

PEOPLE IN ACTION

A Citizen's Course in Planning  
and Community Development...  
Theory and Practices

COSTS

A grant provided by the Edmonton  
Association for Continuing Education  
and Recreation and the Department of  
Further Education enables us to  
provide PEOPLE IN ACTION free to  
citizen volunteers.

A UNITED WAY AGENCY

The Edmonton Social Planning Council  
is a non-profit organization. It is  
financed by the United Way and other  
grants, project funding and fees.

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The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides support services to complement the voluntary efforts of citizens in community planning and decision making. We direct our services to volunteer citizen groups and to organizations working with and on behalf of citizens to focus on community objectives and ways of achieving them. We will not make decisions for a community, but will give citizens in that community information, ideas, techniques and support that will enable them to make the best decisions themselves.

PEOPLE IN ACTION is designed to meet a need which has been expressed by citizens ... a need to better understand the theory on which community development and citizen participation are based, and a need to apply this theory directly to the practical community situation. It is a course geared to the person who would like to develop the skills and knowledge which can help her/him become a more effective participant in community life.

COURSE CONTENT

The Course will be given in three sections, each lasting three months.

SECTION I: KNOWING YOUR COMMUNITY

- The role of the citizen
- Motivating people to become involved
- Discovering community needs
- Identifying and developing various resources...people, expertise, etc.

SECTION II: GETTING YOUR COMMUNITY TOGETHER

- How groups work
- How to make effective use of groups
- Planning for group action
- Developing an organization

SECTION III: CHANGE...BEYOND THE STATUS QUO

- Why change?
- Local systems and their potential for change
- How to use the systems for change
- Handling and coping with change

TIME

The Course will be geared as much as possible to the time available to those taking it. A minimum of one session every two weeks will be expected, and practical assignments will be undertaken between those sessions.

Section I will run January-March.  
 Section II will run April - June.  
 Section III will run Sept.-Nov.

APPLICATION

Interested citizens can contact Lorie McMullen at 424-0331 to arrange for a preliminary interview. This interview will help to clarify the content and expectations of the Course for participants.

A similar Course can be prepared for interested professionals who are working with citizen groups. Alternate time frames can be considered and special financial arrangements would be made.