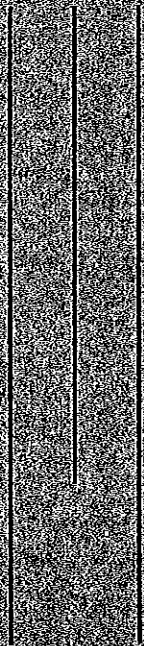


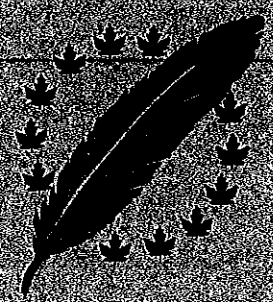
# Annual Report

1946



Edmonton Council of Social Agencies

10123-08 St



# Condensed Report

of the

## Edmonton Council of Social Agencies

covering the year 1946 - 1947

PRESENTED TO THE SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING, MARCH 18, 1947.

### How The Council Operates~

The work of the Council of Social Agencies is broad in scope and highly diversified in nature, and is carried on in a variety of ways. First there are the three Divisions - Health, Child and Family, and Group Work - in which agency representatives meet to discuss matters of concern in their particular spheres of interest and activity. Then there is the Executive Committee of the Council, which deals with: recommendations forwarded by the Divisions; matters involving the formulation of policy; and problems which cut across Divisional interests or which concern only a small portion of the members of any one Division. Thirdly, there is the Council Office through which liaison between the Divisions and the Executive Committee is strengthened; consultation and informational services are provided member organizations and the community at large; and certain central services are maintained.

### What the Executive Did~

Although much time and consideration is necessarily devoted by the Executive Committee to many things which originate in the Divisions or come directly through the Office, this report covers only those matters not dealt with in any of the other reports to follow. There were several meetings of the Executive as a whole since last report, and a number of meetings of special sub-committees.

Early in the year Vice-President G. A. Owen was obliged to resign as he was leaving the City, and we were fortunate in securing Mr. Wm. J. A. Mustard, K.C., to fill that office. In September, Miss Helen McArthur, the Honorary Secretary, accepted a position in Toronto, necessitating her resignation. This vacancy was filled by Mrs. G. R. Davison. In December, we lost still another member of the Committee, Mrs. Elizabeth Richardson, who left Edmonton for the Department of Veterans' Affairs in Ottawa.

Appointments to the Board of Directors of the Community Chest were Mr. Harold Fazackerley and Mr. Percy Cowley; and to the Chest Budget Committee - Mr. James Walker and Mrs. W. Stanley Ross.

Mr. R.E.G. Davis, Director of the Canadian Welfare Council, visited Edmonton in November, and met with members of the Executive to discuss local needs and to obtain suggestions regarding directions in which the national agency's programme should develop, in the post-war era, in order to be of the greatest

possible assistance to general community effort in the Canadian Welfare field. In November also, a special luncheon meeting was held to hear Dr. Stephen Taylor on the United Kingdom's new Social Security scheme.

We are pleased to report that membership in the Council was further increased during the year by the admission of two new organizations - the Inter-denominational Young People's Union, and the Edmonton Children's Work Board. Application of a third new agency has been recently received and is now under consideration.

At the suggestion of the Community Chest, the Council agreed to move from its Tegler Building Office and share accommodation with the Chest at its new location on 98 Street. Although we have been in the new quarters only a few weeks, numerous advantages resulting from the move are already apparent.

Much time was given by the Executive to the problems of housing and several recommendations were forwarded to the responsible authorities.

The attention of public relief officials was directed to an apparent growing number of deserted wives and children of Ex-Servicemen who had arrived in Edmonton seeking passage back to their homelands, and requiring maintenance - sometimes for a period of months - before this could be arranged. The Minister of Public Welfare had given assurance that cases of this kind will be provided for.

Other matters dealt with included: the establishment of an Army Benevolent Fund; Licensing and Inspection of Foster Homes; strengthening of working relationships with public welfare departments; the City Shelter and the Boys' Detention Home. This latter will be covered in more detail in the report of the Child and Family Division.

(From the Honorary Secretary's Report)

## *The Child & Family Division~*

Numerous groups in the City having expressed a desire to know more about the services available for the care of Edmonton children - and more particularly for the care of young delinquents - three study committees, which were broadly representative, were designed to be primarily study and fact finding bodies - and were asked to inform themselves regarding existing facilities here, and the experience and practice elsewhere, in connection with (1) juvenile court and probation services, (2) detention homes, and (3) training schools. Numerous meetings were held and profitable information was gathered about such services in other places. Difficulty was encountered however, in obtaining factual data required with reference to the local situation. At this point word was received of a Province-wide study of welfare services which the I. O. D. E. was planning to sponsor, and in view of this development it seemed wise for the Division Committees to defer further efforts in this line until the report of the Alberta Welfare Study became available for consideration by community groups.

It was felt however, that improvements in the Boys' Detention Home were so obviously and urgently needed that action on this matter could not be delayed pending study of the broader picture. While endorsing in general principle the plan of the Civic and Provincial Child Welfare Departments for enlarging and improving the detention quarters in Edmonton and making changes in numer-

ous aspects of the children's care and routine, it was recognized that there would inevitably be a delay of some months before these plans could be put into effect. Representations were, therefore, made by the Council in cooperation with the Strathcona Baptist Church and other interested groups, seeking the immediate introduction of certain specific improvements which could be simply and inexpensively carried out in the interim. We have been informed that the majority of the changes so recommended have been made and are assured by the City that all possible efforts are being made to bring the proposed building and other improvements to completion at the earliest possible moment.

Penal reform, provisions for after-care of prisoners, preventive services for the juvenile offender, and minimum standards for a progressive juvenile court were among the topics discussed by Mr. J. A. Edmison, President of the Canadian Penal Association, in a most interesting address given at a special luncheon meeting of the Division.

(From the Division Chairman's Report)

## *Health Division Activities -*

In view of the high proportion of change in the membership of the Health Division during the past year it was decided to devote part of the Division's programme to familiarizing members with the activities and policies of the organizations represented - it being felt that otherwise coordinating function of the Council could not be effectively realized in the health field.

In line with this policy the work of the St. John Ambulance Association, and the need for training in first aid were featured at one meeting. The services of the Edmonton Department of Health were described by Dr. G. M. Little at another meeting, also, measures necessary to ensure a safe milk supply. Each talk was illustrated by sound films.

An outline of the programme of the newly reorganized Edmonton Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society was given at another meeting, at which was also described the policies of the newly organized Emergency Housekeeper Service of the Junior Hospital League. This latter we believe, represents one of the more significant developments in community social services during the year and was undertaken following a survey made by the Health Division, which clearly established the need for such a service.

Other matters occupying the attention of the Division were: housing and the effects upon low income families of the rising cost of living. Having gone on record as favoring early introduction by the Dominion Government of a subsidized public housing scheme, and believing that those cities which had detailed information on their housing requirements would be the first to benefit from such a scheme if it became a reality, a resolution was forwarded to the City urging that this aspect of the problem be given serious and continuing consideration.

Representations were also made to Provincial and Federal authorities seeking the reintroduction of subsidies on milk in order that the already low consumption in Canada, of this health protective food need not be further reduced because of increased cost, placing it out of range of the average low income family. It was noted that milk was the largest single expenditure in a minimum diet and (at the present price of 14 cents a quart) would account for more than



20% of the total cost of a minimum food budget for a family of five, if the required amount were purchased.

The efforts of the Edmonton Housewives League to organize and present the case to Dominion authorities for reintroduction of certain price controls, were approved by the Division.

Another matter receiving consideration was the need for treatment as psychopathic cases, of persons guilty of indecent assault. It had been recommended that representations be made to the Minister of Justice advocating amendment of the Criminal Code in order to provide for indefinite detention of such cases under psychiatric care, to be released only when competent medical authorities are satisfied that they are no longer a danger to society.

Membership in the Division had been broadened during the year, bringing in additional organizations and groups which had not previously participated. The response from public health and industrial nurses was particularly gratifying.

(From the Division Chairman's Report)

## The Group Work Division~

The Group Work Division of the Council had a busy and profitable year marked by well attended broadly representative meetings, and continuously increasing cooperation with the Civic Recreation Commission.

In-the-City Camps were sponsored again this year, though to a more limited extent than in the past, due partially to lack of leadership, and partially to the development of public summer playground programmes under the City Recreation Commission.

In common with other groups recognizing the extent to which the development of leisure-time recreational and cultural pursuits is handicapped by the lack of a suitable civic auditorium, the Division passed a resolution requesting City Council to have plans prepared for study by all organizations concerned, preparatory to the construction of such an auditorium, as soon as labour and materials not required for home building were available, and the necessary funds could be obtained.

One of the outstanding lacks in the recreation field continues to be leadership. The classes operated by the Recreation Commission this winter were considered to be filling a recognized need particularly in the development of skills. It was hoped however, by the Division and the Commission, that jointly a training course might be organized this spring which would give practical assistance in the art of leadership to those who were willing to accept responsibility as leaders of community groups. After exploring the possibilities it was finally agreed that a course of this kind would probably prove more effective if conducted early next fall, and plans are proceeding accordingly.

A Camp Committee comprising representatives of 14 City organizations operating summer camps, was formed to study camp standards and other problems relating to camp operations. The work of this committee is continuing.

A Brief on Community Recreation Programmes was studied and endorsed. In it proposals were made for Government action to assist the development of community centres and leisure-time programmes in Canada, and principles were enunciated directed towards establishing satisfactory distribution of functions and responsibilities between governments at federal, provincial and municipal levels. The document was prepared by a joint committee of the Canadian Association for Adult Education, and the Recreation Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, and has been considered and approved by a very large number of interested organizations across Canada. Formal presentation to governments is expected soon.

The Division considered the possibilities of providing, through agency staffs and memberships, part-time voluntary leadership for limited activities for the boys in the Detention Home. The authorities however, did not consider such a scheme to be feasible under present conditions in the institution, and the matter was dropped.

We were privileged to have with us at one meeting, Mr. E. R. McEwen, Secretary of the Recreation Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, who outlined the various activities of that body and made us aware that there is now in the Canadian Welfare Council a national clearing-house and study centre for problems in the recreation field, and that it is in a position to be of real assistance to us in our day to day work.

On another occasion, Mr. Clarence Richards, Chairman of the Recreation Commission of Edmonton, and Mr. Gordon Higginson of the Commission's staff, brought us up to date on the Commission's plans and programmes.

At still another meeting, Mrs. Cameron Parker, Assistant Director of the Alberta Welfare Study, spoke to us on present trends in the recreation field, and the importance of cooperation between the private agencies and the rapidly developing public recreation organizations.

Other subjects considered included preparation of a window display in cooperation with Recreation Week; possibilities and procedures for obtaining recreation equipment and materials through War Assets Corporation; ways and means of increasing cooperative relationships between the Division and Edmonton public recreation services. I would like also to mention particularly the meeting called by the Recreation Commission on January 16th, when all organizations in the sports and recreation field were afforded an opportunity of discussing fully with members of the Commission, the plans and methods of operation of that body. The Group Work Division, which was well represented at the meeting, considered that getting together in this way was very worthwhile, and it is hoped that further meetings of a similar nature will be arranged from time to time.

(From the Division Chairman's Report)

## Council Office Services ~

Acting as a pipeline - channeling a flow of information to the various committees of Council, and from the committees to the community as a whole, also, providing some lubrication to the machinery so that it will operate as smoothly and effectively as possible, - is the Council Office. To this end the Office maintains a number of central services, among which are:

The Social Service Exchange - which is a confidential registration or index of individuals registered by social welfare organizations as having been assisted by them. It is designed to prevent duplication and wastage of time and money, and represents, we believe, a simple fundamental step in agency cooperation. During the past year approximately 1,000 enquiries were made of the Exchange, with 20% of the enquiries identified and the enquiring organizations referred to the agencies which had been registered as having had previous contact with those cases.

We now have some 11,250 cases registered in the Exchange, but this represents only a fraction of the total assisted by Edmonton agencies in the past five years. Obviously its effectiveness depends directly upon the extent to which agencies participate fully and regularly in its use, and it is hoped that more of our member organizations will take advantage of the Exchange in the coming year.

The Christmas Exchange - which is operated for the prevention of duplication in the giving of Christmas dinners, registered 410 enquiries last year, with 44 or nearly 11% of the families being enquired of from two to four times.

An Annual Meeting Clearance was provided again, with a view to avoiding as far as possible, conflicts in agency annual meeting dates.

The Library of books, periodicals and pamphlets dealing with a wide range of social welfare topics, available on loan to anyone interested, was maintained as usual, and judging by the use made of it, seemed to be filling an increasingly felt need. The number of students and other young people seeking such material was particularly worthy of note, and gratifying.

"Council Commentary" - The Council's news bulletin, was published only four times during the year, due largely to changes in the editorial committee, and pressure of other duties. It is hoped that regular publication of those popular little pamphlets can be resumed shortly.

Basic to sound planning in any field is a thorough knowledge of the facts. One of the functions of a Council of Social Agencies is to see that the facts are in hand for consideration before conclusions are reached. Responsibility for heading up detailed work in connection with research and social studies devolves upon the staff. Unfortunately the Edmonton Council is not staffed sufficiently to give its committees as much assistance in this area as they would like - but this is not an unusual situation in young councils and councils operating in cities of this size.

Last year you will recall, we embarked on an ambitiously conceived community recreation survey, the results of which, we expected, would have been published months ago. That this has not happened is entirely due to the multitude of interests and activities competing for staff attention. Considerable progress was made in analyzing the school questionnaire returns last July and August, due to the temporary addition to our staff of Mr. Robert Melville, a student in social work at the University of Toronto, who was placed under our supervision for the purpose of gaining field work experience in survey work. Tribute is paid here to the excellence of Mr. Melville's work, and gratitude for the very real assistance which he gave in this connection without remuneration. A report giving results of the first section of the Study is now being drafted, and present plans call for its release in another month or two. We believe that it will reveal much information of value to all organizations contemplating changes in, or expansion of, neighbourhood recreation work in Edmonton. Recognition of much appreciated cooperation given by many individuals, organizations and government departments in making information available and assisting in other ways in the furtherance of the Survey, is herewith recorded.

During the past three years the staff has handled a steadily increasing volume of enquiries from agencies and the general public - wanting information regarding the proper organization to which to refer a particular case - seeking advice as to service projects in which their clubs might usefully engage - asking for information concerning training requirements and employment opportunities in professional social work - to cite but a few examples. During this past year this increasing demand for information and consultation service was particularly noticeable and is a source of satisfaction to us, indicating we believe, a growing awareness and acceptance of the Council as a community service organization upon which citizens are entitled to call for whatever help the Council can give them in matters pertaining to social welfare.

Your director was privileged during the year to serve as a member of the Citizens Rehabilitation Council; and as an advisory member on Dominion Civil Service examining boards when social service appointments were under consideration locally. Other appointments accepted were: Member of the Advisory Board of the Nurse Placement Service of the Alberta Registered Nurses Association; member of the Executive of the Western Regional Conference on Social Work; Regional Representative, Canadian Welfare Council Recreation Division, Advisory member of the Emergency Housekeeper Service of the Junior Hospital League.

As in previous years a course of 20 lectures on social work was given by the Director at the University of Alberta School of Nursing. Sincere thanks are due to Miss Margaret Dick for handling two of these lectures.

Additional speaking engagements included radio addresses, talks to church and home and school groups, clubs, and a lecture to the nurses in training at the University Hospital - opportunities which were much appreciated.

On behalf of the Council I wish to thank the following organizations for generously providing accommodation for meetings during the year: The Edmonton City Dairy, the Y. M. C. A., Y. W. C. A., Child Welfare Clinic, Department of Veterans Affairs, the Community Chest and the Corona Hotel. Now that we have acquired more spacious office headquarters with the use of a very comfortable committee room, it may not be necessary to bother these organizations as much as in the past.



We wish also to express our thanks to the Hudson's Bay Company for window display space; the "Bulletin" and the "Journal" for excellent cooperation and generous coverage at all times; similarly - Radio Stations C.F.R.N. and C.J.C.A; for radio time devoted to the work of the Council.

~~On past occasions of this kind I have usually tried to assess, with you,~~  
the degree to which Edmonton's Community planning body - this Council - has progressed during the previous year, towards achievement of its goal. This year I am leaving that for each of us to do individually, after we have heard what Mr. Beasley, from his wider experience, has to tell us regarding principles and practices in the coordination of welfare services. Perhaps from him we shall acquire a new yardstick with which to gauge the scope of our job, and with which to evaluate what we are doing. Perhaps we shall decide that we are, after all, on the right road, and that all we need is to put more power to the wheel. Whatever the result, I am confident that we shall reach the conclusion that to-gether we can make an ever-increasing contribution towards better integration of the welfare services of the citizens of Edmonton.

(From the Executive Director's Report)

## Financial Statement-1946~

### INCOME:

|                 |               |
|-----------------|---------------|
| Community Chest | \$5,875.00    |
| Tegler Trust    | <u>350.00</u> |
|                 | \$6,225.00    |

### EXPENDITURES:

|  |               |                 |
|--|---------------|-----------------|
| Salaries   | \$4,764.33    |                 |
| Rent   | 420.00        |                 |
| Stationery, Printing, Mimeographing                                | 294.65        |                 |
| Meeting Expenses   | 153.98        |                 |
| Publicity  | 152.40        |                 |
| Miscellaneous (Light, Postage, Telephone,<br>and general expenses) | <u>456.19</u> |                 |
|  | \$6,241.55    | <u>6,241.55</u> |
| Excess of Expenditure over income                                  |               | \$ <u>16.55</u> |

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

(From the Honorary Treasurer's Report)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF ADDRESS GIVEN BY

Mr. Robert W. Beasley



Voluntary and public welfare services have the same broad objectives although their methods of operation are necessarily somewhat different. Both are essential because the job is so big it takes all resources available. Each is necessary for the effective accomplishment of the work of the other.

The public agencies must take a broad approach towards meeting major universal needs and this is, necessarily, uniform and formal, meeting the needs of all of the people in the same way, and to the same extent, throughout a given geographical jurisdiction. At their best, public services can go only so far at any given moment, and some needs will continue for a long time to be beyond their scope. Public welfare must rely upon private and voluntary effort to supplement its services.

In order to protect the personaility of the individual so that he may become an effective producer in society, an additional investment in social services, beyond the investment from public funds must be made by private organizations, otherwise the public funds are frequently spent to little or no effect. The tax supported services primarily do an income maintenance job - that is their responsibility - and the private welfare organizations provide the supplementary, additional, services in order that the whole rehabilitation job may be accomplished.

Mr. Beasley stressed the importance of government agencies keeping inflexibilities to a minimum, and stated that the best discipline he knew of for becoming flexible was a strong civic conscience on the part of the people whose instrument the government agency is. He advocated strong citizen participation in boards and commissions associated with the public authority, also active participation of the public welfare departments and services in Councils of Social Agencies, which serve as neutral auspices under which public and private services can work out an effective, cooperative, total programme. The will and desire to do this is the basic requisite for a closely integrated programme in any community.

The voluntary agencies can be the pace setters in the course of progress towards new and better methods. They can help the people to keep their tax supported welfare services in tune with changing times and performing in accordance with the will and the needs of the people.

# Executive Committee

~ 1947 ~

Hon. President  
W. W. Prevey

Hon. Vice-President  
Mrs. John Gillespie

Hon. Vice-President  
J.T.J. Collisson, K.C.

|                    |   |                        |
|--------------------|---|------------------------|
| President          | - | E. B. Wilson, K.C.     |
| Past President     | - | S. W. Field, K.C.      |
| Vice-President     | - | Wm. J.A. Mustard, K.C. |
| Vice-President     | - | Mrs. J. Russell Love   |
| Honorary Secretary | - | Mrs. G. R. Davison     |
| Honorary Treasurer | - | Percy Cowley           |

## Division Chairmen

|                |   |                    |
|----------------|---|--------------------|
| Health         | - | E. C. Emmott       |
| Child & Family | - | J. L. McIntyre     |
| Group Work     | - | Harold Fazackerley |

## Members:

Mrs. A. C. Emery  
Frank Healy  
D. Kenneth Lewis  
Mrs. Allan Lobsinger  
Guy Patterson, K.C.

Wm. Pettigrew

(one to be appointed)

# Member Organizations

~ 1947 ~

Alberta Protestant Home for Children  
All People's Mission, United Church  
of Canada  
Beulah Home  
Board of Health, City of Edmonton  
Boy Scouts Association, Edmonton  
District Council  
Boys' Work Board, Edmonton and  
District  
C.G.I.T. Board of Edmonton  
Canadian Girl Guide Association,  
Alberta Council  
Canadian Legion, Montgomery Branch  
Canadian National Institute for the  
Blind, Northern Alberta Branch  
Canadian Red Cross Society, Edmonton  
Branch  
Catholic Women's League, Edmonton  
Senior Sub-Division  
Chamber of Commerce (Junior)  
Chamber of Commerce (Senior)  
Children's Work Board  
Council for Canadian Unity  
Council of Jewish Women  
Diocesan Council for Social Service,  
Church of England  
Edmonton Creche Society  
Edmonton General Hospital  
Edmonton Hospital Board  
Edmonton Public School Board  
Edmonton Separate School Board  
Edmonton Trades and Labour Council  
Elks Lodge of Edmonton  
Family Welfare Bureau  
Federation of Community Leagues  
Good Shepherd Home  
Gyro Club of Edmonton

Hope Mission  
Imperial Order Daughters of the  
Empire, Municipal Chapter  
Interdenominational Young People's  
Union  
Junior Hospital League  
Kinsmen Club of Edmonton  
Kiwanis Club of Edmonton  
Lions Club of Edmonton  
Local Council of Women, Edmonton  
Ministerial Association, Edmonton  
Misericordia Creche  
Misericordia Hospital  
Navy League of Canada, Northern  
Alberta Division  
O'Connell Institute  
Optimist Club of Edmonton  
Our Lady of Atonement Home  
Outpatients' Department, University  
of Alberta Hospital  
Registered Nurses' Association  
Relief & Children's Aid Departments,  
City of Edmonton  
Rosary Hall  
Rotary Club of Edmonton  
St. John Ambulance Association,  
Edmonton Centre  
St. John's House  
St. Mary's Home  
Salvation Army, Alberta Division  
Sisters of Service, Residential Club  
University of Alberta Hospital,  
Women's Auxiliary  
Victorian Order of Nurses, Edmonton  
Young Men's Christian Association  
Young Women's Christian  
Association