



Edmonton wants you to nominate an Everyday Political Citizen

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The average Grade 6 student in Edmonton doesn't spend a lot of time thinking about city politics. Many don't door-knock during elections or volunteer with community leagues and most rarely go to city council meetings outside of class trips.

But 11-year-old Nessa Deans isn't the average Grade 6 student.

"I think being involved in politics and community development is really important because this is our city and I want it to be the best place to live right now and in the future," said Deans, who is the unofficial youth ambassador for Allendale Community League and a volunteer with City Hall School.

She was on hand Thursday to kick off a campaign that some hope will get more people to think and act more like her.

"Our city is chock-full of talented, tireless advocates, organizers, mobilizers and change-makers," said Coun. Michael Walters, as he made a call for people to take part in the Everyday Political Citizens campaign.

He said the project -- which was spearheaded nationally by Samara, a non-profit organization aiming to increase public engagement in politics -- is to "learn about and celebrate" those people who take part in the politics of their city in hopes of inspiring more to do the same.

"It's important to engage community leaders because if you want to get engagement at the political level, you first need to engage people at the community level," said Julie Kuciek who, along with Deans, was nominated as an Everyday Political Citizen for her work with community leagues, local community projects and election campaigns.

The program invites people to nominate those who have taken the initiative to improve their city. Nominations are due Oct. 31. More information can be found online at Edmonton.ca/EPCitizen

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2014/10/09/edmonton-wants-you-to-nominate-an-everyday-political-citizen>