

# Creative Writing Boot Camp: Sharing Wisdom Across Cultures through Stories

A Heritage Storytelling Initiative

Cathy Shi, Edmonton Chinese Writing Club  
May 28, 2025

# Introduction of the Project

- 12 months
- 6 working & editorial committee members
- 23 local writers from 8 cultural backgrounds; 9 artists with developmental disabilities
- 1 published anthology *Edmonton Heritage Stories: A Collection of Stories on Crossings, Courage, Community*
- 2 public story sharing
- 1 book launch event
- 1 project website



# Project Objectives

- **Foster a sense of belonging & connectedness** among Edmontonians to people, places, history, & culture;
- **Help reduce barriers & empower Edmontonians** to engage more fully in cultural experiences through storytelling & public speaking;
- **Promote collaboration, creativity, & connection** among Edmonton's literary, artistic & heritage communities.

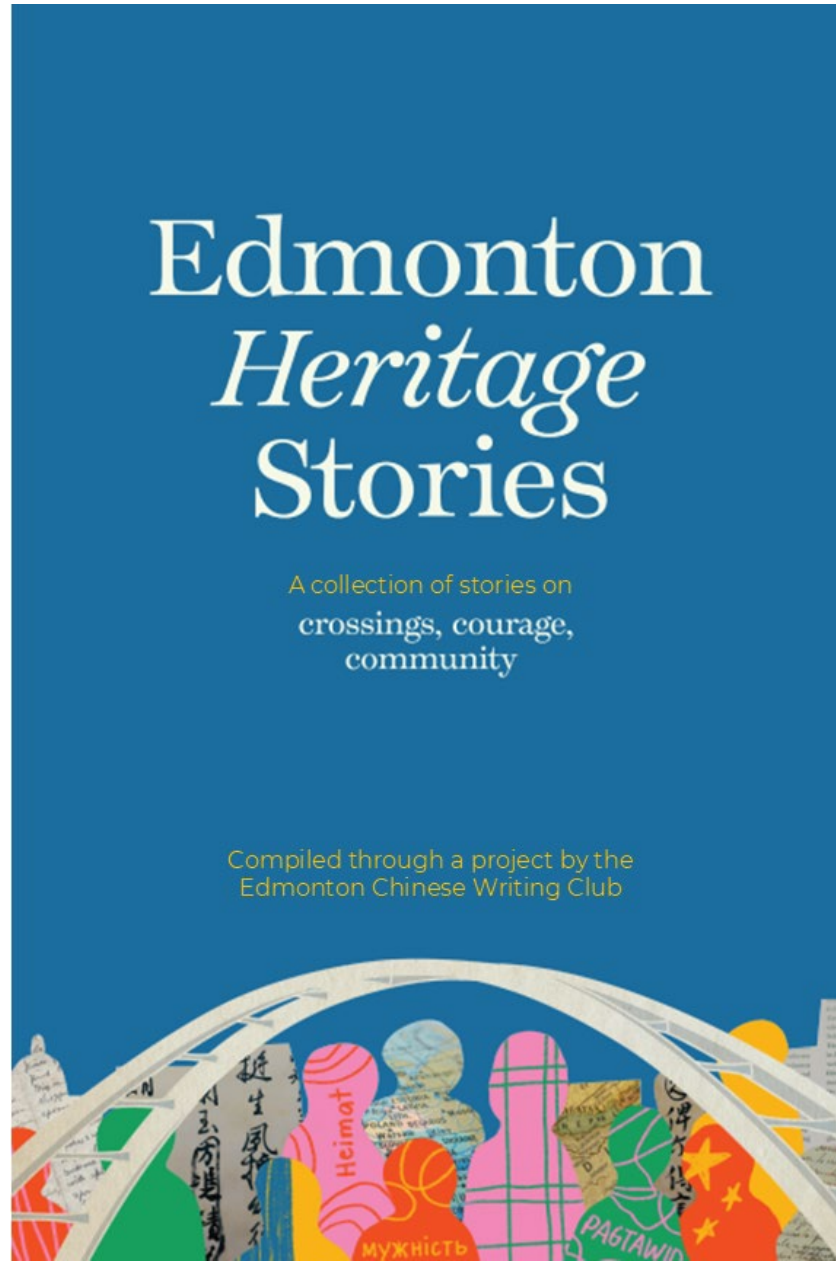


# Final Product - The Anthology

- Book Title:

*Edmonton Heritage Stories:  
A Collection of Stories on  
Crossings, Courage,  
Community*

- 300 copies

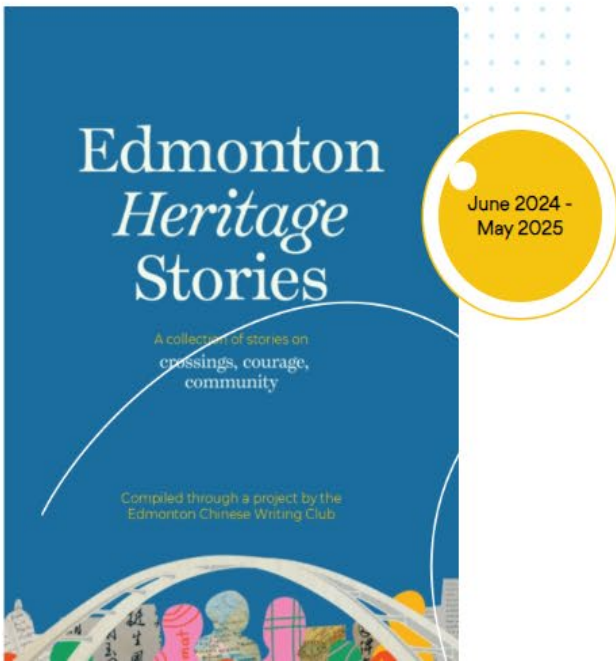




# Community Engagement

At Strathcona & Stanley A. Milner libraries





PROJECT INTRODUCTION  
CREATIVE WRITING BOOT CAMP

# Sharing Wisdom Across Cultures through Stories

Sharing Wisdom Across Cultures through Stories was a heritage storytelling initiative that brought together 23 writers from eight self-identified cultural communities in Edmonton to explore and preserve local heritage through non-fiction writing.

The participants received training in storytelling, writing, ethics, public speaking, and memoir in addition to one-on-one coaching and mentoring. Their final works were compiled into a published anthology entitled Edmonton Heritage Stories: A Collection of Stories on Crossings, Courage, Community.

Some authors shared their stories in Strathcona and Stanley A. Milner libraries. The book launch event took place in the City Hall of Edmonton to recognize the contributors. The project website hosted

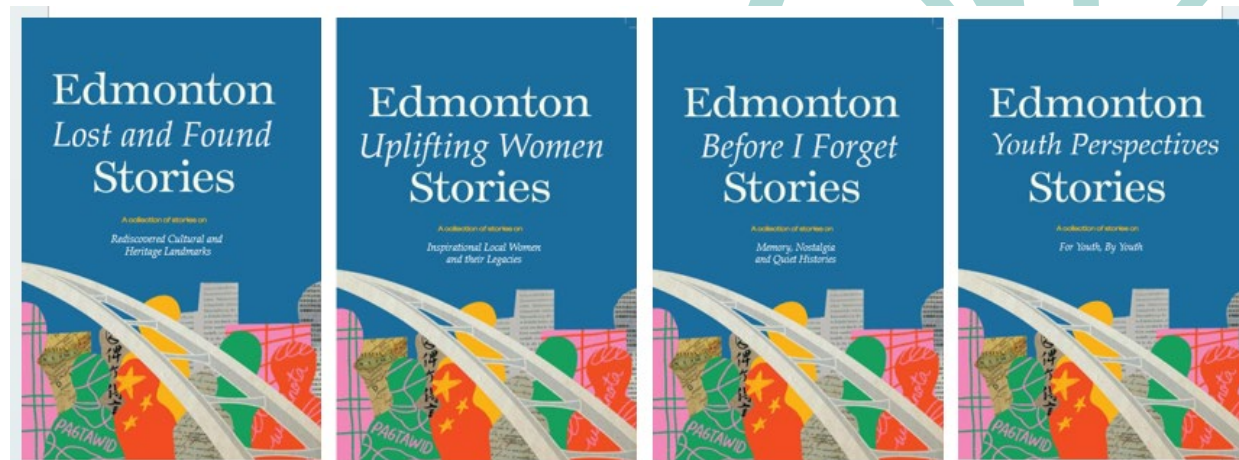
Click to the website: ↓  
[Edmonton Heritage Council](https://projects.ecwc-ab.com)

# Stories of Edmonton: A Book Launch Celebration



# Impact & Legacy

- **Increased visibility** for underrepresented voices
- **Empowerment** to both participants & ECWC
- **Archived** in libraries & digital platform
- **Community** engagement & pride
- **Media coverage**
- **Influence on future projects**



# An excerpt

“Where are you,  
China Gate?” (Poem)

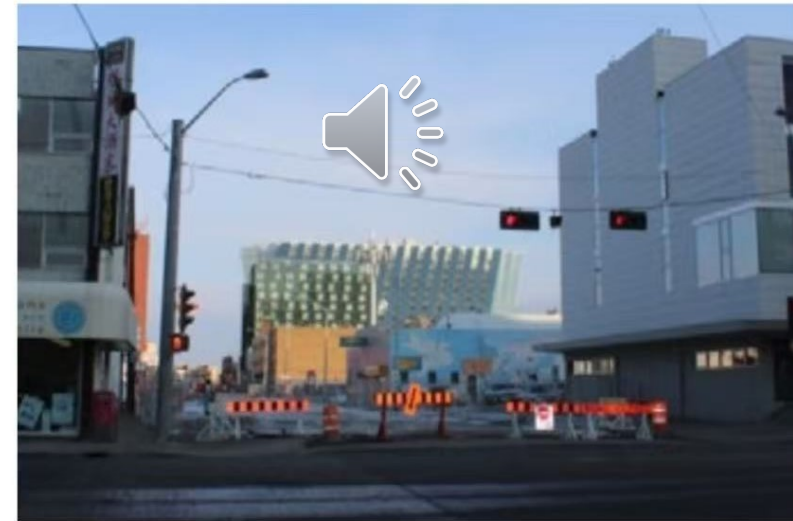
By William Wang



“In 1988, Edmonton’s sister city, Harbin, donated a Chinese PaiFang called the Harbin Gate to us. It became a landmark of Edmonton Chinatown, and a symbol of friendship between China and Canada. It held a special connection in the hearts of the Chinese community in Edmonton. It was a piece of home they could see and visit.”  
(Excerpt of William’s reflection)



*Edmonton's China Gate, formerly located on 97th Street and 102nd Avenue.*



*On November 4, 2017, the China Gate was disassembled and moved away to the City storage.*

**Thank you,  
Edmonton Heritage Council!**



**Any questions?**

