International Women's Day proclaimed in Edmonton

Mayor Don Iveson proclaimed March 8, 2014, International Women's Day in Edmonton at a celebration hosted today at the Winspear Centre, and encouraged women to become more involved in civic issues.

"As a city we need to ensure women's rights, issues and opinions are represented fairly and equally," said Mayor Iveson. "Women provide a unique voice, and without that we cannot continue to evolve as a forward-thinking and global city. I invite you to become more involved in civic decision-making by providing your ideas, inspiration and leadership as accomplished, influential and inspired women."

Councillor Bev Esslinger announced the formation of the Edmonton Women's Initiative. Still in its formative stages, the Initiative will focus on three key themes: engagement through networking, leadership through mentorship, and learning from best practices used in other municipalities.

"I want Edmonton women to stand up and play a part in building the future of Edmonton. You are the diversity of our city," said Concillor Esslinger. "Wherever you are – in academia, in the workforce, your school, on a sports field, or running your own business – you have a wealth of knowledge and experience. Let's work together to make Edmonton a great city for women and a great city for everyone."

Earlier this year City Council created Edmonton's first women's advisory committee. The Women's Advocacy Voice of Edmonton (WAVE) will support the work of the Initiative.

For more information on the Edmonton Women's Initiative, or to apply to become a member of WAVE, visit edmonton.ca/women.

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