



Edmonton
Social
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A Message from the President

Transitions: Finding Our Way in the 1990s

For the Edmonton Social Planning Council, 1990 was a year of retrospection and transition. We began the year by looking back on:

... fifty years filled with women and men searching for ways to improve the lives of Edmonton's citizens: children, youth, the unemployed, persons on welfare, single parents, seniors.

... fifty years of struggling by the Council's Board, committees and staff to identify and address the issues faced by the people of this city: poverty, civic growth and development, hunger and homelessness, inadequate government programs and funding, family violence, single parent families, environmental concerns.

... fifty years of hard work by the Council and its staff to support and initiate responses to the issues: analysing information and data, providing information and educational programs, advocating, initiating new organizations, developing coalitions, bringing people together.

Over the past fifty years the Edmonton Social Planning Council has weathered name changes, staff and board turnovers, failed and successful ventures, the vicissitudes of funders, fiscal uncertainties — and new beginnings.

In December, Jonathan Murphy was hired as the Council's Executive Director. He will lead in plotting the Council's next steps as we welcome the next half century.

Among the questions facing Edmontonians in the 1990s are:

- What is the role of the community in the ever expanding, ever more powerful institutions we have created?
- How can we ensure that more and more groups of people like urban Natives, the working poor, gays and lesbians and the unemployed do not become marginalized in Edmonton?
- Will human rights, specifically the protection of minorities and the elimination of racism in our society, be supported in our city?
- Is the elimination of child poverty attainable?
- What methods of public education can the Council use to support its goals?

The task facing the Council, indeed the task facing all of us, is daunting. Please join and support the Council in its transition from its first fifty years to its second.



Executive Director's Report

I'm honoured to be writing my first report to you as Executive Director of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. Over the past fifty years, the Council has worked diligently towards a community in which all citizens find prosperity and justice. While our struggle has not been without setbacks, the fact we are still around is testament to the quality of spirit and character of the Board and staff, from the 1930s right through to the past decade. I hope that I can live up to the tremendous examples set by my predecessors.

The past decade was difficult for social reformers. The dream of an ever-expanding social safety net was jolted by massive government deficits and the political victory of neo-conservatives. Among the populace, a generalised selfishness and lack of concern for the *public good* reached its apex.

Out of step with the mainstream, the Council was forced to retreat from the action orientation of the 1960s, when we acted as a conduit for the ferment of popular desires and initiatives. Under Peter Faid's leadership, the Council's staff refined and consolidated the theoretical underpinnings of our work. Through building stronger links and united fronts with established agencies, the Council took a lead role in dissuading government from dismantling our sector.

Perhaps I'm deluded by wishful thinking, but I believe that the tide of social change is beginning to turn. The free marketeers' intoxicating promise of wealth for all has evaporated into the nasty hangover of recession and unemployment. People are beginning to look around and find that the social programs they didn't need until now are no longer there; the social contract which is Canada has been torn up by our myopic "national" leaders.

Sporadically and often incoherently, people are starting to insist that we cannot live on the lure of bread alone. Maybe it started when one quiet man holding an eagle feather refused to gamble his people's rights on a game of loaded dice. Here in Edmonton, more and more low-income people were prepared to take on government, through the courts if necessary, to insist upon a basic standard of living. Even the rapid growth of the Reformers in rural Alberta is startling testament of disillusionment with our apparently rudderless society.

Humans, unlike all the other animals, must constantly struggle to answer the question *how shall we live?* During my tenure at the Council, it will be our role to help the widest possible sectors of our society articulate their needs, dreams, and plans. I trust that all levels of our organization, from the Board down, will be prepared to open up to these new voices so that the Social Planning Council can be truly representative of society.

Jonathan Murphy

Highlights of 1990

The theme for the Council throughout 1990 was stated clearly in its anniversary slogan — "a continuing commitment to community." Council activities supported this slogan and a great deal of work was accomplished during a year of reflection and change.

50th Anniversary

A Wealth of Voices-The History of the Edmonton Social Planning Council 1940-1950 was published to commemorate the Council's 50th anniversary.

Other anniversary celebrations included a dinner on October 17, 1990 which was attended by 370 people. At the dinner, the Council's Board of Directors presented awards in the categories of framework legislation, human services, education and individual merit to recognize common themes, approaches and values that have influenced the Council's work for the past 50 years.

Projects

•Welfare Advocacy

The Council continued to advocate on behalf of social assistance recipients through the Income Security Action Committee. Council staff members are involved with a sub-committee of ISAC which was formed to address the needs of working poor families and chair the Court Challenges sub-committee.

The Council offered two Welfare Ad-

vocacy Training Workshops in 1990. The workshops aim at educating people about income support and entitlements.

•Child Poverty

The Council continued its efforts to act on behalf of children who live in poverty through its work as part of the Child Poverty Action Group.

The Council organized a letter writing campaign during the Fringe Festival in support of the Head Start program for pre-school children from low income families. Staff and volunteers provided information about the benefits of the program and encouraged people to write to the Ministers of Education and Family and Social Services to express their support for Head Start.

In October, the Child Poverty Action Group sponsored the "Action on Child Poverty Conference." The conference called on each participating agency and organization to issue a public statement calling for increases to social allowance rates. The Child Poverty Action Group pledged to focus on challenging the policies that force children to live in poverty, and to challenge the public attitudes that continue to blame the victims of poverty.

•Tracking the Trends

The second issue of Tracking the Trends: Future Directions for Human Services in Edmonton was published in June. The 1990 issue featured

Highlights of 1990

demographic, social and economic trends for families with children. Tracking the Trends is compiled by an inter-agency group with representatives from Alberta Family and Social Services, Edmonton Community and Family Services, Edmonton Board of Health and Mental Health Services, the United Way of Edmonton and Area and the Council.

•Teenage Sexuality

A comprehensive study on the issues connected to teenage sexuality was launched by the Council, the United Way, the City of Edmonton and the Edmonton Board of Health. The Council prepared a set of rationales and recommendations for action from teen and parent groups and from focus groups held for professionals and other community agency staff.

•Training and Consultation

The Council provided needs assessments and planning workshops for a variety of community organizations throughout 1990.

Community Relations

The MLA breakfast, hosted by the Council in February, provided an opportunity to strengthen communication between the Council and provincial politicians and a chance for those attending to discuss specific social issues with the policy makers.

The Council's role as social commentator, particularly through media sources, continues to strengthen. The

Council's reaction to social issues is commonly featured by reporters from all facets of the media.

Membership Drive

In an effort to expand its membership base, the Council initiated a drive which increased the number of members by 11 per cent. It is hoped the membership will continue to increase.

Public Education

The Council's 1990 newsletters addressed the topics listed below:

First Reading:

- The Hyndman Report: Which End of the Rainbow?
- Let's Put People in Urban Planning
- A Look at Welfare Reform
- Looking Back, Stepping Forward

Alberta Facts:

- Poverty and Illness: An Unhealthy Connection
- Women and Poverty: What Gender Engenders

Brown Bag Lunches

The Council's lunch time learning series was offered twice in 1990 and both Brown Bag Lunches were well attended. The topics addressed were:

"Canada and its Impoverished Children: What does the Future Hold?"

Co-presenters: Martin Garber-Conrad
Margaret Duncan

"Breadlines: Then and Now"

Presenter: Marjorie Benz, Executive Director of the Edmonton Food Bank.

Board of Directors

Executive

Michael Phair	President
Elizabeth Massiah	Vice-President
Jeff Pearson	Vice-President
Bev Decore	Vice-President

Members at Large

John Copoc*	Tim Hartnagel
Stephen Crocker	Heather Konrad
Papiya Das	Elvira Leibovitz
Gordon Fearn*	Carolyn Pettifer
Meg Hagerty	Iris Sulyma
Pat Hagey	Lilian West

Staff

Jonathan Murphy	Executive Director
Peter Faid*	Executive Director
Margaret Duncan*	Senior Planner
Jennifer Hyndman	Social Planner
Laurie Kolada	Communications Coordinator
Diane Goodall	Administrative Secretary
Kathie Sutherland	Office and Communications Assistant
Matt Kuefler	Project Staff
Stu Hemerling	Project Staff
Karen Potts	Student Practicum
Pratima Rao	Summer Student
Maureen Irwin*	Volunteer

*resigned during the year

Edmonton Social Planning Council
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the Year Ended December 31, 1990

	<u>1990</u> (Budget) (Unaudited) (Note 4)	<u>1990</u> (Actual)	<u>1989</u> (Actual)
Revenue			
United Way allocation	\$ 173,226	\$ 181,226	\$ 166,563
Project revenues (Schedule I)	101,400	76,943	77,708
Government grants			
City of Edmonton	19,000	19,000	18,500
Province of Alberta	2,500	-	4,556
Federal Government	6,000	2,226	6,136
Casino (Schedule II)	-	-	25,969
Other receipts (Schedule III)	12,500	15,666	9,737
50th Anniversary (Schedule V)	<u>29,140</u>	<u>22,149</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>343,766</u>	<u>317,210</u>	<u>309,169</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and benefits	194,104	207,191	183,352
Project expenses (Schedule I)	24,000	12,090	36,721
Office expenses (Schedule IV)	25,000	20,472	22,511
Building occupancy	21,000	21,269	20,641
50th Anniversary Celebration (Schedule V)	31,540	35,214	352
Professional services	15,400	12,418	-
Professional fees (Schedule IV)	7,000	7,416	8,433
First reading	15,000	4,748	11,737
Promotion and publicity	3,000	3,101	1,016
Meetings	2,100	3,078	2,117
Miscellaneous	1,900	3,065	1,897
Recruitment and education	2,500	2,167	3,163
Insurance	1,620	1,355	1,355
Library	1,200	949	1,182
Agency publications	2,500	311	3,580
Transportation	700	256	510
Research	<u>2,000</u>	<u>220</u>	<u>1,000</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures	<u>\$ 350,564</u> <u>(6,798)</u>	<u>\$ 335,320</u> <u>(18,110)</u>	<u>\$ 299,567</u> <u>9,602</u>

Edmonton Social Planning Council

Statement of Members' Equity

For the Year Ended December 31, 1990

	<u>1990</u>	<u>1989</u>
<u>EQUITY IN CAPITAL ASSETS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 37,134	\$ 29,828
Capital Asset Additions During the Year	3,169	7,306
Balance, End of Year	\$ <u>40,303</u>	\$ <u>37,134</u>
<u>APPROPRIATED FUNDS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 18,006	\$ 9,055
Add: Transfer from Unappropriated Funds	<u>2,489</u>	<u>25,969</u>
	20,495	35,024
Deduct: Transfer to Unappropriated Funds	<u>(16,567)</u>	<u>(17,018)</u>
Balance, End of Year	\$ <u>3,928</u>	\$ <u>18,006</u>
<u>UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 9,385	\$ 8,734
Add:		
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over		
Expenditures	(18,110)	9,602
Transfer from Appropriated Fund	<u>16,567</u>	<u>17,018</u>
	<u>7,842</u>	<u>35,354</u>
Deduct: Transfer to Appropriated Funds		
Interest earned on casino account	(649)	(881)
Specified donation	(1,840)	-
Net income from casino	<u>-</u>	<u>(25,088)</u>
	<u>(2,489)</u>	<u>(25,969)</u>
Balance, End of Year	\$ <u>5,353</u>	\$ <u>9,385</u>

Notes on the financial statements:

The statement of revenue and expenditures and the statement of members' equity have been extracted from the December 31, 1990 financial statements as audited by Bruha, Whelan & Hawkings. The financial statements are available from the Council offices.

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