



# City Councillor Jennifer Rice

Ward Ipiihkoohkanipiahtsi

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Leading with  
R: Responsibility  
I: Integrity  
C: Collaboration  
E: Excellence



## 2025 Spring Newsletter

### Public, Community, and Transit Safety

### Major Infrastructure

**Safe Crossings in our Ward:** Our city's Safe Crossings Program uses funds from the Traffic Safety Automated Enforcement Reserve to upgrade crosswalks and improve pedestrian safety. Our City selects specific safety tools for each crossing based on factors like traffic volume, lane count, speed, and proximity to other safety measures. As part of this program, our ward has over 12 planned projects in 2025 to improve the safety in our communities. These projects are located in **Blackburne, Allard, Blackmud Creek, Rutherford, MacEwan, Keheewin, Richford and Twin Brooks**. The upgrades include pedestrian signal, curb extensions or median refuge, raised crosswalks, rapid flashing beacons, two-stage crossings, etc. See all planned upgrades on the Safe Crossings Dashboard at [edmonton.ca/SafeCrossings](https://edmonton.ca/SafeCrossings)

**Public Spaces Safety:** The new Public Spaces Bylaw was approved by Edmonton City Council on February 25, 2025, takes effect on May 12, 2025. The new Public Spaces Bylaw aims to improve public safety by clearly outlining unacceptable behaviors in parks, transit areas, and other public spaces, making it easier for enforcement officers to address disruptive or unsafe activities. It consolidates and updates previous rules, introduces new fines for issues like harassment, aggressive panhandling, and blocking sidewalks, and sets consistent standards for everyone. More info: [edmonton.ca/PublicSpacesBylaw](https://edmonton.ca/PublicSpacesBylaw)

**Transit and LRT Safety:** I voted with City Council to prioritize transit safety by allocating funds to hire additional Transit Peace Officers and enhance their presence across the network. To further enhance public safety, there is improved lighting, surveillance, and partnerships with social agencies to address social disorder in a caring manner. These combined efforts aim to ensure safer, more welcoming transit spaces. It only makes sense to invest in public transit if people use it, and people will only use it if they feel safe. Hence, we need to keep safety at the top of our priority list, not only in our transit system, but all across our city.

**Community Safety:** I am out in the community regularly and speak with many ward residents. From time-to-time, I hear stories from individuals who have either been a victim of crime (e.g., from theft) or have seen signs of undesirable behaviours in our neighbourhoods. I will continue to do what I can to ensure appropriate policies and funding is in place to keep our community safe.

**Traffic Safety (Allard):** In my various neighbourhood updates, I have provided details on safety improvements across our ward. Due to the importance to the community, I want to highlight that a traffic safety assessment was completed at Allard Boulevard & Allard Road SW, and a number of improvements at this intersection have been made.

**Capital Line South LRT Extension:** My desire to ensure the LRT extension project is completed on schedule and on budget with as little traffic impact as possible includes me having monthly meetings with the LRT project team. These regular meetings enable me to bring ward resident concerns to the project team, and to keep residents informed on progress.

Phase 1, from Century Park to Ellerslie Road, is progressing with ongoing detailed design work and construction activities. Key updates include various construction activities near Century Park Station, tree removals where 111 Street crosses Blackmud Creek to prepare for LRT bridge construction, median removals along 111 Street, and preparation work near 111 Street-127 Street and the Anthony Henday. While there will be occasional lane closures, the goal is to maintain having two lanes available in each direction on 111 Street the majority of the time. Utility relocations by EPCOR and other providers are underway, which are anticipated to have minimal public impact. Access from 111 Street to the Esso station near 9 Avenue NW is set to close later this summer. Visit [edmonton.ca/CapitalSW](https://edmonton.ca/CapitalSW) for more information.

### Our City's Future & Economic Development

**Investment Action Plan:** The City of Edmonton's 2024 Industrial Investment Action Plan is a strategic framework aimed at attracting, growing, and retaining industrial investment to boost our city's tax base (so there can be less reliance on residents' property taxes), create jobs, and enhance competitiveness. The plan outlines nine key actions-including promoting Edmonton's industrial strengths, streamlining development processes, improving infrastructure, fostering inclusivity, and collaborating with regional partners-to support sustainable and innovation-driven economic growth over the next decade. More info: [edmonton.ca/IndustrialActionPlan](https://edmonton.ca/IndustrialActionPlan)

**Economic Action Plan:** Edmonton's Economic Action Plan guides our city's economic growth and includes the Nighttime Economy Strategy, which proposes appointing a Nighttime Economy Lead and alliance to boost nighttime vibrancy and safety. I advanced this work by making two motions in Summer 2022 to develop a policy supporting the night economy. [edmonton.ca/EconomicActionPlan](https://edmonton.ca/EconomicActionPlan)

**Business-Friendly Support:** This helpful program is a central part of Edmonton's efforts to foster a welcoming, supportive, and innovative environment for local businesses, and reflects a part of the work I do with residents who are starting or already operating small businesses in our ward. For more information, visit [edmonton.ca](https://edmonton.ca) then click on Business & Economy, then Business-Friendly Support.

### Municipal Core Services

**Storm Ponds:** Our ward has approximately 30 storm ponds. Over the past few years, I have worked with EPCOR to ensure your concerns regarding these ponds are addressed. Thank you to residents who spoke with me and also thank you to EPCOR for making the storm pond improvements for cleanliness, general upkeep, and control of duckweed.

**ETS Bus Routes:** I continue to hear from residents in **Cavanaugh** who are requesting better bus service. Cavanaugh now is on a planning short list for changing from On Demand to regular Bus services, and I will continue to advocate for residents in Cavanaugh. For other transit information, please see: [edmonton.ca/ETS](https://edmonton.ca/ETS)



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**Snow Removal:** Keeping Edmonton’s snow cleared is no small undertaking considering the size of our city. This said, snow removal is a core service which needs to be done well. I continue to listen to ward residents to understand their service expectations and listen to resident suggestions on how to use our resources efficiently and improve service.

**Cul-de-sac Snow Removal:** Regarding snow removal service improvements, in February 2025, Edmonton launched a citywide cul-de-sac snow stacking and removal operation (affecting over 3,000 cul-de-sacs across our city), where snow was cleared down to bare pavement and stacked for later removal. I heard from some ward residents that there were gaps: the general snow removal teams and cul-de-sac snow removal teams did not coordinate efforts as well as they could have. Warmer temperatures melted some of the snow before stacked snow was removed, and since some of the snow was piled on top of catch basins, there was no place for the water to drain which resulted in some sidewalks icing up when temperatures cooled down again. I will continue to bring resident feedback to the city’s operation teams so further service improvements can be made.

**Grass Cutting:** No different than snow removal, grass cutting and general upkeep of our city needs to be done well as this affects our enjoyment and pride in our city. Please let me know if grass cutting and general upkeep in our ward does not meet your service expectations and I will do what I can to get the issues addressed. Thank you for positive feedback provided to me last Fall regarding James Mowatt Trail and Ellerslie Road grass cutting improvements.

**Potholes Maintenance:** As of April 27, 2025, our city’s operating team filled 99,431 potholes and received 9,237 notifications from 311. The chart shows the comparison in both 311 notifications and pothole repairs, compared to the same period in previous years, which illustrates 2025 has been a very busy year for pothole repair.



Supporting People and Communities



Lemonade Stand Season is Here

It is my absolute delight to drop by and support some of our youngest entrepreneurs at their lemonade stands that pop up around our ward on hot summer days. The best lemonade I ever had was made by our young entrepreneurs.



Connecting, Listening, and Assisting

Connecting with you is one of the most rewarding parts of being your councillor, as it keeps me informed about your priorities and strengthens our bond as neighbours. *(yes, I also live in our ward)*

Listening to your concerns has and continues to be central to my decision-making, which is why I regularly hold town hall-style or coffee shop events; attend Community events, HOA/Community Leagues, and School Council/Parent meetings; participate in our local cultural, business and seniors’ events; and visit all of our ward’s neighborhoods.



Fiscal Responsibility

**Reducing your tax burden:** Throughout my time on City Council, I have made it my priority to control unnecessary spending and keep your tax burden as low as possible. I regularly review every budget line and consistently advocate for reductions in areas that do not directly support our core municipal services—such as road maintenance, snow clearing, grass cutting and public safety. My commitment is to prioritize the services you rely on every day and to make sure we get the best value for every dollar spent.

Our Ward is Growing

**Many people are attracted to our area of the city.** As a result, our ward is growing. I’ve heard one estimate that our ward’s population is now around 100,000 people. This is why it is essential that we keep up with basic infrastructure development – both to create new infrastructure and maintain our existing infrastructure. As our ward is so diverse, in addition to this ward-wide newsletter, **I also have created separate neighbourhood updates for both the northern and southern areas of our ward.** Please keep your eyes open for these neighbourhood updates as they have greater detail.

In terms of vision, we want our city including our ward to be an enjoyable and safe place for everyone who lives here, and we want to feel proud when we have out-of-town visitors. Our infrastructure developments are designed to provide good roadway accessibility, amenities such as parks, a library, nice residential areas, and local business areas. **Fun fact,** our small library in our ward (at Heritage Valley Town Centre) is one of the busiest libraries in our city. When I’ve visited, I’ve seen parents checking out learning books for their young children, and newcomers using library resources to build their skills for a better future. This is something I can totally support.

