

EDMONTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES
REPORTS SUBMITTED TO THE TENTH ANNUAL MEETING
COVERING THE YEAR 1949-1950

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REPORT OF THE GROUP WORK AND RECREATION DIVISION

The Group Work and Recreation Division is that part of the Council of Social Agencies through which organizations interested in the promotion of recreation, informal education and group work in Edmonton, co-operate in planning and furthering this work.

The twenty organizations working together in this Division had a busy year, with 5 meetings of the Division as a whole, 7 meetings of the Executive, and numerous meetings of special committees.

Public - Private Relationships & Planning

The topic to which, probably, the greatest importance was attached by the Division, during the year, and to which was devoted the greatest amount of time and study, was how to achieve better integration of public recreation programmes - sponsored by the Civic Recreation Commission - with those of the many private recreation and group work organizations in the City.

Recognizing long ago that recreation, like health and education, is something which is needed by and should be available to every person in any community, and since private organizations, which must rely upon voluntary donations and fees for their financial support, can never hope to meet mass needs on the scale required, the Division has stood and continues to stand firmly in support of the development of a broad recreation programme under public or government auspices. In taking this position however, it is held that both the private and public recreation agencies have a job to do, and that if this City is to achieve a well coordinated programme which will meet, insofar as possible, the many and diversified needs of the people, all agencies and organizations active in this field of service must work in very close partnership.

Various proposals have been advanced from time to time, with a view to strengthening this cooperative relationship, but so far, a solution satisfactory to all concerned, has not been found. Edmonton however, is not unique in this respect - many cities across the country being faced with similar problems which differ, largely, only in degree. Rather let it be considered a symptom of growth. With continued study during the coming year, I have little doubt that combined efforts to find the answer will ultimately prove successful.

In the meantime, arrangements have been made for representatives of this Division to attend all meetings of the Recreation Commission in order that we may more fully understand the policies and the problems of that body, and be in a position to make contributions or representations whenever such seem desirable.

I wish here to record the fact that the Division is most appreciative of the excellent progress which has been made by the Recreation Commission in its relatively short existence. It is earnestly

hoped that it will continue to receive the backing, interest, and general support required to enable it to continue to expand, refine and consolidate the services so well begun.

Fearing that this objective might not be realized if the Commission, at this juncture, were merged with the City Parks Department, as was recently proposed, a delegation from the Group Work and Recreation Division, along with delegations from other community groups, appeared before the City By-Laws Committee urging that no changes be recommended until all aspects of the situation had been studied in greater detail and it could be considered reasonably certain that any move made would prove to be a step forward, as far as recreation is concerned. The action taken by the By-Laws Committee, deferring the matter for further study, was altogether satisfactory to the various delegations, and most reassuring.

It is our hope that through this Division of the Council, we may be able to be of some assistance to City Council in obtaining information which it will require in making this important decision.

Summer Camps

Another area of recreation in which the Division has been interested during the past year, relates to the operation of summer camps. A Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. Harry Holloway, Executive Commissioner of the Provincial Council of Boy Scouts, and comprising representatives of fourteen organizations in the camping field, drew up a set of minimum standards for health, safety and sanitation, to serve as a guide for their respective agencies. In the process, members learned much from each other and from study of experience elsewhere in Canada and the United States.

This Committee also had an opportunity to review and comment upon draft regulations now being prepared by The Provincial Department of Health, governing inspection and registration of camps operating in this Province, and further discussions have been promised before the regulations are finalized. This cooperation is much appreciated.

Further, on the subject of camping, plans are well under way in the Division, for a two-day Camp Institute to be held here, May 20th and 22nd, under the leadership of Professor Alan F. Klein, of the University of Toronto School of Social Work. The programme is designed to be of practical value to volunteer leaders and instructors, to camp committee members, and to camp directors and professional staffs.

Recreation Leadership

Competent leadership continues to be a major and unsolved problem facing practically all organizations in the recreation and group work field. It was therefore most encouraging to learn that the University of Alberta will offer, next session, a course leading to a degree in physical education and recreation. This should enable more Alberta young people to obtain training in this specialty, and make it somewhat easier for recreation and group work organizations to fill their leadership staff requirements. The needs of the community recreation agencies were brought to the attention of the University by the Division.

Other Topics

Other matters which occupied the Division's attention during the year were: 1) Plans for the Civic Auditorium and their adequacy in meeting the needs of recreation and youth serving agencies; 2) A proposal advanced by a men's service club calling for the establishment of a boys' club - this was referred by the Civic Recreation Commission for an opinion and report; 3) Policies, programmes and objectives of a number of the member organizations of the Division; 4) Bus transportation to White Mud Creek Park.

Thanks

In conclusion, I wish to thank members of the Group Work and Recreation Division, especially those on the Executive, who have made the accomplishments of the Division possible. I would particularly like to mention Mrs. K.A. Clarke, the Honorary Secretary, who was obliged to withdraw due to illness; also Mr. F. Howells and Commissioner H. Darling, both of whom, now retired, gave faithful and valued help. I also wish to express my appreciation of the work of our Executive Secretary, Miss Bishop, who, through her wide experience and sound judgment, has been of inestimable value to the work of this Division.

(Signed) R. E. SHAUL
Division Chairman

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REPORT OF THE CHILD AND FAMILY DIVISION

The thirty-nine organizations taking part in the work of the Child and Family Division of the Council are principally concerned with conditions affecting the welfare of children, or with problems relating to families and individuals in need of counselling or material aid.

For reasons beyond our control, the programme of this Division was late in getting under way in 1949. Several important matters, however, did receive the attention of the Group.

Unemployed and Transient Men

One problem was the large number of calls being made this winter upon churches and other organizations by single men who were unable to find employment - most of whom did not have legal residence - and all of whom were, apparently, without funds and in need of meals and lodging. It was recognized that this is a problem the solution of which is fraught with many difficulties, but it was felt that this winter's experience points to the probability that existing shelter accommodation for men in such circumstances is now far short of normal minimum requirements for a city of this size. While it was thought that the

pressure would in all probability, be considerably eased with the coming of warmer weather and the opening up of seasonal employment, it was anticipated that next winter would pose a similar, and perhaps even greater problem. Further study is to be given to this question by the Division in the hope that some satisfactory plan may be worked out before the situation becomes once again acute.

Services for Juvenile Delinquents

Another matter of concern to the Division during the past year was the continuing inadequacy of services for the care and treatment of juvenile delinquents. The special unit at Oliver Mental Institute, frequently thought of as a small training school for delinquents, really is not, and apparently never was intended to serve this purpose, there being no formal instruction given in the trades or other lines of employment. It does provide an opportunity however, for careful study of the behaviour and personalities of a few of the older, seriously delinquent children, and is an interesting and valuable demonstration of what can be accomplished through the individualized, scientific approach to delinquency. However, since the Oliver Unit can deal with only about ten children a year, it seems obvious that a considerably enlarged diagnostic and study centre is really needed. This is even more apparent when one considers the many children under fourteen years of age who are not now being referred to Oliver and who, in a few short years, without skilled attention, will be the serious delinquents of that day. If these children too, at an earlier stage in their delinquency, could have the benefit of this kind of care, much future hardship, human wastage, and expense to the state might be avoided.

This is especially true if, along with further development of such study facilities, the Government would make provision for one or more training schools for young delinquents who are found to need a rather lengthy period of re-training in a controlled, school-like environment. The Attorney-General's recent announcement concerning Government plans to establish an institution for the care of young offenders, has been interpreted by many people as the realization of the long awaited training school for juvenile delinquents. Unfortunately, careful reading of the announcement indicates nothing to justify such hopes. Instead, what appears to be planned is really a type of penal institution which will make it possible to segregate from the Provincial jail population, young adult offenders (largely between the ages of 16 and 21, and those guilty of minor violations of the law) and to give these young men special training designed to assist in their rehabilitation upon release.

This is unquestionably a most desirable development which will add a great deal to the sum total of necessary welfare services, and it should produce very worthwhile and valuable results. However, it is regrettable that the Province could not have made a similar investment this year, in a well-equipped and staffed training school for the younger boys. Such facilities are urgently needed to assist juvenile court and child welfare workers in their efforts to keep their charges from reaching that point where they must graduate from the juvenile to the adult courts, and thence to jail. Once again it seems we are trying to cure later what might have been prevented earlier.

Home for Neglected Boys

Another matter considered by the Division was a plan advanced by one of the men's service clubs calling for the setting up of a farm institution to care for homeless or neglected boys. Numerous aspects of the proposal were pointed out to representatives of the Club as meriting further serious consideration before deciding to embark on a scheme of this kind.

Nutrition & Diets

Nutrition and diets in children's institutions was another subject of study in the Division - consultation and menu analysis having been arranged for representatives of the various institutions with Miss Joyce Lewis of the Provincial Department of Agriculture, whose assistance was greatly appreciated.

Family Services

One meeting of the Division was addressed by Miss Kathleen M. Jackson, Secretary of the Family Welfare Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, Ottawa, who spoke on family welfare services as these are developing in Canada, and the types of services which they are making available in the various communities.

Thanks

I wish to take this opportunity to thank all those who assisted in the work of the Division during the year - and particularly the members of the Executive Committee for their help in planning and carrying through the year's programme.

(Signed) JOHN L. DeVOIN
Division Chairman

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REPORT ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE AND THE CENTRAL OFFICE

Much time and attention is necessarily devoted by the Council Executive Committee and the Office staff to problems which originate in the Divisions. To avoid repetition only those matters which are not covered in the preceding Division reports, are dealt with here.

Council Objectives

For the past several years, the Honorary Secretary has prefaced her report with a brief explanation of the objectives and purposes of the Council, and, for those here who may not be too familiar with this organization it seems that it may be worth while taking a few minutes to outline these once again.

In the somewhat abstract language of the Constitution, the objects of the Council are set forth as follows:

"To afford to all organizations concerned in the promotion of the social welfare of the community, the means of cooperating in the planning and furtherance of this work;" and

"To facilitate concerted action in matters of social reform, and the development of public opinion on social problems."

From this it will be seen that any matter relating to the social welfare of the community (not just the economically or socially disadvantaged portion of the community), which member organizations of the Council feel deserves study and consideration in an effort to promote, cooperatively, better welfare services for Edmonton - is a job for the Council. The Council also, is an instrument for developing informed public opinion on social problems and, through it may be organized concerted, joint action in connection with changes and improvements in community welfare services.

Thus, from the reports of the Divisions, which you have already heard, you will have noted that while the Council is deeply concerned about the continuing lack of facilities to do constructive work with youngsters who are, or who are rapidly becoming, delinquent - it is likewise concerned about the continued development of a good public recreation programme serving all of our citizens; about good standards of health and safety in summer camps; good leadership training opportunities, and so forth.

The closest parallel to the Council that I can think of, in another field, is perhaps our Boards of Trade or Chambers of Commerce, which perform, for the commercial and industrial interests of a city, services which are very similar to those provided by councils of social agencies, in the interests of the social welfare of a community.

Membership

Membership in the Council is open to all organizations and departments actively engaged in social welfare work, or interested in promoting improvement in social welfare conditions. Individual citizens wishing to participate in the work of the Council are also eligible for membership.

During the past year, organizations affiliated with the Council of Social Agencies numbered 62. We are pleased to report admission of two new members - the John Howard Society and the Northern Alberta Council of the Alberta Division of the Canadian Cancer Society.

Legal Aid

The plight of accused persons appearing in police court, who were financially unable to engage legal counsel, was referred to the Council of Social Agencies by the Rotary Club. A conference was called of representatives of the Courts, the Police, the Bar, social agencies and others concerned, and after full discussion of the situation, it was agreed that there was need for a Public Defender in Police Court, and that appointment of such an officer should be urged upon the Provincial Government. The support of both the Edmonton and Alberta Bar Associations has been obtained, and a committee has been appointed to work out details of a proposal for submission to the Attorney-General.

Citizenship Council

At another special meeting convened by the Council at the suggestion of the Citizenship Branch of the Department of State (now, the Dept. of Citizenship and Immigration) consideration was given by representatives of a large number of interested organizations to the need for establishing in Edmonton, a committee or council through which could be coordinated the work now being carried on by numerous departments, organizations and groups in behalf of newly arrived settlers from other lands, and which would promote Canadian citizenship generally. It was felt that this work could be carried out effectively only by the local community, and that a coordinating body was needed. Preliminary to organizing however, the Council of Social Agencies was asked to make a survey of existing ethnic groups, and to recommend a plan of organization which was considered suitable and likely to prove effective in the local situation. Considerable work has been done on this, but plans have not yet been completed.

Canadian Youth Commission

A project proposed by the Canadian Welfare Council calling for simultaneous programmes in all the major cities across the country this spring, as a follow-up on the work of the Canadian Youth Commission, was considered, but found impractical (insofar as the youth-serving organizations and the Council of Social Agencies were concerned) at the present time. A need for an evaluative study or survey of the programmes and services of Edmonton organizations catering to children and young people was felt to exist, however, and it is hoped that with planning through the Group Work and Recreation Division, and some strengthening of Council staff, something worthwhile along this line may be undertaken before too long.

Ex-Servicemen's Children's Home

At the request of the Community Chest, a study was made of the work of the Edmonton Home for Ex-Servicemen's Children, and a report submitted for consideration in connection with the Home's application for admission to the Chest.

Other Enquiries

Other matters receiving attention during the year required: The collection of information regarding rates of payments to child care institutions in other provinces, for the care of Government wards; enquiries made into the operations of the Shut-Ins-Day Association, the Canadian Association of Incurables, and the Children's World Community Chest.

Public - Private Relationships in Child Care Field

Although strictly speaking, not an activity of the Council of Social Agencies, I feel that I should mention the Alberta Committee appointed by the Child Welfare Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, since Mr. E.B. Wilson, our past president, and I served respectively, as chairman and secretary of the Committee. This Committee, representative of both public and private child welfare organizations in Calgary and Edmonton, was asked to consider the spheres of responsibility of the private individual and of the state in caring for children, and how best these responsibilities could be discharged. Similar committees were formed in each province throughout the Dominion. The object of the study was to develop a statement of general principles which would be acceptable to all parts of the country, and could be used as a guide in the development of Canadian child welfare services.

Central Services

Central services maintained by the Council included, as usual, the library, the Social Service Exchange and the Christmas clearing.

The library contains a fair number of books and quite an extensive collection of periodicals and pamphlets on social welfare topics. This material is available on loan to any responsible person who may wish to borrow.

The Social Service Exchange is a confidential central index for the use of bona fide social welfare organizations, through which to prevent duplication and confusion in service, and it represents a simple, routine method of promoting inter-agency cooperation in the interests of the clients served. The Exchange is not, as many people mistakenly think, a centralized file of case records. No information about the personal lives and experiences of the applicants is given or recorded, and the whole operation is surrounded with protective devices which completely safeguard the confidential nature of the work. Total enquiries made at the Exchange during 1949 numbered 740, of which 159 or 21% were identified as already known to other organizations.

The special Christmas Clearing is operated each year to prevent duplications in distributing Christmas dinners. Twenty-eight clubs, societies and social agencies made 506 enquiries last year, and 57 duplications were avoided, thus giving wider distribution of Christmas.

cheer than would otherwise have been possible. In addition, through the Clearing, donors wishing to distribute toys and gifts were directed to 38 needy families and individuals who would appreciate these.

In this connection I would like to mention that questions have been raised by thoughtful persons almost every Christmas for several years past, as to whether Christmas giving as it is now practised is really spreading the happiness among those who receive, which it is intended to do. It has been suggested that serious study be given the matter to see whether, by planning further ahead and together, our tradition of giving to the less fortunate at Christmas time may not be lifted above the impersonal or routine. This year, after Christmas, a formal request was received from the Board of the Family Service Bureau, requesting that a conference be called by the Council to consider the matter. It is hoped that it will be possible to comply with this request in the near future.

As always, the Office continued to provide general consultation to individuals and groups regarding special cases and community resources to deal with these; volunteers and others seeking employment in social work; students wishing to discuss training opportunities or seeking material for school or university papers. These and countless other requests are just a part of daily routine.

In addition it falls in the Staff's line of duty to address community clubs and other groups on various aspects of welfare needs and services. Fourteen engagements of this kind were filled by your Director during the past year. Also, lectures were given to undergraduate nurses at the University, General and Royal Alexandra Hospitals, and to the public health and degree nurses at the School of Nursing, University of Alberta. Your Director also continued to serve as an Advisory member on the Boards of the Friendship Club, the Emergency Housekeeper Service, and the Community Chest.

Appointments by the Council to the Board of Directors of the Community Chest were Mr. Harold Fazackerley and Mr. W.J.A. Mustard; and to the Budget Committee - Mrs. L.F. La Fleche, Mr. Robert W. Chapman and Mr. R.D. MacDonald.

Mr. E.B. Wilson, and the Executive Director were reappointed representatives to the Canadian Welfare Council.

CONCLUSION

This annual meeting to-night marks the completion of ten years of cooperative effort on the part of Edmonton organizations to promote, coordinate and improve social welfare services in this City of Edmonton. I wish that there were time to look back to that period before 1940, at the Edmonton of that day, and compare it with the City as we know it in 1950; to consider economic and social conditions then and now; and to consider to what extent our welfare services have kept abreast of changing conditions. There have certainly been some gains. Probably the most important, and most promising of far-reaching effects upon the whole welfare picture in Edmonton, took place during the past year with the City Council's decision to reorganize the Civic Welfare Department in line with present day needs, and the engagement of Mr. E. Stewart Bishop as Superintendent of the Department. Most harmonious relationships between the Department and the Council have already been established, and our full cooperation is assured the Department

at all times.

Certain other developments in welfare services of important significance could also be cited if time permitted, but the fact remains that, taken as a whole, the social service needs of the City have far outstripped the facilities available to meet them. This same situation of course, obtains in practically every other phase or aspect of the life of the community today, and, as a result, with innumerable needs competing for the citizen's dollar it becomes doubly important that every dollar spent for social services, shall represent a lasting investment in the conservation of human values. To achieve this, it is more than ever necessary that careful study and cooperative planning precede the launching of any new project, and that the best advice and experience available be brought to bear upon each situation.

The Council of Social Agencies exists to make this cooperation and study possible. Unfortunately, like so many other organizations, the demands upon the Council, particularly in the past two years -- have exceeded its ability to meet them. I am happy however, to be able to report that negotiations are now under way for an expansion of staff which should put us in a position in a few months time, to be of greater service than heretofore, to member organizations and to the community generally. Public departments, private agencies, and interested citizens, all working towards a common goal, together, can achieve much in 1950.

(Signed) HAZELDINE BISHOP
Executive Director

STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1949

Receipts:	
Community Chest of Edmonton	\$ 6,900.00
Refund on conference advance	<u>23.04</u>
Total receipts	6,923.04

Disbursements:	
Salaries	\$ 5,195.20
Rent	480.00
Stationery and office supplies	131.56
Printing and mimeographing	169.40
Maintenance of office equipment	19.68
Office equipment	79.88
Books and publications	73.02
Postage and excise	86.16
Telephone and telegraph	177.46
Accounting and audit fees	30.00
Membership fees	48.19
Pension contribution	160.00
Meetings expense	72.95
Conference advance	175.00
Transportation	42.45
Fire insurance	8.20
Sundry	<u>7.12</u>
	6,956.27

Excess of Disbursements over Receipts 33.23

Decrease in Funds:	
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1948	436.69
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1949	<u>403.46</u>
	<u>33.23</u>

Audited by PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.
EDMONTON, January 11, 1950.

OFFICERS:-

Hon. President	S.W.Field, K.C., 316 McLeod Bldg.,	0-25147 H-29461
Hon. Vice-President	Percy Cowley, Income Tax, Tower Bldg.,	0-29241 H-34143
Hon. Vice-President	Mrs. G.R.Davison, 10945-89th Ave.,	H-31964
Past President	E.B.Wilson, K.C., 24 Dominion Bank Bldg.	0-21138 H-32954
President	W.J.A.Mustard, K.C., 10120 Jasper Ave.	0-26026 H-82387
Vice-President	Mrs. J.Russell Love, 10970-84th St.	H-972-2522
Vice-President	Mr. J.Percy Page, 10312-133rd St.	0-26660 H-81877
Hon. Secretary	Mrs. H.C. Newland, 9741-105th St.	H-24914 or 34266
Hon. Treasurer	Robert W.Chapman, 417 Empire Block	0-25544 H-84981

DIVISION REPRESENTATIVES:-

Child & Family:

J.L. De Voin, 606-607 McLeod Bldg.	0-22906 or 24794
Mrs. A.Lobsinger, 2 Wellington Cres.	H-81320
Dr. E.F.Foy, 513 Tegler Bldg.,	0-22257 H-84441
Miss Margaret Dick, Family Service Bureau, 10126-100 St.	0-26094

Group Work & Recreation:

Raymond E.Shaul, 12914-112 Ave.	0-82961 H-83347
William Pettigrew, 10135-100A St.	0-25126
Clark Ready, Y.M.C.A.	0-29436 H-72136

Health:

(To be appointed)

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE:

Mrs. J.S.Charlesworth, 9913-113 St.	H-27258
Dr. Herbert Meltzer, 221 Birks Bldg.,	0-41441 H-85569
Mrs. D.M.O'Brien, 10242-121 St.	H-83513