

## Ambassador Toolkit-Reporting Summary

**Group Stats: Number of attendees:9 Number born and raised in Edmonton: 5  
Number who moved to Edmonton: 4**

### Highlights of the discussion:

#### **1. What brought you to Edmonton? How long have you been here?**

1. Born and raised here
2. My family moved here and I moved with them and am in school
3. I came for post-secondary/professional training and stayed. Have since began to raise a family here.
4. Moved for job/professional reasons (Of 3, one is transient)

#### **2. How do you find Jewish community life generally in Edmonton?**

1. Cliques/segregated. With no facility synagogues became de facto community centres which perpetuates this.
2. Above point also refers to youth organizations like BBYO which can be hard to approach as a teen who wasn't previously in the mix of friends or does not have a house that can 'measure up' to host like others
3. In light of above, Sects starting to be more collaborative. Sense of improvement
4. Activities and events like Aviv contribute to feeling of involvement and avenues to be Jewish without 'choosing'
5. Challenging for singles. Sense that Edmonton is family or couples oriented.

#### **3. Thinking of your aspirations/expectations of community life, what would you like to see the community offer that would enrich your Jewish life? Do you see any challenges/barriers to realizing those aspirations?**

1. Ability to get back/tap into Jewish organized activities as a young adult (post teen) given pre-existing friendships/cliques
2. Common ground meeting space which would remove socioeconomic barriers
3. Attend a Jewish event without being asked to volunteer or give
4. Art or craft activities that would tie in with Israel/ help us create or sustain our connection to Israel (akin to how a pen pal system would....allow for a creative outlet)
5. Ways to connect with other Jewish people even if you are not a full participant or affiliate with the community. E.g. Dance program like aviv or a music program
6. More downtown programming as there are graduate or newly graduated students/ young adults who cannot attend west end programming without difficulty.
7. Saturday night programming for elementary age children or those unaffiliated with **synagogues but would like to have connection to something Jewish.**

**4. What value might there be in having a central gathering place for the Jewish community, and what purposes might it serve?**

Central place would be available to sustaining and creating community.  
Obviates socio economic barriers and provides more through:

- a. Meeting space
- b. Dance space
- c. Performance space – business model of renting out to other groups
- d. Pool

**HOST FEEDBACK**

Group needed to be kept to question especially question 3

Range in age from 20 (almost half group to 40's)

Merit in hosting group with teen dancers

Half group affiliated with a synagogue. One third of group attends select programming such as Aviv/Mayim or Israel related programming only