



A song for healing and reconciliation



Photo by Matthew Thompson/The Press

Kyle Plain Eagle (a.k.a. Big Blackfoot) sings and drums during a Commemorative Walk in Calgary on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. This event for Truth and Reconciliation, held at Prince's Island Park, was presented by the Urban Society for Aboriginal Youth and Colouring It Forward Reconciliation Society.

Student permit delays leave international students stuck

By Jimmy Huang

Thousands of students are waiting overseas for their student permits as Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) copes with large-scale backlogs.

“Mentally, it can be very frustrating and demoralizing,” says Okwurumeya Lcheku, a first-year SAIT international student from Nigeria.

Currently, students applying for their student permit outside of Canada have to wait up to 13 weeks for the department to process their

applications. In August, there were more than 163,000 study permits still in process.

The majority of international students apply for student permits before the start of the fall semester. Due to the backlog, the number of student permit applications skyrocketed in the first seven months of 2022.

According to the latest federal government data, more than 359,000 prospective international students applied for a permit between January and July this year.

In 2019, that number was at approximately 226,000 —

meaning more would-be Canadian international students are still waiting at home for permission to start their studies.

“A lot of student permits are still being impacted by the fact that many processing offices were closed overseas or they were only working in limited capacity,” said Zuzana Ritzer, a manager at the SAIT International Centre. “We’re definitely not at the processing times that we were able to see pre-COVID in 2019.”

Another factor is the influx of more than 100,000 Ukrainians to Canada in 2022 as they flee the Russian invasion.

“Due to the conflict in Ukraine, IRCC is processing these permits as a priority, which can also impact the processing capacities and abilities in some countries,” Ritzer said.

After months of waiting for permits, international students are coping with the anxiety of an uncertain future and financial insecurity.

“What should have taken a three-month maximum processing time actually took 12 months,” Lcheku said. “You

plan your life, and almost one year later, your plan has been destroyed because your study permit hasn’t come yet.”

While Lcheku waited for his study permit, the cost of living increased in Nigeria, making it even more difficult to raise his family.

“You need to save more because you’re in a country where currency has really fallen as compared to the Canadian dollar,” said Lcheku. “So, whatever you have saved, you need to save almost double that amount.”

See permit delays p. 2



Community support eyed as better alternative to petty-crime policing

By Ethan Andruchuk

Drop in short-term incarceration rates promises better local outcomes

Adult sentence lengths in correctional services have dropped to a five-year low, and local communities are starting to find a new approach to petty-crime policing.

"The Crown is having to make some very difficult decisions, having to drop cases that are prosecutable and might lead to a sentence," said Superintendent Cliff O'Brien of the Calgary Police Service (CPS) on why incarceration lengths are down overall. "But they're just going on, and we just don't have the resources to deal with all of these."

Alternative crisis response measures and community supports, such as the Calgary Alpha House Society and its Downtown Outreach Addictions Partnership (DOAP) team, have stepped up to handle these cases.

According to O'Brien, the recidivism rate was quite high

for those incarcerated for less than a year on minor offences. He highlighted that looking for alternative community support in place of some forms of policing is a good thing.

"If there's a way to treat that mental health or addiction instead of just incarcerating them and then having them come out in six to eight months where nothing has changed, I think that makes a lot of sense."

But according to Phoebe Sawchuk, who's lived along Calgary's 17th avenue for the past three years, "I haven't really seen a difference over the time that I've lived here."

Sawchuk is a volunteer at Good Neighbour, a pay-what-you-want store run by volunteers, and personally encounters many of the vulnerable Calgarians these new approaches are targeting.

"We should be putting more public funds into social services that serve the same purpose as the DOAP team or as Alpha House. I don't think we should have to rely on mutual aid

groups. I think they do great work, but it's a burden that they shouldn't have to take the weight of," she said.

Sawchuk echoes the same sentiment that many advocates for alternative policing and crisis response initiatives have made clear in recent years. "I feel way more comfortable calling the DOAP team for someone in distress than I do calling an ambulance, or even if there was a way to call medical assistance

without the police having to be there." O'Brien made clear that the CPS is doing what it can under this legislation. But regardless of the crime, these are issues that need meaningful community assistance and not just police services.

"We have to figure out what role the police should play. Just because we're the only 24/7 response to crises does not mean that we should go to everything," said O'Brien.

Founded in 1981, Alpha House is committed to providing "safe and caring environments for individuals whose lives are affected by alcohol and other drug dependencies." The DOAP team is one of several outreach services, acting as a mobile response unit for street-level intoxication.

The DOAP outreach team can be reached 24 hours a day, seven days a week, at 403-998-7388.



Phoebe Sawchuk stands by Connaught Park in Calgary on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. Sawchuk has volunteered at Good Neighbour in downtown Calgary since May 2022.

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International students in limbo

Due to the delays in processing, the government has extended the measures of online learning to allow international students

to pursue their studies online from abroad while remaining eligible for a post-graduation work permit. The extension expires on August 31, 2023.

To manage the backlogs, the federal department is introducing a new online system to reduce wait times and hiring 1,250 new employees

to increase processing capacity, according to a news release from IRCC.

Peter Yu, marketing manager of Hello Study, an international student agency in Taiwan, offers this advice for prospective international students: "Apply for your visa early."

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Calgarians are divided in their response to the death of Queen Elizabeth II. Some deeply mourned the 96-year-old monarch while others called for the abolition of the monarchy in Canada. "She's not the queen of me," said Johnny Youngblood, of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation. "I'm Canadian, not British...I have no feelings about her; it's something for the white people." [Link](#)

After two years of pandemic-related setbacks and precautions, the annual Terry Fox Run kicked off at Chestermere High School on Monday, Sept. 19. The run honoured Fox — who died of cancer in 1980 after attempting to run across Canada — and raised money for cancer research. [Link](#)



Soaring prices for groceries are making it tough for Calgarians to lead a healthy lifestyle and buy affordable food. Carlos Sotelo, the father of an immigrant family of five, spends up to 15 per cent of his and his wife's, Veronica Ruiz, shared income on grocery shopping. To cope, they cross-shop at various different outlets to capitalize on sales while still purchasing quality goods. [Link](#)



SAIT Campus Centre disruption



Determined to succeed: SAIT Trojan men's volleyball players Jaxson Thys left, and Kyle Lee participate in a game of 'pepper' in the Trojans Gymnasium on SAIT Campus in Calgary on Tuesday, Sept. 27, 2022. The team was optimistic and determined to carry out the season despite the challenge of relocation.

By Cass Barker

Left side Jaxson Thys says the SAIT Trojan men's volleyball team is closer than ever as they adjust to the loss of their home base in the wake of pre-demolition construction occurring in the Campus Centre.

"It's redefined 'team' as more of a brotherhood rather than just 12 guys that play on

the same team with the same jerseys," said Thys.

The relocation has encouraged the team to communicate and get to know each other personally levels, which wasn't inherently necessary in the past. Teammates have noticed more profound friendships being formed. Additionally, a team environment that exceeds typical standards due

to the increase in time spent together off the courts has developed.

"We have a very heavy group chat that we use to make sure that guys have rides, that guys are going to make it to practice, and it's not just a team when we're on the court, we're a team at all times making sure that people are getting their studies done and making

sure that they can make it to the practices," said Thys.

Rally Pointe is located in the southeast of Calgary, and is roughly 23km away from campus. Given that the team practices up to four times a week, and then have games throughout the province on weekends, the relocation brings challenges.

Nonetheless, for the players

on the men's volleyball team, this was an obstacle that was easily overcome together. Despite the newfound difficulties involving transportation, the team responded optimistically to the transition and leaned on each other for support.

One of the only worries team members face is an empty gymnasium when they compete. Considering the issue of transportation, not having the support of their SAIT community is a concern. It may be a challenge for supporters to find their own ways to Rally Pointe to support our athletic teams.

"Having the fans in the stands at the game is just a whole different atmosphere. You just feel the energy that comes with it. If you get a full house, it's just a whole new game to us," said Spencer Loucks, a middle blocker and assistant captain.

The team hopes that more people from SAIT learn about their relocation early enough to attend games whenever possible.

"I think it'd be really good to have more fans out there just because it's technically not 'home,'" said Carreos. "It'll be nice to have some familiar faces in the crowd for sure."

Calgary's first feline festival

By Phil Wachowich

The overwhelming success of Calgary's first cat festival shows Calgarians are eager to support events that allow them to treat their pets.

"We are so impressed," said Stephanie Sterling, owner of the Meow Foundation. "This is the first year for the cat festival and we're just amazed at the attendance. People are happy, excited to be here. We're just thrilled to be a part of it."

The Calgary Cat Festival and Market opened its doors on Saturday, September 24th to a large number of cat-lovers looking to explore the festival, and find a special something for their furry companion.

"I just found out last night it's sold out," said festival organizer June Wong, shortly after the event opened its doors. "We sold 1000 tickets."

Wong said the inspiration to launch the Calgary Cat Festival and Market came from her seeing the success of various dog events across the city.

The two-day festival was held on September 24th and 25th in downtown Calgary at 151 8 avenue Southwest on Stephen Avenue. Inside, upwards of 20 local vendors showed an array of different products for event goers to browse.

"I think the best part is the opportunity to advocate," said Sterling. "It gives us an opportunity to let people know who we are, what we do, and just get them familiar with our organization."

The event was put together in support of local animal shelters and rescues, many of which have been at capacity throughout the pandemic. Despite the difficulty of navigating through the pandemic for



A great success: Event organizer June Wong poses at the Calgary Cat Festival and Market in Calgary on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022. Wong said the support of the event has been "amazing."

animal shelters, some local animal businesses have continued to see a steady stream of customers.

"We've been pretty busy," said Chase Pet Stands co-owner Susan Ellis. "Even if (people) don't have a lot of money, they'll spend it on their pets."

Though this was the inaugural edition of the Calgary

Cat Festival, many of the vendors have appeared frequently at different animal markets across the province. Ellis estimated that Chase Pet Stands has appeared at 15-20 different markets in the last calendar year, and expressed how kind the vast majority of attendees are.

Considering the success of

the first year of the festival and market, Wong said she's felt support from Calgarians and vendors alike to keep the festival going beyond this year.

"I want to combine both (of my) loves: supporting animal rescues as well as supporting local businesses, and combining them into one event," said Wong. "It's been amazing."

Challenges in job seeking are plenty for SAIT's international students

By Iris Young

At SAIT, there is a pervading sense of excitement at the start of every school year. However, for many of its international students, the experience is marred by some trepidation.

International students, transplants from all over the globe, face the added burden of finding gainful work in unfamiliar work environments. For the majority, the need to work is financially motivated.

"We have to sustain our needs — the tuition to pay, the bills to pay," said first-year Business Administration student Laila Ritualo.

At present, international students pay tuition of up to four times the local rate.

According to Zuzana Ritzer, manager of International Student Support, SAIT regularly reviews its tuition and fees against other institutions in Alberta and across Canada.

"As one of Canada's leading polytechnic institutions,

we believe strongly that SAIT students receive excellent value for the tuition they pay," said Ritzer.

As per Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC), international students are limited to part-time work off-campus throughout the semester.

While online platforms like Indeed and LinkedIn offer convenience to job seekers, they are also highly competitive avenues. As a result, applicants who can only work 20 hours a week, and have little to no work experience in Canada, are frequently overlooked for more established and readily available candidates.

The most significant obstacle is scheduling. Currently, most SAIT programs follow a block scheduling model with limited flexibility.

First-year BA student Yass Sidhu has been refused potential jobs by revealing that he is a SAIT student.

"I have one class in the morning, and one class in the evening. That's why I found



International student Laila Ritualo right, and a classmate take a break in between classes outside the Heritage Hall at SAIT in Calgary on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022.

it difficult to find a job," he said.

"If the student is finding it difficult to manage work and learning, we encourage them to reach out to their instructor or Academic Chair in their specific school to explore options," said Ritzer.

Indeed, there is no dearth of support offered at SAIT for local and international students looking to succeed in the job market. The most essential is My Career Hub, which students can access with their SAIT login credentials. The platform offers in and off-campus job listings

and industry mentorship opportunities. Students can use the website to book one-on-one consultations for resume and cover letter assistance and practice interviews.

"Just be patient," advised Magsayo. "The time will come — you can have the right job for you."

A second chance at life — Maxwell Alexander survivor story

By Melodie Mutombo

I'm sitting here, and I've survived 100% of life's challenges. And I'm not about to stop now," says Maxwell Alexander, who has previously attempted suicide via overdose.

Alexander was raised in a loving stable home, consisting of his mother and stepfather. Woefully this stability was short-lived following his grandfather's passing.

The arrival of his younger brother, Kenny caused more behavioural change and continuous tantrums

"I was not getting the same attention that I used to get. My parents, at one point, would tell me to go and clean my room and I would stand at the top of the stairs and just scream for hours because I wanted attention, but I didn't know how to express that."

Alexander's parents were growing weary of his unending tantrums. They tried

sending him to live with close relatives who according to Alexander, gave up on him. His parents thought living in group homes and foster homes where Alexander could be constantly monitored and have professional help will be the best thing for him.

"I was not in control of my own life. Everybody else was in control of my life, where I went to school where I lived, what doctors I call, all of that was controlled."

At 16 years old Alexander emancipated himself from the group homes. This led to homelessness, Alexander turned to hard drugs to help cope with his situation.

"I tried to kill myself because I just couldn't take all the things that had happened to me. I didn't want to deal with the PTSD and the borderline personality disorder, the depression, the anxiety, it was all so much for me to handle," says Alexander who

had tried to take his life by overdosing on his antidepressants

"Seeing the look on my mother's face and how scared she was to lose her son. And all the things that people have done for me up until that point to try and help me would have all been in vain. And all the things that people have done for me up until that point to try and help me would have all been in vain. And I couldn't bring myself to put other people through pain that they didn't deserve"

Alexander realized that he needed to go to rehab to get himself clean and take care of himself so that he could get into a mental state that is healthy enough to deal with his trauma.

For his message to others, Alexander says,

"You are not alone, there are others out there who are feeling exactly like you right now. And you're strong enough to get through this



Maxwell Alexander, 5, poses at a baseball game in Calgary Alberta. This photo is from his childhood while he was living with his parents before being placed into the group homes.

and may not seem like it right now. Great things are on the horizon for you if you can just hold on. Remember that you are beautiful in your way you

are an individual and nobody can take that from you. Don't let anybody tell your sparkle. You're beautiful just the way you are."

Calgary Reptile Expo attracts a crowd with exotic interactions

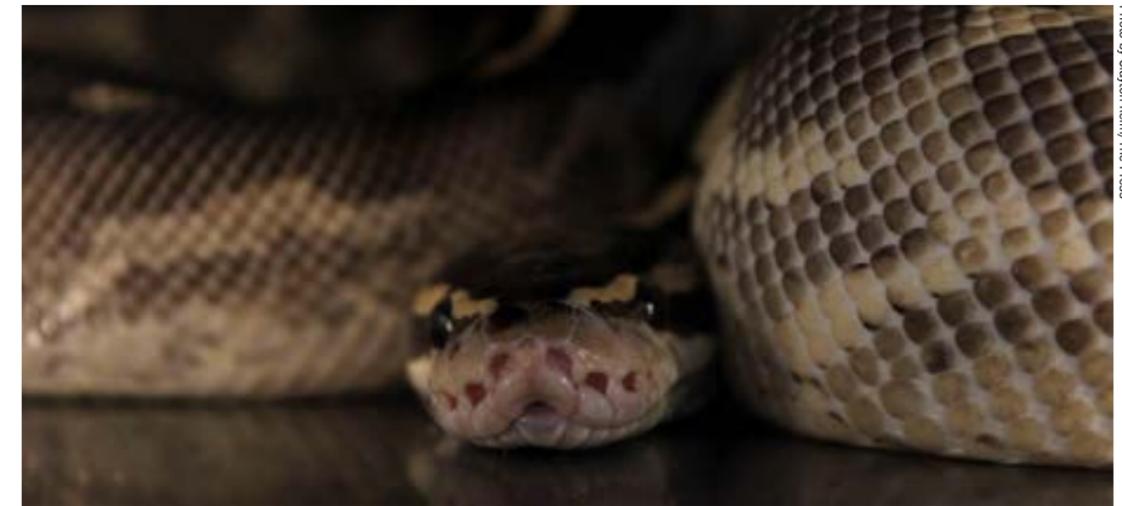
By Clayton Keim

The Calgary Reptile Expo attracted crowds to interact with exotic creatures and raise awareness for reptile and amphibian conservation.

The expo, hosted by The Alberta Reptile and Amphibian Society, brought in about 40 vendors from across Canada to The Absolute Baseball Academy in Calgary to sell reptiles and pet supplies while promoting cold-blooded interactions and habitat conservation.

Attendees held live snakes, handled tarantulas, and interacted with massive tortoises.

"We've been around for almost 40 years now," said Brandon Millichamp, the president of The Alberta Reptile and Amphibian Society. "To my knowledge, we've been running the expo ever since. So we've been running around for a long time, but it's usually been really small and with the popularity of



A snake coils up inside of its enclosure at the Calgary Reptile Expo in Calgary on Saturday, Sept. 24, 2022.

specialty pets, the expo has become more popular."

Vendors offered a wide variety of animals for sale from boa constrictors to axolotls, along with merchandise such as terrariums, food, and heating systems. Others fashioned balloon animals, and sold preserved creatures in jars.

The society had a booth describing how certain animals native to Alberta were under threat and how attendees could help.

Millichamp said, "If we don't have a habitat for these animals in the wild, we won't be able to see them in captivity, because they'll be ex-

tinct. And so I think it's really important that we have programs in place to help wildlife because it's needed for ecosystems, right? Without that, we don't have a lot of stuff that we have today."

One of the many reptile vendor enthusiasts was Stuart Brown, the founder of The

Bug Guys. He explained why many are drawn to exotic creatures. "Everything has its job, its purpose, whether you love them or not. Not everybody likes the same car. That's why cars look different. But we must respect and appreciate all of the lights on our planet if it is to survive."

Electric vehicles making their mark in the oil province

By Jayden Gagnon

Despite Alberta being a province famous for its oil production and jacked up trucks, it's undeniable how electric vehicles are progressively showing up on the province's road each day.

"I think every Tesla owner understands that there's a group of people that don't like Tesla," Dr. Lane Robson explained.

Robson was one of the first Calgary residents to purchase Tesla's Model Y fully electric mid-size SUV in 2020. Robson's interest in electric vehicles generated when Tesla, the world's leading electric car manufacturer, was introduced. Apart from being the smartest, fastest, quietest, and most high-valued vehicle he has owned, it was also the most controversial.

In the beginning, Robson

remembers hearing of people blocking charging stations and keying Tesla vehicles, causing him to become careful about where he parked his car.

"You could feel that it was not always, 'Oh, wow it's a Tesla,'" he said. "You could feel the animosity and the crankiness, you could feel it."

Yet, with more electric vehicles appearing in Alberta, the negative vibe is changing. Robson said the arrival of the new Ford F-150 lightning electric truck will make a difference in Alberta.

Dray Souchotte says affordability is holding him back from owning an electric vehicle. Souchotte currently is a geological engineering student who drives a Dodge Ram 1500, though he would rather drive an electric vehicle. Alongside Ford, most car manufacturers, like Kia



Lane Robson charging his electric vehicle, at his home in SW Calgary on Thursday, Sept. 22, 2022. Robson was one of the first Calgarians to own a Tesla Model Y in the city.

and Hyundai have introduced new electric vehicles to give drivers a more affordable opinion.

"No emissions. You do not have to pay for gas. It's kind of a long-time investment."

Souchotte said while explaining what intrigues him

the most about owning an electric vehicle.

The growth of EV in Alberta over the past 5 years has more than doubled each year. According to MOVES Vehicle Research file, Alberta electric car registrations in 2021 went up 836 per cent

since 2017, alternatively, gas vehicles increased by only 4 per cent.

The wave of electric vehicles and infrastructure in Alberta is developing quickly, and electric owners admit they can never see themselves going back to a gas vehicle.

Immigrant safety in Canada

By Namdeep Kaur

Despite the number of crimes happening in Canada, including a deadly stabbing spree in Saskatchewan, immigrants from various countries say they still have confidence in local law enforcement.

"In any city, there's always going to be heavy or little crime stuff. If you can keep yourself safe that's what matters," said Jai Khan, an international student from Pakistan.

The Canadian Bureau of International Education has recently released the results for their 2021 annual international student survey. It was the first time safety has outranked educational reputation, and 80 per cent of students considered it to be the deciding factor for choosing Canada to continue their education.

Bruno Carly, who recently migrated from Cameroon feels that Canada is a safe country.

"Canada is transparent about the incidents happening, but in some countries including mine, it's difficult to know exactly how many crimes happened, so it's difficult to compare," said Carly.

Karen Clamor, a perma-

nent resident in Canada from the Philippines, was in Jasper on Sept. 4 when she heard the alert related to the stabbing deaths of 11 people in the province of Saskatchewan.

Clamor said that she went to explore Banff during her initial days in Canada when the crime rate at that location was minimal, but then there were two homicides for the first time in 30 years.

"I think it has to do with the legality of cannabis and marijuana," said Clamor, speaking about the recent crimes in Canada. "If you are high, you can't think properly. And people are more likely to commit crime."

"It's hard to prevent what is out of our control. If a person is under substance, it's hard to control that, but probably if the government could do something about the legalities and limit the drugs that would lower the crime rate," Clamor added.

Manmeet Mann, an international student, feels that the crime rate in Canada has increased over the past two years. He says he still feels safe in Canada compared to his home country because there are a lot of crimes there, and the threat is increasing even more.



Bruno Carly, an immigrant from Cameroon poses with her daughter Nini in Calgary Transit while travelling back to home in Calgary on Wednesday, Sept. 21, 2022. Carly never felt unsafe and uses this reliable mode to travel.

Photo by Namdeep Kaur/The Press

Alberta's wild birds face avian flu outbreak

By Robin Contos

With the arrival of migration season, Canadian birds face a possible new wave in their own pandemic.

H5N1, the avian flu strain, now prevalent in Alberta and throughout Canada, is negatively affecting wild bird populations.

"Waterfowl are the biggest wild bird species that are affected, so geese, some ducks, and then animals that prey on those species," said Kyle Edworthy, an educator at the Inglewood Bird Sanctuary and Nature Centre in Calgary.

"It works its way up the food chain. They're not picky about what they can find. They eat an animal that's been infected, and they will also get infected," said Edworthy.

"There are some birds that



A peregrine falcon perches in a field just outside Calgary on Wednesday, Sept. 28, 2022. Birds of prey are at high risk for contacting avian flu.

seem to be more susceptible to the virus. Some of our scavenger birds like red-tailed hawks or owls, even some gull species, ravens, crows – they might be at risk for some higher rates of mortality," said Matt Dyson, a research scientist at Ducks Unlimited, a Canadian wetlands

conservation organization.

While data shows that birds that prey on other avian species are harshly affected by this strain of flu, waterfowl have a higher chance of carrying the disease.

"A lot of waterfowl are carriers of the virus, but they're not necessarily known for

having high rates of mortality due to the virus, so they can be silent carriers of it," said Dyson. When many waterfowl gather together during migration periods, this can result in higher numbers of infection.

"If it's been a good year for reproduction, you get a

bunch of immunologically naive individuals, so they haven't had the virus before – they haven't been exposed to it. Now, all of a sudden, they migrate back south, and they concentrate in areas," he added.

With this growing concern for bird health during the fall, there are measures Albertans can take to look out for the local bird populations. Edworthy advised against putting up bird feeders this season as they can be a virus transmission hot spot.

Dyson encourages citizens to report dead birds to local authorities. Reports can be made to the Alberta Environment and Parks/Fish and Wildlife Enforcement Services' toll-free helpline at 310-0000 or via the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative's online reporting tool.

Photo by Robin Contos/The Press

Muslim artists celebrate their work



Surrounded by art, Max Jared Pabia viewing artwork during MAMX event (Muslim Art Movement X) at The Pioneer Calgary, Alberta on Saturday, September 17th, 2022. The event celebrates many artworks like painting, photography and ceramics.

By Qamar Hussaini

Around 280 artists and creatives gather to celebrate Calgary's 10th annual Muslim art event on the evening of September 17th.

Mim Fatmi, President of WMI talks about the importance of diverse representation in the art community. Originally from Edmonton, Fatmi has been the WMI's official president for two years. She joined the WMI while completing her residency as a psychiatrist in Calgary, looking for volunteer opportunities.

"A lot of the time the creative scene tends to exclude Muslims or people of minority background in general so it is hard to see that visibility and that representation, but at the same time Muslims have so much incredible art to contribute," states Fatmi.

The event was hosted by the WMI (Western Muslim Initiative) and was held at The Pioneer, a venue on Calgary's busy Stephen Avenue, where people go to browse the many stores and have a good time.

Muslim Arts Movement X is a Calgary-based event for creators to showcase their artwork, foster community, and celebrate their many accom-

plishments and body of work.

The show featured artists from many different backgrounds, musicians, and entertainers, as well as a variety of foods and beverages for attendees to enjoy.

The Western Muslim Initiative founded in 2007, is a non-profit organization that provides a platform for Muslims and diverse Calgarians.

The WMI created the event to contribute to and strengthen Calgary's cultural legacy while simultaneously providing Calgarians with the opportunity to engage in the broad tradition of Muslim art.

Sumaya Bernier, one of the event's artists born in Calgary and of mixed heritage spoke on her passion for art and Islam.

"I wanted to make art that was not only true to who I am, but also could possibly make a difference in other people's lives," Bernier says.

Bernier has always been passionate about art and wanted to portray Islam beautifully so that other Muslims who grew up in the West might resonate with it. Her artwork combines European and Islamic influences.

"I think it's really important to have an event in Calgary so people can have a place where they can show-

case their creative output and also invite people who aren't Muslim to see," Bernier says.

The lack of representation of Muslims in the media made Bernier feel religiously and culturally excluded. She decided to contribute to this event because of her ambition to create art and defy the negative and inaccurate stereotypes prevalent in the media.

The theme of this year's event was heritage, and artists such as Faiza Akhtar and Hajrah Umer collaborated to explore the concept of identity through photography and mehndi to present at the event.

"In mainstream society, we are not portrayed as creatives, I think especially being Canadian but also being Pakistani and being Muslim, I'm kind of trying to encompass all of it," says Akhtar.

Their artwork reflects elements of their identities, revealing both Pakistani heritage and Western elements. Their shot, taken at Heritage Park, shows women dressed in traditional Pakistani attire holding chai with mehndi-adorned hands.

"I think it's so important that we have these organizations and groups who are giving Muslims opportunities to be seen and be heard

and to acknowledge that their art and their talent is at the level of non-Muslim artists as well," says Umer.

"Calgary's still small enough that you can learn to know people and communi-

ties but also feel really isolated if you don't know the right people," Fatmi says "An organization that can provide that sense of community to people is very much needed, especially in a growing city."



Aisha Sajid viewing artwork during MAMX event (Muslim Art Movement X) at The Pioneer Calgary, Alberta on Saturday, September 17th, 2022. Attendees had a chance to purchase pieces sold by artists.

Photos by Qamar Hussaini/The Press

Truth is shown *Time for Reconciliation*

Photos by Teghan Mendes/The Press



Performers for the National Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt day Powwow and Ceremony at the Calgary Saddledome on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. Today's ceremony was held to recognize the survivors and victims of residential schools. A powwow is a social gathering with dances held by many Native American and First Nations communities.

Photos by Parmjot Singh Khangura/The Press



These girls performed the dance beautifully during The Mohkinstsis Candle Vigil for James Smith Cree Nation and the crowd was amazed at their performance.

Photos by Parmjot Singh Khangura/The Press



Tyler White, left, speaks about the residential school victims on Orange Shirt Day in Calgary on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. On this National Orange Shirt Day, people wear orange T-shirts to show their support.

Photo by Harjit Singh/The Press



A picture of children from Indigenous group performs during the Every Child Matter Powwow in Calgary on Friday, Sept. 30, 2022. Children were quite excited for the dance performance during the event.

Photos by Jude Brocke/The Press



Summer Two Youngme in at the Mohkinstsis Candle Vigil for James Smith Cree Nation at Olympic Plaza in Calgary on Friday, Sept. 9, 2022. During the final dance her young son ran down the steps to join her as she danced.