

EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

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CONTENTS

Introduction	3
Message from the President	5
Report from the Executive Director	7
Year in Review	9
BikeWorks	10
Outreach & Events	13
Civic Representation	14
The Spoke	17
You Can Ride 2	19
Sponsors & Donors	21
Governance & Staff	22
Financial Statements	23
Looking Forward	27



years old, we have launched festivals; led a Rails to Trails campaign that spurred the creation of a shared-use path connecting to the High Level Bridge; helped fund the first bike racks on ETS buses; and we continue our work today to make Edmonton a better city to live and ride in.

ABOUT THE EDMONTON BICYCLE COMMUTERS SOCIETY

We work with children, youth and adults to make cycling accessible for everyone, because we believe that making Edmonton better for bicycling improves our city's quality of life.

Whether riding a few times a week, 265 bike-friendly days a year, or year-round, the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society (EBC) provides the tools Edmontonians need to enjoy cycling. Established as a non-profit society in 1980, EBC operates two volunteer-run community bike workshops, provides training for children, youth and adults, hosts events during Bike Month and all year-round, and represents Edmonton cyclists at City Hall.

Learn how to fix your bike and ride in traffic. Buy a refurbished bike, or donate a disused one. Meet other cyclists, and help us advocate for a bike-friendly city.

Our mandate is to make cycling in Edmonton safer and more accessible and widespread as a means to improve quality of life in the city. We provide bicycle services, resources, education and representation, to promote the bicycle as a healthy and economical mode of travel.

VISION STATEMENT

Everyday cycling in Edmonton is safe, widespread, and accessible to people of all comfort levels.

MISSION

EBC is a non-profit society dedicated to making everyday cycling in Edmonton safer and more widespread by providing bicycle services, education, and civic representation. We promote the bicycle as a healthy, economical, and ecologically sound mode of transportation.

OBJECTS

- 1. To provide, administer and maintain a multi-use facility for Edmonton and area dedicated to providing cost-effective, do-it-yourself bike repair facilities and access to an environmentally sustainable, economical means of transportation,
- 2. To educate the public by providing courses, seminars and workshops about bike mechanics and/or safe and effective riding,
- 3. To extend services to marginalized members of the community as well as new-comers,
- 4. To facilitate communication between cyclists and governments or others to improve bicycle infrastructure and policy, and
- 5. To assist the Edmonton community at large in the promotion, encouragement and understanding of cycling culture.



Message from the President



The Year in Review

2017 was certainly another full year for Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society. As in years past, the board has addressed a variety of important issues to ensure EBC's a

variety of important issues to ensure EBC's ability to deliver sustainable and relevant programming to Edmonton cyclists of all ages and abilities.

Governance

Board committees were particularly active with projects that improve board governance, position EBC for continued growth and greater relevance, and ensure that the Society is compliant with provincial safety guidelines.

The board recently undertook a board evaluation to determine our areas of strength and needs for development. The results were clear that the board functions collaboratively and productively and is able to set priorities that align with the Society's Mission. The board would like to spend more time developing and strengthening policy—however strong demand for our services coupled with finite resources, it always seems that there are issues other than policy that need attention. Our board retreat in November will identify policy issues that need to be addressed in 2018. In addition, an orientation and training package for new board members has been developed and should make the learning curve for new board members much smoother.

One area that took a top priority was occupational health and safety. With increasing volumes of patrons in our shops, the board collaborated with an OH&S expert to address operations and processes

JONATHAN WOELBER President

that require attention. We conducted a hazard assessment with staff and volunteers. Next steps will address mitigation of hazards identified and documenting OH&S guidelines specific to EBC.

Looking Forward

The board and staff have agreed that EBC has grown to a level that is no longer accurately reflected by our current name and branding. The society serves a much larger and diverse group of cyclists than our name, Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society, implies; to that end we are introducing a Special Resolution at our Annual General Meeting to change the name of the society. The proposed name change is an outcome of a member consultation conducted a few years ago and reflects the input of a majority of respondents. However, this is more than just a name change: we plan to change our literature, our website and our social media presence to more accurately portray our services and communicate our mission to the Edmonton public.

The most significant change to EBC programming takes place on September 1, 2017, when our beloved You Can Ride 2 program leaves EBC for a new and benevolent home with Goodwill Industries of Alberta. This follows after a year of detailed negotiations and consultation between all 3 parties to ensure the sustainability of and continued growth of the YCR2 program. EBC has always embraced this special program that elevates disabled youth to independently ride modified bicycles; happily YCR2 will be able to expand and develop the reach of their program to a degree that would not have been possible with EBC. Rent-free premises to store and maintain the fleet of 150 adapted bicycles, hosting fitting and demonstration events for disabled youth under one roof, as well as the ability to issue charitable tax receipts for donations, make this partnership with Goodwill a big improvement for all parties.

Lastly, my term as President of the society concludes on November 30, 2017. Governing with a committed and focused board has been a pleasure; witnessing and experiencing the unflinching dedication of the staff has been inspirational; working shoulder to shoulder with such a large and diverse group of always-ready-to-help volunteers has been humbling: truly a life changing experience that has blessed me with many new friends, skills and experiences. I will stand for re-election as a director and most certainly will continue as a volunteer for this exceptional organization.

REPORT FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

CHRIS CHAN Executive Director

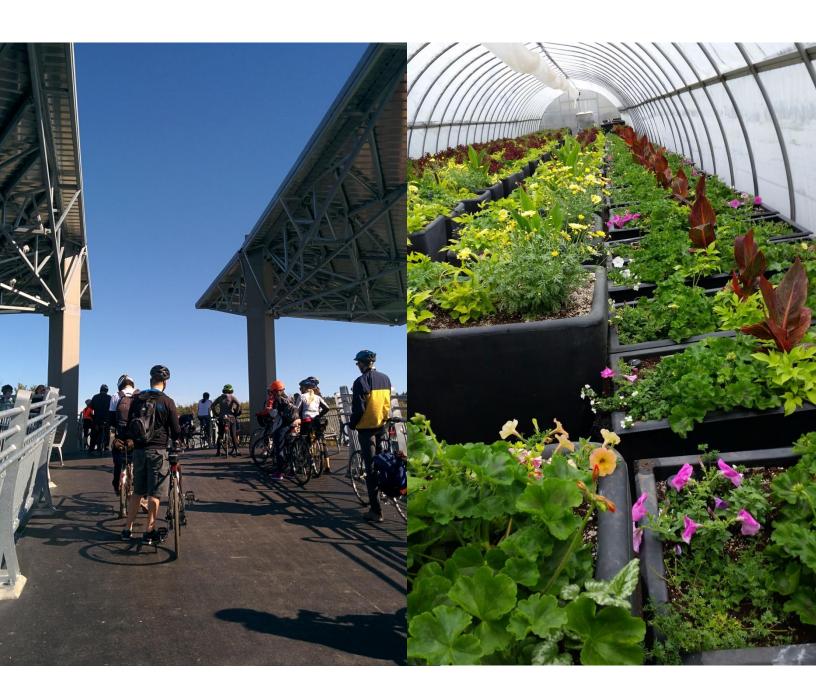
Sustainability and renewal has been a large focus of our operations this past year, in addition to preparing for future growth with the opening of Edmonton's downtown bike network and several other key bike infrastructure projects.

BikeWorks North and South collectively logged 2821 hours of paid shop time this year, a decrease of about 11% from the previous year. However, overall shop revenue remained steady, at over \$151,000. Throughout the summer, each shop has programming 6-7 days a week. We closed both shops for almost two weeks in August, a decision made to allow staff and volunteers to enjoy some of the summer without the obligations of opening the shops. While this reduced our revenues that month compared to the previous year, it also reduced some of our shop expenses, and allowed us to reduce some of our significant outstanding vacation payroll liabilities. Perhaps more importantly, it provided a much-needed break for our very committed volunteers and staff.

Membership levels this year fell slightly, after several years of exceptional growth (15% last year), reaching 1569 paid members this year. Focusing on membership retention and growth will be a priority for the coming year.

Molly Turnbull, formerly our Program Coordinator for The Spoke and You Can Ride 2, has helped establish and prepare You Can Ride 2 for its transition to Goodwill Industries. You Can Ride 2's Borrow a Bike program, in its final year under the EBC umbrella, loaned over 150 adapted bicycles to Edmonton-area children this year. Molly is now focused full-time on core EBC programs, fundraising, and other projects, allowing my role to be more focused as well.

Thank you to our patrons, partners and sponsors who help fund the work that we do. Whether through supporting You Can Ride 2, The Spoke, or BikeWorks, or booking us to speak at workplaces or provide bike parking or tune-ups at events, EBC relies on our community connections to enable us to remain meaningful and dynamic.



YEAR IN REVIEW

This year we focused on renewing and strengthening our core programming, as well as expanding our events and outreach. We highlight some of our achievements here.





BikeWorks sold over 1400 lights, 345 locks, and over 5200 ball bearings this year.



BIKEWORKS

In 2017, both BikeWorks shops continued to be important hubs for the Edmonton cycling community. The hardest thing to find at BikeWorks in 2017 was a quiet day at the shop. No matter the weather, there was never a dull moment, with some of the biggest challenges being to meet the huge demand for bikes and help with repairs from spring through fall.

As usual, our exemplary team of volunteers came through in a big way. There were 69 volunteers who put in more than 20 volunteer hours each at BikeWorks, for a total of over 5400 volunteer hours between the two shops. We found over 660 bikes new riders, while folks using the shops during public hours logged over 3800 hours of shop time fixing up their rides. To give an idea of the volume of bikes we helped fix, the shops sold:

- 1158 tubes,
- 910 tires,
- 426 chains,
- 663 bells,
- 1600 cables,

and consumed over 3000 cookies.

We employed a part time bike builder this year to focus on meeting the demand for ready to ride bikes, who has tuned up 113 bikes, in addition to mentoring and training volunteers.

This year we installed two outdoor repair stands and an outdoor pump at BikeWorks South for anyone who wanted to do a repair after hours or when the shop was running special programming, or who didn't want to wait when the shop was full. While we did have to deal with a lot of wear and tear as well as some vandalism, the outdoor repair facilities have been well-received and are constantly utilized when the weather is good.

Classes continue to be popular. We ran 20 mechanical classes this year for 122 participants. The majority of these were Bike Maintenance 101 classes which have proven to be both a hot ticket and a fantastic introduction for folks who are new to BikeWorks and bike repair.

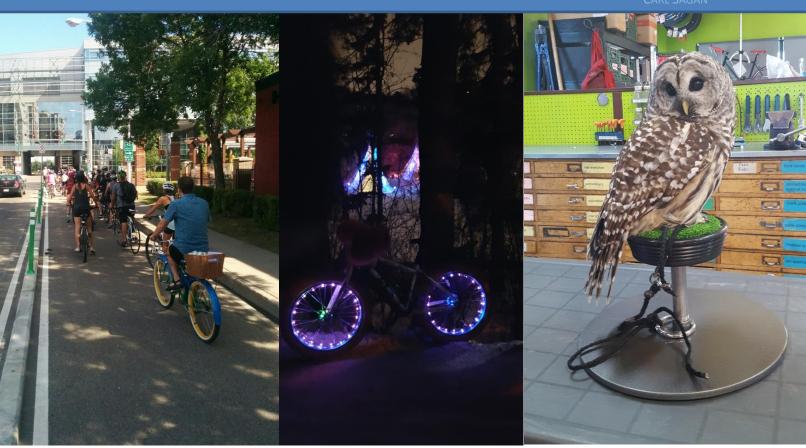
Our rental program continues to be appreciated by folks who are in town for short periods of time or looking for a fun activity for a day. Over the past year, a large number of commercial shops in Edmonton have begun offering bike rentals, so we were expecting less demand due to more choices available, however that hasn't happened. We rented as many bikes in 2017 as we did in 2016, processing nearly 90 rentals.

With the opening of the new downtown bike grid, we met a steady stream of people this summer who were eager to try bike commuting in the core for the first time. With more high quality infrastructure set to open over the next year and more people taking to the streets, we look forward to 2018 being our busiest year at BikeWorks yet.



If constellations had been named in the 20th century, I suppose we would see bicycles.

CARL SAGAN



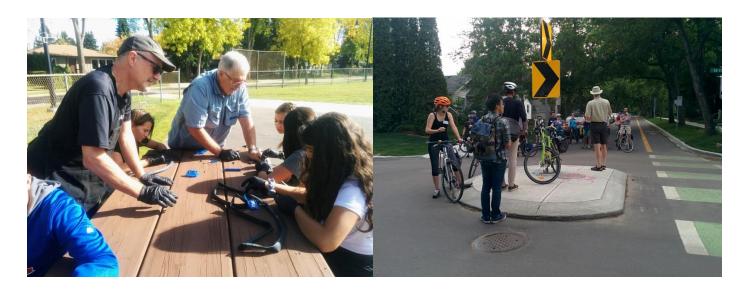


OUTREACH & EVENTS

After scaling back our outreach work last year, EBC renewed its commitment to participate in events across the city to promote, educate, engage and listen. From working with various festivals, including a return to the Heritage Festival, to providing tune-ups at many community events and markets, EBC maintains a strong presence. We work with community leagues, media, arts and culture organizations, and other non-profits and businesses to provide bike repair and bike parking services. We also work with the City of Edmonton on many of their cycling-related events. Thank you to all of our partners in these events.

In addition to our work, we're happy to support and work with many of the new bicycle-based businesses in Edmonton, such as the Food Bike Tours and Urban Pedal Tours.

EBC also presents numerous Lunch & Learn sessions, freely offered to various workplaces. If you'd like to host us for an information session, focused on introducing people to the knowledge required to start bike commuting comfortably and easily, please contact us.





CIVIC REPRESENTATION

For many, this year was the year we've been waiting for.

For some, we've been waiting decades, as demonstrated in this clipping from our Fall 1990 newsletter:

Mystery Urban Planners Strike

For a short period of time, there was a new and unofficial bike lane in Edmonton. It was a late night job, and not too straight, but it highlighted a problem which has been on many peoples minds for quite some time. The site of this cyclists' route du jour is, of course, the 88th Avenue access to Saskatchewan Drive and 109th Street. It is a one way westbound route for less than a block, but a section of road relatively untravelled by cars, and it directly leads to the most popular bike escape from the campus core.

There are a few different points of view on what should be done., as it is a one way street. The Edmonton Police Service thought that the best solution would be to set up a toll charge, but their prices are quite out of line. Officials at City Hall are divided, as are the officials at EBC. If you are concerned, the Advocacy Committee at EBC would like to hear from you.

-6-

2016/2017 saw Stantec and Paths for People bringing forward a proposal for a downtown bike network, which received unanimous support from City Council in October 2016. By May, parts of the network were already open, and by June it was almost entirely open. Immediately bike usage nearly doubled, including people who had never before imagined themselves riding a bicycle to get to work, or to go shopping at the downtown farmers' market, or to go out for an evening of entertainment. Many families with children are also using the new bike lanes: a novel sight for downtown Edmonton, though familiar in many other cities.

In addition to the downtown, 76 Avenue and 106 St is being upgraded to protected bike lanes, as well as key connections in Westmount and Inglewood, including 127 St, Belgravia, Royal Gardens (replacing the 40 Avenue bike lane).

Construction of the 102 Avenue protected bike lane through Oliver is ahead of schedule, and the 83 Avenue protected bike lane from Mill Creek Ravine to 106 St is nearly complete as well.



Pushing forward a proposal we revived last year, a group of architects, urban planners, landscape architects, engineers and marketing professionals have spent the past year studying and designing to create a proposal for a High Level Line. We're excited about the prospects for Edmonton's future, even as we closely watch the results of the 2017 municipal election.





THE SPOKE

The Spoke is a free earn-a-bike program for youth aged 12-17. The program equips youth for cycling by providing equipment, knowledge and an urban adventure. Over the course of a 7-week program, participants learn how to repair and maintain a bike, from start to finish. Each participant leaves The Spoke with their very own bicycle!

Beyond the goal of cycling, the Spoke opens up a world where youth learn that they're capable of fixing their bikes and a world where people share knowledge and revel in the delight of planning the next adventure. The Spoke is about building relationships, community, ability, and confidence.

The Spoke ran four sessions this year, each with 4-7 participants and a similar number of volunteer mentors. Mentors use a youth-directed model of learning. Two of this year's mentors were youth graduates from last

year's program. New evaluation tools and online tracking processes helped streamline and

enhance the program this year.

Participants are nominated to the program. A significant portion of our youth participants have limited financial means and face other challenges, so the bikes they build carry a special sense of pride and independence.

The Spoke has built partnerships with Big Brothers Big Sisters and the Mennonite Centre for Newcomers to better serve their



populations and access additional funding together.

Volunteers work collaboratively to understand and develop the potential of each participant, guiding the youths and building community together. Thank you to our volunteers for their time and work.

I heard about The Spoke through a friend. It sounded amazing. I had always wanted to bike to school and this was intriguing. You could make a bike yourself and didn't have to pay for it! I learned a lot about how to improvise. In a shop where you're not working with brand new shiny stuff, you have to work with what you've got and see what's the best option.

The Spoke was a lot different than what I expected but in a good way. When I hear 'class' or 'course' I think we'll be sitting at desks listening to someone teach at the front. It's a lot more hands on and personal than that. I learn really really well that way.

I had a really great experience in my session. Even though I didn't know what the mentor program was, I wanted to become more advanced. I wanted to have more hands-on learning.

For me what's beneficial about the Spoke mentor program for the kids is that they might be more comfortable with someone the same age. Working in a group I can have more of a conversation and make them more comfortable. Last session (in 2016) when we were working with the Big Brothers Big Sisters group, I was working with a youth who was shy and would only talk to her 'Big'. After a bit I started to just talk, not to her necessarily, but just to tell stories for her to overhear. I talked about how I love to play instruments, the flute, and she just lit up. Then we had something to talk about and she was way more comfortable.

If my bike had a super power, my bike could fly. It would be powered by love and friendship.

—Matti, 16 years old Spoke graduate and mentor





Our You Can Ride 2 program offers two services: a Learn-to-Ride course for children with special needs, and a Borrow-a-Bike program bicycle program that loans adapted bikes to those who aren't able or ready to learn to ride a regular two-wheeled bicycle.

Before participating in You Can Ride 2's Borrow-a-Bike program, Claire* suffered from social isolation.YCR2 fit her with an adapted bike this year, giving her newfound agency and independence. On many summer days, Claire goes riding, even without her parents. She's made new friends, and visits the corner store and the park with them. Everyone loves riding together, but Claire has a special role amongst her peers: her bike has a basket, so she gets to carry all the corner store goodies.

This year 16 children learned to ride in the Learn to Ride program.

Volunteers also contributed over 2000 hours of time to fit over 150 Edmontonarea children with adapted bikes.

EBC has contributed to building the YCR2 program with administrative assistance and staffing. For the coming year, YCR2 administration will move from EBC to Goodwill Industries. Goodwill has hired a program coordinator for the YCR2 program,

which will help YCR2 to continue to grow and help more families, while EBC can focus on its other core programs.

EBC's commitment to support YCR2 has not changed. Our volunteers will continue to work with YCR2 and we will partner with Goodwill Industries to support this essential program.

"There were always smiles when our son rode the bike! He is nonverbal but his joy was still expressed! The family was happy to have another way of building strength. The family found it really cute to watch him and his brother and cousins play-- the cousins and brother took turns to help him and neighbours would cheer when he was able to pedal!"

"We find that often times for most of these kids they have their wings clipped, but this program provides the opportunity to give them their wings back. The bike gave our son independence, pride and confidence."

"The biggest thing that our daughter gained from this experience is confidence! She has since set other fitness goals such as doing a half marathon and participating in a cycling fundraiser that she has already signed up for. We are very pleased and very grateful for the success of this program!"

"For our daughter, the tandem bike allowed her to get outside more and spend more time with her family. She was also able to get out of her wheelchair and moving and it provided a therapeutic benefit without her even knowing it as therapy. We are so thankful to be able to borrow the bike again this year- it allowed us to go on family rides all together. The funding helped cover the transportation of the bike to and from a storage facility as we were not able to do this on our own. Our daughter is also borrowing a different bike in her school."

"Our daughter loves riding a bike, and is getting quite good at it! She has a developmental delay but the new remote braking system was a huge help as it allowed her to be more independent requiring less supervision. This also made it much easier on our family!"

"Our boy was able to ride with his brother, which he couldn't with previous bikes; he enjoyed this one much more than other bikes he has had before. He participated in the ATB Tour of Alberta family ride with his whole family. He was able to ride alongside 100s of cyclists of all abilities. He is borrowing a bike in the school."



EBC would like to extend a special thank you to the Boyle Street Community Services and MEC for their support of The Spoke.

The City of Edmonton, through its Community Investment Operating Grant, also helps enable EBC to continue providing our services to the public.

We have many other sponsors and partners, including smaller donors, private individual donors, and business partners who offer benefits to our members. Our membership revenue accounts for a significant portion of our budget. Thank you to all of our supporters, big and small, without whom we could not have the kind of impact in the community that we strive for.

View our list of sponsors and partners at http://edmontonbikes.ca/sponsors

GOVERNANCE & STAFF

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Jonathan Woelber, President
Nancy Milakovic, Vice President Internal
Geoff Hansen, Treasurer
Derek Pluim, Secretary
Adrian Pearce
Alexey Kalinin
Daniel Thompson
Jasmine Farahbakhsh
Jeremy Shepherd
Michael Cenkner
Mike Pybus

STAFF

Christopher Chan, Executive Director Coreen, BikeWorks Manager Molly Turnbull, Program Coordinator Jan Pryzsiezniak, Bicycle Assembler

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



EBC is in good financial health, with significant cash reserves.

Last year, the board presented a deficit budget of \$14,134 for 2016/17. Our financial results were slightly better than this, with a deficit of \$10,378.

Some notable differences, compared to our budget:

- Higher sales than budgeted, concentrated in bike rentals and bike rack sales
- Lower staffing costs
- Higher program costs, including YCR2 expenses, and cost of bike racks (for sale)

Proposed budget

While EBC has sufficient cash reserves to fund operating deficits for several years, the board believes the organization should target balanced operational budgets. The budget this year would be very near balanced, with the exception of two significant one-time expenses.

Our 2017/18 budget projects a deficit of \$18,400. This includes:

- An operational deficit of approximately \$3,400
- \$10,000 for BikeWorks North renovations
- \$5,000 for rebranding

GEOFF HANSEN
TREASURER

Some notable changes that affect our budget, relative to previous years:

- Reduced both donations, and expenditures with YCR2 moving to Goodwill
- Reduced casino revenue, as our next casino could be 24 months away, so we will reduce our monthly claimed revenue
- Increase in shop fees, achievable by increasing rates by \$1/hour
- Increased bike sales, enabled by employing a part-time bike builder for the full year
- Increase bike rentals revenue and bike rack sales, based on the significant increases we saw in the past year
- Additional grant, program fees, and donation revenue, enabled by redeploying staff resources from YCR2 program delivery to other areas

EBC volunteers staffed a casino in September 2017. The proceeds from that should be deposited this fall, and will add to our cash reserves. The current casino schedule could put our next casino as much as 24 months away, so we claim less casino revenue in this budget than in the previous year.

YCR2 Move to Goodwill

The YCR2 program has deposits of approximately \$50,000 in EBC bank accounts. These assets will move to Goodwill, but this will be offset by a reduction in deferred revenue (donations to YCR2 that were recorded as deferred revenue), and a reduction in our bike deposit liability.



Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society Comparative Balance Sheet

		As at Aug 31, 201	17	As at Aug 31, 2	016
ASSETS					
Current A	Assets				
	Cash	179,333.00		238,905.93	
	Other Current Assets				
Total Cu	rrent Assets	_17	79,333.00		238,905.93
Non-Cur	rent Assets		7323.58		7,461.73
TOTAL ASSETS		18	86,656.58		246,367.66
LIABILITY					
	Accounts Payable	24,445.00		26,787.68	
	Deferred Revenue	30,274.88		84,935.04	
	GST Payable	11713.99		*	
	Extraordinary Liabilities	100.00			
TOTAL LIABILITY		6	66,533.87		111,722.72
EQUITY					
	Retained Earnings	120,122.71		134,544.94	
TOTAL EQUITY		12	20,122.71		134,544.94
LIABILITIES AND E	QUITY	18	36,656.58		246,267.66

^{*} Note: Equity in Aug 2016 may be overstated by approximately \$4000 due to a failure to account for a GST Payable liability

We have reviewed these financial statements, and in our estimation, they fairly reflect the financial position of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society.

Jonathan Woelber Nancy Milakovic
President Vice President



Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society Comparative Income Statement

	Budget Fiscal Year Ending 2018	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2017	Actual Fiscal Year Ending 2016 *	Actual vs Budget	Budget Fiscal Year Ending 2017
Revenue					
Sales Revenue	\$228,800.00	\$213,968.28	\$174,926.45	\$ 17,950.72	9.2% \$196,017.56
Donations and Grants	\$46,700.00	\$88,669.79	\$75,096.40	\$ 646.79	0.7% \$88,023.00
Casino Revenue	\$43,200.00	\$48,830.16	\$68,212.84	\$ -	0.0% \$48,830.16
Other Revenue	\$600.00	\$290.20	\$583.07	\$ (769.80)	-72.6% \$1,060.00
Total Revenue	\$319,300.00	\$351,758.43	\$318,818.76	\$ 17,827.71	5.3% \$333,930.72
Expense					
Staffing Costs	\$157,700.00	157,926.60	150,273.75	\$ (5,487.64)	-3.4% \$163,414.24
BikeWorks Operating Costs	\$133,600.00	124,346.26	106,582.06	\$ 6,118.54	5.2% \$118,227.72
Other Program Costs	\$30,200.00	\$65,297.92	36,679.05	\$ 14,212.92	<i>27.8%</i> \$51,085.00
Communication Costs	\$10,000.00	5480.5	\$4,172.06	\$ (2,287.82)	-29.5% \$7,768.32
Financial Costs	\$6,200.00	9,085.28	6,262.32	\$ 1,515.28	20.0% \$7,570.00
Total Expense	\$337,700.00	\$362,136.56	\$303,969.24	\$ 14,071.28	4.0% \$348,065.28
Net Income	\$ (18,400.00)	\$ (10,378.13)	\$ 14,849.52	\$ (10,377.86)	-26.6% \$ (14,134.56)

^{*} NOTE: results for 2016/17 may be overstated by approximately 4000 due to failing to account for a GST liability

We have reviewed these financial statements, and in our estimation, they fairly reflect the financial position of the Edmonton Bicycle Commuters Society.

Jonathan Woelber President Nancy Milakovic Vice President

LOOKING FORWARD



If approved by membership at our Annual General Meeting, this may be the last year that we are known as the Edmonton Bicycle Commuter Society. We have moved beyond the name in the 37 years of our organization, and are looking forward to rebranding with a more inclusive, inviting name, and a brand that reflects what the organization has become and the people that we serve.

With the image of a refreshed organization in mind, and recognizing how the landscape has changed since we were founded in 1980, we will approach the coming year by focusing on strengthening our core programs and developing stronger partnerships with groups that specialize in complimentary areas.

We'll be planning the future of BikeWorks North: with a lease renewal approaching, and the need to increase revenue, we have many opportunities to consider. We'll be working closely with new partners for our youth programming. We'll also be collaborating with various advocacy organizations to broaden and amplify our knowledge and effectiveness, and bring more value to our membership.

And we'll be spending a lot of time riding our bicycles, in safety, on Edmonton's new network of protected bike lanes.

