



Edmonton Social Planning Council
ANNUAL REPORT 2003

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2003 President's Report In reviewing the reports of past presidents, I am struck by repetitive sentiments of rebuilding, reorganizing and renewal from the past four years of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. Had it been any other organization, I would simply have chalked this up to annual report rhetoric. However, the ESPC has been wrought with difficult transitions since 2000 and it is no secret that the council has had a few false re-starts since then. Three executive directors later and an entire turnover of board members – the Council is no longer preparing to move. We are prepared and we are moving, in every sense of the word.

Our last annual general meeting saw the recruitment of nine new board members. As chair of the Nominations Committee at the time, I was overwhelmed and excited by the level of interest and expertise that was offered by this slate of candidates. Our new council immediately began engaging community partners through a series of workshops where we asked stakeholders to express their thoughts on new strategic directions. Once again, the participation was enthusiastic and vital; the support and encouragement, overwhelming. Out of this work, a new vision for the council has emerged and, if supported by our membership, will form the foundation of our new strategic plan. We will share this plan widely upon its completion.

Shortly after these workshops, the council began looking to renew its lease but felt that a rearrangement of furniture inside would make little difference if no one could find our house. The community workshops told us that the council had become disconnected from the communities it once served. You knew this and we had felt it, too. The time for change was at hand. Through a combination of timing and good planning, Sacred Heart School has become our new home and we have arranged to share it with the community and other organizations. In fact, we now host a community collective of organizations who share similar values and beliefs – a collaboration that reflects the very heart of our work.

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

Fund-raising is an issue that none of us may take for granted. Several years of instability and transition with the council had brought justified skepticism and tentativeness from the United Way, Alberta Capital Region. Lacking the certainty of this core funding, the Edmonton Social Planning Council was forced to do some soul-searching before participating in a casino to raise much-needed dollars. In what could have been a polarizing issue for any new board, the ESPC took the opportunity to pass a motion that would see the council host a two-day casino in 2004, but initiate research into more ethical means of fund-raising for 2005 and beyond. In my opinion, it was a remarkable consensus of pragmatic visions and planning – and may result in future collaborations with other organizations, like the Alberta Knights of Columbus, who feel troubled raising funds from those we may be serving.

I am also pleased to announce that we have regained the confidence of the United Way, Alberta Capital Region, as a recent review by their Community Investment Committee has resulted in an increase in committed core-funding over a three-year term. Understanding that accountability is key to this relationship, the Edmonton Social Planning Council is working towards becoming an outcome-based organization so that the value of our work may be better understood by our funders, our partners and our stakeholders as we work together to build healthy, just and inclusive communities.

That said, a portion of our work will always be difficult to quantify with performance indicators and yet our recent presentation to the Alberta Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment represents perhaps one of the most important and appropriate roles of this council. Subsequent meetings with Alberta Human Resources and Employment have assured opportunities to be at the table during discussions of liveable wages, the Market Basket Measure and the impacts of the recent Income & Employment Supports Act. While we may never know for certain whether our compelling research into the economic impacts of

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

poverty changes the minds of caucus members or influences strategic policy decisions, we do know, for example, that at the recent AGM of the PC Association of Alberta, members voiced concerns that many Albertans are presently not earning liveable wages. Perhaps they heard it from constituent members – perhaps they learned it from us. Whichever the case, if its own members are advocating for change and senior bureaucrats are of the same mind, then surely, the politicians will have to catch up. The ESPC must be there to explain that raising the minimum wage is a band-aid fix to a haemorrhaging crisis of poverty in our province and our presence is vital to building a better solution.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council is prepared and we are moving. In this last year, we have recruited more talent and we have built a new vision. We have reconnected with partners and we have provided our counsel to municipal, provincial and federal tables. I wish to sincerely thank the members of our Operational Team: Dianne Henshaw, for your personal and professional commitments to building supportive communities; Phil O'Hara, for your commitment to excellence in community-based research and for our credibility that is earned through your work; John Pater, for ensuring that our message is heard by the public, our partners, and politicians; and, finally, to our Executive Director, Nicola Fairbrother, for weathering a storm and leading this team back to the community to which it belongs.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policies. Share our vision of a healthy, just and inclusive community – for in this community, everyone benefits. We look forward to working with you this next year and always.

Bryan D. Sandilands
Interim President
Presidents Report

2003 Executive Director's Operational Report

As you will have seen through our frequent communications to you throughout the year, the ESPC was an active and busy organization in the year 2003.

The process of reorganizing and evaluating our strategic direction over the next several years started with engaging the community in a discussion about what the strengths and weaknesses of the Council have been and what role we should take in serving the Edmonton community in future years. Soundings were held in late May and early June with members, community activists, human service organizations and Aboriginal and Metis organizations and representatives.

What stood out from the soundings was a consistent message about what our direction should be and the sense that the Council still had an important contribution to make to Edmonton in the coming years. Identified were the key activities for the Council to pursue:

- The Council should work collaboratively and cooperatively in coalitions with others.
- The Council should maintain and enhance its advocacy role in the community.
- The Council should continue to focus on social research.
- The Council should enhance and change its public profile. (Be identified as a partner and work closely with other community stakeholders)
- The Council should identify new long term funding sources.
- The Council should restrict involvement in direct service delivery.

The ESPC examined and reflected on the direction provided in the community soundings and went about instituting structural and procedural changes within the organization based on that instruction. The core businesses of the ESPC were examined within the context of the community feedback and actions were

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

identified within each area. Detailed below are the activities undertaken by the team in each of our four core business areas in 2003.

**COLLABORATION/
COORDINATION**

In 2003, the Council's role of Collaboration and Coordination was fulfilled in a variety of ways through several different projects.

Nobody's Perfect

The Edmonton Social Planning Council has served as Provincial Coordinator for the Nobody's Perfect Program for a number of years. However, the funding for the provincial coordination was discontinued at the end of March 2003, ending the Council's affiliation with the program. In the first quarter of 2003 the Council worked closely with the Nobody's Perfect Advisory Committee to develop processes for the continued networking of Nobody's Perfect facilitators and trainers, and to seek ways in which they could collaborate in the future with other parent educators to maintain a comprehensive web of services to parents in Alberta.

Tap In

The Tap In program continued in 2003, with Edmonton Social Planning Council serving as the coordinator. Tap In facilitates skills development for the staff, clients and volunteers of non-profit agencies by matching learners to surplus training seats in post-secondary institutions and private sector training agencies. These professional development opportunities are offered at little or no cost to the agency, in order to enhance skills in the nonprofit sector and develop the labour force. Funding for the coordination of the pilot program was supplied by Alberta Human Resources and Employment. In 2003, approximately 212 students were placed in classes that ranged in length from 4 hours to 25 hours. Training was supplied by: Grant MacEwan College Business Outreach, Grant MacEwan Voluntary Sector Management, NAIT, Norquest, and Barb Henderson Consulting.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

**Sacred Heart
Community Collective**

In 2003 the Council became the coordinating agency in the Sacred Heart Community Collective and in November the Council moved its office to the former Sacred Heart School. In addition to reducing the building occupancy cost for the Council, the main purpose of the move was two-fold. First, the Council leases a large amount of office space from Edmonton Catholic Schools, and subleases much of it, at low cost, to the other non-profit agencies in the Collective. The Council also provides support in terms of joint use of office equipment and liaison with Edmonton Catholic School on behalf of all of the agencies. The second goal of the Sacred Heart Collective is to facilitate the use of the gymnasium, kitchen and two meeting rooms at the school by community agencies. Space for recreational programming, community celebrations, and business meetings is provided free of charge to non-profit community groups that would otherwise have no access to an appropriate facility. With the support and cooperation of Edmonton Catholic Schools, the facilities are used almost to capacity.

**RESEARCH AND
POLICY ANALYSIS**

This year the Council worked on three major research projects, two of which are nearing completion and the third is just starting. We were intentional in attempting to integrate Aboriginal practices and cultural values into our research methods. This included hiring an Aboriginal researcher, convening a culturally diverse research advisory committee, and mentoring six students (four Aboriginals).

**Centre Of Excellence for
Child and Youth Centred
Prairie Communities**

The Council's involvement in the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities project was undermined by managerial problems from the host site and Health Canada did not renew its funding. Nevertheless, a local researcher explored the capacity of parenting and family support programs to nurture resiliency in Aboriginal families. The study report will be completed in 2004 and this research may lead to further work with provincial partners.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Food Bank Study

In partnership with the Edmonton Food Bank, the Council conducted a comprehensive study looking at why some people frequently access the food bank. In addition to exploring the experiences of recipients, the study will help to inform the Food Bank and its partners about how their operational practices can be improved to enhance their work. This study report will also be completed in 2004.

Inclusive Cities Project

During 2003 plans were developed for the Council to begin partnering with four other social planning councils and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities on the Inclusive Cities Project (ICP). The ICP is a three-year initiative funded by HRDC that explores local and national dimensions of inclusion. Our understanding of inclusion in Edmonton will be enhanced through research and "community soundings" with local leaders. A local civic panel will review an analysis of the findings and release a report to Edmonton City Council in the fall of 2004. A national inclusion framework will be developed from the reports submitted by the five cities participating in the ICP. Concurrently, multi-sector alliances will be developed to advocate for the implementation of the framework with adequate supports and resources.

Policy Analysis

The Council also analysed relevant social policies and government initiatives, such as the Market Basket Measure, the Income and Employment Supports Act, income support programs, etc. This analysis largely took the form of communication materials, such as newsletters and fact sheets.

PUBLIC EDUCATION

Communicating ESPC's key messages to the general public, our membership and the media got a boost this year with the updating of our web page and the hiring of a Communications Coordinator.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Publications

There was regular production this year of easy-to-read publications – fact sheets (6) and newsletters (2). That material was made accessible to our members and interested individuals and organizations using our expanding e-mail contact list (350). We tackled various current social issues including the Market Basket Measure and the impact of changes to social assistance.

Web Page

Through the services of a graduate of Grant MacEwan's Visual Communications program, ESPC's web page was given a drastic overhaul and updating. All of our newest material is now available on our web page, heightening our profile – and that of the issues we address – both locally and world wide with inquiries from as far away as Australia and Belgium.

Media

The news media is one of the target audiences of our fact sheets. In addition, regular news releases (12) were sent out in response to current pressing issues. All of this resulted in ESPC getting frequent calls from media either for quotes or background information. In 2003 there were a total of 46 media "hits" in local print and broadcast media, ranging from one line quotes to guest columns to being featured guests on 30-60 minute radio phone in shows.

Education

Over the year, various staff also facilitated a number of workshops and seminars for various university and community groups. The year ended with the Council sponsoring an exciting public educational event, drawing 150 people to an old-fashioned debate featuring two nationally known columnists.

ADVOCACY

The year 2003 saw the ESPC focus on increasing contact with members, policy makers and the broader public in order to seek new ways of connecting them all with our work.

We engaged with government in discussion and debate around issues of income and the measures government uses to set minimum wage and welfare rates. Early in the year with the assistance of community partners, ESPC

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

encouraged the human services community to provide direct feedback to the regulations being developed for the new Income and Employment Supports Act. This action resulted in the development of ongoing discussion between the ESPC and senior officials with Alberta Human Resources and Employment. At the end of 2003 the ESPC received confirmation that in February 2004 we could proceed with a presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment.

Our public event on welfare as a social right brought some new faces to the discussion and created an introduction to the debate for our new contacts. This debate encapsulated the discussion we had brought to the public about welfare in 2003 and set up the ESPC to move on to our next proposals for policy change.

**SPECIAL PROJECT:
The Edmonton Centre
for Equal Justice**

The year 2003 was a year of stability and growth for the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice. The Centre's staff and volunteer lawyers provided legal services to 874 Edmontonians. This number nearly doubled from 2002. To date 1674 people have accessed the services of ECEJ.

ECEJ expanded its evening legal clinics to two per week allowing the Centre to provide assistance to a greater number of people. Volunteer recruitment has been consistent and growing. The Centre currently has 40 lawyers who volunteer on a regular basis.

Support from the court systems, judges/justices, and the Law Society has been outstanding. Three key members of the legal community endorsed a volunteer send out for ECEJ. The three members include the Honourable A.H.J. Wachowich, Chief Justice of the Court of Queen's Bench of Alberta, the Honourable Ernest J.M. Walter, Chief Judge of the Provincial Court of Alberta, and Larry G. Anderson Q.C., President of the Law Society of Alberta.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

ECEJ moved to the Baker Centre in August 2003. The new space was a perfect fit for staff, clients, and volunteers.

Funding applications have been a success this year. The Alberta Law Foundation continued to be ECEJ's primary funder and increased the grant from 2002 to 2003. The Community Initiatives Program, Edmonton Community Foundation, and the Muttart Foundation provided funds in the areas of staffing and costs of a disbursement fund.

ECEJ is currently undergoing an evaluation of its services by Community Services Consulting. The evaluation began in the fall of 2003 and will come to an end at the end of May 2004. ECEJ is optimistic about the results and looks forward to being able to meet the needs of the community more effectively.

In addition, in the fall of 2003 ECEJ began plans to become an autonomous organization by January 2005. With the generous assistance of Fraser Milner Casgrain, ECEJ will obtain society and charitable status in 2004.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2003

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2002 Actual
Revenue			
Foundations Grants	\$ 241,156	\$ 310,637	\$ 291,576
United Way	195,000	206,156	192,291
Government of Alberta	85,750	78,803	28,161
Government of Canada	6,531	24,380	56,355
City of Edmonton	13,957	14,957	14,516
Donations	700	3,835	6,224
Rental		3,698	
Publications	950	789	1,755
Memberships	800	785	2,525
Other	9,800	20,244	10,226
Capital contributions recognized	30,036	30,034	4,575
Revenue recognized	130,960	916	31,505
Total Revenue	715,640	695,234	639,709

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS cont'd

	2003 Budget	2003 Actual	2002 Actual
Expenses			
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 462,377	\$ 456,565	\$ 401,943
Building Occupancy			
Office Expenses	59,021	51,003	52,861
Consulting and Honoraria	41,835	31,583	20,698
Professional Fees and Memberships	26,950	12,102	19,478
Meetings and Volunteer			
Appreciation	8,950	5,537	1,939
Transportation	6,341	4,574	10,287
Publications and Resources	5,300	3,616	8,695
Recruitment and Education	3,414	3,551	5,158
D & O Insurance	1,585	2,199	2,631
Other	12,660	8,725	11,722
Bank Charges		321	494
Amortization	32,591	32,588	33,216
Total Expenses	715,640	666,546	625,914
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	\$ -	\$ 28,688	\$ 13,795

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of December 31, 2003

ASSETS	2003	2002
Current Assets		
Cash and Term Deposits	\$ 232,561	\$ 200,262
Amounts Receivable	68,375	12,847
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	<u>17,436</u>	<u>13,286</u>
Total Current Assets	318,372	226,395
Restricted Cash (Casino Account)	282	291
Plant and Equipment	<u>38,225</u>	<u>70,815</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 356,879</u>	<u>\$ 297,501</u>

LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	2003	2002
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 9,857	\$ 10,813
Deferred Revenue - Casino	282	291
Deferred Revenue - Projects	193,250	131,561
Deferred Revenue - Plant and Equipment	<u>36,961</u>	<u>66,995</u>
Total Liabilities	240,350	209,660
Net Assets	<u>116,529</u>	<u>87,841</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 356,879</u>	<u>\$ 297,501</u>

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	Invested in Plant and Equipment	Unrestricted Surplus	Total
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 70,815	\$ 17,026	\$ 87,841
Excess of Revenue over Expenses		28,688	28,688
Amortization of Plant and Equipment	(32,588)	32,588	0
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 38,227</u>	<u>\$ 78,302</u>	<u>\$ 116,529</u>

These financial statements are an extraction from the audited financial statements. For more detailed information, the complete audited statements are available from the ESPC office.

Amendment of Objects and By-Laws

In accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta, the following special resolution to amend the objects of the Council will be debated and voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the Edmonton Social Planning Council held on May 18, 2004 at 7:00 p.m.

Existing Objects**Vision**

A community where all people have a commitment to social justice and shared responsibility as the foundation for community well being.

Mission

Responding to the changing political and social environment, the Edmonton Social Planning Council will:

- Identify trends and emerging social issues
- Create opportunities to debate and address social issues
- Initiate and support community action through research, coordination and advocacy.

Objects to be amended to read:**Vision**

A healthy, just and inclusive community.

Mission

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policy.

**BOARD BIOGRAPHIES 2004/2005
FIRST TERM CANDIDATES****Normie Carlson**

Normie Carlson has lived intermittently in the city of Edmonton since 1967. She has also resided in Jasper, Calgary and Fort McMurray. As a First Nations person, she brings a variety of knowledge and experience to the ESPC board. She has worked in the graphic arts industry, with the federal and provincial governments, in non-profit organizations and most recently as an instructor for Keyano College, where she teaches in both the City of Edmonton and in St. Albert. Ms. Carlson's education includes a Graphic Arts Administration Diploma, Personnel Administration Certificate and a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training. She is currently enrolled in the Aboriginal Leadership, Management and Governance Certificate at the Banff Centre.

Leonel Roldan-Flores

Leonel was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He has lived in Edmonton since moving to Canada with his family in 1986. Leonel attended Concordia University College of Alberta and graduated with an undergraduate degree in political economy; he went on to obtain a master's degree in political economy with a focus on Latin America from the London School of Economics, in London, UK. Currently, he works with the Alberta government in the area of market strategy development and trade policy. His interests are varied, including traveling, reading, painting, and yoga.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Rick Szostak

Rick Szostak is Professor of Economics and Associate Dean of Arts at the University of Alberta, where he has taught since 1985. He and his wife Anne-Marie have three young children. Rick has authored seven books and over twenty scholarly articles. He has also written several short articles on public policy issues for outlets such as *Policy Options* and *The Education Monitor*, as well as guest columns in major Alberta newspapers. He has experience lobbying the provincial government, having served for two years as the President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations.

SECOND TERM CANDIDATES

Marcel Labbe

Marcel Labbe has been long term resident of Edmonton and has sat as a board member of the Edmonton Social Planning Council since April 2002. He currently works for the City of Edmonton, and has sat on a number of University and post-secondary education boards as well as a provincial education-based lobby and advocacy group. Marcel hopes that his interests, skills, and experience will add to the important work of the Council in providing advocacy, education and research to individuals, organizations and all levels of government.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Bryan Sandilands

As a researcher for the Clinical Islet Transplant Program and the University of Alberta, Bryan is currently investigating quality of life impacts of islet cell transplantation on recipients of the Edmonton Protocol. His other research includes a health-economics analysis of the cost of islet cell transplantation as a treatment for juvenile diabetes. His clinical practice is focused on peer/patient mentoring and an internet-based support program called, "Hoping & Coping Through Transplantation" hosted by www.diabetesstation.com, and he is also currently serving on the board of directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Bryan has previously worked for the Alberta Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian Mental Health Association and he is a graduate of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary with training in the fields of neuropsychology and social work.

CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Terry Anderson

Terry Anderson is a Past President of the Riverdale Community League and has been active in the eight years he has lived in Edmonton in a variety of community organizations and issues. Professionally, Terry is a Full Professor and holds the Canada Research Chair in Distance Education at Athabasca University. He teaches and consults on a variety of issues related to e-learning and is active in a number of individual and national research initiatives related to networking, educational technologies and lifelong learning. Terry is an active member of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Terry and his wife Susan are the parents of two university age children. He enjoys assisting the Edmonton Planning Council in meeting its organizational and strategic goals.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Marilyn Corbett

Now retired, Marilyn Corbett gained a great deal of experience in strategic planning and policy development during her many years as a public library director. As a public library director reporting to a volunteer board of directors, she brings a good understanding of the role that governance boards play in an organization. Marilyn also worked for a number of years with the former provincial government department of Social Services and Community Health. This work, combined with her personal experience of a number of social and health challenges, have provided her with an understanding of the many social issues facing people in today's society. Marilyn welcomes the opportunity to work with the Edmonton Social Planning Council to address the many concerns that currently have an impact on people in our community.

Mayja Embleton

Most recently in her professional career, Mayja was the Executive Director of the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, a community based entity that conducts research and creates plans to help alleviate Edmonton's homeless and housing problems. Prior to this, she was the Web Producer for TELUS' BC Community Directory, a position that allowed her to work with non-profit organizations. Mayja has always enjoyed working with communities, and was the first Safety Audit Coordinator for the City of Calgary. She has always been an advocate for fairness and equality, and was pleased to sit on the U of C's Board of Governors for two years, as the Graduate Students' Association President. Mayja's focus switched to child rearing with the birth of a beautiful daughter last spring, but she is now easing her way back into part time employment.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

John T. Henderson

John Henderson is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain where he has practiced in the area of civil litigation for the last 24 years. He was a member of the Finance Committee of the Law Society of Alberta during the period 2000 to 2004 and is a "Mentor" in the Law Society Mentor Program. He has been a lecturer for the Legal Education Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association and has also been a guest lecturer in Advocacy at the University of Alberta Law School. John has been involved in a number of community organizations and has been active in the United Way, most recently as the Co-coordinator for the Legal Section of the United Way campaign for 2002 and 2003. John also serves as a volunteer at the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice.

Cindy Olsen

Cindy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board of ESPC. She graduated from the U of A in 1973, and worked for 10 years as a social worker in the young offenders unit. She then "retired" to raise her family, and has since been extremely active in the community. She worked with the community league, serving as president for a number of years, and spearheaded the drive to complete the Capilano Freeway. Cindy also ran for alderman. She developed a Junior Forest Wardens Club, has been involved in parent advisory groups, and with various health related boards and was awarded a medal by the federal government for her contribution and community involvement. Cindy was a co-founder of a small aboriginal not for profit organization, which she operated successfully as the Executive Director until the society was dissolved in June 2002, when the program was brought into the separate school system. Cindy is currently a volunteer with the board development program. Cindy returned to school in September 2002 and graduated from the Voluntary Sector Management program, with a major in fundraising. She currently is employed by Habitat for Humanity Edmonton.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Wilson (Wil) Porat

Born on a farm in Saskatchewan, Wil has served as a developer of persons and communities, while involved in a broad range of community activities and the operation of several different businesses. Wil's formal education is in theology and psychology. He has extensive experience in board governance, having served as Co-Chair of Hearthstone Child and Family Services Authority from 1998 to 2003, Chair of a Regional Mental Health Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee from 1992 to 1999 and as Chair of the South Alberta Church Workers Conference for two terms. Wil was also a board member and the Chair of the Innisfail Health Care Centre from 1992 to 1995. Experience with FCSS included being a board member of the Bowden and Didsbury FCSS committees. In addition, Wil has experience in Conflict Management, Change and Transition Management, and in community capacity building. Wil is happily married to Bonnie. They have two sons and two daughters.

Peter Rothe

Peter Rothe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta and he is the senior researcher for the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and Research. He is primarily involved in social/contextual/cultural analysis of risk, injury and emergency care as they reflect community norms, belief systems and social behavior. His primary interest is with vulnerable populations and intentional violence. Peter was previously a member of the Howe Sound School Board in British Columbia, and research director for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia in North Vancouver.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Andrea Spevak

Andrea recently completed her masters degree in Educational Policy Studies. She has worked with the Alberta Metis Settlements to compile socio-demographic data and conduct youth surveys which guided community program development. She was also an instructor at the Goodwill Community Training Centre, where she helped adults with disabilities prepare for employment and independent living. Andrea has volunteered for several community organizations including the Centre for Immigrant Women, Stollery Children's Hospital, and Lurana Women's Shelter. She is currently doing research for the Safe and Caring Schools and Communities Project, a violence prevention and character education program. She is also a stay-at-home mom to her new daughter, Lily.

Jenny Wong

Jenny Wong is a native Edmontonian who grew up in a diverse, multicultural downtown neighbourhood between Chinatown and Little Italy. She has a Bachelor of Commerce in marketing from the University of Alberta and a Public Relations Diploma from Grant MacEwan College. She has worked in organizations relating to health, literacy and multi-culturalism. Having a strong desire to improve the level of well being and livelihood of fellow Edmontonians, she has been enriched with the experience of participating in the past year as a Council member and is looking forward to the coming year of Board initiatives for Council planning.

MINUTES of the 2003 Annual General Meeting / April 29, 2003**1. Welcome and President's Remarks**

The meeting was convened by Wanda Dannelly, President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, who welcomed everyone and presented the President's Report. She noted that the year 2002 had been challenging, with the loss of both the Executive Director and the Staff Lawyer for ECEJ in mid-year. Wanda thanked both staff and funders for their support and loyalty through the time of transition, and commented that the Council is now focused and set to take on new challenges.

2. Approval of Agenda

Motion: to adopt the agenda.

Moved: Joan Welch
Seconded: John Henderson
CARRIED

3. Approval of Minutes of 2002 Annual General Meeting

Motion: to approve the Minutes of the 2002 Annual General Meeting

Moved: Joan Welch
Seconded: Margaret Dewhurst
CARRIED

4. Presentation of Financial Statements

Michael Epp, of Hawkings Epp Dumont, reviewed the audited financial statements of the Council, reporting on behalf of the Board to the members, and on behalf of Colleen Jahns, who performed the on-site audit and reported to the Board. Mr. Epp noted that the Council has had a good year from a financial perspective, ending the year with a small surplus of \$14,000, slightly greater than the surplus at the end of 2001. The total assets of \$88,000 are primarily cash assets, with a few capital assets, mainly the new computers that were purchased in 2001. He noted that liabilities consist mostly of deferred revenue, which is not uncommon for nonprofit organizations that have project-based funding.

Mr. Epp presented graphs that depicted the source of revenue, noting that total revenue was \$650,000, up about \$100,000 from the previous year, with foundation revenue having the greatest increase. He also showed a pictorial representation of expenses by department, commenting that, as you would expect,

MINUTES continued

most of the expenditures were in the Community Development Department, which includes the projects. Salaries formed the largest type of expense, as is typical in an organization of this nature.

Mr Epp concluded that the Council appears to be in a sound financial position.

Motion: to approve the financial statements.

Moved: Joan Welch
Seconded: Margaret Dewhurst
CARRIED

5. Motion to Confirm Auditor Motion: to confirm Hawkings Epp Dumont as auditor of the 2003 financial statements.

Moved: Joan Welch
Seconded: Margaret Dewhurst
CARRIED

6. By-Law Change

A notice of the intention to change by-law V (1) (a) was distributed to members prior to the meeting. The existing wording is:

The Board shall consist of ten to fifteen members of the Council duly elected at the Annual General Meeting.

MOTION: Joan Welch moved to add the following wording to By-law V (1) (a)

If the number of Board members falls below the minimum number of 10, the remaining Board members are empowered to act as the Board until the vacancies are filled by the Board, or until the next Annual General Meeting.

Seconded by Margaret Dewhurst.

Kevan Rhead asked whether there would be a minimum number of Board members included in the by-laws. Wanda Dannelly replied that the by-law already stipulates a minimum of ten members. However, we had a situation this year where the number of Board members fell below the required ten. This by-law change is intended to allow the

MINUTES continued

organization to continue to operate if that situation should occur at another time. This change would allow a Board of eight or nine members to continue to act, and to appoint new members to bring the Board complement back to the required number until candidates could be elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

The motion CARRIED.

7. Nominating
Committee Report

Wanda Dennelly presented the report of the Nominating Committee. She noted that we have three members continuing on the Board in either their first or second term, and there are 9 candidates for election to a first term, bringing the Board complement to 12. Two of the candidates for election, John Henderson and Jenny Wong, have served part of the past year as appointments to the Board, as the number of Board members fell below the minimum of 10 during the last year.

The following slate is recommended:

First Term Candidates

Terry Anderson	Marilyn Corbett
Mayja Embleton	John Henderson
Cindy Olsen	Wilson Porat
Peter Rothe	Andrea Spevak
Jenny Wong	

8. Approval of Nominations

Motion: to approve the slate of nominees as presented.
Moved: Kevan Rhead
Seconded: Joan Welch
CARRIED

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9. Recognition of Retiring
Board Members

Wanda Dennelly, as President of the Board, presented Joan Welch and Margaret Dewhurst with gifts of appreciation for their commitment to the work of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. Margaret Dewhurst served 4 ½ years on the Board, 3 of those on Executive Committee, and one year as President. Joan Welch served 4 years, two years on the Executive Committee, and also served as President for part of a year. Both were strong and active members of the Board, and Wanda emphasized that their expertise will be missed.

10. Executive Director's
Report on Current Projects

Nicola Fairbrother summarized some of the work that is currently ongoing at the Council.

She first highlighted the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities, which is now in Phase 2. This is the Council's opportunity to build a stronger relationship with the Aboriginal community in Edmonton. The research project will contribute to the knowledge base around parenting programs and their effectiveness in building resiliency in families, particularly Aboriginal families. An Aboriginal researcher has been hired to do this work.

Nicola also spoke of the Tap In program, which is coordinated by the Council. This project matches clients, volunteers and staff of nonprofit agencies with surplus training opportunities. To date, 168 students have accessed training at Norquest and Grant MacEwan College. NAIT has recently been added as a participating school, and we are working to increase the number and variety of the classes, and the number of schools involved.

The Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice is a major project of the Council, having served close to 1000 clients since opening its doors in January of 2001. We currently have four full time staff, including a staff lawyer, and nearly 60 volunteer lawyers, working with

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the Centre. A Paralegal and an Outreach Worker will be added to the staff in the next month to complete a multi-disciplinary team which will allow the Centre to move to address more than the just the presenting legal issue for clients.

ESPC is currently working on its fourth study in conjunction with the Edmonton Food Bank. The focus of this particular study is to look at issues around frequency of food bank use, and food bank dependency. We will also examine the role the food bank can play in helping people to access other community resources, thereby reducing their need to access the food bank.

Nicola Fairbrother also spoke of the potential of a working relationship with the Laidlaw Foundation and the Federation of Canadian Municipalities. In 2002 ESPC hosted one of ten cross-Canada "soundings" on Building Inclusive Communities. As a follow-up to this initiative, the Laidlaw Foundation has submitted a proposal to Human Resources Development Canada to conduct a three-year research project around promoting inclusiveness and developing an audit to help us measure inclusiveness at the community level. Edmonton is potentially one of four sites that would be involved nationally.

To conclude, Nicola described the Community Consultation process that the Council has initiated recently. The Council needs to review its mandate and purpose on a continuing basis, and this year the Board has decided to consult with community stakeholders about their vision of the Council and its role. We will use the feedback from members and other stakeholders in Edmonton to help us develop a business plan that will guide our work into the future, and help us continue to be effective in our work in this community.

Kevan Rhead commented that the phrase "business plan" seems to be inappropriate in relation to a

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nonprofit agency. Board member Bryan Sandilands noted that the business plan will be very similar to a strategic plan, in that it will be a document that will guide our work internally, and help to keep us focused on the work that needs to be done. The use of the term "business plan" is in response to the requirement of funders to identify outcomes and how we will measure those outcomes, so there is a focus on objective indicators of success.

Doug Schill asked if the Consultation would be reviewing the name of the Council. He commented that he has known of the Council by name for many years, but has never been certain about exactly what we do. He felt that the name is unclear and it might be preferable to change the name to something that is more transparent and meaningful to the public. Ms Fairbrother acknowledged the comment and noted that perhaps we need to be more effective in communicating the message about our role in the community.

12. Adjournment

Seeing no other business, Ms. Dennelly adjourned the meeting at 7:45 pm.

Staff list

ESPC Staff

Nicola Fairbrother – Executive Director
Phil O'Hara – Research and Policy
Analysis Coordinator
Dianne Henshaw – Office Coordinator
John Pater - Communications Coordinator

ECEJ Staff

Blaire Charlton – Program Manager
Andrew Bachelder – Staff Lawyer
Jennifer Lohman – Intake Coordinator
Patricia Bencz – Volunteer Coordinator
Temple Kilfoyle – Legal Assistant
Karen MacLean – Outreach Coordinator



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