



Edmonton Social Planning Council

1988 Annual Report



A Message from the President

The character of Edmonton has changed dramatically over the past decade. Economic and social catalysts have included:

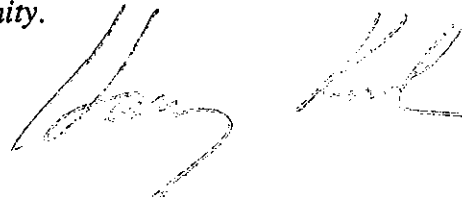
- * soaring unemployment rates,*
- * increasing numbers of people on social allowance,*
- * communities divided over labour disputes,*
- * an aging population, and*
- * an increase in the number of single parent families, to name*

but a few. The effects these changes have on the people of Edmonton strengthens my belief in the need and value of an organization like the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

This independent, non-profit organization speaks with a strong and articulate voice on behalf of those unable to speak for themselves. It offers resources and expertise to individuals and groups so they may help themselves. The Council provides the community with an independent agency that can advocate, in a rational and positive manner, for new social programs and for changes in social policy and legislation.

The past year's activities of the staff and Board of the Edmonton Social Planning Council reflect its commitment to meeting community needs. Their hard work and dedication to the ideals of social justice are difficult to match. In tackling the issues of poverty, health care, unemployment and public education, the list of accomplishments is long and impressive: Unemployed People's Support groups, welfare advocacy training, a needs assessment workbook, a directory to social research libraries, and a submission to the Premier's Health Care Commission.

It's a pleasure for me to be part of the commitment that makes the Edmonton Social Planning Council such an effective and productive force in our community.



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doing

WELFARE ADVOCACY

During the early 1980's the Council was receiving numerous inquiries regarding the provincial social allowance programs from people working with recipients. In 1985 the Council, with funding assistance from the Canada Works Program, conducted a needs assessment in the area of social allowance. The results of the assessment indicated that both recipients and non-profit service providers had a need for information about the social allowance system and assistance in dealing with Alberta Social Services. In addition, benefits under the social allowance system were reported to be inadequate.

90

The Other Welfare Manual

In response to these findings the Council wrote and published The Other Welfare Manual. The first edition totalled 5,000 copies and, advertised by word of mouth, were distributed free of charge to social allowance recipients. In 1987, Alberta Social Services purchased 30,000 copies for distribution through their offices around the province. Currently, the Planning Council is negotiating the sale of an additional 75,000 copies to Alberta Social Services.

conclusion date

Welfare Advocacy Training Workshops

A second initiative, derived from the needs assessment information, was the development of Welfare Advocacy Training Workshops. The on-going workshops are designed to train recipients and staff of non-profit organizations in how to advocate in the social allowance system. In 1988 the Council held three workshops, providing training for 45 advocates in Edmonton. Staff of Alberta Social Services participated in the presentation of these workshops.

how many
how many participants
where from

bringing people to where "I want to do something about my situation"

Community Advocates Network

A third initiative, an extension of the second, was the development of a support network for welfare advocates which has broadened its mandate to become the "Community Advocates Network (CAN)".

Interagency Associations

In the interests of changing welfare policy, the Council has been an active participant in the interagency policy analysis and advocacy group, Income Security Action Committee. Through these interagency efforts, the food allowance rate was increased in the 1988 provincial government budget and people receiving social allowance were al-

paid - not covered

lowed to keep 100% of their low income federal sales tax credit.

The Council will continue to be actively involved in the area of social allowance, through training workshops, the Community Advocates Network, ISAC, providing referrals and information to allowance recipients and maintaining open working relationships with Alberta Social Services staff. We will continue to encourage the active participation of people receiving social allowance in advocating for themselves and for others.

*working in a
good broken
role*

COMMUNITY NEEDS ASSESSMENT

The Community Needs Assessment Project, initiated by the United Way, began because of their desire to improve the quality of "societal trends" information and a means of support for their allocation process. Other community agency funders - the City of Edmonton Social Services, Alberta Social Services, the Board of Health and Mental Health Services - became involved because they too could make use of this information.

Representatives from each of these groups have formed the "Working Group". It is their intent to produce an accessible, readable document on community trends that could be available to anyone in the community. To be produced annually, this document will contain two sections; the first, information on broad trends - income, employment, population, families and health; the second will identify present service trends and future trends with respect to services for youth and services for seniors. It is the intent of the "Working Group" to look at a different set of client groups each year in order that a cycle may be completed in five years.

One of the successes of the "Working Group" has been the creation of the group itself, a hard working, cooperative group of major stakeholders working to develop the first community needs assessment. As well, strong support has come from 'key informants' in the community.

The first community needs assessment annual report will be available in May of 1989. Work will then begin on the next edition for 1990.

DISABILITY PENSION ISSUE

In 1987 the Council was approached by a gentleman who was receiving social allowance and Canada Pension Plan disability benefits.

This gentleman found himself living below the poverty line even though these payments should have been adequate maintenance for him. Unfortunately, the Alberta government was deducting dollar for dollar the amounts he was receiving from CPP from his provincial welfare payments leaving him with a much more limited income than he expected.

Upon further research, the Council discovered that this was also happening to those individuals who were collecting money from the AISH program and the Widow's Pension Program. The Council became involved in this issue to increase the awareness of the inadequate (below poverty line) provincial social assistance benefits and to advocate for the rights of individuals in receipt of both federal and provincial payments.

Write file
The work that has been done on this issue has received a lot of media attention locally, provincially and nationally. Politicians have been made aware of the issue and Alberta's opposition parties are interested in pursuing the issue further. A successful lobby group "Disabilities Unlimited" has been formed. It has brought together individuals in similar situations from all across the province. It is the Council's intention to continue to serve as a facilitator and resource for the group.

*singles + divorced speak out
using courts & Charter new approach*

PREMIER'S HEALTH CARE COMMISSION

Health care in Alberta has been a major social issue over the last few years. When the Premier's Commission was announced the Council felt it had a role and a responsibility to present a brief concerning the future of health care in Alberta. The presentation to the Commission was well received. In the course of preparing the brief the Council cultivated contacts with other concerned groups and associations. The Council will continue to work with these groups to implement innovative changes in the health care system.

*work, welfare,
unemployment*

FUTURE OF WORK

Over the past couple of years the Council has conducted research on the nature and extent of unemployment and its social implications. The next logical step was to become involved in the Canadian Council on Social Development's Work and Income in the Nineties project.

Per [unclear]

The "Future of Work in Alberta" project involved an awareness and consultation process (the Council hosting 3 focus groups) that would

comments

help lead to the identification of policy options and specific job creation activities that could be initiated. The information gathered from these and other focus groups around the country will be presented and discussed in a national forum in May, 1989. As well, the Council has continued to make presentations to various interest groups concerning the work in the future in Alberta. A network has been established to develop strategies and projects to promote meaningful job creation.

UNEMPLOYED PEOPLES SUPPORT

In previous research the Council found that unemployment not only produces financial hardship for individuals and families but social and psychological hardship as well. As a result of meetings involving a number of community organizations, it was recognized that there were no support programs in Edmonton for people who were unemployed.

The Unemployed People's Support project was designed to provide unemployed people with emotional support, recreational opportunities and facts concerning the causes and effects of unemployment. As well, the people who participated in the groups were able to provide the project with key information and insight into the issue of unemployment, from a personal perspective.

The project began in April, 1988 with the hiring of five staff members who developed, researched and facilitated the support groups. During the year five sessions were offered, a self-help group was established, research questionnaires completed and refinements made to the program's content.

Following the completion of the project in the spring of 1989, the support program will be taken on by the Family Life Education Council. The Edmonton Social Planning Council will continue to collect and analyze the data received from the project and prepare a final report in 1989.

ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES

Training and Consultation

In addition to the research and policy projects completed, the Council provided training and consultation services to community agencies. Throughout 1988 the Council conducted Board/Staff Planning Workshops for Edmonton Women's Shelter Society and the Alberta Council of Women's Shelters. Presentations and briefs on midwifery, work and the family, voluntarism, and privatization have been made to the Canadian Cancer Society, the New Democrat Conference

*get suggested from
Peter's report*

Doyle
P. - Margaret
attended

on the Family, and the Solicitor General of Canada. Program evaluations have been conducted for Planned Parenthood Association of Edmonton and Family Service Association of Edmonton.

Program future

Communications

The Council has continued its on-going commitment to public education through:

* **First Reading**: topics included Free Trade, Recycling, Health Care, Child Care

Division

* **Brown Bag Lunchtime Forums**: included issues on Changes in Immigration Policy, Midwifery, the role of the Children's Guardian

* **Presentations to community groups**: on the issues of voluntarism, privatization, and work and the family

This year the Edmonton Social Planning Council provided its membership and the community with two new publications and two papers.

* **Social Research Directory 1989: a guide to libraries and resource centres in Edmonton**

This directory was designed to provide users with information on 80 libraries and resource centres in Edmonton that collect social issues information. Outlined in each entry are: the major subject areas collected, the size and content of the collection, reference services provided and the facility's circulation policy.

attributed to
all via
PCSS
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* **Doing it Right! A Needs Assessment Workbook**

Doing it Right! was published to assist individuals in conducting or managing a needs assessment. This user-friendly workbook takes the user step-by-step through the assessment process, providing worksheets, examples and additional resources.

* **Health Care for Albertans: Making a Good Health Care System Better**

* **Facing the Future: The Economic and Political Realities of Voluntarism in the 1990's**

1988 Members of the Board

Executive

Harvey Krahn	President
Elizabeth Massiah	Vice-President
Al Harris	Vice-President
Terry Lind	Vice-President

Members at large

Dave Este*	Pat Hagey
Bev Decore	Alyson Lavers
Bev Downing	Lydia Kawun
Bill Phipps	Elvira Leibovitz
Joan Munro	Jeff Pearson
Michael Phair	Ray Pong*

Staff 1988

Peter Faid	Executive Director
Margaret Duncan	Senior Planner
Henry Dembicki	Planner
Diana Salomaa	Planner
Linda Patriquin	Administrative Secretary
Carmen Brady	Publications/ Membership
Maureen Irwin	Volunteer
Joseph Miller	Editor, First Reading
Rob Schmidt	Project Staff
Margaux Beland	Project Staff
Juan Cereno	Student Practicum
Robert Chometsky	Student Practicum
Scott Smillie	Student Practicum

UPS Project Staff

Roger Laing	Project Coordinator
Dorothy Riva*	Secretary
Judith Bradford	Secretary
Shelley Daigle	Outreach Worker
Ken Morrison	Researcher
Margo Rehberg	Child Care Worker

*resigned during the year

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
Year ended December 31, 1988
with comparative figures for 1987

	1988	1987
Revenue:		
United Way Allocation	160,152	160,157
Grants:		
City of Edmonton	18,500	18,000
Government of Alberta	2,800	4,000
Grants & other revenue(note 3)	34,706	52,680
Publications	4,207	5,537
Donations	878	600
Memberships	4,300	3,205
Bank interest	2,114	771
First Reading	346	-
Miscellaneous income	1,663	-
Casino	-	39,157
Evaluation	-	4,000
Welfare Manual	-	75,060
	229,666	363,167
Expenditures:		
Salaries:		
Professional	113,341	106,163
Clerical	40,239	38,182
Retirement allowance	-	11,624
Employee Benefits	19,616	15,448
Building occupancy	14,114	17,073
Relocation	2,358	-
Office Expenses:		
New equipment	14,133	15,694
Supplies	4,549	3,233
Postage	4,621	3,837
Printing	1,108	1,603
Telephone	3,748	3,723
Maintenance	419	142
Bonding	-	82
Bad debt expense	-	75
Recruitment and education	3,784	3,650
Promotion and publicity	2,485	1,187
Professional fees	6,787	5,074
Evaluation	-	7,641

**Edmonton Social Planning Council
Balance Sheet
December 31, 1988
with comparative figures for 1987**

	1988	1987
Assets		
Current assets:		
Cash	\$4,062	\$18,975
Term deposits	8,586	49,000
Accounts receivable	10,839	4,296
Prepaid Expenses	1,859	1,733
Total current assets	25,346	74,004
Fixed assets, at nominal value:		
Furniture and equipment	1	1
	\$25,347	\$74,005
Liabilities and Funds		
Current Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$4,486	2,607
Employees deductions payable	3,071	4,181
Revenue received in advance	-	1,500
	7,557	8,288
Appropriated funds	9,056	24,138
Unappropriated funds	8,734	41,579
Commitments (note 2)	\$25,347	74,005

**Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1988**

2. Commitments

The council is committed to monthly lease payments of \$1,691 for office space through August 1993.

Transportation	588	617
Agency publications	2,391	1,467
Research	500	1,500
Grants & other revenues(note 3)	25,885	28,249
First Reading	13,512	11,884
Welfare Manual	-	13,492
Meetings	857	239
Library	621	-
Miscellaneous	1,937	3,774
	<u>277,593</u>	<u>295,653</u>
<u>Excess (deficiency) of revenue over</u>		
<u>expenditures</u>	<u>\$(47,927)</u>	<u>67,514</u>

Notes to Financial Statements
December 31, 1988

3. Grants and other revenues:

Specifically identifiable costs incurred by the Council on projects funded by grants from third parties along with the related grants received, were as follows:

	1988	
	Grants	Costs
Support Group for the Unemployed	\$15,507	14,605
Municipal Affairs Project	4,900	61
Volunteerism in Perspective	3,500	516
Family Services Association Edmonton	3,000	153
Planned Parenthood	2,025	26
Library Directory	1,408	5,501
Future of Work Project	1,403	148
Welfare Advocacy	1,220	1,063
Alberta Facts	1,017	1,327
Training and Consultation	650	373
Needs Assessment Workbook	76	108
Single Employable Research Project	-	1,861
Youth Services Co-op Publication	-	6
Edmonton Women's Shelter evaluation	-	137
	<u>\$34,706</u>	<u>25,885</u>

Edmonton Social Planning Council
#41, 9912 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5K 1C5

(403) 423-2031



a United Way member agency