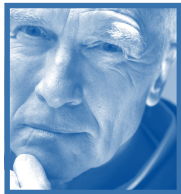




edmonton

SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Working towards a healthy, just and inclusive community.



ANNUAL REPORT 2007

ANNUAL REPORT 2007

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 had a remarkable year since the last AGM.

As well as producing quality social research and well-balanced published opinion, the organization has recruited new membership, developed new funding sources in addition to our mainstay, the United Way, changed location again, launched a new user-friendly interactive website, and produced the fACTivist.

We have also rebranded. Gone is our old logo, and kazaam! We have the new one, symbolizing cooperation, strength and uplift to a better sheltered future for all Edmontonians. The ESPC's new colours of blue and green represent, to me, water and the land which sustains our lives.

Under the continued effective leadership of our Executive Director, Susan Morrissey, the Council has raised its public profile and been engaged in many municipal committees dealing with social planning issues.

A paradox is a contradiction that demands resolution. Reports like *Standing Still in a Booming Economy* bear witness to the paradox of poverty amidst plenty in this city and province.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council's approach to the resolution of paradoxes in our society is to draw attention to social injustice and promote incremental changes that could alleviate at least some of the hidden desperation in our city. How about provincial rent controls and improving social welfare to end the poverty trap?

On governance matters, the Board of Directors of the ESPC has worked exceptionally well together. At one of our monthly meetings the Board was able to discuss and pass the annual budget, approve the new logo, ratify moving to our present location and approve a new online payment system.

The Board of Directors has had some resignations and one secondment since last AGM. At the time of writing, it looks as though all who served on the Board wish to continue service. Of course, there is room for more.

As the ESPC enters its sixty-ninth year, let us continue to maintain, as our goal, building a healthy, just and inclusive community.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Douglas Meggison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Douglas Meggison
Board President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



2007 was an exciting year for the Edmonton Social Council as we were finally able to release an updated *Tracking the Trends* report. We also collaborated with Vibrant Communities Edmonton in taking on the ambitious work of producing the *Standing Still in a Booming Economy* report which examined the impact of the economic boom on Edmonton's "working poor".

As well, we were able to host a two day renters listening forum with Councillors Phair and Thiele, allowing those affected by rental increases and condo conversions to speak out. This activity alone helped to

inform the public of the serious issue facing our community.

Looking back at our goals for the year, I see that we achieved all those listed in our 2006 Annual Report. We informed individuals on social issues through our publications, newsletters and fact sheets. We expanded our online and in house resource library collections. And, we took on the task of reviewing and revising our website to improve its interactive capacity.

I am pleased to say that in 2007 we had almost a full complement board with 13 of 15 positions filled. My thanks to the nominating committee for their hard work of screening interested individuals, interviewing candidates and orienting new Board Members. Likewise, my thanks to all of our board for providing the direction and leadership needed to move the Council forward. Finally, I need to express a special thank you to our President, Doug Meggison for accepting the role for a second year. Doug has provided me with a wealth of information and guidance to continue to build on the fine tradition of the Council.

The support and encouragement from staff has been both an inspiration and an example of the difference that collective efforts can make. This year we had very little change in our staffing, with 4 full time staff and a temporary STEP employee who joined us over the summer.

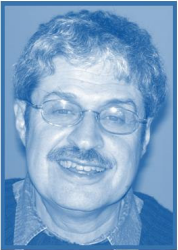
We are again pleased to acknowledge the generous support of our core funder, the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region. We also thank the Edmonton Community Foundation and the City of Edmonton for their financial support.

Lastly, I thank our members for their continued support. Last years member's survey made your desire for greater input into our work clear, and you obliged us with great feedback on our website re-design. We have just sent out our 2008 member's survey, and are very excited to read your new suggestions.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan Morrissey". The signature is written in a dark blue or black ink.

Susan Morrissey
Executive Director

POLICY COMMITTEE REPORT



Our committee's main work involved reviewing the key governance documents of the organization, as noted below. We also undertook to create the language for a proposed Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice. The Board has since accepted our proposal and designated the policy committee to review nominations for this award.

During the past year, we reviewed and made recommendations for revisions, where appropriate, to the following: the bylaws of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, the objects of the Council, the Board of Directors Policy, the Communications Policy and Procedure, the Executive Director Policy, the Board/Executive Director Relationship Policy, and the Personnel Policy. Our plan for 2008-09 is to update, with input from other committees, the terms of reference for all committees. We will also revisit, where appropriate, all the other policies mentioned above to ensure that they correspond with the practices and wishes of the Edmonton Social Planning Council Board.

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

FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT



The finance committee met approximately twice every quarter in 2007. It is our responsibility to review the monthly financial reports, but this year we were also asked to simplify the Board's finance workload. We have done so by providing income & expense reports on a quarterly, rather than monthly, basis. This innovation has worked well, reduced frustration over the amount of Board time finances took, and freed up the Board to work on other important policy matters.

The Committee once again proposed an annual budget in November 2007 after several meetings. We have provided careful oversight since the last Annual Meeting that developed greater control and understanding of Council finances by the Executive Director, our committee and the Board.

I feel Council has now fully emerged from its difficult times over the last number of years and can look forward to more favorable year-end numbers in the years ahead. The very successful casino we ran in late March 2008 should contribute to an income stream that is at least as good as the prior casino.

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

HR / NOMINATION COMMITTEE REPORT



Members of the board of the Edmonton Social Planning Council are volunteers who feel passionately about the mission of the organization. Directors serve multiyear terms and support the work of the Council in research, advocacy and social policy with their commitment, enthusiasm, knowledge and skills.

The by-laws allow for a maximum of 15 board members.

There are currently 11 members serving on the board; two members resigned during the year due to personal and family commitments.

The focus of the Human Resources Committee this year was to review the composition of the current board to identify their areas of knowledge and skill. This enabled the Human Resources Committee to focus their attention on recruiting board members with knowledge, skills and experience in areas that would complement the abilities of the current members.

The Human Resources Committee identified that it would be beneficial to the composition of the current board to recruit individuals with experience or knowledge in the following areas: legal services, aboriginal affairs or housing development.

The Committee also developed and proposed a formal review process for the Executive Director that was approved by the board.

The HR Committee will be identifying its activities for the next year based on priorities established by the board.

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

EXCERPTS FROM 2007 MEMBERS SURVEY

Question: What was your reason for joining the ESPC?

- ◆ Staying informed on the issues related to low-income and poverty
- ◆ ESPC's advocacy position concerning important community issues

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

- ◆ Seek more input from members, make them feel useful
- ◆ Have more networking activities/events

Additional Comments

- ◆ Those of us outside "the city" as we call Edmonton have a seemingly increasing dependence on city services. Yours is an important voice.
- ◆ Congratulations on good work in our City.

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

2007 ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Active Communication...

Reports Released	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Tracking the Trends 2007 (Apr '07)◆ A Roof Over their Heads (Jun '07)◆ Standing Still in a Booming Economy (Oct '07)
Contract Projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Living Wage Campaign (Public Interest Alberta)<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Report: Working Poor or Making a Living: (Jan '07)◆ Alberta Association of Services for Children & Families<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Report: The Future is Now (Oct '07)◆ Action for Healthy Communities<ul style="list-style-type: none">Voices from our Neighbourhoods Project Evaluation
the <i>f</i>ACTivist Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Social Determinants of Health (Winter '07)◆ Housing (Spring '07)◆ Food Security (Summer '07)◆ Municipal Election Issues (Fall '07)
Fact Sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Alberta Budget 2007 Analysis (Apr '07)◆ Rental Housing in Edmonton (May '07)
Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Growing Inequality Threatens Cohesion of Canadian Society (Edmonton Journal, Jan 2, '07)◆ Social Planning Councils of Canada (Wikipedia, Aug '07)
Media Conferences	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Living Wage: Public Interest Alberta (Jan '07)◆ Tracking the Trends 2007 (Apr '07)◆ Renter's Listening Forums (Jun '07)◆ Standing Still Report (Oct '07)

Active Collaboration ...

Committees/ Coalitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Joint Stakeholders Committee on Children and Poverty◆ Strategic Alliance on Low-Income Issues◆ Alberta Social and Health Equity Network (ASHEN)◆ Urban Core Support Network (UCSN)◆ Living Wage Task Force (Public Interest Alberta)◆ Downtown East Re-development Committee◆ Vibrant Communities Edmonton Leadership Council◆ Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council◆ Food Security Network (Edmonton Region)◆ Voices from our Neighbourhoods Advisory Committee◆ Alberta Quality of Life Commission◆ Homeless Memorial Planning Committee
Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Focus Edmonton Municipal Plan (Oct '07)◆ Transportation Master Plan (Sep '07)◆ Emergency Medical Services Focus Group (May '07)◆ Health Literacy Focus Group (Feb '07)◆ Campaign 2000 National Meeting (Feb, '07)

Active in the Community...

Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Red Deer College Nursing Students (Jan '07, Mar '07))◆ U of A Physical Education Students (Feb '07)◆ United Way Project Team (Mar '07)◆ Bissell Centre Annual General Meeting (Apr '07)◆ PIA "Changing Alberta" Conference (Apr '07)◆ United Way Annual Campaign Speakers Bureau (Fall '07)◆ AFL "Treading Water: Workers, Wages and the Boom" Conference (Sep '07)◆ National Pharma care Hearings (Oct '07)◆ Unitarian Church of Edmonton (Dec '07)
Events Hosted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Annual General Meeting (May '07)◆ Renter's Listening Forums (May '07)◆ Municipal Government Candidate Mixer (Nov '07)◆ Seasonal Celebration (Dec '07)
Events Participated In	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ United Way Great Human Race (May '07)◆ UCSN Inner City BBQ (Jul '07)◆ United Way Kick-off Event (Sep '07)◆ U of A Faculty of Arts Visiting Committee Program (Nov '07)
Conferences Attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ King's University College Micah's Challenge Conference (Jan '07)◆ Parkland Institute "Forgotten Families" Conference (Feb '07)◆ Provincial Health Ethics Network Conference (Apr '07)◆ Health in Urban Places Workshop, Vancouver (May '07)◆ National Symposium on Housing Shortages in Growth Economy, Vancouver (Nov '07)◆ Social Return on Investment, UK (Nov '07)◆ Prejudice in Alberta workshop (Nov '07)◆ Temporary Foreign Workers Symposium (Dec '07)

2008 PROJECTS & GOALS

More Communication...

- ◆ Launch new interactive website & new ESPC logo
- ◆ Alberta Child Poverty Report Card (in partnership with PIA)
- ◆ *Tracking the Trends 2009*
- ◆ More Fact Sheets
- ◆ Resource Library coordination and collection building

More Community Collaboration & Participation...

- ◆ Add value for our members
- ◆ Bring community into ESPC - volunteers
- ◆ Continue to build and strengthen partnerships
- ◆ Community consultations and forums

ESPC Website Redesign & Technology Upgrades

In Summer 2007, the Edmonton Social Planning Council was awarded funding from the Edmonton Community Foundation for a website and technology upgrade. The upgrades have allowed us to become much more efficient in our work, and have increased our capacity to get out into the community and represent the ESPC in a more professional manner.



The key product of the project is a new, interactive website that will allow us to better distribute our work, engage the community, and support our fellow community agencies. Some key features we have added to the website include:

- ◆ **The Social Exchange discussion forum**—a space for community members and organizations to discuss social issues, (Visit www.socialplanningforum.ca)
- ◆ **The Issue Brief blog**—featuring regularly updated reviews of current social issues impacting Edmonton,
- ◆ **Community Bulletin Board**—a space for the latest news from other social organizations,
- ◆ **Community Event Calendar**—an interactive listing of events related to social issues, and
- ◆ **Online payment** - for publications, memberships and donations.

Throughout the Fall and Winter, Council staff and our web developer, Cricket Works, were hard at work building the website and preparing it for launch in March 2008.

Visit www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca

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.

Major Partnership

Edmonton Region Immigrant Employment Council

Edmonton has had the fastest economic growth in any Canadian City for the past five years. Major projects planned for the region are valued at over \$30 billion. In order to sustain this growth, Edmonton will need an additional 12,000 people per year to fill job vacancies.



With an aging population, low fertility rates, and an expanding economy, Edmonton cannot overcome its labour shortage without accessing and cultivating the inclusion of under-represented groups, including the local immigrant community, into the labour market.

Many employers are now targeting foreign countries as a source of immigrant employees. Most do not realize that there is a large, highly skilled, but underemployed immigrant population already residing in Edmonton. A lack of effective strategies exist to connect regional employers to these pools of local skilled immigrants.

ERIEC is a multi-stakeholder, industry-led council working to identify and foster local solutions that lead to more effective labour market integration of immigrants in the Edmonton region.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council, as a member of the planning committee, has provided strong support in the formation of the operational leg of ERIEC. In late summer and the early fall of 2008, ERIEC will become operational with a new Executive Director at the helm.

♦ **Supporting their community** - The contributions of members help us to remain at the forefront regarding social issues.

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 give them opportunities to give their input to the Council and engage in discussions around low-income issues.

The more our collective voice reflects the diversity of our city, the more we can ensure that all voices are heard.

2008 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:



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 geography studies major from St. Albert. He is active in peace and solidarity organizations in Edmonton. Greg works in urban and rural planning and is also a part-time lifeguard.



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 University Press.



Edward Kennedy is a Redemptorist priest currently on sabbatical after completing 12 years as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish 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.



Janet Kluthe is the principal of IntegraOne, a health management consulting services firm. She has over 22 years experience in numerous areas of the health system at the national, provincial, regional, and site levels. Her varied experience includes public health, research and evaluation, planning and project management.



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.



Ken Stickland has worked on major social and infrastructure adjustment problems throughout his career, and was the founder of KenAgra Management Services Ltd., a firm which analysed business and policy 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, fulfilling roles ranging from receptionist to Executive Director. He has broad experience in organizational planning and collaboration, and has served on a variety of community boards.

As an inner-city resident, 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.



Joscelyn Proby is a social worker with special needs children at Edmonton Catholic Schools. Previously, she worked with low-income families with preschool children at ABC Head Start for four years.

Joscelyn emigrated from the UK in 1978 with a BSW from the London School of Economics. She also has an MA in Journalism, and was a journalist for 12 years before returning to social work.

2007 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- ◆ **President**
Douglas Meggison
- ◆ **Policy Committee**
Greg Farrants
Alvin Finkel (chair)
Janet Kluthe
- ◆ **Casino Committee**
Michael Cohen (chair)
- ◆ **HR/ Nominating Committee**
Ann Semotiuk (chair)
Edward Kennedy
Joscelyn Proby
- ◆ **Finance Committee**
Ken Stickland (chair & treasurer)
Larry Brockman

STAFF

Susan Morrissey	Executive Director
John Kolkman	Research & Policy Analysis Coordinator
Anette Wickenheiser	Research & Communications Assistant
Stephanie Haar	Administrative Assistant
Lana Phillips	STEP Research Assistant (May - August)

CONSULTANTS, STUDENTS & VOLUNTEERS

Jill Bulmer	Bookkeeper
Paul Dobrotvorsky	IT Services (Nu-Dawn Integrated Services)
Ed & Gail Boothman	Web Development (Cricketworks)
Stephanie Modeste	Social Work student (MacEwan College)
Elizabeth Pringle	Volunteer Researcher: Working Poor 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

- ◆ Action for Healthy Communities (AHC)
- ◆ Alberta Social & Health Equity Network (ASHEN)
- ◆ Canadian Council for Social Development (CCSD)
- ◆ Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH)
- ◆ Edmonton Mennonite Centre for Newcomers (EMCN)
- ◆ Inclusive Cities Canada (ICC)
- ◆ 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)

MINUTES of 2007 AGM / May 10, 2007

1. Meeting called to order at 5:40 p.m. by Doug Meggison

2. Agenda Review

Motion: to accept the agenda as presented.

Moved: Kevan Rhead Seconded: Ken Stickland
CARRIED

3. Review Minutes of 2006 Annual General Meeting

Motion: to accept the minutes from the 67th Annual General Meeting (May 23rd, 2006) as presented.

Moved: Ron MacLellan Seconded: Larry Brockman
CARRIED

4. President's Report

Motion: to accept the President's report as presented.

Moved: Kevan Rhead Seconded: Joscelyn Proby
CARRIED

5. Operations Report

Motion: to receive the Operations Report with thanks.

Moved: Terry Anderson Seconded: Joscelyn Proby
CARRIED

6. Financial Report

Motion: to receive financial report.

Moved: Terry Anderson Seconded: Joscelyn Proby
CARRIED

7. Presentation of 2006 Audited Financials by auditors, Hawkings Epp Dumont.

Motion: to approve audited 2006 Financials as presented.

Moved: Terry Anderson Seconded: Kevan Rhead
CARRIED

8. 2007 Operating Budget

Motion: to receive the 2007 ESPC operating budget for information purposes.

Moved: Terry Anderson Seconded: Kevan Rhead
CARRIED

MINUTES of 2007 AGM / May 10, 2007, cont'd...

9. Appointment of 2007 Auditors

Motion: to approve Hawkings Epp Dumont as the 2007 Auditors.
Moved: Terry Anderson Seconded: Joscelyn Proby
CARRIED

10. HR/Nominating Committee

- a) Recognition of Retiring Board member Terry Anderson with gratitude.
- b) Elections of Incoming Board of Directors:

Introduction of current Board of Directors

Larry Brockman; Diane Dennis; Ron MacLellan; Doug Meggison;
Joscelyn Proby

Introduction of interim Board of Directors

Greg Farrants; Ann Semotiuk; Michael Sidra

Introduction of new nominees

Alvin Finkel; Michael Cohen; Edward Kennedy; Ken Stickland

Calls for nominees from the floor

Janet Kluthe nominated by Joscelyn Proby

Motion: to cease nominations

Moved: Kevan Rhead Seconded: Larry Brockman
CARRIED

Motion: to approve all nominees for the ESPC Board of Directors

Moved: Ron MacLellan Seconded: Joscelyn Proby
CARRIED

11. Other Business

- a) Presentation of ESPC website Vision by Terry Anderson.

12. Doug Meggison declared meeting adjourned at 6:40 p.m.


NOTES


NOTES




edmonton
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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