

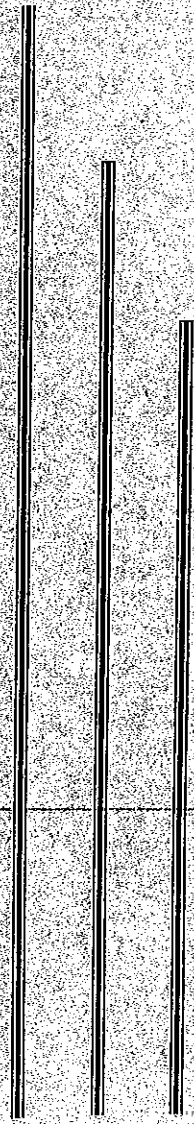
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Edmonton Council of Social Agencies

Annual Report

1944



CONDENSED REPORTS OF THE EDMONTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

PRESENTED TO THE FIFTH ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 12th, 1945.

FOREWORD

The activities of the Edmonton Council of Social Agencies during the year under review were reported to the annual meeting of the Council's constituency, in four sections. Part was presented by the Honorary Secretary, Miss Helen McArthur; part by the Chairman of the Health Division, Dr. Mary Hunter; part by the Chairman of the Group Work Division, Dr. W. H. Swift, and the balance by the Executive Director, Miss Hazeldine Bishop. These reports, somewhat condensed, are reproduced here in the same sequence. Considered together, they give in summary, a fairly complete picture of the nature and scope of the undertakings in which the Council has engaged during this period.

FROM THE HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

Since the last annual meeting the Executive Committee of the Edmonton Council of Social Agencies met 11 times to conduct the business of the Council. One of the first duties of the Executive was to accept with regret the resignation of Miss Lilliam Thomson, Executive Director, and to go about the business of finding a successor. On June 1st, Miss Hazeldine Bishop was welcomed by the Council to this position.

Miss Nora Lea, Assistant Executive Director of the Canadian Welfare Council, Ottawa, visited Edmonton in April and met with the members of the Executive, answering their many questions and informing the new members on developments in the Canadian Welfare field.

In May two delegates, Dr. Mary Hunter, Chairman of the Health Division, and Dr. W. H. Swift, Chairman of the Group Work Division, were appointed to attend the Canadian Conference on Social Work, and they later reported back to the Executive of the Council. Based upon the experience of Councils in other communities, they recommended that the Executive of the Edmonton Council study ways and means of improving coordination of the work of the Divisions directed towards more united Council action.

Much of the time of the Executive Committee during 1944 was spent in attempting to evaluate the organization and operation of the Edmonton Council of Social Agencies in order to develop a plan for strengthening the organizational scheme. Following intensive study, amendments to the constitution and by-laws, designed for more effective functioning of the Council, were drafted for referral to the annual meeting.

In September the Council suffered a deep loss in the death of Mrs. W. J. Dick. As Mrs. Dick had been the chairman of the Public Relations Committee, consideration was given to filling that vacancy. It was decided, however, that this be deferred until such time as possible changes in the Council structure had been clarified.

The Citizen's Volunteer Bureau became a member of the Council this year. Close working relationships with the Bureau are maintained, with our Director sitting on the Board of that Agency. The Edmonton Trades and Labour Council also affiliated, bringing the number of member organizations to 62.

Mrs. N. E. Tanner was asked to stand again as convener for the Community Chest Campaign, and appointments were made to the Budget Committee of the Community Chest as follows: Dr. Little, Mr. Healy, Mr. Skenfield and Mr. Walker.

Recognizing the importance of maintaining liaison with councils established for the coordination and planning of war and rehabilitation services, the Council of Social Agencies was happy to accept the invitations of the War Services Council and the Citizen's Rehabilitation Council to arrange for representation on these two bodies. This has been accomplished through membership of the Executive Director and members of the Council of Social Agencies in these Councils.

Since much of the work of the Council is carried on by and stems from the Divisions, or results rather directly from the efforts of the Executive Director, reports from these will round out the picture of the Council's activities for 1944.

FROM THE REPORT OF THE HEALTH DIVISION CHAIRMAN

The past year has been one of varied activity. Member agencies have shown an increasing interest in the programme of the Division as the value of co-operative action becomes more and more apparent. Realizing that many of the problems brought to our attention do not belong exclusively to the health field, we have attempted to broaden the basis of our discussions by including interested agencies from other Divisions. In this way it is hoped to make the Council a more coherent body and thus to increase its effectiveness.

Care of the Aged - Various public and private agencies in the Health Division have indicated from time to time that facilities are lacking in our community for the adequate care of our old people, and that this is perhaps, one of our major problems. At a joint meeting of the Health and Family Welfare Divisions, at which about 20 agencies were represented, an attempt was made to assess the importance of this problem, and after a full discussion it was decided that the situation warranted a survey. A committee was, therefore, set up, under the chairmanship of Miss Helen McArthur, with cooperation assured from the Provincial and Civic Welfare Departments, the City Health Department and the Old Age Pension Department. This committee is now at work on the first part of its task, namely, to determine the extent of existing facilities for the care of the aged and to estimate the need for increased provisions. A study will also be made of the Provincial and City by-laws concerned. It is expected that this project will ~~occupy a considerable length of time - since, if it is to be done at all, it must~~ be done thoroughly. As far as we know, no such survey has yet been attempted, and until it is made, it is impossible to do more than guess at the extent of the need.

The Canadian Conference - Three members of the Health Division attended the Canadian Conference on Social Work at Winnipeg last May. It was the opinion of all three delegates that attendance at such conferences was very valuable. New horizons are opened up by contact with welfare workers from all over the country,

and the experience of Councils of longer standing than our own point the way to methods of developing our own community work. It was evident from discussions at the Conference that many Councils of Social Agencies and Welfare Councils are thinking in terms of social action and reform of conditions leading to welfare problems, rather than of dealing with cases of need as they arise. It was also felt that there was need of intensive study on the part of social workers, professional and voluntary alike, of existing and proposed legislation in the field of social welfare.

The Health Division, through its Social Insurance Committee, has spent a considerable amount of time on this type of study. One meeting last March was devoted to a discussion of the principles involved in Family Allowances; and in November, Mrs. Cora Casselman, M.P., gave an informative talk on the Family Allowance Act and the Dominion Government's Health Insurance proposals.

Problems of Returning Service Personnel - Various problems relating to returning servicemen and women have also been discussed at Division meetings. Mr. Willson, Executive Officer of the Northern Alberta Branch of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, described the history and functions of the Institute, with special reference to the problems of the blind veteran. The Institute is working closely with the Government in the task of fitting blind war veterans into community life. All organizations should be aware of this special problem and prepared to help wherever they can. At another meeting, the work of the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Special Services Division of Selective Service was described by representatives from these two departments. This discussion was held with a view to informing our agencies of the facilities now available in our community for the rehabilitation of returning veterans.

FROM THE REPORT OF GROUP WORK DIVISION CHAIRMAN

The Group Work Division held eight meetings during the year including special meetings called to deal with the In-the-City-Camp programme. These meetings dealt with a variety of topics all bearing some relation to the promotion of group work. The programmes being followed or developed by some of the agencies were reviewed and discussed to provide for an interchange of information and ideas.

The March meeting was addressed by Miss Jean Hall, Executive Secretary of the Programme Department of the National Council of the Y.W.C.A.

The chief activity of a concrete nature was the continuation and expansion of the In-the-City-Camp programme. The chief features of the programme during the year were:

- (1) Closer attention to planning, including a careful budgetting of the money available from the Chest and the Tegler Trust;
- (2) An expansion of the service into areas of the City not served in 1943. In all, ten camps were operated serving about 600 children;

- (3) A conference of Camp Leaders which proved useful in the development of camp programmes, especially considering the lack of experience of much of the leadership which had to be used;
- (4) A decision by the Division that the time has now come for it to retire from the financial supervision that it has given during the past two years and to have the Agencies take over summer camp work in the city as a regular part of their programmes, financed through their own organizations with direct assistance from the Chest. This was discussed with Chest officials and was accepted as a sound policy.

A second activity of considerable worth was the sponsoring of a short course of lectures on group work, given to 33 girls at the University, who had indicated a readiness to assist in group work activities as part of their war service. This course was given by Mrs. Nelson Chappel, was well received, and resulted in a considerable and valuable amount of service being rendered to girls' groups in the city.

Some attempt was made to continue the Norwood project begun in the previous year. It had been determined that the area was in considerable need of leaders, in which respect it differed, if at all, only in degree from others. In any event it was decided by the Division to offer to assist the community in putting on a leadership training programme. Various organizations were approached, after a meeting with some community representatives, but the extent of interest shown was insufficient to warrant proceeding with the proposal.

In submitting this report the Chairman wishes to express his appreciation of the work of the relatively small group who have been in regular attendance at meetings and have accepted responsibility for the carrying on of the activities of the Division. There is undoubtedly a great value to be found in the informal association of representatives of the various agencies doing group work, and in the promotion of joint plans and common projects in this field. While it has not seemed possible to get as broad a support as seems warranted, probably due to the many claims upon the time of those who represent the less faithful agencies, it is hoped that this situation will right itself. The thanks of the Division are due to Miss Margaret Hart who served efficiently as secretary and to the Director of the Council without whose energetic oversight and faithful attention to detail the modest work of the Division could not have gone forward.

FROM THE REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is my purpose to complete the report on our Council's activities since the last annual meeting not to discuss the philosophy or mechanics of Councils. ~~Before getting on with the report, however, I would like to direct your attention~~ to two things about the Council which may not always have been too clearly understood. First - The Council was created by organizations in this City to help them to make possible greater inter-agency cooperation, and through that cooperation develop plans for better, and continually improving, social welfare conditions and services for Edmonton people. It may be seen best perhaps, as a mechanism,

or piece of machinery, designed for a specific purpose, and able to move towards its goal only as rapidly and as surely as each of its component parts functions and contributes to the work of the whole. Thus the member organizations, and the delegates through which they act, are the Council, and they provide not only the essential framework of the machinery, but also the force or power which makes the wheels turn. Without this participation of its member organizations the Council has no existence and no meaning.

The second comment I would like to make is directed to those persons who may be interested in the social welfare of our City but are not officially linked with the Council through any organization. The Council needs and values your interest and support. We not only invite you, but we urge you to come to Division meetings and take part in the discussions. It is at these meetings that information, experience, and varying points of view are pooled and plans developed for meeting particular problems and situations. The greater the number of Edmonton citizens who are informed and interested in the social welfare of this community, and contribute in this joint enterprise - the Council - the more rapidly and wisely we shall move forward.

In previous years reports have been received from four Council Divisions. During 1944 the Child Welfare and the Family Welfare Divisions did not meet, due initially, to the inability of the Chairmen of those Divisions to continue to serve because of the pressure of War demands. Later, with possible organizational changes in the offing, it was decided to defer action in this area until the future pattern of the Division had been definitely established. It will, therefore, be noted, that a number of items covered in this section of the report would ordinarily have been considered in one or other of these inactive Divisions, but were handled instead last year by special committees, meetings and conferences, or in other ways.

Expansion of Summer Camp Facilities - At the request of the National Council on Physical Fitness, an effort was made to estimate the extent to which summer camp accommodation might be expanded in Northern Alberta, in the event of Federal subsidy being made available to the sponsoring organizations. This information was forwarded to Ottawa, but the National Council's plans are proceeding more slowly than originally anticipated, and it does not seem likely that they will affect local camping programmes significantly, if at all, during the coming summer season.

Day Care for Children of Working Mothers - Negotiations with Civic and Provincial authorities urging the establishment of a War-Time Nursery in Edmonton were continued, but without success.

Care of the Younger Teen-Aged Girl - At the request of the Protestant Ministerial Association, a conference was arranged with officials of the Civic and Provincial Child Welfare Departments and others, to consider the need for additional facilities in Edmonton for the care of the younger teen-aged girl. The consensus of the meeting was that there is need for a training school for non-Catholic delinquent girls of this City; also that carefully selected boarding homes are urgently needed for young girls coming to Edmonton to work at low wages, such homes to supplement existing hostel accommodation unable to meet the demand.

Study Centre, Detention Home, and Training School - A communication was forwarded to the City Council expressing approval of the action which it had taken in appointing a committee to study and confer with Provincial authorities regarding

the possible establishment of^g training school for delinquents, designed and operated in accordance with the best modern social work practice. The City was also urged to view repairs and alterations to the existing detention home for boys solely as a temporary measure, and to proceed at the earliest possible date with plans already announced for the erection of new quarters providing not only suitable physical accommodation for young offenders, but also adequate clinical and study facilities.

Juvenile Offenders Act - Invited to do so by the Provincial Department of Public Welfare, the Juvenile Offenders' Act - which is to be introduced at the present session of the Legislature - was reviewed in Departmental draft form, and suggestions and comments were submitted for consideration. The Council greatly appreciated being granted this opportunity and privilege by the Department.

Study of Children's Institutions - In response to a request from the Community Chest, the Council undertook a study of the intake and discharge policies of children's institutions receiving financial assistance from the Chest. Preliminary reports for discussion with the organizations concerned are expected to be available in the not far distant future.

Other Activities included: An enquiry into steps which could be taken by social welfare organizations to obtain warm clothing for infants in need, when the necessary garments were not available through the regular distribution channels; discussion with members of the Provincial Council of the Society for the Control of Cancer regarding the possibilities of reorganizing the Edmonton Committee of the Society; a public meeting on tuberculosis arranged in cooperation with the Kinsmen Club of Edmonton and the Alberta Tuberculosis Association.

In closing, I think that all will agree, that despite the loss in momentum which unavoidably accompanies a change in personnel, a considerable amount has been accomplished by the Council during the past year. Personally, I wish to say how much I have appreciated the helpfulness, and friendly cooperation with which I have been everywhere received. In this spirit, and all working together, I am confident that we may anticipate a bigger and better, and a more effective Council of Social Agencies during the coming year.

FROM THE REPORT OF THE HONORARY TREASURER

RECEIPTS & DISBURSEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1944

Receipts:

Community Chest	\$4,400.00
Tegler Trust	350.00
	<u>\$4,750.00</u>

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$3,075.94	
Rent	420.00	
Delegates to meetings	308.85	
Stationery & office supplies	219.22	
Purchase of typewriter less trade-in allowance	79.50	
Miscellaneous expenditures (Light, printing & mimeographing, postage & other general expense)	485.95	<u>\$4,589.46</u>
Surplus returnable to the Community Chest		\$ 160.54

The books were audited at the year-end by Messrs. Peat, Marwick, Mitchell & Co., Chartered Accountants, and certified correct.

EDMONTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

1945

OFFICERS

President - S. W. Field, K.C.
1st Vice-President - J.T.J. Collisson, K.C.
2nd Vice-President - Mrs. John Gillespie
Honorary Secretary - Miss Helen McArthur
Honorary Treasurer - Mr. William Kerr

DIVISION CHAIRMEN

Health - Mrs. W. F. Barfoot
Group Work - Harold Fazackerley
Child & Family Welfare - (To be appointed)
Executive Director - Miss Hazeldine Bishop
Auditors - Peat, Marwick,
Mitchell & Co.

Council Office & Social Service Exchange

709 Tegler Building

Telephone 27378

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

1945

Alberta Protestant Home for Children	Guidance Clinic, Alberta Department of Health
All People's Mission, United Church of Canada	Gyro Club of Edmonton
American Red Cross Society, Department of Local Field Director	Hope Mission
Beulah Home	Imperial Order Daughters of the Empire, Municipal Chapter
Board of Health, City of Edmonton	Junior Hospital League
Boy Scouts Association, Edmonton District Council	Kinsmen Club of Edmonton
Boys' Work Board, Edmonton and District	Kiwanis Club of Edmonton
Bulletin Not-Forgotten Fund	Lions Club of Edmonton
C.G.I.T. Board of Edmonton	Local Council of Women, Edmonton
Canadian Girl Guide Association, Alberta Council	Ministerial Association, Edmonton
Canadian Legion, Edmonton Branch	Misericordia Creche
Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Northern Alberta Branch	Misericordia Hospital
Canadian Red Cross Society, Edmonton Branch	Navy League of Canada, Northern Alberta Division
Catholic Women's League, Edmonton Senior Sub-Division	O'Connell Institute
Chamber of Commerce (Junior)	Optimist Club of Edmonton
Chamber of Commerce (Senior)	Our Lady of Atonement Home
Child Welfare Branch, Alberta Department of Public Welfare	Outpatients' Department, University of Alberta Hospital
Citizen's Volunteer Bureau	Registered Nurses' Association
Council of Jewish Women	Relief & Children's Aid Departments, City of Edmonton
Department of Public Welfare, Province of Alberta	Rosary Hall
Diocesan Council for Social Service Church of England	Rotary Club of Edmonton
Edmonton Creche Society	St. John Ambulance Association, Edmonton Centre
Edmonton General Hospital	St. John's House
Edmonton Hospital Board	St. Mary's Home
Edmonton Public School Board	Salvation Army, Alberta Division
Edmonton Separate School Board	Sisters of Service, Residential Club
Edmonton Trades and Labour Council	Social Hygiene Division, Alberta Department of Health
Elks Lodge of Edmonton	University of Alberta Hospital, Women's Auxiliary
Family Welfare Bureau	Victorian Order of Nurses, Edmonton Branch
Federation of Community Leagues	Young Men's Christian Association
Good Shepherd Home	Young Women's Christian Association