

Honouring Indigenous Peoples

Edmonton Oliver Primary Care Network Name Change

With the blessing from local Indigenous Elder, Theresa Strawberry, we have changed our name to **Edmonton O-day'min Primary Care Network**. Here is some history and insight into this transition:

Why we have changed our operational name

When our PCN was originally founded, we took on the name of the community (Oliver) our main location was situated in.

Several years ago, when the Oliver Community League launched an engagement process to rename their neighbourhood, several facts about the Oliver name, (unknown to many in the community including some of us) came to light. Sadly, the community namesake has a history of discrimination, racism and intolerance.

In the 1930s, the Oliver community was named for political figure and businessman, Frank Oliver. Oliver was responsible for bringing about *“many harmful policies that targeted Indigenous communities (particularly the Papaschase Cree people), people of colour and newcomers when he served as federal member of parliament for the Edmonton area. He was instrumental in the removal of Indigenous people from their land through the Oliver Act.”*

While no one can erase the past, we can do better going forward, and be proponents of reconciliation and change in our community.

Originally, we were waiting to see how Oliver Community League's renaming initiative evolved, learn from engagement initiatives with people in the Oliver community, and, most importantly, hear Indigenous voices. That changed when eye-opening information was reported about mass graves connected to residential schools. To champion change within our community and honour Indigenous Peoples, we immediately moved forward with our plans to amend our operational name.

Of note, Oliver Square on 104 Avenue was recently renamed Unity Square. Other businesses, communities and organizations have also been under scrutiny for their negative histories.



Why did we choose O-day'min

In 2020, the city wards were renamed and given Indigenous names. Ward 6, the ward our central location is in, was given the name O-day'min.

O-day'min is an Anishinaabe word that means 'strawberry' or 'heart berry' referring to the centre of Edmonton. Anishinaabe people live across Canada, including in the O'Chiese First Nation near Rocky Mountain House, and in the United States.

Watch a short video on the history and meaning [here](#).

We connected with Elder Theresa Strawberry, who was instrumental in naming the city ward, to get her blessing in using O-day'min as our operational name. She was excited about the idea and gave us her permission without hesitation.

We are working with one of our Indigenous clinics and value their opinion of how we can improve our programming and services to support Indigenous Peoples. We will continue collaborating with them and use their insight and knowledge to guide us.

(O-day'min is pronounced OH-DAY-MIN - listen to an audio clip on pronunciation [here](#).)

Information Sources & Related Links:

- Uncover Oliver (Oliver Community League's renaming campaign website) uncoveroliver.ca
- City of Edmonton edmonton.ca/indigenous-ward-naming
- City of Edmonton O-day'min [Video](#)
- Oliver renaming process edmontonjournal.com