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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

*The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues shares the following statement after the fatal shooting and injuries at a League hall on Sunday morning:*

“These are traumatic experiences for the community and the League network in Edmonton,” said the EFCL’s executive director, Laura Cunningham-Shpeley.

“Sadly, we’ve experienced this before, most recently with incidents at or near League halls in 2018. That year and into 2019, the EFCL worked to deliver resources to Leagues, including workshops in partnership with the Edmonton Police Service, community groups and insurance providers. These workshops sought to add safeguards to the best practices we provide and suggest to Leagues for their hall rentals. These actions also built on work from 2015, when the EPS created a guidebook for Leagues on hall rentals.

“Sadly, the events of this weekend highlight the need for us to resume this difficult work, which along with hall rentals was put on pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. The events also highlight the tensions we’re all attempting to navigate. Leagues work to keep their halls open to being rented as public spaces, but also to ensure public safety and to stop rentals for events that are grossly misrepresented at the time of rental. This has been a known challenge for many years.

“We’re working to find the right way to support Leagues so that this doesn’t happen again. We’ll now actively reconnect with hall managers to understand the newest challenges and to ensure they have access to the support they need.”

**Backgrounder**

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues was founded in 1921.

There are currently 162 Community Leagues in Edmonton.

Of those, 123 have League halls that are available to rent to the public.



The EFCL has a code of ethics for hall rentals, a hall rental template form, an online course for hall rental staff, a job description for those tasked with hall rentals at their Leagues and the aforementioned guidebook, created by EPS.

The EFCL encourages Leagues to consider granting the EPS 'agent status' to League halls, to ensure that safety and security of events is not put in the hands of League staff and volunteers, but with the EPS .

