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2005 President's Report As President of this past year, I see my tenure at the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) with a visionary point of view, highlighted with perspectives on some of the Council's opportunities and challenges. The Council has been tested on weighing and balancing its strategy on social issues while being at the grassroots level as an active organization – whether with other social agencies or as a direct social justice “voice” to our members, stakeholders, governments and to all Edmontonians.

Motion. Change. Progress. The Council has been in constant motion, like the changing climate of social issues that affect our local communities. Did you know the Council has an infamous reputation for being in existence for over 65 years? Does that make us needed? Are we relevant in today's society? How are we viewed next to other local social agencies?

In recent years, but particularly this last year, the Council has been vocal in its stance and position on the social determinants of health – how our quality of living on such aspects as employment, housing and income, can affect our everyday well-being. We produced a report that created strong interest from the provincial government. This led to a presentation from ESPC staff, with board representation and support, to the Government of Alberta's Standing Policy Committee on Health.

The Council participated in the Inclusive Cities Canada project, working together a network of cities to share in the learning of social inclusion. Locally, the Inclusive Cities Edmonton project examined inclusion through multicultural initiatives, with meetings from city councillors and senior management from the City of Edmonton.

The ESPC has provided input, influence and involvement in a variety of ways, from the neighbourhood level to other social planning councils.

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

The Council has participated in mutual projects and programs with other agencies, worked with various government levels and departments, and provided research analysis and assistance to support dialogue for community education and planning.

As the Council offices are located in the inner city, the organization was the main tenant in organizing the Sacred Heart Collective by working alongside other not-for-profit agencies and coordinating community use of shared space for inner city programming and events. For almost three years, the Council has been able to play an active part, right in the heart of the city.

In the coming year, we will engage with other social planning councils across Canada to share best practices, utilize knowledge and skills, and create dynamic relationships.

Our operational plan will also move forward to direct Council in its programming, and in turn, ensure that board governance is effective and accountable in supporting these activities.

The Council co-chairs with the Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Human Resources and Employment on the Strategic Alliance on Low Income Issues. Council has an ongoing voice on this matter as an advocate for increasing the minimum wage in Alberta and we hope our hard work had some direct impact on the recent provincial changes to the minimum wage standards. There have been other highlights, which Susan Morrissey, our new Executive Director, will detail further in her operational report.

To change is to adjust, adapt and evolve. Transition involves regeneration, which brings about new ideas, collaborative projects, relationships and networking, and hopefully, as a result, takes us closer to what we all value and strive for – a healthy, just and inclusive community.

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

From the board front, I welcome our new board members that have dedicated their time and experience to maintaining and enhancing Council governance. We have had unfortunate farewells to board members who work and study elsewhere. Exceptional staff who have paved the operational way over the last few years have moved onto other opportunities, making a stronger foundation for our new Executive Director in developing her vision to carry the Council "torch" forward.

Stronger relations with the United Way, Alberta Capital Region, has also been a positive highlight and will continue as the Council's operational plan is implemented and rolled out for 2006.

So, progress has occurred, will persist, and build as the Council moves forth. The ESPC offices will soon have a new home at the Trinity Building, where other like-minded organizations operate. This will allow us to work even closer together for the betterment of local citizens by building bridges and creating impact and influence on social issues and policies.

I invite the Council membership to play an active role in our organization – become a board or committee volunteer, visit our new offices, view our website - take charge and be a part of the change.

Jenny Wong
Board President
Edmonton Social Planning Council
2005 - 2006

**2005 Executive
Director's
Operational Report**

The Council staff were very active in the areas of research, advocacy and community collaboration. The following provides a highlight of the work of the Council's staff in 2005.

**Social Determinants of
Health (SDOH)**

- Release of the SDOH Report
- Presentation with community partners to the Alberta Government Standing Policy Committee
- Presentation to the National Rural Health Association (U.S.)
- Involvement in Alberta Healthy Living Network Health Disparities Committee and the Alberta Social and Health Equities Network (ASHEN)

Inclusive Cities Canada (ICC)

- Participation in review of the final report
- Participation in the National Symposium on Building a New Canada: Meeting the Civic Challenges of Social Inclusion

Inclusive Cities Edmonton

- Ongoing meetings with City of Edmonton Councillors and City Managers to discuss ways to support inclusion initiatives

**Vibrant Communities
Edmonton**

- Member of the Steering Committee

Living Wage Campaign

- Participation in the initial dialogue and planning with Public Interest Alberta
- Development of a research agenda
- Analyzing and interpretation of the Statistics Canada data for Edmonton

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

- Strategic Alliance on Low Income Issues
- Co-chair of the Strategic Alliance with Assistant Deputy Minister for Alberta Human Resources and Employment (AHRE)
 - Participation with other community agencies, businesses, and post-secondary education representatives in providing feedback to AHRE on low income policy issues
- Sacred Heart Collective and Community Bookings
- Coordinated the use of the Sacred Heart gymnasium, meetings room and kitchen by over 40 user groups (over 9,206 participants in 2005)
 - Provided support to six community social support agencies and cultural groups
 - Provided research assistance to a community group

In addition, as of January 2005, the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice formally separated operations from the Council.

- Public Events
- Annual General Meeting held in May 2005 with brief presentations by Connie Serink, WIN House/Edmonton Woman's Shelter Ltd; Pat McGoey, Alberta Quality of Life Commission; and Lori Shortreed, Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice.
 - Co-hosted with Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations a discussion facilitated by Alberta Community Development with approximately 20 voluntary sector agencies to provide feedback to the Voluntary Sector Awareness Project. The overall purpose of this project is to develop an awareness campaign aimed at increasing the knowledge of the public of the vital contributions the voluntary sector makes.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

- ESPC Seasonal Celebration was held in December with participation by ESPC members, community agency representatives, and elected officials from the provincial and federal levels of government.
- ESPC staff was actively involved in the Annual Inner City Barbeque held in July 2005, which was sponsored by the Urban Core Support Network (UCSN), of which the Council is a member of.

Resources

Reports

- Inclusive Cities Canada - Edmonton Community Voices, Perspectives and Priorities (March 2005)
- Creating Social and Health Equity: Adopting an Alberta Social Determinants of Health Framework (May 2005)
- Community Based Research - The Sacred Heart Collective: An Effective Use of a Closed School? (October 2005)

fACTivist

- Social determinants of health - Spring 2005
- Integration of the social determinants of health - Fall 2005

Information Sheets

- Becoming an Inclusive City - March 2005
- Social Determinants of Health - May 2005

Other

- Online Annotated Bibliography
- Advocacy Toolkit
- Inclusion PowerPoint Presentation - Embracing Diversity: How Inclusive is our City? What Edmontonians Told Us.

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

ESPC Staff
(as of December 2005)

Susan Morrissey- Executive Director
Phil O'Hara - Research & Policy Analysis Coordinator
Ashley Carlson - Research Assistant/Communications
Hector Campos - Sacred Heart Facilities Host

Special thanks to the staff and Board of Directors of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for their dedication and hard work towards a healthy, just and inclusive community.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Morrissey
Executive Director

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES 2005/2006**FIRST TERM CANDIDATES****Michael Austin**

Michael Austin has worked in the health sector for over 20 years. From 1999 to the present, he has been the Executive Operations Officer for the Department of Dentistry and Dental Teaching Hospital located at the University of Alberta campus. Michael has also facilitated quality improvement workshops for the Canadian Council for Health Services Accreditation and taught a community health planning course in the Health Administration program at Athabasca University. Michael has a Masters degree in Health Services Administration and Bachelor of Arts degree. He has also completed training in leadership, coaching, quality improvement, and facilitation of group processes. Michael was treasurer of the former Millcreek Child Care Education Society.

Larry Brockman

For 25 years Larry has worked in community service organizations doing tasks from reception to fundraiser to executive director. As Executive Director of a non-profit organization Larry manages a team of 11 staff and a budget of \$650,000. He has held a range of positions on boards of national organizations to small totally voluntary neighbourhood organizations with no staff, no money and lots of challenges.

Organizational planning is one of Larry's key strengths. He has facilitated and co-facilitated a variety of planning workshops, retreats and conferences including the monitoring of the implementation of the work plans developed through these events

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Diane Dennis

Diane Dennis is a Ph.D. Candidate in the Department of Human Ecology at the University of Alberta. In her dissertation, she is focusing on the relationship between economic insecurity (instability of source and amount of income over time) and the behavioural development of children between infancy and school entry. She has been awarded a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council Doctoral Fellowship as well as an Alberta Heritage Foundation for Medical Research Studentship Incentive Award during her program of study. She received her M.Sc. from the U of A in 1988, and subsequently worked as an independent research consultant for several years and then as a project manager at the Population Research Laboratory at the University of Alberta prior to returning to school. She has carried out evaluation and policy research for a range of government programs and community service programs relating to the well-being of families and children.

Douglas Meggison

Doug Meggison has been engaged in social activism since his Edmonton high school days. He has done community service through participation in social justice initiatives such as building protests against the illegal, immoral and unjust war on Iraq. Doug has served on the Board of Trustees of the Edmonton Public Library, the Community Investment Committee of the Capital Region United Way and joined the Board of the ESPC in 2005. Doug Meggison has been working for a health care sector trade union since 1999. He lives in the Old Strathcona neighbourhood with his wife, Marie Chidley.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Alba Valderrama

Alba Valderrama is a registered social worker and holds an MSW. She has been with the City of Edmonton Community Services Department since 1990. Currently she works as a Social Planner with the Family & Community Support Services (FCSS). Her work involves working with the community to facilitate the delivery of preventive social services in Edmonton by identifying and evaluating social issues and needs, implementing appropriate research and project management and preparing social analysis to initiate and support policy and program development.

Alba worked as social worker with the City of Edmonton Community Services for 13 years. She also has skill in international development and has completed community projects in Colombia and Brazil. In February 2003, Alba presented "The Making Connections Model: A Three-Phase Program for Women in Abusive Relationships" at the Impact of Global Issues on Women and Children Conference in Thailand.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

**CONTINUING 1ST TERM
CANDIDATES****Ron MacLellan**

After moving to Edmonton from Fort McMurray in 2000, Ron took a job at one of Edmonton's non-profit, inner-city social service agencies. Bissell Centre provided an invaluable, ground-level introduction to the myriad socio-political issues facing many of our city's less fortunate citizens. After working with people on low income through the "Our Voice" street paper program, Ron began working with the Edmonton John Howard Society at Independence Apartments, one of the Society's halfway houses for federal inmates on day parole. While still working with the John Howard Society in Edmonton, Ron has recently begun full-time work at Gunn Centre, northwest of Edmonton. The Gunn Centre is a government-owned and -operated transitional housing facility for men who are homeless and are likely to have mental health difficulties, be in recovery from substance abuse, and/or experience other social barriers to self-sufficiency.

Joscelyn Proby

Joscelyn Proby is a frontline social worker with ABC Head Start, where she has worked for the last four years with low-income families and their preschool children. She emigrated from the United Kingdom in 1978 with the British equivalent of a BSW from the London School Economics. She also has an MA in Journalism from the University of Western Ontario, and was a journalist for about 12 years in Saskatchewan, Toronto and Alberta before returning to social work.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued
**CONTINUING 2nd TERM
CANDIDATES**

Terry Anderson

Terry Anderson is a professor of Distance Education at Athabasca University. He is past president of the Riverdale Community League and founder of the North Country Fair. Terry has interest and expertise in research related to many issue of concern of the Edmonton Social Planning Council including housing and community development. He is married to Susan Anderson, who is a pastoral counsellor, and they are the parents of two University age children. Terry has lived in Edmonton for the past 12 years.

Jenny Wong

Jenny has been a board member of the ESPC since 2002 and is currently the board chair. She has sat on the policy, board recruitment and executive committees and has enjoyed and learned much from the council's growth and its contributions within Edmonton's social justice environment. In her work life, she is a communications professional with experience in the health care, library, non-profit and publishing sectors. She also volunteers for other worthy causes, and in her spare time, enjoys travel, cooking, dance, music, arts and culture.

MINUTES of the 2005 Annual General Meeting / May 17, 2005**1. Welcome and
President's Remarks**

The meeting was convened by Bryan Sandilands, President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, who welcomed everyone and delivered brief opening comments. He noted that he has been on the Board for three years, and chair of the Board for a year-and-a-half. He commented that he had found it a tremendous learning experience, and noted that the Board has done a lot of work in the last three years to provide stability and direction to the Council.

2. Approval of Agenda**Motion: to adopt the agenda.**

Moved: Terry Anderson

Seconded: Doug Meggison

CARRIED

**3. Approval of
Minutes of 2004
Annual General Meeting****Motion: to approve the Minutes of the 2004
Annual General Meeting**

Moved: Jenny Wong

Seconded: Leonel Roldan-Flores

CARRIED

4. President's Report

In addition to the formal report printed in the Annual Report, Bryan Sandilands spoke about the work of the Council that went into the development of the Strategic Plan that is being presented to the membership at this meeting.

In the spring of 2003, the Council embarked on a series of community consultations with stakeholders. The Board saw this as an opportunity to connect with partners and stakeholders, and to help the Council to update and to define our role in the community. After studying the analysis of the reports of those consultations, and after joining Board/Staff meetings, a revised mission and vision were presented to the membership for approval at the last Annual General Meeting. Bryan commented that the major task of this past year was to take the next step and to put the mission and vision into a three-year strategic plan that would define our key businesses and outline our goals.

MINUTES continued

Mr. Sandilands then presented the *Strategic Actions, May 2005 to May 2008* document that was in the package each member received at the meeting. He noted that the first few pages were preamble that described the development of the report. On page 4, the two core functions of Social Policy Research and Evaluation, and Community Supports Design, are described and defined, and four goals are detailed. Finally, the document sets out performance measures for the years 2006, 2007 and 2008. Bryan Sandilands expressed the hope that an annual survey will be carried out, so that our partners and stakeholders will be consulted and will help us evaluate our progress over the years.

In conclusion, Mr. Sandilands noted that this Strategic Actions report is not a final document, but a starting point for discussion. He commented that it is a living document and the Board welcomes feedback, as it should make sense to all of our members and stakeholders.

5. Operational Report

Bryan Sandilands introduced Interim Executive Director, Phil O'Hara, who presented the Operational Report for the year 2004. Mr. O'Hara commented that a fairly extensive description of the year's activity was printed in the Annual Report, bulleted for ease of reading, and recommended that members look at that for a comprehensive list of the work of the past year. However, he did highlight 3 important areas of our work.

Our move to Sacred Heart has allowed us to provide community groups free access to the gymnasiums, kitchen and other meeting areas in the school. This has been very successful and these areas are in use almost 100% of the time that we have available. Further, Mr. O'Hara highlighted the section entitled Spreading the News in the report. He thanked John Pater for this expertise and all his work in developing new communication materials that are presented in the

MINUTES continued

format and style that the community and media are looking for and can easily understand. Finally, Phil O'Hara recognized the hard work that was done by Nicola Fairbrother in working with the government to develop the Strategic Alliance - a group of stakeholders from government, the nonprofit sector, and the business sector who will convene to discuss issues that are important to people who are living on low income, and provides the opportunity to dialogue directly with the Assistant Deputy Minister of Human Resources and Employment. He commented that this Alliance is quite unique in the country, and that our partners in other provinces are surprised and impressed that we have been able to develop this in Alberta. Mr. O'Hara expressed the hope that next year we will be able to report on some of the successes of this initiative.

6. Presentation of Financial Statements

Michael Epp, of Hawkings Epp Dumont, reviewed the audited financial statements of the Council, reporting on the behalf of the Board to the members, and on behalf of Trevor Dodd, who performed the on-site audit. The financial statements were reviewed by both the Finance Committee and the Board prior to this meeting.

Mr. Epp noted that the Council is currently in a sound financial position. Although there was a small operating deficit of about \$15,000 recorded in the current year, the Council has accumulated about \$81,000 in unrestricted surplus over the 65 years that it has been in existence. This could be considered a "rainy day fund" and Mr. Epp commented that in the opinion of the auditors this is an appropriate amount of surplus funds to be held by a nonprofit organization of this size.

Mr. Epp noted that the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice, which was a project of the Council in 2004,

MINUTES continued

became independent on January 1, 2005. The income statements presented in the financial report represent the revenue and expenditures of the Council without the ECEJ project, allowing for comparisons with next year's figures. The operations of ECEJ in 2004 resulted in a surplus of approximately \$2700, which is shown on the income statements as a surplus from discontinued operations. The detailed financial statements including detail of the operations of the ECEJ, are included in the members' packages.

Finally, Mr. Epp presented graphs that depicted the sources of revenue for the Council, noting that the percentages from each source are not significantly different from last year. He also showed a pictorial representation of expenses by department, commenting that, as you would expect, most of the expenditures were in the Community Development Department. Salaries formed the largest type of expense, as is typical in an organization of this nature.

Mr. Epp concluded that the Council had a successful year, and he wished the Council all the best for the future.

Motion: to approve the financial statements

Moved: Rick Szostak

Seconded: Terry Anderson

CARRIED

Motion: to confirm Hawkins Epp Dumont as auditor of the 2005 financial statements

Moved: Rick Szostak

Seconded: Jenny Wong

CARRIED

MINUTES continued

7. Policy Committee Report
on Bylaw Changes

Jenny Wong reported on behalf of Mayja Embleton, who is Chair of the Policy Committee, but was unable to be at this meeting. In introducing Jenny, Bryan Sandilands commented that work on bylaws does not usually get a lot of acclaim; it is the work of unsung heroes but is nonetheless vital to the health of the organization. He thanked the policy committee for doing a fabulous job in revising the bylaws.

Jenny Wong noted that there were no revolutionary changes in the bylaws. The significant changes were distributed to each member prior to the meeting; several other changes were made to correct grammatical errors and to cut down on the duplication and repetition. The document, with all changes tracked, has been on the website for 21 days, for members to review, and a copy of the revised document was included in the members' packages.

Special Resolution: to repeal the existing bylaws and replace them with the revised bylaws as presented.

Moved: Jenny Wong

Seconded: Terry Anderson

CARRIED. No Opposed.

8. Nominating Committee
Report

Bryan Sandilands presented the Nominating Committee report on the behalf of the chair, Cindy Olsen, who was unable to attend this meeting. Mr. Sandilands noted that serving on the Nominating Committee was one of the most rewarding parts of his work on the Board, as he is fortunate to be able to meet and speak with the skilled and dedicated individuals who are willing to offer their time to support the work of the Council.

MINUTES continued

The following slate first term candidates were presented:

First Term Candidates

George Belcourt
Imad Kaddoura
Wayde Lever
Ron MacLellan

Mr. Sandilands summarized the qualifications of George Belcourt, who was unable to attend this meeting, and asked each of the others to give a short summary of their own experience.

Motion: to approve the slate of first term candidates as presented.

Moved: Terry Anderson
Seconded: Jenny Wong
CARRIED

Bryan Sandilands then opened the floor to further nominations.

Doug Meggison nominated Joscelyn Proby as a first term Board Candidate. Seconded by Leonel Roldan Flores.

CARRIED.

The following slate for Second Term Candidates for the Board was presented:

Terry Anderson
Mayja Embleton
Cindy Olsen
Jenny Wong

Motion: to approve the slate of second term candidates as presented.

Moved: Leonel Roldan Flores
Seconded: Wayde Lever
CARRIED.

MINUTES continued

9. Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Bryan Sandilands recognized the considerable contributions of Board members who are retiring this year. As well as contributing to the ongoing work of the Board for three years, Marcel Labbe was instrumental in finding the Council's new home at Sacred Heart School. Peter Rothe contributed his expertise in research, and Marilyn Corbett chaired the Finance Committee, another unsung hero role. Finally, Bryan recognized the outstanding work of John Henderson in his support of the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice, and his ongoing contribution as Chair of the Board of that organization as it is now independent.

10. ESPC 65th Anniversary Historical Moments

Bryan Sandilands noted that the Council is very proud of its 65-year history, and particularly of the role the Council has played in the development of some wonderful organizations that have contributed to the social development of the Edmonton community over the years. To honour that history, the Council invited representatives of three of the organizations that we nurtured, and asked them to speak briefly about the history of the organization and its ties to ESPC.

Bryan first introduced Connie Serink, Volunteer and Community Relations Coordinator of WIN House/Edmonton Women's Shelter Ltd. Connie presented a short history of WIN House, and detailed its growth and success since it was first developed by the Council in 1968.

Pat McGoey, of the Quality of Life Commission, also spoke of the work that the Commission has done, particularly related to publications *Listen to Me* and *Listen to the Children*, which have had an impact on the Edmonton community. Pat noted that these publications would not have been possible without the support of the Edmonton Social Planning Council and its staff, who helped with the development of the Commission in 1994, and have been supportive ever since.

MINUTES continued

In conclusion, Lori Shortreed, Executive Director of the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice, described the work of the ECEJ to provide pro bono legal services to low income Edmontonians. She noted that their services are unique in Edmonton in that they provide legal services in conjunction with the services of a social workers. This wonderful service combination would not have been possible without the foresight of Nicola Fairbrother, who recognized that the clients of the Centre are presenting with a legal need, but that there are also many underlying, lifestyle issues that need to be addressed. As the new Executive Director of ECEJ, Lori commented that she is the lucky beneficiary of all the hard work that was done by the Council to make the centre successful.

Bryan Sandilands thanked all of the presenters for bringing their snapshot of the work of the Council over the past 65 years.

Before adjournment, Bryan Sandilands conducted a short exercise to determine which person present at the meeting had been a member of the Council for the longest time. Lois Soderstrom has been a member since 1989, and Byran also recognized that her husband, Roger Soderstrom, had donated the money for the Roger Soderstrom library, which the Council maintains as a service to the Edmonton community. Lois was asked to cut the anniversary cake.

11. Adjournment

There being no further business, Rick Szostak moved to adjourn.