

Edmonton City Council

Wednesday, Nov 28th

I am an Indigenous writer who has lived and worked in Edmonton since the 1980's and presently work as Associate Professor at the University of Alberta.

I wish to speak against the Ten Year Plan because when I read through the document, it highlights as foundational to the document: "treaty principles" which contradicts Section 35 of the Canadian Constitution of recognizing three Indigenous groups: FN, Inuit, and Metis.

I also worked on a previous yearlong audit of EAC and the subsequent final report of 2015 wherein three researchers under Promethean Heritage and Cultural Services, an Indigenous owned and operated business, held community consultations with local Indigenous artists and a two-day symposium of local and regional artists, arts organizations, and funding agencies from Edmonton and area and from across the Prairie Provinces and as far away as NWT and Washington State, so we could look at best practices and collect recommendations from local and regional artists.

The money spent on this previous audit and community consultation was substantial and deserves to be considered in the present 10-year plan.

I attach my letter of resignation from the Indigenous Advisory Board.

Edmonton Arts Council
Prince of Wales Armoury
2nd Floor, 10440-108 Avenue
Edmonton, AB
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August 14, 2018

INDIGENOUS ADVISORY COMMITTEE and Equity Committee

In an effort to advance Indigenous artists in Edmonton, I joined the Indigenous Advisory Committee in 2016 after working on a yearlong research engagement project in 2015 with Edmonton and surrounding Indigenous artists which culminated in two day symposium on Indigenous artists entitled *Channeling Connections* in which Indigenous arts administrators and artists from other provinces and territories gathered to determine best practices among other things while a report on this symposium was delivered to the Edmonton Arts Council.

It is now 2018, and I am disappointed with the lack of follow-up in the EAC from this above mentioned work. One of our strong recommendations for that research and report was the

suggestion that an Aboriginal Arts Advisor be hired at the EAC and that an (IAC) Indigenous Advisory Committee provide direction to EAC's on-going work.

I have discovered that the IAC has not been consulted on major initiatives such as the City of Edmonton's ten-year plan and other workings within the EAC. Even though we were an extant Indigenous Advisory Board at the EAC. The lack of communication around planning between the EAC and IAC has been frustrating and disillusioning as an artist that has worked to change things in Edmonton, and it is with sadness that I resign from my position on the IAC. I assure you that I am not the only unhappy board member of IAC because it feels as though IAC is approached to rubber-stamp decisions already made by EAC without any consultation at all. I see this as a step backwards in significant engagement with the Indigenous artists of Edmonton rather than advancement.

To date, there is still no significant Indigenous representation on the EAC staff, and no Indigenous individual on the EAC Equity Committee which in a city the size of Edmonton is unacceptable if the city is serious about advocating for Indigenous artists.

To be frank, the efforts I put into research, planning, participation on the IAC has been a waste of my time, and feel angry that the EAC has not listened to the voices of Indigenous peoples.

Marilyn Dumont