



# ANNUAL REPORT '21 '22



Alison Neighbourhood  
community centre

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# MISSION & VISION

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## OUR MISSION

*ANCC encourages individual and community growth by providing enriching opportunities close to home.*



## OUR VISION

*An inclusive and thriving neighbourhood where residents can grow together.*

# MEETING AGENDA

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## Confirmation Act

"That all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Directors and Officers of the Corporation since the AGM as the same set-out, or referred to in the minutes of the Board of Directors and the general membership, be on and the same approved, sanctioned and confirmed."

- Meeting & Introductions
- Notice of Meeting
- Acceptance of the 2023 Agenda
- Acceptance of the 2022 Minutes
- Presentation of Audited Financial Statements
- Message from the Co-Chairs
- Message from the Executive Director
- Elections - Board of Directors
- New Business
- Closing Comments & Adjournment





# CURRENT STAFF

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## Full - Time Staff

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**SAMANTHA ESMERALDA**

Executive Director

**JESSICA KROETSCH**

Community Engagement Coordinator

**ASHLEY LAWNICZAK**

Recreation Coordinator

**KENNEDY THOMPSON**

Executive Assistant

## Part- Time Staff

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**ALLIE PALCU**

**CARMELETA WOJTECZKO**

**CLARKE CONNORS**

**CRAIG VANLOON**

**DAMIEN NUGENT**

**ISABELLA GOMEZ**

**JULIA LUORO**

**LISA COLOMBO**

**LUCAS CUSTODIO**

**WARISHA NOUSHAD**

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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**CARLOS ROQUE**

*Co-Chair*

**CRYSTAL PARAVINJA**

*Co-Chair*

**KAREN MCCULLOUGH**

*Secretary*

**ALLISON LOWE**

*Treasurer*

**ANDREW COLLARD**

*Member at Large*

**FATIMA KHARODIA**

*Member at Large*

**KATHLEEN VORADETH**

*Member at Large*



# MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CHAIRS

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Dear community partners and stakeholders,

This past year was one of transition as the pandemic and its aftermath continued to impact the overall operation of Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre. Despite this, we continued to see steady progress, reinvigorated hope and a desire for continued growth and change within the organization. It is these concepts that will continue to guide us into and through this new year. We are excited to see where 2023 will lead us as we continue to offer the programs and services you have come to rely on us for and forge ahead with new ideas and continued growth.

As we look back on the year, we recognize that our community, employees, and volunteers faced unique challenges. ANCC was a “beacon of hope” to the community. The connections made within our organization through services such as reliable and engaging child care, extracurricular programming and activities, and both employment and volunteer opportunities all continue to drive and support families in and around our community. We cannot understate the work and dignity that ANCC provides to all members of the community. We as a board value and honour the insurmountable effort that our director, staff, and volunteers expend for each and every individual member and family.

The services that we provide within our community are truly where we shine. Breakfast Club and After School Program support the on-going needs of families in the neighbourhood. We were thrilled to reinstate Breakfast Club this year; providing a warm, safe place for students to enjoy a healthy breakfast and a little bit of fun before the school day while also allowing caregivers to start their day on time.



**MESSAGE FROM THE  
CO-CHAIRS CONTINUED...**





Much like coming home after a long day at work, the time immediately after school can be tough with tired brains and bodies and big feelings about success or struggles both academically and socially. Enter the after school program at ANCC! Our after school program welcomes students at a critical point in their day and provides them with an opportunity to rest, relax, and decompress from their school day. They have the opportunity to enjoy fun games and activities and connect with trusted and supportive adults and familiar peers. Thanks to a special funding project this past year, our participants were able to enjoy some extra special activities like rock climbing and visits to the local tennis courts.

Our recreation programs provide youth of all ages with the chance to explore and learn new skills like skating, gymnastics, cooking, arts and crafts, sports and games, and relaxing drop-in evenings while providing families with the knowledge that their kids are safe and included at all times. At ANCC we are honoured to remove barriers to these opportunities for all through accessibility and a culture of complete respect and inclusion.

One of the highlights of this year is the direction and vision that is being developed by the stakeholders of ANCC. Last year we, both board and staff, under the wonderful direction and collaboration with Doable, set out to create a long-term plan to review, adapt, and grow not only our direct presence and impact on the community but also the environment and culture of this organization as a whole.

This coming year we will begin to see the fruits of this exciting process filter into our work practices and community delivery. This progress will have a significant effect into 2023 and beyond. We are incredibly grateful for the leadership and management that our director Samantha Esmeralda has taken. Her purposeful management and vision has empowered and rallied those around her to take our community centre forward toward a thrilling and very bright future.







We would like to thank all the stakeholders for their continued dedication to Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre. To the employees, volunteers, and the members of the board of directors who have put not only their time and effort, but their hearts into this center and the services it provides. You are an integral part of not only ANCC but the Alison Neighbourhood as a whole.

Our community here in the neighbourhood and the greater city of Cambridge would not be the same without each and every one of you. Thank you for the passion you bring into your roles every single day, your dedication to your neighbours and your vision to continue to build and grow this beautiful community of ours. You should be incredibly proud of your contributions and the impact that you have made this past year within Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre and we brightly look forward to all of the exciting and fun opportunities that you will create throughout 2023 and into the future.

Change can be perplexing at times. However, directed and thoughtful change leads to positive and sustainable outcomes. The foundation and work that our director has led us to is exciting. As we now rally behind her and ANCC as a community, we will not forget the lessons that we have learned from our recent past. We will not take the present for granted. We will continue to challenge ourselves to work together and build a brighter future for our neighborhood.

Sincerely,

**Carlos Roque**

ANCC BOARD CO-CHAIR

**Crystal Paravinja**

ANCC BOARD CO-CHAIR

# MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## **REEMERGING, RECONNECTING, REENGAGING; CONFIDENTLY RETURNING TO IN-PERSON PROGRAMS.**

In reflecting on this past year at Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre, I am filled with gratitude, confidence and excitement for what is to come. I would like to start this letter by congratulating the ANCC team and our beautiful community for their perseverance this past year.

In all that we accomplished; the relationships made and maintained, the programs developed and re-developed, the residents connected to us and one another, it is hard to believe that 2021 started with another COVID-19 lockdown. Our team of staff, volunteers and participants have and continue to exhibit resiliency in the face of change.



Our community continues to amaze us and they have shown us that they are ready to reconnect. This year marked the triumphant return of Neighbourhood Day and despite a brief (albeit torrential) downpour, over 650 residents were in attendance to celebrate all that Alison has to offer.

Youth looking to engage with the neighbourhood skyrocketed this past year, as did our capacity to utilize youth volunteers. With a reimagining of the summer leadership program, our summer volunteers had the option to work directly in camp as Leaders in Training or as a part of our Operations team—who helped behind the scenes, preparing crafts and setting up games. Teams were assigned by interest but many of our youth volunteers rotated between the two.

As COVID restrictions have steadily lifted, we have been able to create new programming with the community and bring back old favourites. Learn to Skate at Galt Arena, Gymnastics and the After School Club pilot project to name just a few were developed directly from community input.

**MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE  
DIRECTOR CONTINUED...**





As an active member of the Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations, completing the 3 year “Our Sustainable Network” project funded by Lyle S. Hallman was a major milestone. This project invested in reorganizing the structure of the CNO to reduce duplication and increase organizational capacity. In completing this project with the other Neighbourhood Associations of Cambridge, ANCC has been consistently represented as an active community partner and maintained an integral relationship with the Lyle S. Hallman foundation.

I was asked to present to City Council on behalf of the CNO on the purpose of Neighbourhood Associations and the successes of the network. As a member of the Strategic Positioning Pod of the CNO, I was invited to attend this past year’s Tamarack conference focused on Asset Based Community Development on behalf of the network.



Notably, our relationship with the Cambridge Self-Help Food Bank has continued to flourish. Not only have they provided healthy and refreshing summer camp snacks to our campers, but ANCC has become a regular satellite location for the Mobile Food Market. Together we are destigmatizing the access to food support in Cambridge.

This summer we continued our partnership with the Cowan Foundation; integrating Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Mathematics into camp programming. And our successful applications for Canada Summer Jobs allowed us to hire camp inclusion staff as well as office support.

Our previously identified goal for this year was incorporating Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility into the organization at all levels. Our full-time staff engaged in local anti-racism courses and workshops addressing Power, Privilege and Prejudices.

By incorporating accessibility and diversity training into all staff orientation modules, we are ensuring the values of ANCC are carried out in all aspects of our work; laying the foundation for our current goal of policy review and implementation.



This past year we maintained our HIGH FIVE accreditation, ensuring that the organization meets the national standard for children's recreation programs. Not only that, but our Recreation Supervisor, Ashley Lawniczak became a certified High Five Trainer.

We have learned so much about adaptability and resilience in the past few years. With this in mind, our team has taken a leap into the online registration software CampBrain. This software packages registration, liability forms, medical information and online payment into one convenient link for caregivers to navigate. In shifting to online registration, we are meeting the majority of our community at home, work or school and releasing capacity of our key staff at the centre.

In looking to the year ahead and beyond, I reiterate that I am filled with hope. Our evenings are bustling with in-person programs, filled with laughter and connection once again. I am confidently working with the City of Cambridge to engage residents' perspectives about the Soper Park redesign as well as the overall Neighbourhood Policy Review.

The hope I have for the coming years is in no small part attributed to our success in securing the Ontario Trillium Foundation's Resiliency Fund grant in May of 2022. These funds have and will continue to be integral in the development of a 3 year Strategic Plan. We have conducted 11 internal and 20 external stakeholder interviews to inform our trajectory, as well as 3 staff workshops and 3 board workshops with the help of Kris Cummings of DO/ABLE, a consultant with expertise in Cambridge Neighbourhoods.

The accomplishments of the team and the organization go far beyond this snapshot. In a time of trepidation and resistance, our community has worked hard to come together time and again. This is in no small part due to the groundwork of community development that drives us and we are so grateful to work with community partners and funders who understand the benefits of the community development approach.

My commitment is that the work of ANCC will continue to be informed by the residents. We will connect with one another and engage neighbours in the conversation to develop the path forward as partners in this community.

I look forward to sharing this journey with you.



## **Samantha Esmeralda**

Executive Director





# RECREATION HIGHLIGHTS 2021 & 2022

961

Program  
Hours

78

new  
families

5

New  
Programs

215

Youth  
Participants

5

Community  
Partnerships

280

Summer  
Camp  
Participants



## Learn to Skate!

Introducing children and youth to basic skating skills and increase confidence on the ice.



## Summer Day Camp!

Offered 7 weeks of the summer; filled with games, trips, and special guest artists.



## Teen Drop In!

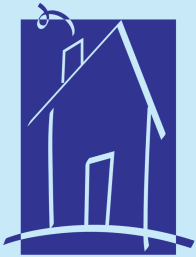
Teen Drop In Our Youth Council met on Tuesdays to connect, snack and plan for the future of the neighbourhood they live in.



## After School Program!

Reliable and consistent outdoor recreation with a healthy snack every day after school!





# VOLUNTEERING AT ANCC



Alison Neighbourhood  
community centre



2020-  
2021

2021-  
2022

Volunteers

45

70

Volunteer  
Hours

2984

5418

Youth  
Hours

2926

4284

After School  
Program  
Hours

613

1135

Special  
Events  
Hours

313

390

Summer  
Playground  
Hours

2275

3401



We have 10 After School Youth volunteers who donated their time equaling over \$17,000 in wages to ANCC!



Our Summer Camp Volunteers supported camp program and operations. Their donated time was equal to over \$50,000 in staff wages!



Alison Neighbourhood Community Centre cannot do all of the amazing things we do without our volunteers.

Thank you to our Board of Directors, Program Volunteers, and Special Event Volunteers!

# SPECIAL EVENT HIGHLIGHTS 2021-2022

## Neighbourhood Day!

With nearly 700 people in attendance, Neighbourhood Day continues to be one of the most memorable and magical days of the year! We love getting the chance to connect with new and old families and see everyone have a good time! There is no better way to spend a beautiful day than bouncing in a bouncy castle, eating delicious food, and hanging with the Neighbourhood. We are hoping for an even bigger turnout next year!



## Family Apple Picking!

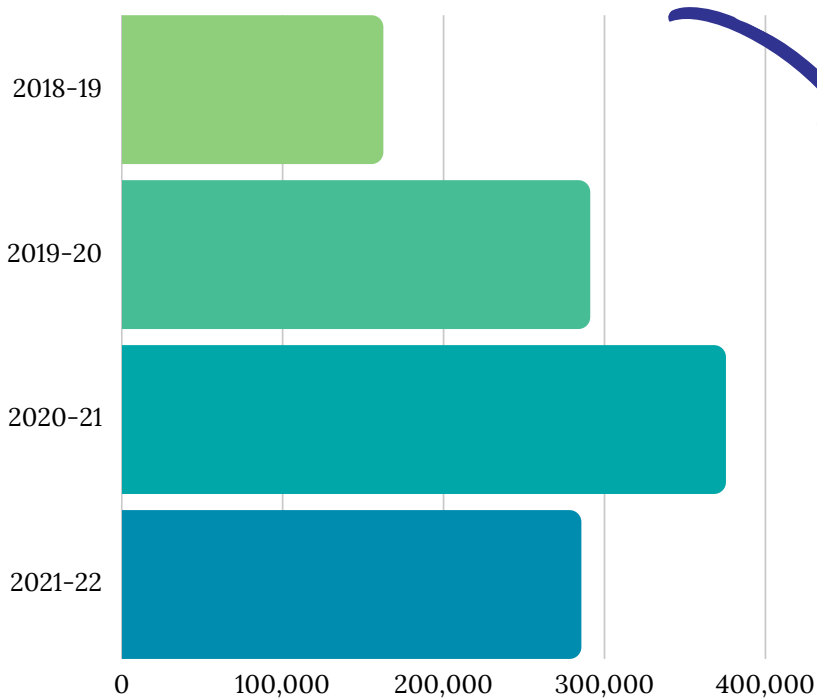
Apple Picking is one of our favorite events of the year. Being able to watch our families interact with one another at the beautiful orchard warms our hearts each fall! This year we had 96 people register to come out! We picked apples, found beautiful fall mums, and of course ate yummy treats!



## Halloween Dance & Haunted House!

This was definitely our most bustling event of the year! With close to 200 people in attendance, staff and volunteers worked hard to make it a fun experience for the kids. All staff and volunteers collaborated to create a spooky experience for all the kids. Everyone had a fun night of dancing and being scared!

# FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

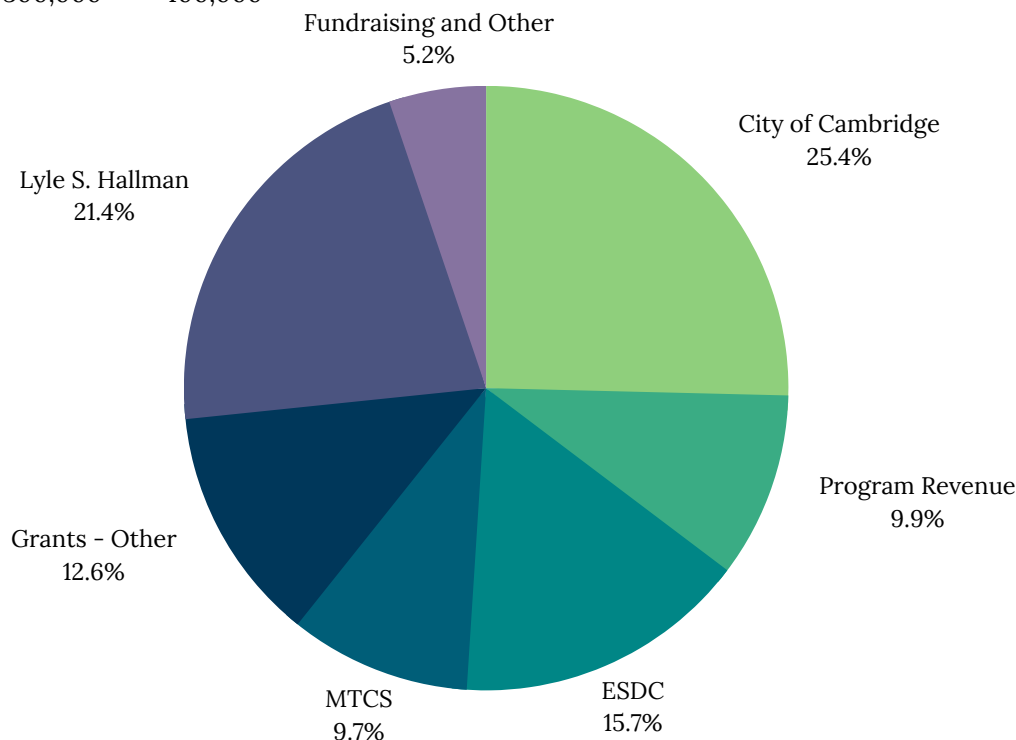


**FIGURE 1.**

In 2020 and 2021 there was an increase in Covid-19 support dollars. In 2021 and 2022 we saw a steady decline in the support provided by the provincial and federal governments. Still on a trajectory of growth compared to pre-pandemic years.

**FIGURE 2.**

An overview of current revenue sources and percentage of revenue each funder contributes to ANCC as at August 31st, 2022.





# LOOKING AHEAD

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Develop and Execute our 3 year Strategic Plan

Prioritize organizational policy review with a focus on Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access

Diversify community partnerships, highlighting opportunities for joint fundraising opportunities.

Expanding ANCC marketing efforts beyond social media.

Maintain communication channels for resident input, focus on Asset-Based Community Development

Complete Charitable Status Application

Actively participate in The Cambridge Neighbourhood Organizations Strategic Network



# THANK YOU!

Alison Neighbourhood wants to thank our funders for their support in the last year and their continued partnership for 2022. We simply cannot do our amazing work without you!



LYLE S. HALLMAN  
FOUNDATION



An agency of the Government of Ontario  
Un organisme du gouvernement de l'Ontario

