FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE

As Rallies Gather at Alberta's Legislature, Edmontonians Are Invited to Pull Up a Chair and Talk

On the eve of Alberta's referendum, interVivos offers conversations instead of confrontation at an unconventional downtown venue.

October 17, 2026 (amiskwacîwâskahikan | Edmonton) — On Sunday, October 18, the eve of Alberta's referendum, as rallies and demonstrations bring competing perspectives to the Alberta Legislature, just steps away, one Edmonton organization is taking a different approach: bringing people together for conversation rather than confrontation, while ensuring voices often underrepresented in political discussions have a seat at the table.

interVivos Mentorship Society of Alberta will host *A Referendum Affair* from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 99ten, an intimate downtown Edmonton music and event venue. Rather than gathering in a traditional town hall, church or government building, participants will come together in a space more commonly associated with music, nightlife and community celebrations.

The choice of venue is intentional. Just steps from the Legislature grounds, where demonstrators are making their voices heard, interVivos is creating a different kind of civic space—one where people can sit across from one another, ask questions, listen and explore differing perspectives without the pressure of a political debate. The event also aims to amplify perspectives often missing from public discourse, particularly those of underrepresented communities whose lives are directly affected by the issues being discussed.

"While others are gathering to rally for their positions, we're inviting Edmontonians to pull up a chair and have a conversation," said Zohreh Saher, President and Co-Founder of interVivos. "We deliberately chose a venue that feels less like a political forum and more like a community gathering. On the eve of the referendum, we want people to feel comfortable asking questions, challenging their assumptions and listening to perspectives they might not otherwise encounter. It's especially important to us that people who are often left out of these conversations have an opportunity to be heard."

Featured speakers include:

- Funke Olokude, Co-Executive Director of Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op, discussing immigration.
- Dr. Richard Mailey, Director of the Centre for Constitutional Studies at the University of Alberta, exploring constitutional issues.

- Danielle Paradis, award-winning journalist, educator and President of the Indigenous Friends Association, discussing Alberta separation.

Community advocate and former interVivos mentor Joshua Wolchansky will emcee the afternoon.

Event Details

What: A Referendum Affair
When: Sunday, October 18, 2026 | 2:00–5:00 p.m.
Where: 99ten, 9910 109 Street NW, Edmonton
Tickets: $15 plus service fees; discounted and complimentary tickets available
Who: Open to everyone, regardless of voting eligibility

Media are invited to attend and capture a different kind of civic engagement on the eve of the referendum. Interviews with interVivos representatives and speakers can be arranged, along with opportunities to photograph the facilitated conversations, subject to participant consent.

Media Contact:
Zohreh Saher
President
interVivos
780.906.5454
zohreh@intervivos.ca

-30-

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.