



### **Kirk MacDonald—President**

The Edmonton Social Planning Council's 57th year will be remembered for the Beyond Economic Growth Conference which took place in the fall of 1997 preceding the provincial government's own Alberta Growth Summit. Our conference was attended by over 150 people and the outcome was a set of recommendations that were passed on to the social economy sector of the Growth Summit. While hindsight suggests it is pretty well business as usual for the government, the most promising outcome from the whole exercise has been the fact that more people began to question government policies and discuss issues.

We published four editions of our social issues magazine *First Reading* and three fact sheets, two of which reported the federal and provincial governments' working records in the areas of social services, education and health care. These fact sheets were developed through collaboration with several local organizations and were produced to coincide with the provincial and federal elections in the spring.

The Council also released the Edmonton LIFE (Local Indicators For Excellence) report, a collaborative effort to devise a set of quality of life indicators for Edmonton. This project was coordinated by the Council and involved the University of Alberta, members of the business community, the municipal government and the social sector in the articulation of shared priorities. This joint project will continue to develop a yearly report to monitor the progress of the identified set of indicators.

The Council continued work on a number of projects including a seniors gambling study, a not-for-profit sector funding study, an update to our 1996 Food Bank Study and a review of children's services initiatives. We also continued in our role as the provincial coordinator for the national parenting program Nobody's Perfect.

All in all it was a busy and productive year and I am proud to have served as the Council's President.

### **Brian Bechtel—Executive Director**

The Edmonton Social Planning Council maintained a consistently high profile through 1997, but the public advocacy work that is reported through the media is only a small portion of what the Council staff and Board do throughout the year.

One of the most interesting projects was our analysis of Statistics Canada Low Income Cut Offs (LICOs). When we divided LICO in half to approximate a rough definition of absolute poverty, we found that Edmonton could be described as the child poverty capital of Canada for 1995 and that Alberta's social assistance rates and policy are contributing to the number of people living in extreme poverty. We used this information, and its dismissal by the Minister of Family and Social Services, as an opportunity to begin talking about what an acceptable minimum standard should be. This will be a major part of our work in 1998.

Throughout 1997 we met with various government representatives at both the political and administrative levels. We have attempted to maintain a professional relationship, but unfortunately within the current environment our relations have become strained. I regret the lack of support from government for groups raising concerns about public policy.

The Alberta Growth Summit proved to be the focal point of 1997 in Alberta public policy and the Council ensured its vision was represented when we hosted a mini-summit in the fall. Our Beyond Economic Growth conference identified, discussed and brought forward key strategic directions and actions needed to foster and support strong, healthy communities for all Albertans. From the conference we put forward many recommendations and it is our hope that some will be heard.

The staff complement remained very stable throughout the year. As a team, I think the staff is getting stronger and more experienced every day. We also have lots of fun together, which is healthy given the weight of the issues that confront us. I found the Board of Directors of 1997 to be committed, energetic and strong in their support of the ESPC. It is a pleasure to be a part of this team.

### Statement of Operations (Year Ended Dec. 31, 1997)

	1997 (Budget)	1997 (Actual)	1996 (Actual)
<b>Revenue</b>			
General revenues			
Project revenue	336,050	199,956	40,610
United Way allocation	171,293	176,784	173,556
Donations	-	47,001	365
Publications	-	15,204	13,563
Other receipts	27,000	11,047	12,546
Wage subsidies	-	9,817	16,777
Casino	-	1,177	33
	<u>534,343</u>	<u>460,986</u>	<u>257,450</u>
Government grants			
Federal Government	-	139,511	361,691
Provincial Government	-	114,919	7,000
City of Edmonton	21,500	21,125	22,250
	<u>21,500</u>	<u>275,555</u>	<u>390,941</u>
	<u>555,843</u>	<u>736,541</u>	<u>648,391</u>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Project expenses	382,743	565,175	431,044
Salaries and benefits	95,000	95,198	123,343
Building occupancy	27,000	21,588	25,335
Office expenses	28,500	19,874	16,143
Professional fees	12,000	10,608	13,455
Other expenses	5,000	5,189	5,796
Insurance	1,100	1,600	1,400
Internet expenses	-	1,324	1,152
Recruitment and education	1,500	1,211	240
Transportation	1,000	432	21
Research	-	-	17
Miscellaneous	2,000	-	-
Amortization	-	6,424	8,556
	<u>\$555,843</u>	<u>\$728,623</u>	<u>\$626,502</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	<u>-</u>	<u>7,918</u>	<u>21,889</u>

### Statement of Net Assets (Year Ended Dec. 31, 1997)

	Invested in Capital Assets	Unrestricted Surplus	Total
Balance, beginning of year	9,605	19,055	28,660
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	7,918	7,918
Amortization of capital assets	(6,424)	6,424	-
Purchase of capital assets	5,337	(5,337)	-
Disposal of capital assets	(425)	425	-
Balance, end of year	<u>8,093</u>	<u>28,485</u>	<u>36,578</u>

Notes on financial statements:

The statement of operations and the statement of net assets have been extracted from the December 31, 1997 financial statements as audited by Hawkings Epp Dumont.

The financial statements are available from the Council office.

### **Children's Services Initiative Monitoring Project**

The monitoring project is designed to provide an independent community analysis of the effectiveness of the public monitoring mechanisms developed to protect the interests of children in the new privatized child welfare system.

### **Community Calendar Project: Voices In Action**

This yearly calendar features inspiring stories and portraits of individuals and families who are living (or have lived) on social assistance. It also features several local, innovative community development projects. The calendar dispels the myths associated with living in poverty and educates the public on issues surrounding income security.

### **Edmonton Food Bank User Survey**

This survey of over 200 food bank recipients will supplement the findings of the 1996 Food Bank Study, while providing better information about some specific policy areas such as benefit denial and child welfare involvement.

### **Edmonton LIFE: Local Indicators For Excellence**

Edmonton LIFE is a community-based, multi-sectoral, quality of life indicators project. It is the first project of its kind in Canada. It is also the first project in Edmonton to involve the University, the business community, municipal government and the social sector in the articulation of shared priorities.

### **First Reading, Alberta Facts**

The Council publishes a quarterly magazine called *First Reading*—Alberta's Social Issues Magazine. Each issue is devoted to a specific social issue such as child poverty or income security and it features articles written by experts and people at the grassroots. *Alberta Facts* is an eight-page fact sheet which is statistics based. It also focuses on a specific subject such as hunger in Edmonton.

### **GMCC Demonstration Day Care Strategic Plan**

The Council is helping Grant MacEwan Community College Demonstration Day Care to develop a role review and strategic plan for its two Day Care Centres. An Advisory Committee is guiding the planning process.

### **Nobody's Perfect**

The Council is provincial coordinator of this national parenting program which is an educational program for parents of children from birth to age five. It meets the needs of young, single, low-income, socially or geographically isolated parents or parents with limited formal education. The program itself is offered through community-based organizations with the Council providing support, training and materials.



### **Nobody's Perfect—Community Parenting Program**

This demonstration project models a variation on the traditional Nobody's Perfect parenting program. Two Edmonton sites (Eastwood Public Health Centre and Edmonton Chinese Community Services Centre) will provide services to isolated parents through one-to-one interactions with other parents in the community.

### **Not-for-Profit Sector Funding Study**

This is a research project which looks at funding trends within the not-for-profit charitable sector. It will include the collection and analysis of quantitative data, as well as discussion groups.

### **Performing Arts North**

Three local host communities will take part in this demonstration project which supports the delivery of music and dance classes to 'at-risk' children while promoting community development activities.

### **Seniors Gambling Study**

The Council is developing the framework for a treatment and support program for seniors with gambling problems. Responding directly to community needs, this project centres on a partnership between seniors' organizations and gambling/addictions agencies.

### **Yakutsk Municipal Democratization Project**

This is the first international project in which the Council has been involved. The aim is to assist the Siberian city of Yakutsk in the design and implementation of basic social planning structures and processes.

**Mark Anielski**

Mark is a senior consultant with GPC (Government Policy Consultants) responsible for providing government and industry with strategic public policy advice in the areas of forestry, energy, climate change and performance measurement. He was formerly with Alberta Treasury, involved in the development of "Measuring Up" and performance measures for the Alberta Government. Mark is a professional environmental economist and has held senior policy advisory positions with Alberta Environmental Protection and Alberta Forestry, Lands and Wildlife.

**Frank Berland**

Frank graduated from the University of Regina in 1994 with a specialized degree in Indian Social Work. Since 1993, Frank has been actively involved in the Metis Nation of Alberta and has served as a Justice subcommittee advisor. He has worked as a Native Program Coordinator, Child Welfare Worker Assistant, Child Care Counsellor, Academic Counsellor, Special Constable (RCMP) and is currently employed as an Assistant Investigator with the Alberta Family and Social Services Fraud Investigation Unit. Frank is an active advocate and contributes to community representation and community development.

**Karren Brown**

Karren was born and raised in Edmonton and has lived most of her life in the northeast end of the city. She obtained a B. Ed. from the University of Alberta. Instead of pursuing a career in teaching, Karren was a constable with the Edmonton Police Service for 16 years, 10 of which were spent as a street police officer. She has done volunteer work for her children's school, her community league, the Edmonton John Howard Society and the Salvation Army. Karren does temporary office work while raising her teenage daughter and two other teens.

**Sharon Downs**

Sharon is trained as a psychiatric nurse and having graduated with a Masters degree in Health Services Administration, she has over 25 years in the field of health services. Her experience covers the area of community health, mental health and acute and long term care. Sharon is the owner and President of Western Health Planning Associates, an Edmonton-based health services management consulting company. Sharon is involved in a number of volunteer and community development activities and sits on numerous committees and advisory groups.

**John Eagle**

John has a Ph.D. in History from the University of Toronto. He is a professor in the Department of History at the University of Alberta. In his 30 years in the department, he has taught a variety of courses in Canadian history. He introduced a lecture course on the history of social welfare in Canada in 1985 and a seminar course on the same subject in 1991. He is currently completing a book on the history of the welfare state in Canada for Oxford University Press Canada.

**Ron Gaunce**

Ron worked in residential treatment centres as a Child Care Worker and as a teacher. He is a former FCSS consultant in the areas of organizational development and community development to local municipalities and organizations. Ron is a Board member of Metis Child and Family Services and has longtime involvement with the YMCA in Edmonton. Ron is recently retired and remains active in the community.

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### **Kenn Hample**

Kenn is a Professional Engineer and a native Edmontonian. He has worked as a manager in municipal public service and as a private consultant. His community activities include involvement in the arts, minor sports, Chamber of Commerce, community violence issues and creation of a community food bank.

### **Kate Herbert Battigelli**

Kate graduated from the University of British Columbia in 1993 with a Master of Social Work degree. Since then, she has been involved as a volunteer with several community development projects and has been employed as a child protection worker. Kate is presently working for Capital Health Home Care.

### **Kirk MacDonald**

Kirk is currently the President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. He is a lawyer with the firm Pringle Renouf and Associates. He has also worked at Student Legal Services in the Legal Reform Project and is a karate instructor. Kirk was called to the Bar in 1992.

### **Scott McLeod**

Scott is self-employed as a mediator, arbitrator and advocate for matters relating to commercial and interpersonal disputes. He formed McLeod Conflict Management Services in 1993 after having worked as the Executive Director of the Arbitration and Mediation Society for five years. Scott has served as the Director and Founder of the fund-raising Division of the Volunteer Action Centre as well as holding many other voluntary positions.

### **Nancy McPherson**

Nancy has been with the public health department for the past seven years in a variety of positions, including HIV Educator, Community Health Developer and local Manager. She is currently working with Community Health Promotion and Prevention Services in the northeast area of Edmonton. Nancy is currently a student in the Masters of Science in Health Promotion program. She has a strong interest in social justice and in particular health issues related to poverty. Nancy is involved with many projects using health promotion and harm reduction approaches and is an active volunteer with the Streetworks program.

### **Anita Murphy**

Anita has been employed as a Planner with the Provincial Mental Health Board since 1995 and she is responsible for coordinating the mental health planning process in three Alberta regions (Aspen, Lakeland and Northern Lights). She has a keen interest in advocating for people with a mental illness and she is currently volunteering to help women who experience post-partum depression.

### **Edmond O'Neill**

Ed is currently a partner in the law firm of Beresh DePoe Cunningham, practising in the area of criminal law. He is currently the President of the Criminal Trial Lawyers Association. Ed was called to the Bar in 1989.

### **Jeji Varghese**

Jeji recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a Master of Science degree in Rural Sociology. She also has two Bachelor of Science degrees, one in Biological Sciences and one in Environment and Conservation Sciences. Her areas of interest include gender issues, social sustainability, environmental education and international development. Jeji is also actively involved with youth and young adults in a number of settings, including her church, cultural association and university.

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- 1939 • A survey of needs finds that public interest in social services has increased. **The Council of Social Agencies** is formed with four divisions: Family, Children, Health and Group Work.
- 1941 • A resolution is passed, authorizing the Council to develop a constitution and elect a volunteer board for a community chest.
- 1943 • A report on child welfare made to the government recommends that a survey of services be performed. When the government declines, the Council's Child and Family division undertakes the Whitton Study with the Canada Welfare Council. The results of the survey reveal adoption practices that horrify the public.
- 1944 • The Council begins to add research studies to the major services it offers.
- 1948 • The Council helps to form the John Howard Society.

**In the 1950s**, focusing on public education, the Council publishes a regular newsletter and becomes the central organization for resolving social crises, bringing diverse interest groups together and playing a liaison role between government and voluntary forces. The Council commits itself to being a voice for and with the whole community.

- 1951 • Name changes to **Edmonton Council of Community Services**.
- 1953 • The Council and Community Chest are combined.
- 1954 • Work around mental health brings about the Edmonton Mental Health Association.
  - Brief on Foster Care; study on aging; directory of services for the elderly.
- 1956 • Addition of Youth Division; three fall institutes on social welfare issues.
- 1958 • Standing Committee on rehabilitation does extensive research on services, voting rights, employment and vocational training of the physically and mentally disabled.
- 1959 • Recommendation that government set up a Welfare Information and Referral Service. (1960)

**In the 1960s**, the voices of the Council become more identified with the disadvantaged: the Boyle Street population, Aboriginal people, females and youth. A community development worker is hired by the Council. Physical planning issues such as urban renewal, parks planning and co-op housing become a focus, as well as unemployment.

- 1960 • The Council develops a position to retain a separate identification as a social planning body with its own board and budget, but maintain a close working relationship with the United Community Fund (formerly the Community Chest; later to become the United Way in 1973), with whom it can interchange board members.
- 1960 • Major study of juvenile court; study of services for youth in northeast area.
- 1963 • Name changes to **Edmonton Welfare Council**.
- 1964 • A Council study affirms need for central and suburban area child care after the Creche, a child care place for indigent women, folds. As a result, the City provides preventive social service funding for day care services in Edmonton.
- 1964 • The Council helps to develop the first Head Start program in the Norwood area.
- 1967 • Name changes to **Edmonton Social Planning Council**.
- 1968 • Helps teens lobby for teen centre; publishes Blue Book of legal rights addressing transient youth. This handbook is criticized as being "subversive."
  - Works with Indian and Metis organizations around foster care and adoptive homes.
  - Helps set up women's overnight shelter (now WIN House), with YMCA.

H I S T O R Y O F T H E C O U N C I L

**From 1968 to 1972**, the Council aids in the development of the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, Humans on Welfare Society, Disabled Action group, Boyle Street Community Services Co-op. The Council's constitution is rewritten in 1972 and directions change. The result is a strong orientation toward urban issues and a research approach to social action and social change. Four citizen commissions are set up: 1) participatory democracy; 2) decent standard of living 3) human social controls; 4) human urban environment.

- 1971 • "West 10," a community service centre project is started, ending three years later with the publication of *Rape of the Block*—a lay person's guide to neighbourhood defence.
- 1972 • *Decent Standard of Living*, the first major Council document on poverty and social assistance, is published after the Progressive Conservative government is elected.
  - *Alternatives to Poverty and Welfare in Alberta* is published, recommending a guaranteed annual income with work incentives. It becomes the basis for much of the Council's work.
- 1973 • Urban Gladiators—a group operating at the centre of the information network in ESPC and the University, decide the only way to have success in achieving their vision of the City was to run for city Council. The United Community Fund changes its name to the United Way.
- 1974 • The United Way undertakes a study of ESPC recommending a return to a traditional board structure. The Council makes consultation with neighbourhood and women's groups their priority.
- 1975 • Works with women's groups to begin Edmonton Rape Crisis Centre (Sexual Assault Centre); sets up workshops with Catalyst Theatre on issues of women and rape. Assists the City Planning Department in providing a public awareness campaign for Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP).
- 1977 • Training volunteers as para-professional community workers becomes part of the Council's work.

**In the 1980s** the ESPC changes from a predominantly community neighbourhood development agency to one concerned with broader issues of social policy. *First Reading* is published.

- 1981 • Holds major conference on social policy analysis.
- 1986 • Publishes *Unemployment—Reaping the Costs*, reporting on lost revenue through lost wages and the increase in stress-related illness, suicide and child abuse incidence.
- 1987 • Organizes live, phone-in discussions with seniors on local cable channel.
  - Helps form the Edmonton Coalition for Quality Child Care.
- 1989 • The Council coordinates *Tracking the Trends* (to 1995) a publication highlighting the trends in human services in Edmonton and area.
- 1990s • The Council continues with its mandate for educating the public on issues of social justice, advocating for community well-being and supporting communities through research and coordination. Many publications are released such as *Doing It Right* (A Needs Assessment workbook), the *Family Budgeting Guide*, *Get On Board* (Board Development Workbook) and *Choosing Quality Childcare*. *Two Paycheques Away* (Food Bank Study) is published in 1996 with the help of Edmonton's Food Bank. This study gets national coverage and results in talks with the Minister of Family and Social Services in an effort to amend policy. *Edmonton LIFE—Local Indicators For Excellence* report is first published in 1997. This project was coordinated by the Council and it involved the University, the business community, municipal government and the social sector in reaching a shared definition of what constitutes quality of life in Edmonton.