

Not an average Election forum, *A Federal Affair* gives Albertans opportunity to find common ground

More than a debate, local speakers guided conversations on the cost of living, tariffs, housing and more

April 23, 2025 (amiskwacîwâskahikan | Edmonton) — Hosted by local volunteer and mentorship organization interVivos, *A Federal Affair* brought together Albertans for an atypical, non-partisan election forum ahead of the federal election.

Encouraging engagement, respectful conversation and community connection, *A Federal Affair* reflected on what Albertans care about most — including the cost of living; President Trump's trade policies and tariffs; housing; immigration; and energy and the environment.

"*A Federal Affair* is more than a debate — we provide safe, welcoming spaces for people to discuss election issues together," says interVivos President Zohreh Saher. "Community members will be talking about these issues for the next four years — from trades workers to immigrants to folks falling under the poverty line — when we speak face-to-face we learn about different ideas, perspectives and backgrounds. Together, we're creating stronger and more connected communities."

Guided by local leaders in their fields — [Renee Vaugeois](#), [Akanksha Bhatnagar](#), [Susan McGee](#), [Dr. Sheena Wilson](#) and [Ahmad Berjak](#) — conversations emphasized curiosity over conflict and dialogue over division. *A Federal Affair* set out to prove that open, relaxed civil discourse is still a possible and powerful method of community engagement in our current provincial and federal political landscape.

"These events matter because they create space for emerging leaders to connect across generations, share real stories and build a more engaged, inclusive city," says Edmonton Chamber of Commerce Director of Communications & Public Relations Akanksha Bhatnagar. "InterVivos makes leadership accessible and human — and that's exactly the kind of energy Edmonton needs right now."

"We thrive and do our best when working within our communities," says *A Federal Affair* Emcee and United Way ACR *Make Your Mark* Founder Sarah Chan. "There is so much to gain and learn when we participate in thoughtful and respectful discussion; when we challenge our perspectives to determine our values and goals."

Media Contact:

Cole Buhler

Media Relations Coordinator

pipikwan pêhtâkwan

cole@pipikwanpehtakwan.com

About interVivos:

interVivos is a group of volunteers in Edmonton who cultivate leadership and make an impact in the community. interVivos engagement events and mentorship programs have brought people together from all backgrounds since 2006.