



# A LUXURY SALON EXTENSION EXPERIENCE

By **Melanie Furlong**



In less than two years, 26-year-old entrepreneur and owner of The Extensionist, Megan Ledarney has opened two full service salons and a hair extension academy in downtown Edmonton. The young, local woman is following her dream of helping women who are suffering from hair loss undetectable, natural-looking extensions in a safe and positive environment.

The hair school graduate opened her first location, The Extensionist Consultancy Inc. on Whyte Avenue, one-and-a-half-years ago. The salon grew so quickly, Ledarney had to build another one to accommodate the demand.

The newest location on Jasper Avenue, which opened in June, is connected to The Extensionist Academy and is dedicated to becoming their main Hair Replacement Centre. The facility features individual rooms with washing stations where hair loss clients remain during the whole procedure, maintaining their privacy - the first centre in Alberta to perform hair replacement services of this calibre.

Her close-knit staff, who she calls #teamextensionists, all use the gentle VOGUEPEARL technique Ledarney developed five years ago, guaranteeing the extensions will not cause any damage whatsoever to existing hair.

Megan Ledarney, instructor/creator/owner of The Extensionist Consultancy.





While many clients are people who feel they want more hair, others suffer from serious hair and scalp disorders such as alopecia and trichotillomania, both cause hair loss.

“We have studied extensive research on trichology and hair loss - that sets us apart,” says Ledarney. People in the community have taken note. The company already has 107,000 followers on Facebook and served more than 4,000 women in 2014. This year, they’ve already surpassed that number.

The rapid growth of The Extensionist Consultancy Inc. has meant Ledarney has to follow her intuition when making

business decisions. Focused on creating a luxury salon experience that pampers clients, The Extensionist makes people feel beautiful and confident again.

“One of the most fulfilling parts of my job is having the ability to improve the economy and give awesome people amazing careers,” she says. “But helping the women and hearing the feedback from them and how what we’ve done changed their lives, is very moving.”

Ledarney has also set up the Megan Ledarney Hair Replacement Foundation to sponsor the giveaway of one hair replacement transformation every quarter. To apply, the potential candidate

or a loved one can fill out an application form on The Extensionist’s website. “At the end of every quarter, we award one person who we feel really needs and deserves it,” says Ledarney.

She hopes one day The Extensionist will have locations in every major city across Canada. Ledarney says, “My dream is to see best practices and proper training for all extensionists because every woman deserves to feel her best.” ■

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