(Formerly Council of Social agencies)

Annual Report 1950



REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE ELEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING COVERING THE YEAR 1950-1951

--00000---

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are so often asked what the Council of Community Services is - I think it might be worthwhile if I were to commence my report by outlining briefly the purposes and objectives of the Council, and the way in which the Council functions.

Briefly stated, the purpose of the Council is to promote, coordinate and interpret social welfare work in the Edmonton district. It attempts to fulfill this purpose by group education, consultation, coordination of social welfare effort, and social action based on informed opinion.

It works: through member agency delegates and interested citizens of the community at large, who meet in the Council Divisions to discuss matters of concern in their particular fields and consider action to be taken;

through the Executive Committee of the Council - which deals with recommendations forwarded by the Divisions, matters of policy, and problems which are not within the scope of any one Division; and

through the Council Office, which provides technical advice and assistance, secretarial services to Council committees, general information, and certain central services.

From the reports you will hear tonight, you will be able to judge how far the Council has succeeded during the past year in carrying out its purpose.

In reporting for the Executive Committee, I would point out that much time and consideration is necessarily devoted to many things which originate in the Divisions or come directly through the Office. To avoid repetition I shall deal here with only those matters which are not covered in the reports to follow.

Member organizations now number 60 - this year's additions being the Alberta Tuberculosis Association and a recent application from the Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society. The University Hospital Women's Auxiliary has given notice of its withdrawal, since its work is entirely within the hospital and not in the community at large. The operations of the Council have greatly increased so that in November, we were fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. A. C. Ashby as Assistant to the Executive Director. We now feel better able to broaden our field of endeavour and serve the community more effectively.

During the year, it was decided to change the name from Edmonton Council of Social Agencies to the Edmonton Council of Community Services, as it had been felt for some time that the former name was a handicap in interpreting the breadth of our work to the public. Later in the year we were able to secure the services of Mr. Henry Stubbins, Secretary of the Chests and Councils Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, in making a study of the set-up and operations of the Council, as to their suitability in relation to Edmonton under present conditions. His report was satisfactory and reassuring, and most helpful as a guide for our future work.

The Executive Committee has held eleven meetings since the last annual report, and many meetings of sub-committees, as well. Resignations were regretfully received from Mrs. H. C. Newland, Honorary Secretary, Mr. J. Percy Page, Vice-President, Mrs. G. R. Davison, Honorary Vice-President, and Mr. Brian Piercy. We thank them for their assistance. During the year, our Committee was strengthened by the addition of Mrs. P. R. Gaboury and Mr. S. H. McCuaig, K.C., when we invited the Community Chest Board of Directors to be represented.

The appointments for the year were: to the Board of Directors of the Community Chest - Mr. Joel K. Smith and our President, Mr. W. J. A. Mustard, K.C.; to the Budget Committee of the Community Chest - Mrs. J. Russell Love, Mr. J. W. Winn and Mr. W. H. Pettigrew; as Regional Advisers to the Canadian Welfare Council, representing our Council - Mrs. J. Russell Love, Mr. E. B. Wilson, K.C., and Mr. W. J. A. Mustard, K.C.

Speaking for the Executive Committee of the Council, I would like to express our thanks and appreciation to all those who accepted appointments and assignments for us, the many who worked on sub-committees - in fact, all those people without whose interest and assistance the Council could not properly function. Particularly I would like to thank the Community Chest and its Budget Committee with whom we work closely on many occasions; and Mr. Molloy, their Executive Secretary, whose knowledge and understanding have been ever present. May I acknowledge too, the advice and leadership we receive from the Canadian Welfare Council, - it is always ready and available in the many problems concerning Edmonton and Edmonton agencies. Finally, I would like to personally express my thanks to Miss Bishop and Mr. Ashby and the secretarial staff of the Council, who make my position of Secretary an Honorary one indeed.

(signed) PATRICIA LOBSINGER
(Mrs. A. J. Lobsinger)
HONORARY SECRETARY

REPORT of the GROUP WORK AND RECREATION DIVISION

The functions of the Group Work and Recreation Division are two fold: First, to provide for the exchange of ideas, and, secondly, to present a united front in dealing with the public and with Government and Government agencies.

As a co-operative effort, a most successful camping institute was held last May, under the direction of Professor Alan F. Klein, of the University of Toronto. While this did not receive the support it deserved, it was of great assistance to those agencies which undertake camping as part of their activities.

In the field of camping, the Division has been keeping in touch with the Provincial Department of Health, with regard to proposed regulations to enforce minimum health standards at camps. These regulations were reviewed by the Division in 1949, and suggestions were made, but they have not, as yet, been promulgated.

During the year, there was some concern as to the possible effects of a proposal to amalgamate the City Parks Department and the Recreation Commission. Representations were made to the By-Laws Committee of the City Council that the matter should receive due consideration, and, to date, no further action has been taken.

At one of the Division meetings, Mr. Noel Dant, City Town Planner, presented his views on Community Planning, which were of great interest.

At the moment, the Division is somewhat inactive, due to the lack of an effective challenge which would ensure better attendance at meetings. This condition is undoubtedly temporary.

(signed) HARRY B. HOLLOWAY DIVISION CHAIRMAN

REPORT of the HEALTH DIVISION

DIVISION REVIVED

The Health Division of the Council, which, by agreement, had remained inactive for about two and a half years, was brought to life again in 1950.

FACT FINDING STUDY

The stimulation necessary for this revitalizing, derived largely from the establishment, during the intervening period, of a number of organizations operating in the health field and appealing for support in this community. Little was known about their actual or proposed policies and services, or how these fitted in with already existing programmes provided by private agencies and public departments. The situation was discussed at a Division meeting with the result that a fact finding study was undertaken in which all concerned readily and fully cooperated. Early in the study the need for better coordination was revealed, particularly in two areas. First; among the numerous organizations providing care and assistance to children who are crippled or otherwise physically handicapped: and secondly; among organizations sponsoring services designed primarily to improve the general welfare of adults who are seriously handicapped by reason of physical disability.

CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S COUNCIL

Further meetings and consultations over a period of months resulted in the recent formation of a Provincial Coordinating Council for Crippled Children. Eighteen interested organizations have already affiliated and others are expected to join shortly. It is anticipated that by working together in this way, member organizations can more easily ensure that their funds and facilities will be utilized to the best advantage and without duplication.

EDMONTON'S PHYSICALLY HANDICAPPED

Insofar as the second group of organizations is concerned - namely, those endeavouring to improve the lot of the physically handicapped and shut-ins - three small societies were amalgmated and the interest and help of a considerable number of service clubs and other groups was enlisted to form a new society known as Edmonton's Physically Handicapped.

COUNCIL STAFF ASSISTANCE

As in other similar instances where new Societies have been formed to meet needs discovered through Council study, and where these societies have not had initially, either the staff or other facilities required, to enable them to become fully operative, the staff of the Council of Community Services has continued to lend full support and assistance to both Edmonton's Physically Handicapped and the Coordinating Council for Crippled Children.

PROSTHETIC APPLIANCES, WHEEL CHAIRS, etc.

Another problem discussed by the Division during the year was the difficulty with which non-veterans are faced in attempting to obtain artificial limbs, hearing aids and similar appliances, when unable to meet the full cost of these themselves.

While some local organizations have provided these in some cases, the legitimate need was considered very much greater than existing resources to deal with it. The need for wheel chairs on both a rental and purchase basis was also recognized. It is expected that further consideration will be given to these problems when the new societies dealing with crippled children, and physically handicapped and shut-in persons, have become better established.

THANKS

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Health Division, and of the Division Executive, for their ready and loyal support. I wish also to express appreciation to the officials of numerous organizations and public departments who, while not regular members of the Division, worked so closely and cooperatively with us in the Division's undertakings during the past year.

(signed) HERBERT MELTZER, M.D. DIVISION CHAIRMAN

REPORT of the CHILD AND FAMILY DIVISION

During the past year there have been four meetings of the delegates from the thirty-three organizations which make up the Child and Family Division. The Division and these member organizations are concerned with the welfare of children and with the problems of families and individuals needing counselling or material aid.

SPEAKERS

Miss Phyllis Burns, of the Canadian Welfare Council, spoke to one Division meeting. She described how, at different periods in history, communities have provided care for children when this could not be done by their families; and outlined current child care practices. She stressed our present general acceptance of the principle that a child's own family home is usually the best place for him, if he is to have a good chance to develop into a worthwhile citizen and member of society. She compared removing a child from his own home to a major surgical operation, which should only be undertaken with a similar consideration of the need and dangers involved. She felt we now have the scientific knowledge to decide whether a particular child will be helped more by institutional care or by a foster home. Both should be available in the community if good child care standards are to be met.

At another meeting, Mr. E. Stewart Bishop, Superintendent of Welfare, City of Edmonton, described current planning and operations in his Department.

Mr. James R. Eakins, of the Attorney-General's Department, also spoke to a Division meeting. He told of a tour he had made of custodial and correctional institutions in the southwest United States, and of the programmes of which they are a part. He also spoke of some of the policies being developed for the new Provincial Institute at Bowden. Mr. Eakins is Director of this institution. It is planned to undertake a re-training programme with young male offenders sentenced through the adult courts.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Inviting Mr. Eakins to speak was one expression of our concern, in the Division, with the question of juvenile delinquency. This was discussed in three of our four meetings this year, and has been a major item in our discussions for a number of years. We see a need for both prevention and treatment, and we feel that both prevention and treatment require adequate facilities and well trained staff. While the opening of Bowden is progress, much is still needed in Alberta.

For instance: Bowden will serve the adult courts, but the juvenile courts do not have adequate training school facilities for children who need this sort of treatment, nor are enough trained staff available to undertake the re-training of delinquent children in their own homes. Again, Bowden is for young men, but there are no facilities for the treatment of delinquent girls. While one link has been added to the chain of services needed in this field, several important links are still needed.

Another result of the Division's concern with juvenile delinquency was a meeting arranged two weeks ago at the suggestion of the Division Executive.

At this, Miss Eileen Younghusband, Chairman of the Juvenile Court of East London (England), and Judge E. M. McKeen of the Juvenile Court of Northern Alberta, met with staff of the City Welfare Department and the Provincial Guidance Clinic. The British and the Alberta Juvenile Court systems were discussed, and the Alberta people expressed a friendly envy of some of the advantages of the British Courts. The latter have more trained staff for investigation. Thus, judges can be very well informed about the child before them, his family situation, and the meaning of his delinquent behaviour. They also have a much wider range of specialized facilities to use in treating the delinquent child.

PROJECTS FOR VOLUNTEERS

From time to time, the Council is asked by clubs or other groups to suggest community service projects which they could undertake. In the past, the Council staff have sought these out after the request was made. To make it possible for suggestions to be offered more quickly, and to try to ensure that agencies received uniform consideration, a number of the Division's agency members were asked this year to submit suggestions for such projects, and these are now on file at the Council Office.

CHRISTMAS GIVING

For several years the Division has been concerned about Christmas giving. While we do not question the desirability of people sharing their holiday joy with others less able to provide their own Christmas extras, we have wondered if this is being done as effectively as might be.

We feel that Christmas is significantly a family affair, and that the best ways of Christmas giving are those which increase rather than diminish family strength and solidarity. We feel it is important that parents take part in planning for their children's Christmas, even if some one outside the family makes the giving possible. And we feel that gifts thoughtfully chosen with the family's actual circumstances in mind are much more effective than more expensive gifts casually given.

It was felt that the trend towards gifts of cash rather than of hampers or toys was in line with these principles. Another suggestion was that a central depot or showroom might be set up for gifts of toys, food and clothing, where parents could come and carefully choose suitable gifts for their particular family. It was recognized that such a plan would have to be safeguarded against abuse, however.

A committee has been set up to consider the whole question carefully. It is to bring in its recommendations in the early fall so that an early start can be made on putting them into effect for the 1951 Christmas season.

MINIMUM FAMILY NEEDS

The Division recently asked the Council staff to assemble information on minimum family needs. This would include such items as food, shelter, clothing, the costs of operating a home, recreation, and similar basic items in a family budget. We are interested in knowing what are the essential items required for an individual or family to meet a minimum standard of health and decency.

Once such a checklist is prepared, it could be priced periodically to give minimum budget figures for individuals and for families of various types and sizes.

Experience in other cities has shown that this is a very valuable tool with a number of uses, for welfare and health agencies. The basic information is helpful wherever the planning of family budgets is involved. Agencies which give direct financial assistance can make use of the priced lists to evaluate a family's current need. Agencies with sliding fee scales based on the family's ability to pay can use the priced lists as a yardstick against which they can measure the fee to charge for their service.

FOSTER HOME CONFERENCE

The City's Superintendent of Welfare, when he spoke to the Division on the work of his Department, expressed interest in a discussion of foster home care, since this is one aspect of the Department's work which it is seeking to improve. As a result, a conference was arranged at which Department staff met several times with other persons with experience or knowledge of the foster home field. Possible changes to improve the Department's service were reviewed, and it was felt that the venture had been worthwhile.

SPECIAL THANKS

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have assisted in the work of the Division throughout the year, particularly those who served and are serving on our various committees, and the members of the Executive Committee.

(signed) JOHN L. DeVOIN
DIVISION CHAIRMAN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The reports of our Honorary Secretary and Chairmon of the three Divisions which you have just heard, have each presented in summary, differing aspects of the Council's activities during the past year. Taken together, they indicate: some real achievements; some undertakings not yet completed; and some problems recognized for which no remedies or solutions have as yet been advanced.

Still remaining to be covered, before we can say that the Council story has been told for another year, are the services provided through the Office, for which the staff have been primarily and directly responsible; also a few other matters which, for one reason or another, have not been attached either to the Divisions or to the Council Executive Committee and, consequently, have not been included in the preceding reports.

SECRETARIAL SERVICES PROVIDED COMMITTEES

Many of you here tonight will know, from personal experience, that behind and throughout almost every phase of the Council's activities, are to be found committees at work. Last year these committees comprised more than one hundred and forty persons, each of whom contributed time, interest and experience in a cooperative effort to advance and improve in some respects, the welfare of this community. Back of and assisting these volunteer committees - comprising as they do, already busy people - it is necessary to provide secretarial services. The Council office staff therefore helped with advance planning, preparation of agenda, notification of members, writing of minutes, memoranda reports and many other details incidental to smooth and satisfactory committee operations. My only purpose in mentioning this unspectacular portion of the Council's services is that it is so essential and so obvious that it is in danger of being overlooked sometimes when giving an account of what the Council does. In addition, as the Health Division report has indicated, the Council has provided some secretarial service to the Coordinating Council for Crippled Children, and to Edmonton's Physically Handicapped - two new organizations which were helped into existence by the Council, and which are not yet sufficiently well established to have their own staffs.

CENTRAL SERVICES

Then there are certain services provided by the Council for the benefit of many or all of its member organizations. These we refer to as central services, and they include such things as the Social Service Exchange, the Christmas-Clearing, the Library, Referral Service and the Directory of Community Welfare Services.

The Social Service Exchange is perhaps one of the more important of these services, being a confidential, central index of cases assisted by various health and welfare organizations in the City. Through the use of the Exchange, duplication of effort between agencies may be avoided.

There was an appreciable increase in the use made of the Exchange during the past year - largely due to registrations by the City Welfare Department for the first time on any regular basis. Total enquiries made of the Exchange numbered 2,135. Slightly more than one-third of these were found to be already known to other organizations. It is hoped that a number of organizations which are not now cooperating with the Exchange will decide to do so before 1951 is over, since the value and effectiveness of this service increases in direct proportion to the extent of use which is made of it.

The Special Christmas Clearing was operated once again during the month of December, in order to avoid duplication in the giving of food hampers to needy families; 905 enquiries were made and duplications were prevented in two out of every fifteen cases cleared. In addition, a great deal was done to assist clubs and groups wishing to sponsor parties or help in other ways, to channel their efforts into areas less well cared for than those which generally come to mind at Christmas time. Interpretation regarding the advantages of cash giving to enable parents to plan Christmas for their own families, resulted in \$127.00 donated in cash to the Council for redistribution to several agencies for use by families well known to then and considered quite able to make their own arrangements.

The Library, which contains a fair number of books and quite an extensive collection of periodicals, pamphlets and reports on social welfare topics, was again used fairly extensively - particularly by staff members of agencies and students of hospitals and University. This naterial is available on loan to any responsible person who may wish to borrow.

The Directory of Community Welfare Services which is a handy reference and guide to welfare services in the City, was again reissued. Anyone here tonight who does not have a copy, will find it useful, I am sure. Copies may still be obtained from the Council Office.

SURVEYS AND AGENCY STUDIES

Fact finding studies and surveys represent another type of service which falls mostly to the staff to plan and carry through. Several references have already been made in the Division reports to studies made in connection with problems under review there. In addition, evaluative studies of agency programmes and operations are conducted from time to time - generally at the request of the Community Chest. Two such, - one covering the work of the Emergency Housekeeper Service, and the other the John Howard Society of Alberta, were made during the past year, to assist the Chest in determining whether or not the services of these organizations were of such a nature as to justify their inclusion in Chest membership.

-CITIZENSHIP COUNCIL-

A year ago at this time, reference was made to the fact that the Council had been requested to prepare and recommend a plan for organizing a local body through which would be coordinated the efforts of a large number of clubs, societies and departments concerned with promoting Canadian citizenship, and assisting persons newly arrived in Edmonton from other lands.

This was one of several projects which had fallen in arrears, owing to insufficient staff to press forward on all fronts simultaneously. Following the appointment of an assistant to staff, we were able to move once again on several neglected items, and I feel confident that the committee which is working on this project will have a report to submit within the month.

CRÊCHE AND DAY NURSERY

The situation created by the unexpected closing of the Edmonton Crêche and Day Nursery has been the cause of serious concern in many quarters. When some three weeks had gone by with no solution in sight, and with many groups endeavouring to make plans, each with little or no relation to the other, the Council of Community Services convened a meeting attended by representatives of all parties concerned. The object of this meeting was to determine whether jointly some agreement could be reached concerning immediate next steps and, possibly, future objectives. Since at that time negotiations between the Board of the Crêche and the Civic authorities regarding possible alternative accommodation had not yet been concluded, it was found that no definite decisions could be reached, or future plans developed until this aspect had been finally cleared. It was agreed, however, that another meeting of this group should be called at the appropriate time, to pursue the matter further, should this be considered desirable in the light of subsequent developments.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND INTERPRETATION

The Council as a whole, but more particularly the Executive Committee and the staff, have been aware for some time that the Council's work, and its general purposes and objectives, have not been sufficiently publicized and interpreted to the community as a whole to secure the breadth of understanding and support which it needs in order to meet its responsibilities fully.

A Public Relations Committee therefore was set up during the past year with the object of making a start in overcoming this deficiency. In addition to using to a greater extent than heretofore, the existing direct publicity media of Press and Radio, the Committee hopes to arrange a series of meetings with the boards of the member agencies to discuss the Council and obtain from them any suggestions which they may have to offer with regard to ways in which the Council may be of greater help to them and they to it. The Committee is also considering the formation of a speakers panel which would welcome invitations from clubs and community groups to explain the Council, and to discuss local welfare problems in the community for which a solution is being sought. In addition, it is planned to start re-publishing the little periodical known as "Council Commentary" through which, a few years ago, an attempt was made to keep board and committee members up to date from month to month on Council activities and special areas of concern.

This programme, when in full operation should, we feel, help in making the Council better understood. However, it is generally conceded that the best way to get a grasp of the many-sided organization which is the Council and to become familiar with the welfare problems and the services available to cope with them, is to become personally active working in, with, and for the Council, in some capacity.

A review of the record over the past few years shows an everincreasing number of people who have given generously of their time to this
work. The record also points to a very creditable and impressive number of
tangible accomplishments which have resulted; but the tempo of life in
Edmonton is increasing at a rapid rate. As we look around, we cannot help
but be aware of the tremendous number of genuine needs in practically every
department or phase of community life. Social welfare needs, under presentday conditions, are also accented and multiplied, and form a part of the total
problem facing the community. Probably there has never been a time in the
history of the City when careful examination, planning and integration of all
of our community requirements and resources was more urgently needed. The
Welfare services are no exception.

Far-seeing people back in 1940, made provision for continuous study, evaluation and coordination of social welfare programmes, when they established the Council of Social Agencies, as it was then called. Thus, we have machinery, and it has worked hard for over ten years. Provided with a more powerful engine and used to the full, it can measure up to the bigger job now confronting the community. It must have that additional power however, if it is to pull the load, and this can only be obtained if all organizations in this field of endeavour will channel their resources and strength into or behind the Council, and more citizens will help by devoting a portion of their time and talents to this work. I so hope that if there is anyone here tonight who is not already active in community service and who is willing to volunteer for service with the Council, he or she will make himself known.

The Council of Community Services, as its name implies, is at the community's service. It belongs to the whole community and should comprise and represent the efforts of the whole community to improve the social welfare of the community and make Edmonton a better place in which to live. If we all try hard enough, and work together in the year ahead, we can make it so.

(signed) HAZELDINE S. BISHOP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1950

RECEIPTS:	
Community Chest of Edmonton	\$ 8,250.00
Sale of publications	7.35
Refund on Conference advance	18.31
Refunds re Camping Institute	128.00
Sundry rebates	8.48
Total receipts	\$ 8,412.14
DISBURSEMENTS:	
Salaries	\$ 5,897.79
Rent	480.00
Stationery & office supplies	134.15
Printing & mimeographing	347.32
Maintenance of office equipment	53.20
Office equipment	43.45
Books & publications	70.54
Postage & excise	136.87
Telephone & telegraph	180.61
Accounting & audit fees	30.00
Membership fees	45 . 50
Pension contribution	180,00
Meetings expense	85 . 60
Conference advance	175.00
Canadian Welfare Council re Camping Institute	135.00
Transportation	42.05
Travelling expenses	21.5.25
Fire insurance	11.00
Unemployment insurance stamps	34.49
Sundry expense	40.34 8,338.16
Francis of D. sadaha Di bi	.9
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	\$ 73 . 98
INCREASE IN FUNDS:	
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1950	\$ 477.44
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1949	<u>403.46</u> \$ <u>73.98</u>

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE YEAR 1951

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS COMMUNITY CHEST:	M D D G 2	
ODMINORITY CHEST.	Mrs. P. R. Gaboury, 10926 122 St. S. H. McCuaig, K.C., 716-17 McLeod Bldg.	Ph 82976 24551
OFFICERS:		
Honorary President "Vice-President "Vice-President Past President President Vice-President Vice-President Honorary Secretary Honorary Treasurer	E. B. Wilson, K.C., 24 Dominion Bank Bldg. R. W. Chapman, 417 Empire Block Mrs. A. J. Lobsinger, 2 Wellington Crescent W. J. A. Mustard, K.C., 10120 Jasper Avenue Mrs. J. Russell Love, 10970 84 Street Dr. D. E. Smith, 9235 117 Street Dr. Herbert Meltzer, 221 Birks Bldg. Mrs. J. S. Charlesworth, 9913 113 Street H. J. Bishop, 204 Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.	21138 25544 81320 26026 972-2522 33813 41441 27258 21151
DIVISION REPRESENTATIV	ES:	
Child & Family	J. L. DeVoin, 606-7 McLeod Bldg. Miss M. B. Dick, #3-10126 100 Street W. E. Milton, C.N.I.B., 120th St. & Jasper	22906 26094 84871
Group Work and Recreation	H. B. Holloway, 9955 Bridge Road Clark Ready, c/o Y.M.C.A. A. Stuart Bird, 518 Civic Block	24634 29436 21924
<u>Heal th</u>	Miss Helen Penhale, School of Nursing, University Hospital Dr. W. A. McIver, 321 Tegler Bldg.	28171 23367
MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:	R. V. Davies, 10970 84 Street A. F. Moir, 409-411 McLeod Bldg. Mrs. D. M. O'Brien, 10242 121 Street Dr. Herman Siemens, 2nd fl., Qu'Appelle Bldg. Mrs. J. Grant Sparling, 10338 117 Street	42131 23485 83513 21224 84332