

Date: Feb 10, 2014

Ambassador-Reporting Summary

Number of attendees: 5

Number born and raised in Edmonton: 1

Number who moved to Edmonton: 4

Average of length of time in the city: 25 years

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

- came in 1993 from Israel, second cousin was living in the city
- 23 years ago with his wife
- 1998, his uncle lives in the city
- moved 33 years ago, moved to teach at the U of A
- Born in Edmonton, moved out when at University, came back after his studies.

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

- vibrant community with school, activities and synagogue

- Coming from a big community sees Edmonton struggling to survive, business that serves the community have short lifespan. Not enough for young families.
- Came from a small community. Sees a lot to offer for everybody "spread to thin". Before was not a welcoming community. Hard when you don't know anybody. Activities for middle age people.
- Availability of organization changes all the time. JCC should be a focal point for people that are not affiliated. Lacks modern orthodox school. Need more food options.
- Agrees with what people had said. The old JCC was not used at the extent that was supposed to be used for. Need a place for gathering and food.

3- Thinking of your aspirations/expectations of community, 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?

- People scattered in the community. Need good Kosher restaurant or coffee shop with bakery
- Dance studio, theater, stage, snack bar, indoor playground. Needs to be sustainable and attractive to other communities.
- Theater, place for food. Look as a business. Big classrooms, meeting rooms (for learning and meetings). Offices for Jewish organizations. Different language films. Barrier: Parking is expensive. Having a restaurant not necessary to be kosher.
- Dance space, theater, films. Place for gathering. To be careful with what is going to be done.
- Youth place for gathering. Agrees with all what has been said. Missing place for non-denominational. Difficult to attract people to move to Edmonton without a JCC.

4- What value might there be in having a central gathering place for the Jewish community and what purpose (s) might it serve?

- People that are not affiliated will appear at the JCC
- Everyone said the JCC should be at the westend, most Jewish people live in the westend.
- The biggest barrier is money
- It is taking too long for the process to get things done
- The JCC has to be built with a low budget and low cost of maintenance.