming to ensure it meets the needs and expectations of our patrons and members.

Lastly I would like to thank three groups of people without whom EBC would not exist: our Board of Directors whose enthusiasm and innovation are inspirational; our staff and many volunteers who keep our two shops open and our programs running; and lastly our 1696 members who have shown their confidence in EBC by purchasing a membership. We look forward to seeing or hearing from you in the coming year and ensuring that EBC meets your needs and expectations!

# REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHRIS CHAN

Executive Director

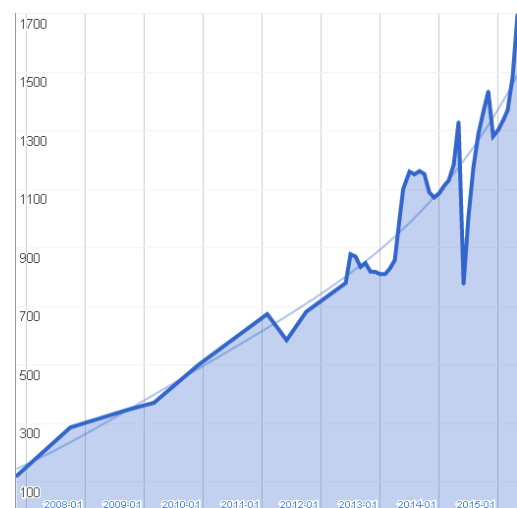
This year has marked another banner year for EBC, as we move towards achieving strategic goals and continue to improve and expand our programming.

With the addition of two new permanent staff positions in the spring, we have doubled our team and are already seeing results: more partnerships, more volunteers, significant progress on many outstanding projects, and more capacity to support anyone who wants to ride a bike. After closing our financial year on-budget, we are now turning our focus toward building on this work to further develop our funding and sustainability.

Both of our BikeWorks workspaces continue to grow rapidly, with the support of dozens of dedicated and skilled volunteers, including many new faces this year. You Can Ride 2 set a new high-water mark, loaning out over 100 adapted bicycles to children with special needs, and The Spoke is preparing for new, strategic changes to increase its prominence and impact, so we can help more youth develop a broad range of skills and build a bike in the process.

With nearly 1700 members, our membership numbers broke new records this year, growing 70% since 2013. Thank you for your support: your membership helps support us financially as well as lending strength to our voice in advocacy work.

Our presence in the community continues to grow. While we continue to push hard to see better cycling infrastructure and more inclusive transportation options in Edmonton, we have also cultivated a good working relationship with both Councillors and City of Edmonton administration. We will



EBC membership 2006-2015

continue to develop our reputation as a thoughtful, credible organization whose voice and input is recognized and valued.

Thank you to our patrons, partners and sponsors who help fund the work that we do. Whether through supporting You Can Ride 2, The Spoke, or BikeWorks, or booking us to speak at workplaces or provide bike parking or tune-ups at events, EBC relies on our community connections to enable us to remain meaningful and dynamic.



Architecture Ride led by EBC, Dialog and Manasc Isaac  
Photographs by Alberto Garcia  
[albertogarciaphotography.com](http://albertogarciaphotography.com)

# YEAR IN REVIEW

The past year has been another year of rapid changes and growth. Our programs and services continue to evolve and expand; we highlight only some of them in this report, but constantly adapt to meet the changing needs of Edmonton and to pursue new opportunities.





*BikeWorks is the oldest community bike workshop in North America. BikeWorks South has operated out of 6 different locations since it first opened. BikeWorks North opened in 2012, prompted by the success of The Spoke, which began in 2010 out of the old Alberta Cycle Building.*



## BIKEWORKS

This year marked the first full year of operation at the new location of BikeWorks South. We have seen tremendous growth in usage, both from our previous location as well as since we opened in the spring of 2014. Our nine stands are usually fully-occupied during the high season, so we are hoping to expand our hours in the future to meet the increasing demand.

We have been addressing ongoing security challenges at BikeWorks North, but have made progress on securing our outdoor storage space. We have renewed our lease and are planning improved outdoor signage and interior upgrades in the months to come.

In the past year, EBC conducted nearly 40 workshops with over 140 attendees, and over 20 volunteer orientations with over 100 new volunteers. We also completed 150 bike rentals and sold nearly 700 bikes, helping to put them back on the road, in addition to the thousands of patrons we help with repairs.

Over 150 volunteers contributed over 6200 hours, during over 2200 hours of shop time, towards the success of BikeWorks North and BikeWorks South this year. The skill level of our volunteers continues to rise, in many cases bringing professional-level knowledge to the patrons of our vibrant, volunteer-run shop. Without question, our doors would be closed if not for the tremendous generosity and talent of our many volunteers.



Teaching patrons bike repair skills, helping people to buy bikes and bike parts, operating the tills, receiving donations, recycling metal and rubber, maintaining the shop, and even repairing fencing are almost all daily tasks for our wonderful and dedicated BikeWorks volunteers, who do it out of love of sharing the joy of the bicycle. In the face of bike thefts, break-ins, and personal challenges, all while helping an ever-growing number of patrons, we have also seen the resilience of our volunteers shining through this year, persevering to build a better, stronger BikeWorks community.



# WOMEN, TRANS & GENDER NON-BINARY PROGRAM AT BIKEWORKS

The Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society is committed to its mandate of making cycling more accessible and widespread. Explicitly, one of our objectives is to extend services to marginalized members of the community. For several years, we have offered a program to encourage more women, transgender, and gender non-binary individuals to participate in our community. These are groups who are underrepresented in the world of cycling, and especially in bike repair.

*EBC launched its WTGNB Program in 2010 as part of an initiative to address some of the inequity both in our shop as well as in the broader community of cycling in Edmonton.*

We offer a Women, Transgender & Gender Non-Binary (WTGNB) program on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of each month for women, transgender and non-binary persons at BikeWorks South. During this program, the shop is operated by women, trans and non-binary persons and only those who identify as women, trans or gender non-binary individuals can participate in the program.

We have strong policies supporting equitable treatment for all our patrons and volunteers, but sadly, gender-based discrimination still pervades all social spaces, and BikeWorks is still a part of that broader community. We are not interested in preventing those who may harbour (knowingly or unknowingly) discriminatory attitudes from using our shop, but we are interested in ensuring that when anybody uses our shop, they are respectful to everyone and aware of the power of their actions. Our WTGNB program is just one part of a larger strategy we have to address these issues. Anti-discrimination training in tandem with strong policies, and active recruitment of non-male volunteers for other programs are also parts of our solution. Our goal is to make the shop a space where no group ever dominates to the detriment of others, while encouraging underrepresented or marginalized groups to fully participate in cycling and bike repair.

This year saw increased public attention focused on our WTGNB program. There was some negative feedback, but the response was overwhelmingly supportive and expressed gratitude for the existence of this program. We took all feedback in stride to refine and improve the program to better serve the whole community. For more information about the program, visit [our website](#).



*Think of bicycles as rideable art that can just about save the world.*

Grant Petersen, Rivendell Bicycle Works





## OUTREACH & EVENTS

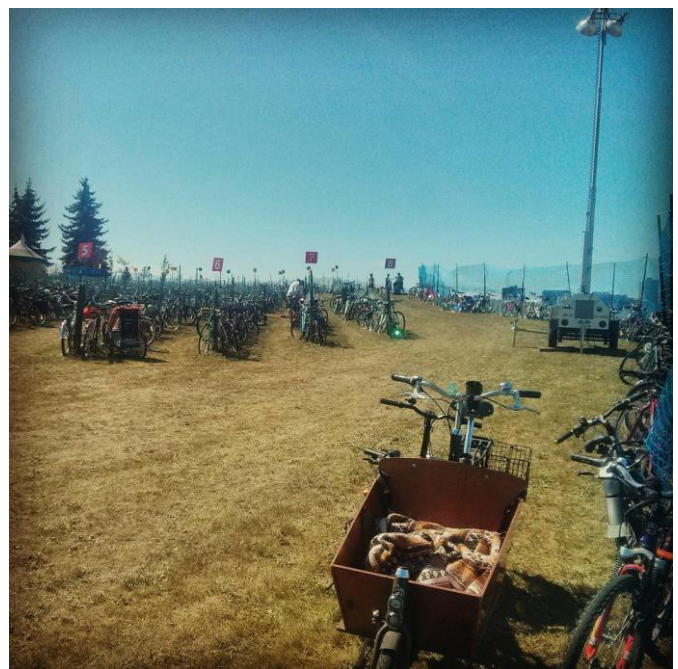
EBC led or co-organized many highly successful events this year. Our public art ride, gallery rides, Bike to the Symphony event, and architecture ride all had strong participation, often ranging from 50-100 people. We also worked with community leagues, media, arts and culture organizations, and other non-profits and businesses to provide bike repair and bike parking services. If you stopped by the Callingwood Farmers' Market in June, Ritchie community's bike swap, CKUA's Party in the Park, the Fringe, the Edmonton Folk Music Festival, or the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra's Symphony Under the Sky, you could find EBC providing tune-ups or bike parking.

Thank you to all of our partners in these events. For the most part, the bicycle was just a vehicle, while our partners provided the knowledge, interest and the destinations.

Through coordinating or participating in these events, we strengthened or established many relationships that that we will continue developing into the future, especially our strong focus on partnerships with the arts.

EBC presents numerous Lunch & Learn sessions, freely offered to various workplaces. This year we reached hundreds of people and receptive audiences with our message, providing information about our services alongside brief lessons on bike commuting and bicycle maintenance.

We look forward to exploring further ways to effectively fit our offerings into workplace training, health, safety, and environmental initiatives.





## ADVOCACY

In the fall of 2014, the City of Edmonton released a draft 4-year capital budget that proposed \$0 for active transportation, and funding for only a single significant bike route: 83 Avenue. Had this budget been approved, aside from the 83 Ave route, Edmonton wouldn't have seen another bike route built until 2020 at the earliest. Active transportation,

a portfolio that includes sidewalk curb ramps and bus pad connections for accessibility, as well as shared-use paths, sidewalks, and river valley stairs, would have taken a huge step backwards with no spending until 2019.

Following significant efforts by the Edmonton Bike Coalition, EBC, hyperlocal community groups such as QA Crossroads, community leagues, and the public, City Council made the unanimous decision to increase funding for Active Transportation to \$20 million over 4 years, and to add \$8.8 million to the budget to design and build a high-quality bikeway along 102 Avenue.

*"I'm concerned that administration hasn't figured out that people on streets, people on transit and sometimes on bike is a sign of a healthy city. To not put anything in [the budget]...I've expressed my disappointment before."*

Mayor Don Iveson, Nov 2014

After more consultations, the City announced in the spring that 102 Ave, from 136 St to 96 St, and 83 Ave from 111 St to 95 St would both have Edmonton's first protected, physically separated bike lanes installed along the majority of their length, likely opening in late 2018.

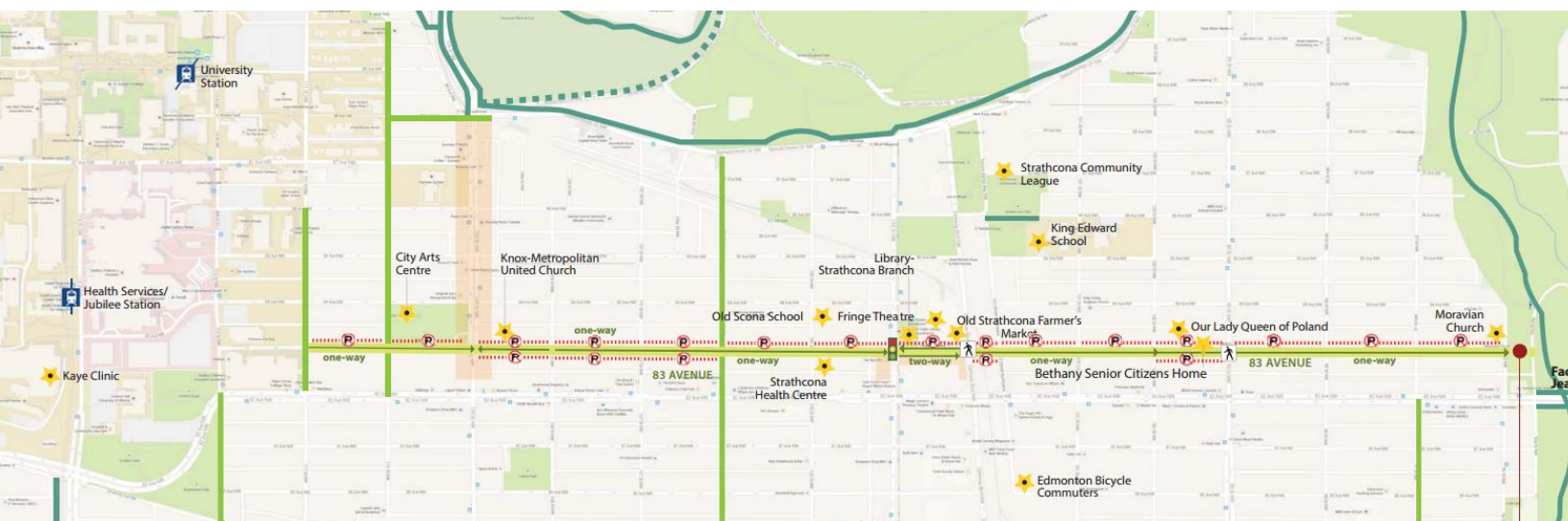
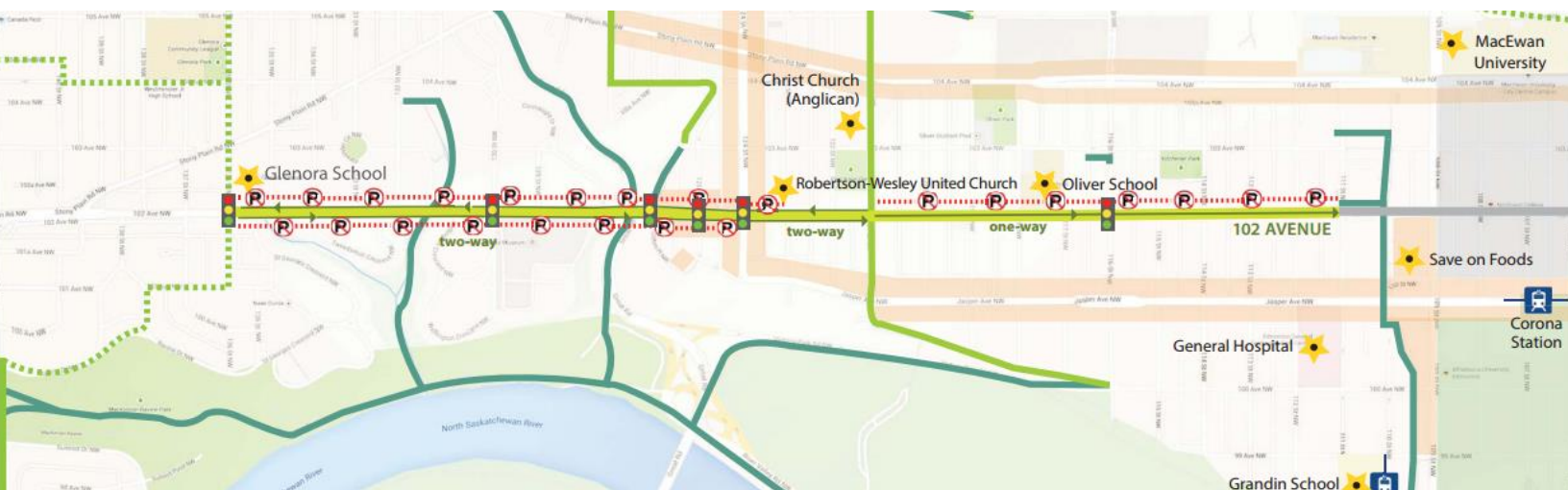
Thank you to all EBC members who took the time to ask their councillor to support funding active transportation in Edmonton. Your voice made a difference. Protected bike lanes, which separate cyclists from motorists, will enable many more

Edmontonians to choose to ride a bike and feel comfortable doing it.

The successes of the past year were moderated by setbacks: over 10 kilometres of bike lanes along 95 Ave, 40 Ave, and part of 106 St were removed with no consultation and no real opportunity for public debate. The decision by Council frustrated and angered many of the people who used those routes, as well as people across the city who saw it as a signal from Council that the safety of all road users is secondary to having more lanes and wider lanes. Within a week of the decision some of the bike lanes had already been removed from the roadway.

In response to the removal of bike lanes, EBC is now coordinating the first in what we hope will be a series of constructive public discussion forums with key City Councillors on what happened to set us so far back, and how we can begin moving in the right direction.

## FUTURE PROTECTED BIKE LANES





## THE SPOKE

The Spoke is a free program for youth aged 12-17. Over the course of a 6- to 8-week program, participants learn how to repair and maintain a bike, from start to finish. Each participant leaves The Spoke with their very own bicycle!

We extend sincere gratitude to Tara Sobey, who as a volunteer has been The Spoke's primary program coordinator since 2012. Her exemplary work and tireless volunteering has been crucial in bringing The Spoke to where it is today, inspiring volunteers and participants alike. As Tara steps back from the program, she leaves it in a good place and in good hands, ready for the next phase in the program's life.

We have had dedicated volunteers from the beginning, and now we have also added dedicated staffing to further the impact of The Spoke, allowing us to stretch our resources and reach more youth in the coming year.



YOU  
CAN  
RIDE



**YOU CAN RIDE 2**

*YCR2 began as a Learn-to-Ride course for children with special needs in 2003. We launched our Borrow-a-Bike program in 2013. This year, the program fit 105 Edmonton-area children with adapted bikes.*

In 2003, a pediatric physiotherapist teamed up with a cyclist and mechanic from EBC to offer the first community based Learn-to-Ride course for children with disabilities. The partnership between the therapy and cycling communities was unique and resulted in an exceptional learning opportunity for all involved. This has evolved into You Can Ride 2 (YCR2).

Over the past 12 years, the volunteers with YCR2 have taught over 100 children with disabilities to ride. We have created a Train-the-Trainer program and taught over two dozen therapists how to teach two-wheeled cycling. Over 10 communities in Alberta have since offered the program.

In 2013, we started an adaptive bicycle loan pool. Grants helped launch the program by providing funding for bikes, most of which cost between \$2000 and \$6000 each. Initially,

storage space was donated and the program was run by volunteers. We have no guaranteed external funding, and yet we continue to make huge gains, thanks mainly to the immense commitment of our volunteers and increased community awareness and support of the program. In three years, the Borrow-a-Bike program has almost tripled in size. In 2015, we were able to fit 105 children with adaptive bikes and now have over 110 bikes.

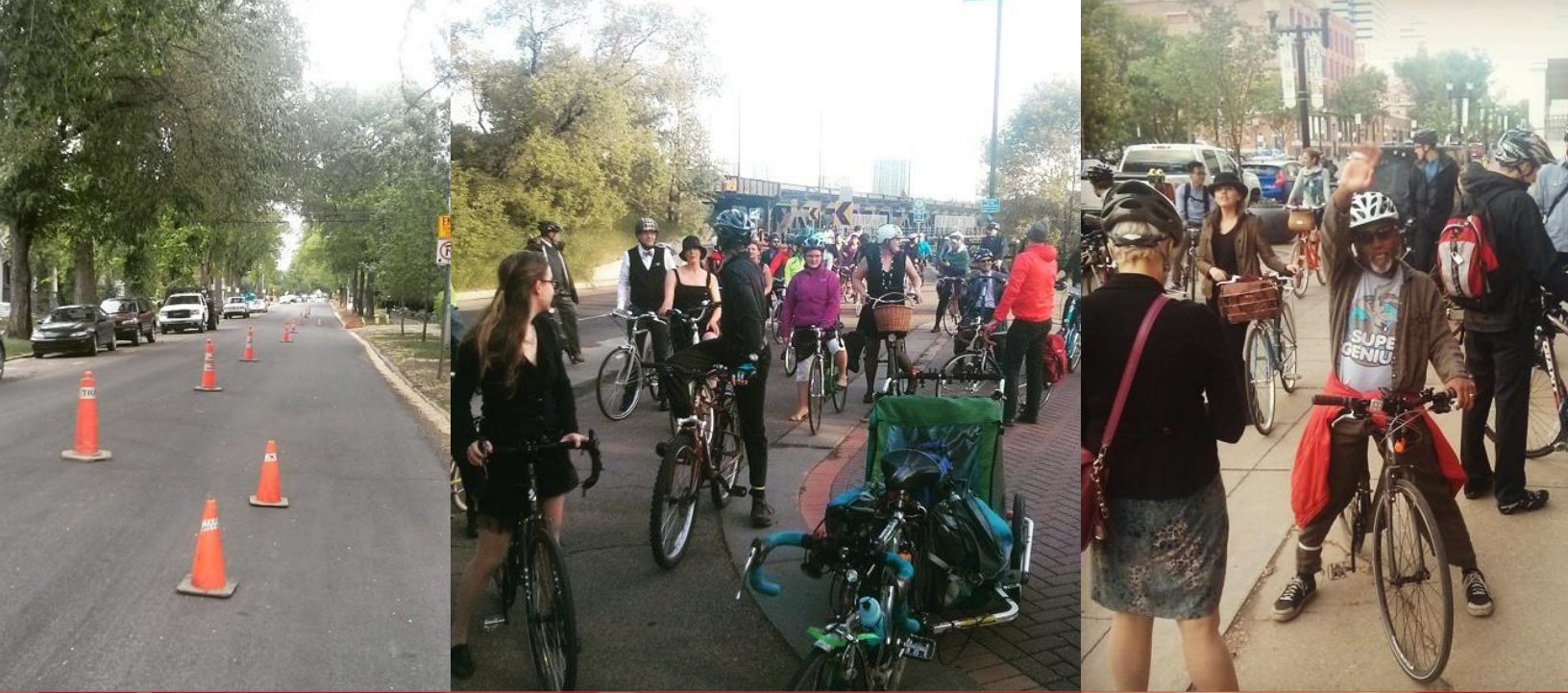
The support from the Rehabilitation Medicine community has been incredible—over 40 therapists volunteered at our various events this past year alone. Similarly, support from the cycling community

has been increasing. Four local bike shops helped out with the mechanical work. Over 2000 volunteer hours went into the program in 2015.

This past year, the Rotary Club of Spruce Grove raised and donated over \$90,000 to our partner, Inclusion Alberta (formerly Alberta Association for Community Living), to provide equipment for You Can Ride 2. Field Law contributed \$15,000 for the development of new inventory management software through their Field Law Community Fund. Other significant sponsors in 2015 include the Optimist Club of Beverly, the Autobody & Insurance Adjusters Golf and Friendship Tournament, Mountain Equipment Co-op, and the Rotary Club of Sherwood Park.

You Can Ride 2 also relies on the support of participating families, including from financial donations but especially from the time and expertise of family members who volunteer and support this wonderful community.

Thank you to everyone who has helped grow this program; we look forward to your continued support as we move towards charitable status and continue to search for a permanent location to house the program.



## SPONSORS & DONORS

EBC would like to extend a special thank you to the Rotary Club of Spruce Grove and Inclusion Alberta for their support of You Can Ride 2, as well as the Field Law Community Fund, Autobody & Insurance Adjusters Golf and Friendship Tournament, Optimist Club of Beverly, and Mountain Equipment Co-op.

The Alberta Bike Swap once again donated many bicycles and proceeds from the Edmonton Bike Swap event to EBC. We truly appreciate the great partnership we have with the Alberta Bike Swap.

The City of Edmonton, through its Community Investment Operating Grant, also helps enable EBC to continue providing our services to the public.

We have many other sponsors and partners, including smaller donors, private individual donors, and business partners who offer benefits to our members. Our membership revenue accounts for a significant portion of our budget. Thank you to all of our supporters, big and small, without whom we could not have the kind of impact in the community that we strive for.

View our list of sponsors and partners at <http://edmontonbikes.ca/sponsors>

# GOVERNANCE & STAFF

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**Jonathan Woelber**, President

**Nancy Milakovic**, Vice President Internal

**Michelle Fisher**, Treasurer (to May 2015)

**Anna Vesala**, Secretary

**Adrian Pearce**, Co-Director of Volunteers, Co-Director of Cyclists at Large

**Alex Hindle**, Director of Strategic Planning

**Alexey Kalinin**, Vice-President External, Co-Director of Volunteers

**Chris Corrigan**, Co-Director of Cyclists at Large

**Christopher Haworth**, Director of Events (to April 2015)

**Daniel Thompson**, Director of Policy

**Geoff Hansen**, Director of Information Technology

**Rachel Keglowsch**, Director of Grants

## STAFF

**Christopher Chan**, Executive Director

**Coreen**, BikeWorks Manager

**Keith Hallgren**, Bicycle Assembler (to August 2015)

**Leslie Bush**, External Relations Coordinator

**Marianne Alacoque**, Program Coordinator (to August 2015)

**Molly Turnbull**, Program Coordinator (from September 2015)

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



The principal financial challenge for EBC is to sustainably find the resources to meet the needs and demands of the Edmonton cycling community.

In 2014, the greatest financial impact on EBC was the renovation and opening of the new BikeWorks South location. The good news is that in 2015, revenues from both BikeWorks locations was sufficient to cover rent and most operating costs, as well as the cost of the shop manager's remuneration.

For this fiscal year ending August 31, 2015, the financial challenge was to find resources to meet the growing demand for EBC program services, notably The Spoke and You Can Ride 2, and the increased need to communicate with and strengthen our relationships with community partners, advocacy groups, sponsors and financial supporters. To that end EBC hired two new staff members in March 2015, increasing our payroll costs by about 35%.

I'm pleased to report that this year EBC revenues and expenses were almost exactly on budget, with a variance of less than 1%. There were no significant variances on any of the revenue or expense line items from budgeted amounts.

However, even though EBC was on budget, the budget and of course the actual results show an operating loss of \$13 thousand. With our current sources of revenues, it is unlikely that EBC will be able to balance the budget while maintaining existing levels of services and programming. Our budget for the coming year forecasts an operating deficit of \$13 thousand. While EBC has sufficient cash reserves to fund modest operating deficits for several years, this is obviously not sustainable for the long term.

For this reason, EBC is proceeding with an application to Canada Revenue Agency for charitable registration. This will permit EBC to increase revenues from donations and grants that are only

**JONATHAN WOELBER**  
Acting Treasurer

available to organizations with charitable status. Although it takes several months and up to a year to complete the application process, the EBC Board of Directors are confident that this change will provide the financial resources needed to meet the growing demand for EBC services and programming.

Finally, our longtime bookkeeper and former Treasurer Neil Carey is moving on to new endeavours. We are sad to lose him as our bookkeeper, and wish him all the best. We thank him for his years of dedication to EBC and for helping steward our finances. It will be difficult to replace Neil's combination of knowledge, passion, and expertise.



## Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society Comparative Balance Sheet

	As at Aug 31, 2015	As at Aug 31, 2014
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Cash	213,850.32	233,902.70
Other Current Assets	-	3,487.38
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<u>213,850.32</u>	<u>237,390.08</u>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>	<u>7,615.23</u>	<u>7,908.73</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<u><u>221,465.55</u></u>	<u><u>245,298.81</u></u>
<b>LIABILITY</b>		
Accounts Payable	35,161.28	24,569.72
Deferred Revenue	<u>65,652.93</u>	<u>87,163.11</u>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITY</b>	<u>100,814.21</u>	<u>111,732.83</u>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	<u>120,651.27</u>	<u>133,565.98</u>
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<u>120,651.27</u>	<u>133,565.98</u>
<b>LIABILITIES AND EQUITY</b>	<u><u>221,465.48</u></u>	<u><u>245,298.81</u></u>

Generated On: Sep 15, 2015



## Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society Comparative Income Statement

	Budget Fiscal Year Ending 2016	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2015	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2014
<b>REVENUE</b>			
Sales Revenue	183,957.00	180,060.84	144,099.15
Donations & Grants	50,872.00	42,464.84	91,747.16
Casino Revenue	60,215.67	49,807.53	40,429.65
Other Revenue	1,060.00	934.49	762.39
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<u>296,104.67</u>	<u>273,267.70</u>	<u>277,038.35</u>
<b>EXPENSE</b>			
Staffing Costs	146,321.11	136,009.49	102,834.04
BikeWorks Operating Costs	114,659.40	121,865.46	107,641.27
Other Program Costs	36,294.20	15,910.81	40,696.17
Communication Costs	4,638.32	5,462.19	3,870.04
Financial Costs	8,620.00	6,934.46	5,537.51
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<u>310,533.03</u>	<u>286,182.41</u>	<u>260,579.03</u>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<u><u>(14,428.36)</u></u>	<u><u>(12,914.71)</u></u>	<u><u>16,459.32</u></u>

Generated On: Sep 15, 2015

# LOOKING FORWARD



The coming years look bright for EBC. We have hired a Program Coordinator with increased hours to focus on developing You Can Ride 2 and The Spoke through the next year. We enter this financial year with a deficit budget, but have firm plans to open new revenue sources and pursue opportunities we had previously lacked the resources to seize.

We have also piloted a bike builder position to help train volunteers and meet the demand for professionally re-built bicycles. The first season was successful enough that we will try it again in the new year.

We have an engaged governing body, including three committees actively focused on strategic planning and policy development; a clear path to pursue charitable registration; plans to renovate BikeWorks North and expand BikeWorks services; a strong advocacy position; partnerships with well-established organizations; and staffing in place to support our programs. We look forward to continuing to serve Edmonton and supporting its move towards active, healthy, accessible transportation.



Architecture Ride led by EBC, Dialog and Manasc Isaac  
Photograph by Alberto Garcia  
[albertogarciaphotography.com](http://albertogarciaphotography.com)