

BGC Bigs: A History

1900

First 'Boys Club' then called the "Every Day Club" was established as part of the "public playground movement" in Saint John, New Brunswick. It later became known as the East End Boys' Club. The Club's original mission was "to give youth a chance to have some recreation and to see beyond the confines of their immediate situation."

1962

Edmonton's first Boys' Club opens in Boyle/McCauley area. Opening day membership is 35 boys.

1971

Edmonton's Boys' Club begins to provide services to girls.

1972

Big Sisters is established in Edmonton. Their office is located at the downtown YMCA.

1976

Edmonton's Boys' Club Agency name is changed to Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton to reflect the service to both genders. The Agency begins providing summer camp programs.

1980

Big Brothers is established in Edmonton.

1990

Big Brothers and Big Sisters merge.

1998

Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton provide service to over 3000 children and youth.

2000

Mentoring programs are provided to more than 1700 children and youth by Big Sisters and Big Brothers of Edmonton and Area.

2002

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton celebrates its 40th anniversary.

2006

Our agency completes the Big Brother Big Sisters of Canada accreditation process. Nearly 20% of our volunteers are University and College students, and more than 2024 children and youth in Edmonton and area were matched in a mentoring program; a record number for our agency.

2011

Boys & Girls Clubs of Edmonton and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Edmonton merge to become BGC Bigs of Edmonton & Area to better serve our community.