







## Annual Report 2008

# edmonton SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Working towards a healthy, just and inclusive community.

## **ANNUAL REPORT 2008**

## **OUR VISION**

A healthy, just and inclusive community.

## **OUR MISSION**

To provide leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policy.

## **OUR GOALS**

To undertake research into the nature and magnitude of social issues in the community.

To increase public awareness and understanding of current social issues and be an independent voice in the community.

**To encourage public participation** in the development of social policies and the implementation of programs.

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Our Edmonton Social Planning Council has again had a remarkable and productive year since the last AGM. Council staff have continued to produce a significant amount of quality social planning research, including *the fACTivist*. Under the continued effective leadership of our Executive Director, Susan Morrissey, the Council has developed new funding sources in addition to our mainstay, the United Way, achieved significant efficiency savings in our budget, expanded the user-friendly interactive website, engaged in many municipal committees dealing with social planning and poverty issues and raised our media profile.

On governance matters, the Board of Directors of the ESPC has worked exceptionally well together. For the first time in my service on the Board (which will end at the next AGM) the Board has debated and developed positions on issues such as the proposed aggressive panhandler bylaw amendment, and the mooted downtown arena.

In the past year, the Board undertook a modest letter writing recruitment campaign that helped raise our paid membership by 25% since the last AGM.

The Board of Directors has had two secondments since last AGM. We welcome Helen Sadowski and Ron Chalmers who are putting themselves forward for a full term at this meeting. At the time of writing, I understand that others may be stepping forward for service on the ESPC Board. Welcome aboard. And, we welcome Board member Larry Brockman back from his education leave of absence.

One of our dedicated Board members, Joscelyn Proby, has reached the end of her second two-year term, and by our organization's constitution, she will have to turn to other community service. Joscelyn was instrumental in strengthening the organization through recruiting many exceptional members to the Board of Directors. Thank you Joscelyn.

After the AGM, we will be working on the ESPC's strategic plan renewal. I invite all of the ESPC community to participate in this review and planning process. While we will in all probability maintain our vision of building a healthy, just and inclusive community, the time has come to review and perhaps broaden our vision.

In 2010, the Edmonton Social Planning Council will enter its seventieth year. Staff and volunteers are in the process of planning some wonderful events to celebrate the many years of great accomplishment. I think we are going to have a party!

Duglas // legg 1500

**Douglas Meggison** Board President

Edmonton Social Planning Council

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**



When I think back over the past year with the many interesting projects that we were a part of, I am struck by a single day when our staff and student volunteered on the building site of Habitat for Humanity. Sure we had been involved in other community events and continue to do so, but this one stood out for me as it was our efforts directed at helping 18 families start their lives in their new homes. Our work is focused on addressing the policy issue around reducing poverty, but actually stepping onto a jobsite, hammering a few nails and painting the walls really brought home to me the importance of having a place to call home.

Our staff and student were very enthusiastic about the project, enjoying our opportunity to roll up our sleeves and provide some hands-on work for the people we serve.

There are many other activities, old and new that ESPC was involved in 2008, and I encourage you to read through this report for details.

I do wish to extend my continued thanks to the staff of ESPC. The breadth of experience is tremendous and the enthusiasm for taking on new challenges is for me what makes coming to work such a joy. I would also like to thank our Board of Directors for their support and guidance. We have one person leaving our board after the May annual general meeting, and to her I bid farewell and many thanks for all her years of dedicated service. We have some people who are continuing on, which will assist us with maintaining continuity, and we have some "new blood" which I am sure will only add greater value to our organization.

I thank the United Way and the City of Edmonton for continuing their financial support as well as the Edmonton Community Foundation. In these difficult economic times, agencies are just as vulnerable to the ups and downs of the marketplace. Having stable and consistent funding from year to year has allowed us to move in a forward direction, planning a deliberate course of action.

To ESPC members, I again extend my thanks both for your feedback and input into surveys, responses to invitations and of course, your continued financial support. We look forward to the next year, a new strategic plan and celebration of our 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of operation in the Edmonton community. There will no doubt be challenges in our community in the coming year, and ESPC will be here working towards a healthy, just and inclusive community.

Susan Morrissey

Susan Morrissey Executive Director

Edmonton Social Planning Council

## **Policy Committee Report**



This committee completed the review and rewriting of the Policy Manual in 2008 and received the assent of the Board for the changes. Having provided the parameters for the Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice, the committee also served as the selection committee for the first recipient of that award, Hope Hunter (pictured).

More recently, the committee has been attempting to work with other

Board committees to review their current terms of reference.

**Submitted by Alvin Finkel, committee chair**, on behalf of the Policy Committee: *Alvin Finkel, Janet Kluthe, Greg Farrants* 



## Finance Committee Report



The Committee consisted of Larry Brockman for the first half of the year until he took a leave of absence from the board. Larry was replaced by John Pater. The Chairman for the second year was Ken Stickland. Two staff attended all meetings: Susan Morrissey, Executive Director and Stephanie Haar, Administrative Assistant.

This year was one of change and great improvement. Firstly we put out a call to re-consider who our auditor should be. Board members on the Finance committee and Susan interviewed a short

list and chose Peterson Walker. They committed to a lower audit fee for the first year and showed many experiences doing audits of not-for-profits like the Planning Council. The Board accepted our recommendation.

Our bookkeeper left in May. When scouting for a new one, Larry and Susan found an opportunity to share Don McFarlane who freed up some time from his work at Options Sexual Health Association. Don began in June, but it took him some months to bring our books up-to-date and implement some innovations within the time agreed for his availability each week. Susan and Stephanie implemented some innovations regarding the way bills and cheques were processed. The annual fee for Don's services is significantly less than our previous arrangements.

The Finance Committee is very satisfied with the teamwork, knowledge and lower cost of our current team. The full Board passed a motion recognizing the additional work and leadership put forward by Susan and Stephanie in 2008. We in the committee and board feel all this effort will pay more dividends into the future.

**Submitted by Ken W. Stickland, treasurer and committee chair,** on behalf of the Finance Committee: *Ken Stickland, Larry Brockman, John Pater* 

## **Board Development Committee Report**



The ESPC is governed by a voluntary Board of Directors who became members of the Council because they believe passionately in the organization's mission of building a just, inclusive and healthy society. Board members make a commitment to provide their energy, knowledge and skills to move the organization closer to its goals. The standard term of office on the Board is two years; Board members may serve a maximum of two consecutive terms.

The Board Development Committee of the board recruits and

nominates prospective board members to be elected at the Annual General meeting. The name of the committee was changed in 2008 to the Board Development Committee to be more reflective of the committee's role.

The committee has held several meetings regarding future Board members and is pleased to report continued interest from members of the general public to serve on the Board of Directors. Three new members have been identified for nomination to the Board as of May 2009: Ron Chalmers, Helen Sadowski and Janet Bauer.

The Board expresses their thanks and acknowledges the many contributions made by Joscelyn Proby, who will be retiring after having served on the Board since May 2005.

**Submitted by Ann Semotiuk, committee chair**, on behalf of the Board Development Committee: *Ann Semotiuk, Joscelyn Proby, Edward Kennedy* 

## Excerpts from 2008 Member Survey

#### Question: What was your primary reason for joining the ESPC?

- I am interested and concerned about the issues you research and address. My membership helps me keep informed and support the ESPCs work.
- I used your library for research purposes & wanted to support your organization through a membership.

Question: What could the ESPC do to increase membership value?

- Become much more visible in the community. Work towards strategic alliances EVEN WITH organizations ESPC doesn't necessarily agree with.
- As personnel allow, more reports on advocacy concerns of community people.
   Additional Comments
- ESPC used to be in the media much more, especially talking about poverty issues.
- The mission + the work of the ESPC is very important & you conduct relevant projects + write useful documents.

The full 2008 results summary and the 2009 Members' Survey are available online at **edmontonsocialplanning.ca**.

#### Have you completed the 2009 Members' Survey yet?

We value your feedback! Fill out the survey online or mail in by May 31, '09.

## **2008 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW**

#### Active Communication...

Reports Released	<ul> <li>"Not Just a Roof Over our Heads": Exploring the State of Rental Housing in Edmonton One Year Later (Sep '08)</li> <li>"It's Time to Step Up": Recommendations to Address Rental Housing Issues in Edmonton (Sep '08)</li> <li>We Can Do Better: Toward an Alberta Child &amp; Family Poverty Reduction Strategy (Nov '08)</li> <li>Community Consultations on Research Needs: Final Report (Oct '08)</li> </ul>	
<i>the fACTivist</i> Newsletter	<ul> <li>Provincial &amp; Federal Issues (Winter '08)</li> <li>Child Poverty (Spring '08)</li> </ul>	<ul><li>♦ Youth (Summer '08)</li><li>♦ City Planning (Fall '08)</li></ul>
Research Updates	<ul> <li>Updates on Edmonton-based research, lists &amp; reviews of new ESPC library resources (Apr, May, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec' 08)</li> </ul>	
Fact Sheets	◆ Alberta Budget 2008 Analysis (Apr '08)	
Articles	<ul> <li>Affordable Housing Policy Needs Leadership (Ed Journal, Jan 6, '08)</li> <li>Child Poverty Trends and Solutions (ATA Magazine, Fall '08)</li> </ul>	
Media Conferences	<ul> <li>Renters' Survey (Sep '08)</li> <li>Child &amp; Family Poverty Report (Nov '08)</li> </ul>	

#### Active Collaboration ...

Committees/ Coalitions	<ul> <li>Alberta Quality of Life Commission</li> <li>Alberta Social Return on Investment Network</li> <li>Boyle Renaissance Advisory Committee</li> <li>Campaign 2000 National Child Poverty Network</li> <li>Demographic Data Users Group</li> <li>Downtown East Re-development Committee</li> <li>Edmonton Coalition on Housing &amp; Homelessness</li> <li>Food Security Network (Edmonton Region)</li> <li><i>Food. Today. Tomorrow. Together.</i> Conference Planning Committee</li> <li>Homeless Memorial Planning Committee</li> <li>Joint Stakeholders Committee on Children and Poverty</li> <li>Living Wage Task Force (Public Interest Alberta)</li> <li>Strategic Alliance on Low-Income Issues</li> <li>Urban Core Support Network (UCSN)</li> <li>Vibrant Communities Edmonton Leadership Council</li> <li>Voices from our Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee</li> </ul>
Consultations	<ul> <li>CPRN Connecting with Canadians seminar (Jan '08)</li> </ul>

• Alberta Housing & Urban Affairs Minister, Yvonne Fritz (Dec '08)

Active in the Community				
Presentations	<ul> <li>Poverty Trends and Solutions, Edmonton Food Bank (Feb &amp; May, '08)</li> <li>UofA students: social determinants of health (Feb' 08)</li> <li>Edmonton City Council public hearings: Inclusionary Affordable Housing Policy (Apr '08), Quarters Downtown (Nov '08)</li> <li>ATA Growing up in the Boom Years conference (May '08)</li> <li>Home Fest Sound Bites Room (Nov '08)</li> <li>MacEwan students: child poverty trends and solutions (Dec '08)</li> </ul>			
Events Hosted	<ul> <li>Co-host MIRFY Alberta (Dis)advantage Conference (Jan '08)</li> <li>Social Return on Investment introductory workshop (Apr '08)</li> <li>Website &amp; Logo Launch (Mar '08)</li> <li>Annual General Meeting (May '08)</li> <li>Roundtable on Guaranteed Livable Income (May '08)</li> <li>Book Club (Jul, Sep, Nov '08)</li> <li>Seasonal Celebration (Dec '08)</li> </ul>			
Events Participated In	<ul> <li>United Way Great Human Race (May '08)</li> <li>UCSN Inner City BBQ (Jul '08)</li> <li>Everyone for Edmonton (Aug '08)</li> <li>United Way Kick-off Event (Sep '08)</li> <li>Habitat for Humanity build day (Sep '08)</li> <li>Edmonton Homeless Count (Oct '08)</li> <li>Stand Up Against Poverty (Oct '08)</li> </ul>			
Conferences Attended	<ul> <li>Public Interest Alberta Not for Sale Conference (Apr '08)</li> <li>ATA Growing up in the Boom Years conference (May '08)</li> <li>CHRA National Housing Conference (Nov '08)</li> </ul>			

## 2009 PROJECTS & GOALS

#### More Communication...

- Tracking the Trends 2009
- More Fact Sheets
- Resource Library coordination and collection building
- ♦ We Can Do Better: Alberta Poverty Reduction Strategy Forums across s Alberta

#### More Community Collaboration & Participation...

- Add greater value for our members
- Bring community into ESPC: volunteers & youth
- Continue to build and strengthen partnerships
- Host community consultations and forums
- ◆ Act as partner-consultant on Wood Buffalo Regional Municipality social plan

## **ESPC** Membership

The strength of our voice and our role in the community is based on the support of people and organizations concerned about social issues. We thank all of our new and renewing members. Your support is invaluable.

Members of the ESPC add their voices to our message of positive social development and policy change. Our members also benefit by:

- **Staying informed** ESPC members are the first to receive our newsletters, publications, and other updates.
- Getting involved Members have a say in the direction of the Council by voting for our board of directors, and are eligible to serve on the board. We also welcome members suggestions and support throughout the year to better meet the Council's objectives.
- Supporting their community The contributions of members help us to remain at the forefront regarding social issues.

We thank our current 96 members for their support and allowing the Council to meet its vision of a healthy, just and inclusive community.

One of the Council's top priorities is to add value to our membership. We are continually working to identify new ways to keep our members informed and engaged. The more our collective voice reflects the diversity of our city, the more we can ensure that all voices are heard.



## Major Partnership

## Edmonton Food Security Network (EFSN)

The Edmonton Food Security Network is a group of individuals and organizations concerned about hunger, poverty, malnutrition, and social justice. The group has been meeting informally for almost ten years. Over that time, the EFSN's activities have included sharing information and resources, creating opportunities for working together, improving the access to food for children and families, and increasing public awareness of food insecurity.

The EFSN's mandate is to help organizations in the Capital Region increase food security by:

- Acting as a central resource network;
- Facilitating connections and collaborations;
- Encouraging partnerships and initiatives; and,
- Increasing public awareness of hunger and malnutrition.

The ESPC has been involved with the Food Security Network since 2007. Since joining the network, our involvement with the group has grown significantly.

Throughout 2008, the ESPC collaborated with the EFSN and a diverse group of other organizations to organize and host a provincial conference. *Food: Today, Tomorrow, Together* brought together over 30 speakers from across Alberta and Canada to discuss food security and food systems in Alberta. The conference featured keynote addresses and breakout sessions on poverty and hunger, nutrition and health, building a local food system, the global food system, and farm and agriculture policies.



The conference was a major success garnering local and national media coverage, and was attended by some 300 participants from across the province. A major focus of the conference was on sharing information, building relationships, facilitating collaborations, and planning for action. Participants discussed how we can all work together to build a healthy, sustainable, and accessible food system for all Albertans.

In addition to the conference, the ESPC has contributed its to the planning and design of the Food Security Network's website: **www.foodforalledmonton.org**. The website officially launched on April 25, 2009. The EFSN hopes that the site will soon feature a database of food security resources in the Edmonton Region.

The ESPC's contribution to the Network will continue in 2009, as EFSN moves forward with the process of becoming a non-profit organization. By formalizing the network, the EFSN aspires to become more effective in taking action on food security issues. The Council is eager to support the Network in reaching its goals.

## **2009 BOARD CANDIDATE BIOGRAPHIES**

#### **First Term Candidates:**

Nominations for first term Board of Directors candidates will be taken from the floor at the Annual General Meeting.

#### **Continuing 1st Term Candidates:**



**Patricia Cardinal** holds a Family Studies degree from the U of A, and is one of the founders of the *Journeys Youth Cultural Exchange Program*. Her work has involved program development and facilitation for diverse populations.

Patricia is currently pursuing a Masters in Recreation and Leisure Studies, focusing on urban youth. A mother of two, Patricia has been proud to call Edmonton home since 1997.



**Michael Cohen** has long been interested in social justice and community development. His wide volunteer experience includes the United Way, and the Canadian Centre for Social Entrepreneurship.

Mike holds a PhD in biology, and worked as a research scientist in the Philippines from 1994 to 2002. He currently works for the federal government on regulation of agriculture and biotechnology.



**Greg Farrants** is a social justice activist and works at "the Hub" as a Landlord Recruiter and Support Coordinator. He has been involved in local affordable housing efforts and has worked in both the public and non-profit sector.

Greg holds a degree in Human Geography from U of A. He also has experience as an educator - both coaching swimming and teaching English abroad. Greg also works as a city lifeguard part-time.



**Alvin Finkel** is a professor at Athabasca University, where he has taught since 1978. Dr. Finkel has authored and edited 10 books, and is currently doing research for an international history of social policy.

Alvin is an executive member of the Alberta Labour History Institute and chair of the interim editorial advisory committee for Athabasca U Press.



**Edward Kennedy** is a Redemptorist priest currently on sabbatical after completing 12 years as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parrish in Point Grey, Vancouver.

Ed has been active in the community in a variety of roles, including serving as Alderman on Edmonton City Council for six years and as president of the Edmonton District Council of Churches.



**Ann Semotiuk** has worked in health care in a variety of roles and settings since moving to Edmonton in 1979. She holds a B.A. in Political Science, a BSW and an MHSA (Health Services Admin).

Ann has worked in Home Care since 1991, and is currently the Program Lead for Support Services in Home Living. Her focus is on implementing effective strategies and developing strong partnerships.



**John Pater** holds a BA in Communications and a Masters in Theological Studies, and has extensive experience in broadcasting, public relations and strategic communications. He worked for CBC Radio in a variety of roles for over a decade in Edmonton and the Eastern Arctic.

John served as the ESPC's communications coordinator from 2003 to 2005. He now works with Capital Health as a Population Health Consultant.



**Ken Stickland** has worked on social and infrastructure adjustment problems throughout his career. He founded KenAgra Management Services, a firm which analyzed trends in Alberta's grain agriculture and agri-food sectors. Among his many involvements, Ken was appointed to the Economic Council of Canada from 1988 to 1993, and was a member of the Alberta Premier's Task Force Towards 2000 Together.

#### **Continuing 2nd Term Candidates:**



Larry Brockman has worked in community service organizations for 25 years. He has broad experience in organizational planning and collaboration, and has served on a variety of community boards. Larry's connection to the ESPC began in the 1980's when he sought the Council's support on issues affecting Boyle Street and McCauley.



**Douglas Meggison** has been engaged in social justice activism since high school. He has served on many boards and committees, including the Edmonton Public Library, and has been active in the Council of Canadians and the Edmonton Coalition Against War and Racism.

Doug has been working for a health care labour union since 1999. He joined the ESPC Board in 2005, becoming President in 2006.

#### **Retiring Board Members:**



**Joscelyn Proby** is a social worker with special needs kindergarten children at Edmonton Catholic Schools. She has also worked with low-income families and their preschool children at ABC Head Start.

Joscelyn emigrated from the UK in 1978. She holds a BSW and an MA in Journalism. She was a journalist for 12 years before returning to social work.

## 2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- President Douglas Meggison
- Policy Committee Greg Farrants Alvin Finkel (chair) Patricia Cardinal
- Casino Committee Michael Cohen (chair)

- Board Development Committee Ann Semotiuk (chair) Edward Kennedy Joscelyn Proby
- Finance Committee Ken Stickland (chair & treasurer) Larry Brockman John Pater

Edmonton Social Planning Council

### Staff

Susan Morrissey	Executive Director
John Kolkman	Research & Policy Analysis Coordinator
Anette Kinley	Research & Communications Assistant
Erin Krekoski	Resource Coordinator
Stephanie Haar	Administrative Assistant
David Fischer	STEP Research Assistant (May - August)

#### **Consultants, Students & Volunteers**

Don McFarlane
Paul Dobrotvorsky
Microtek
Jaylene Ellard
Cheryl Melney
Andrea Simmond
Lori Simon

Bookkeeper IT Services (PD Compserve) Web Development MacEwan College Social Work Student Thompson Rivers University Social Work Student Volunteer: Archive Digitalization Project Volunteer: Archive Digitalization Project

## **CORE FUNDERS**

- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (ESPC Casino Fundraising Event)
- City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant

## PARTNERS & SUPPORTERS OF PROJECTS

- Canadian Council for Social Development (CCSD)
- Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH)
- Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
- Grant MacEwan College Social Work Program
- MacEwan Institute for Research on Family and Youth (MIRFY)
- Public Interest Alberta (PIA)
- Strategic Alliance on Low Income Issues
- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
- Urban Core Support Network (UCSN)
- Vibrant Communities Edmonton (VCE)

#### 1. Welcome and President's Remarks

The meeting was convened at 5:18 p.m. by Doug Meggison, President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, who welcomed everyone and delivered a brief opening statement. Doug welcomed guests, as well as introduced his fellow ESPC Board of Directors.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: to accept the agenda as presented. Moved: Ken Stickland Seconded: Larry Brockman CARRIED

#### 3. Review Minutes of of May 10th, 2007

Motion: to accept the minutes from the May 10th, 2007 AGM as presented. Moved: Janet Kluthe Seconded: Kevan Rhead CARRIED

#### 4. Award of Merit For Advocacy of Social Justice

Award of Merit For Advocacy of Social Justice was presented to Ms. Hope Hunter, Executive Director, Boyle Street Community Centre by Alvin Finkel, Chair of the Policy Sub-committee.

#### 5. President's Report

Doug Meggison reflected on the work of the Board and Council for the year 2007.

Motion: to accept the President's report with thanks. Moved: Kevan Rhead Seconded: Joscelyn Proby CARRIED

#### 6. Operations Report

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director, reflected on the work of the Council and staff of the year 2007.

Motion: to accept the Operations report with thanks. Moved: Ann Semotiuk Seconded: Edward Kennedy CARRIED

#### 7. Presentation of Financial Report

a) Presentation of the 2007 Audited Financial statements.

Motion: to approve the 2007 financial statements as presented. Moved: Don Mayne Seconded: Larry Brockman CARRIED

b) Motion: to delegate authority to appoint the 2008 Auditors at the completion of the Finance Committee's deliberation of the Request for Proposal process.
 Moved: Kevan Rhead
 Seconded: Alvin Finkel
 CARRIED

#### 8. Human Resource Nominating Committee Report

- a) Ann Semotiuk, Chair of HR/Nominating Committee, acknowledged and thanks the board members that left over the year: Ron MacLellan, Michael Sidra, Rick Szostak.
- b) Introduction of current Board Members
   Larry Brockman; Joscelyn Proby; Doug Meggison; Ken Stickland;
   Greg Farrants; Ann Semotiuk; Edward Kennedy; Janet Kluthe;
   Alvin Finkel; Michael Cohen
- c) Calls for nominations from the floor.1st time2nd time3rd time
- d) Introduction of new nominees to the Board Patricia Cardinal; John Pater

Motion: to approve the Names listed above to the Edmonton Social Planning Council's Board of Directors. Moved: Joscelyn Proby CARRIED

#### 9. Policy Committee

Alvin Finkel reflected on the work of the Policy committee during 2007.

Motion: to accept the Policy committee report with thanks. Moved: Michael Cohen Seconded: Ann Semotiuk CARRIED

#### **10. Other Business**

a) ESPC Research consideration suggestions: Public education; Democracy deficiency

#### 11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Doug Meggison adjourned the meeting.

## NOTES



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Ask about becoming an ESPC member, or

Make a donation on-line through **Canadahelps.org** 





United Way Member Agency a member of the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region