

STORY PACK 3

2023



BIPOC Stories

The 10 stories in this pack are a sampling of stories from Edmontonians who identify as Indigenous, Black, South Asian, East/Southeast Asian, Latinx, and Middle Eastern. Over three months, eight local listeners collected 175 stories -- 56% of which were from people of colour. Rather than a representative sample, these stories are a starting point for exploring the many ways in which transit shapes wellbeing.



Stories from folks who identify as Indigenous

5 of 47 stories from people who identify as Indigenous

Story 88:

There was this guy, an older guy. He had chemical burns all over his one hand. I walked up to him and asked him if he needed help and he did. And I went running to get a first aid kit. And when I got back, at least he was still there. And he let me clean up his hand, 'cause he kept just redressing it with the dirty rag that he had. So I cleaned him all up and until, like, until this day, when he sees me, he's... he's always thanking me and appreciates that I helped him, and I saved his hand.

Story 118:

I remember one winter I was homeless. I slept one night on the bus because I was exhausted, and the bus driver noticed me sleeping, and decided to just let me sleep. He did a couple of rounds of his route, back and forth, until his shift was over, and then he woke me up and said "I know you need to sleep, so I didn't bother you, but my shift is over, so..." And he let me sleep, right? And then, he gave me a few dollars. It was really humbling. I felt grateful. I felt so grateful and humble and was like, wow, he actually did that for me. It really surprised me, but at the same time, it made me cry. It gave me... it renewed my faith, it renewed my faith in myself and to keep going because there are people that do care. So when I get a chance, I help out people, because I'm passing it forward.

Story 146:

Another time I was taking the train and I was babysitting for a friend of mine. And the young boy was looking out the window of the train as it's coming into Clareview. And he saw more trains on the other tracks, and he's like, 'What are those trains doing there? Where are they going?' And I told him that they were going inside the train station there to sleep. That's where they go to sleep at night. 'So you're gonna say goodnight to those trains.' As we were driving, riding by on the train, the young man waved to the trains and it was really cute. Yeah. Felt really, really nice to be around a little person, a young person because I was... I just got out of jail and I did a long time. Yeah, that felt pretty good.

Story 150:

Alright, so a recent moment I've had on public transit was the Heritage Classic with the Edmonton Oilers versus the Calgary Flames. And, it was important to me because on the way back, me and my boyfriend sat across from an older couple who were just having a nice conversation with us and asking us what we enjoy, talking about their life; we were talking about our life. And it just really felt good that the community was coming together to just be friendly with one another even though we've never met each other. Like everyone kind of knew each other, even if they were a Flames fan. It was just, you know, no rivalry. It was just all friendship and the train kind of brought a lot of people together to talk and yeah, be friendly with each other.

Story 161:

There was one time I was really tired. And I fell asleep on the number 9 at Southgate. And I got woken up by peace officers at Northgate. And I guess it made the run about three times. I woke up without a backpack, without any of my stuff. He was kind and stuff. Literally he was like, “Do you want to get off the bus? You’ve been riding for a few hours now.” I was like, “I totally didn’t even know I fell asleep.”

Or there was the time I left my bike on the front of the bike rack. Forgot about it. And I got off the bus, called transit, and told them to radio the driver. So I waited until he came all the way back around and he still had it.

I don’t know if it’s real or not. But I was in psychosis. And I thought I had this cup full of diamonds, I don’t know, it could have been glass or anything, but it was shiny rocks that were filled in a coffee cup. And I was in psychosis. I had no shoes, no shirt, wearing a pair of shorts, beach shorts. And I had these tent pegs, kind of like magic wands, you know? I thought I was a mind reader. And like I went on the bus, he let me on, and I put the cup in the middle of the floor, in the middle of the aisle. And I got on my knees.

And I was like doing some weird stuff, but I swear, I don’t know. I really just, I was on the 9 Southgate, and I closed my eyes and it felt like the bus did a turn, and I opened my eyes and I was on the 9 Northgate. And I got off at the Coop like two blocks from where I got on. Like five minutes. It was weird. I swear I turned the whole bus with my mind. And I swear I didn’t fall asleep on the bus, it felt like the bus was turning around. It was weird.



Stories from folks who identify as Non-White

5 of 50 stories from people who identify as Black, East/Southeast Asian, South Asian, Latinx, and Middle Eastern

Story 13:

One time when I was going back from uni to my house, I saw an old lady cry. And I asked her what was wrong? And she told me that her husband left her at the train station. And she didn't know how to get back to her house. So then I just searched it up on my phone and we just had a little like 5-10 minute conversation and when she was like, okay, we searched it up on my phone and we just mapped it and, yeah, and she ended up living kind of close to me. So we went the same way. So it was like, it was really cute, like a wholesome moment, you know?

Story 70:

Okay, so there was this day I, I don't know, I hit someone by mistake with my bag and I didn't know my wallet fell. So I just went to sit and they just told me my wallet fell. But I mean, that was kind. My wallet fell, and yeah, they just called me back. I mean, I hit someone I didn't even know and it was just the morning rush, blah, blah, blah. Yeah, they told me my wallet fell, so that was very kind and I really appreciated it. So whenever I hit someone by mistake, I always look back to apologize.

Story 26:

I am an engineering student and on transit morning and night. I was on the train in Belvedere and saw needles near the bench. I think they were used. Just a few steps away was a mom and her toddler. I had no gloves but there's this little kid who didn't know what this was. I felt protective over this little girl. I couldn't pick it up so I stood near it so she wouldn't pick it up.

Story 127:

Okay, this happened in April there. Two people overdosed at the Belvedere station. And I had to Narcan both, and they're both young. And anyways, I had to Narcan both of them there and saved them both there so... but you have to know how to use that stuff or you can actually hurt 'em and stuff. Because there's needles eh?

Story 99:

... It was in the Coliseum area. I did have an appointment with the doctor. So I was coming and I saw one bus, I don't remember the bus route, but they did not allow them. So fortunately, I had an extra bus ticket. So then I share with the homeless person. He was in good condition, but it was freezing. It was not cloudy and snowy, but still in that situation, it's always good to be inside the bus. I just saw him that he came out of the bus again. And then he requested me if you have a cash or bus ticket. So I had one and I shared it with him. Yeah I keep extra because sometimes with bus pass, month of is expired, so for the first portion I keep one or two, in case I don't have cash so I can get a ride on time.

Thank you to our
Local Listeners:

Mikayla Borschter
Nathaniel Smith-Kellar
Maxwell Goulet
Maddy Knauss
Paula Kirman
Ollie Williams
Graciela Morales
Julianne Gilchrist



WWW.AURICLE.INFO