THE EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Assisting Citizens
to Help Themselves

The Edmonton Social Planning Council is aware that there is a great diversity of backgrounds, skills and perspectives in a community.

Through consultation, our supportive materials and training workshops are carefully chosen to suit the needs and goals of each citizen group or organization with whom we work.

Such individualized programs can best strengthen the community's valuable resources and support the voluntary efforts of its citizens.

COSTS:

In providing services in the community, the Edmonton Social Planning Council operates in a non-profit capacity. It is financed by the United Way and other grants, project funding and fees.

When a fee is to be charged to a citizen group or organization, calculations are based on actual costs and the financial position of the client.

Membership in the Edmonton Social Planning Council is free.

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A UNITED WAY AGENCY

For further information:
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#418 Baker Building
10010 - 105 Street
Edmonton, Alberta   T5J 1C4

Telephone: 424-0331

SERVICES:

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides support services to complement the voluntary efforts of citizens in community planning and decision-making. We direct our services to volunteer citizen groups and to organizations working with and on behalf of citizens to focus on community objectives and ways of achieving them. We will not make decisions for a community, but will give citizens in that community information, ideas, techniques and support that will enable them to make the best decisions themselves. We will also provide a consulting and training service for professionals with organizations and government agencies involved in working with communities.

Consultation, Materials and Training Workshops are available or are being developed in the following topic areas:

ORGANIZATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FOR CITIZEN GROUPS
- how to start up new organizations
- expanding and/or refining roles for existing groups
- plans for planning: the development of goals and strategies for longer term purposes
- organizational structures and action systems which can be developed to carry out goals and strategies

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
- accepted Community Development/ Organization techniques
- innovative techniques, e.g. community theatre, community development corporations
- motivation of citizens

- researching community needs
- leadership training
- community systems

PLANNING AND EVALUATION FOR CITIZEN GROUPS
- the planning process
- setting goals, strategies
- how to evaluate - who, what, uses of evaluation
- demonstration projects

URBAN POLICIES
- social, economic, political systems of a city
- policies of City of Edmonton that affect communities
- how to have input into policy-making

CITIZEN BOARDS
- types - what is a Board?
- board/staff relations
- planning for a Board
- recruitment
- orientation
- structure
- effective meetings
- legal responsibilities
- the role of a Board Chairman
- identifying skills among the Board membership
- effective utilization of resources

COMMUNITY RESOURCES
- problem identification
  - determining community needs
- strategy to meet needs
- identification of resources
- effective utilization of resources

COMMUNITY PLANNING LAW
- municipal and provincial policies and laws
- administrative laws
- procedural rules
- what the law can do for you and what its limitations may be
- legal resources

WORKING WITH CITIZENS
- citizen participation
  - rationale
  - forms and processes
- motivating people
- communication/information
- positive utilization of human resources

CHANGE...BEYOND THE STATUS QUO
- why change?
- characteristics of change
- factors that facilitate change
- making the most of change
- local systems and their potential for change
- roles for the change agent
- who makes the decisions...?
- case studies of policies and decisions that affect the individual citizen

CONSULTING AND TRAINING FOR PROFESSIONALS
- identification of key social objectives which can be operationalized in the organization
- staff participation, role clarification and commitment to social objectives
- problem solving: models for managing social change from an organizational perspective
- building effective task forces
- attaining community cooperation and commitment
- evaluation: priorities, budgets and performance appraisal.