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SEPT.

PROPOSAL FOR A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

TO

HEALTH AND WELFARE CANADA

TITLE: "SOCIAL PLANNING IN THE INNER CITY"

PROPOSAL DESIGN:

- A. INTRODUCTION
- B. OVERALL GOALS, EDMONTON  
SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
- C. RATIONALE FOR CONCENTRATION  
ON THE INNER CITY
- D. PROJECT DESIGN
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SUBMITTED BY:

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## A. INTRODUCTION

The Edmonton Social Planning Council, a voluntary agency, funded by the United Way and through a civic grant provided by the City of Edmonton, began operations in 1939. It is a charitable non-profit organization administered by a voluntary Board of Directors composed of fourteen individuals representing a number of interests and a range of socio-economic levels.

The Council has the mandate to serve Edmonton and the surrounding communities. Due to severe budgetary constraints, the Council has, out of necessity, agreed to focus on the City of Edmonton. A staff of six (one administrator, three planners, and two clerical persons) are attempting to meet the social planning needs of a burgeoning city of one-half million people from a non-government perspective.

The role of the Council, as determined by the Board of Directors, is primarily to provide free consultation services to citizen groups and individuals in the City. This consultation service attempts to provide assistance to citizens in the areas of policy planning; directed towards facilitation of citizen involvement in urban development. This agency's areas of responsibility include the relationship between physical and social planning, facilitating mechanisms for planning, facilitating mechanisms for participation, and facilitating government-citizen interaction.

Methods employed by the Council to bring these services to fruition include:

- 1) Consultation - information flow and exchange;
- 2) Public Education - non-governmental perspective on various social problems such as service delivery systems, child care, shelter, urban related problems;
- 3) Organizing - providing assistance in developing group leadership and maintenance as well as actually organizing groups around specific issues;
- 4) Research - providing necessary social research to fulfill citizens' requests for assistance;
- 5) Co-ordination - facilitating the co-ordination of groups and services around various issues;

- 6) Liaison - providing the means whereby government and citizens can interact as well as plot action plans.

The Council has recently instituted a unique volunteer training program which has as its goal the training of individuals to become community facilitators in their own communities or in those communities which require the kind of assistance that these individuals would be qualified to provide.

It has become evident, through interaction with numerous citizens and citizen groups (the Council currently is working with over sixty neighbourhood groups in Edmonton) as well as conversations with other volunteer agencies and Municipal Government Departments, that the one area of the City that is currently under the greatest pressure - both in social and economic terms - is the inner city or older neighbourhood areas. Civic employees are somewhat confused as to what is required for these areas, while citizens are either uninformed or unsure of what they can do to help themselves. The Edmonton Social Planning Council believes that alternatives related to inner city development are available and because of the Council's role and function within the City, is the logical organization to facilitate a project aimed at providing a humane urban environment within the inner city neighbourhoods.

At present, the Council is unable to allocate sufficient resources - both physical and human - to the inner city area because of numerous commitments to other areas of the City whose citizens are experiencing problems associated with rapid urban growth.

The following proposal attempts to illustrate how the Edmonton Social Planning Council would like to facilitate a substantial change in the inner city area.

The design of the proposal includes a section on the overall goals of this agency. This section is followed by a rationale and design of the project itself. The design focuses on what the Edmonton Social Planning Council is proposing to fulfill the goals of the project. The proposal concludes with a summary of content.

B. OVERALL GOALS: EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

The following represents a philosophical base which provides direction to the activities of the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

The activities of the Edmonton Social Planning Council are directed towards the obtainment of a humane urban environment in which man's basic needs and the opportunity for creativity and self-actualization can be provided. In order to strive towards a humane urban environment, the Edmonton Social Planning Council recognizes that urban development policies cannot be formulated in a vacuum if they are to be responsive to actual community needs. Citizens should be involved to express those needs. Isolation from the process of planning one's own urban environment may lead to further citizen alienation, meaning in this instance, a feeling of not belonging to and/or not positively relating to that environment. Lacking the ability to have impact on social and physical environmental policy decisions, citizens out of frustration frequently retreat to an individual concern level, with little regard for the welfare of the total community at large. In view of this, the Edmonton Social Planning Council has adopted as an overall goal; the facilitation of citizen participation in policy planning at the local level.

Citizens must be allowed the opportunity to plan and develop the understanding of the planning process in order to achieve some element of self-determination and responsibility for their own environment. We feel that citizen participation in planning is the most cost effective way to formulate policies. The idea here is that involvement of those to be affected by policy decisions leads to valuable input related to possible consequences which are less likely to be detected when planning occurs at some distance from those affected. In this manner, costly planning errors can be avoided. In addition, effective citizen participation in policy planning will likely reduce long-term conflict over adopted policies, and enhance commitments to those policies. Citizen input increases the potential for early detection and prevention of conditions which may lead to social problems. We feel that effective citizen participation is an important element in preventative social planning.

### C. RATIONALE FOR CONCENTRATION ON THE INNER CITY

Within the philosophical framework of a humane urban environment and citizen participation, the Edmonton Social Planning Council has established a social planning priority directed to the inner city area. These neighbourhoods are located at the periphery of the downtown. Generally, inner city Edmonton is characterized by housing deterioration, population decline, growing numbers of non-family households, increasing rate of high rise apartment development, inadequate quantity and quality of parkland and other municipal services such as schools or less obvious services such as water and sanitation services. In addition to high density residential redevelopment, the inner city neighbourhoods are experiencing redevelopment pressure related to new commercial uses, often resulting in strip commercial development. Growing pressure for roadway development leads to further housing demolition, splitting of neighbourhoods, noise, traffic congestion and traffic overflow into inner city residential areas. Speculative property buying in inner city areas is encouraged because:

1. Residents become discouraged with trends in their neighbourhoods;
2. Inner city neighbourhoods' central location is ideal with regard to employment, commercial and entertainment centres.

In view of these kinds of trends in inner city Edmonton, the Edmonton Social Planning Council holds that preservation and development of these older residential areas is significant for the following reasons:

1. The inner city represents established social relationships and organizations which provide meaningful social interaction and identification for residents;
2. The inner city represents a substantial portion of single family dwellings in Edmonton (about 40 percent);
3. The inner city is an important source of accommodation for low and moderate income families;
4. The inner city represents a considerable investment in municipal services. Due to existing infrastructure and transportation routes, the inner city is cheaper to service. Service delivery in the inner city includes a relatively high social service component;
5. The continued existence of living communities near the city centre is vital to Edmonton as a whole. These residents are available to utilize the city centre over the course of the day for a variety of activities, thereby helping the city centre to remain an interesting, varied, stimulating area;

6. Citizen groups, recognizing the value of the older neighbourhoods, are requesting the assistance of various levels of government in resisting physical deterioration and redevelopment pressure;
7. The city centre represents a community identification with the city's heritage and pride.

It should be noted that presently the General Plan for the City of Edmonton is coming under review. Planning input from inner city residents would be crucial at this time in developing long term policy for the inner cities. The following represents a preliminary project design related to citizen participation in planning at the local inner city level.

D. PROJECT: SOCIAL PLANNING IN THE INNER CITY, EDMONTON, ALBERTA

GOAL: TO AID IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF APPROPRIATE CIRCUMSTANCES IN WHICH INNER CITY PLANNING WILL INCORPORATE THE VALUES AND PREFERENCES EXPRESSED BY INDIGENOUS RESIDENTS

OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMS	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA
<p>1. To foster awareness among inner city residents regarding their present environment and the potential for recreating an environment which would enhance the opportunity for better quality living experiences.</p>	<p>Community Consciousness</p>	<p>1. Research and dissemination of information regarding social, economic, political conditions of the inner city; e.g., housing stock, parkland, demographic data, land ownership, organizations.</p> <p>2. Research and dissemination of information regarding innovative urban development examples, which may be utilized by residents.</p> <p>3. Research and dissemination of information regarding human and material resources available in the inner city area.</p>	<p>See attached sheet.</p>	<p>Increase in awareness among inner city residents regarding their environment and its potential for development as demonstrated by objective indicators such as number of residents seeking further information, number of citizen publications, increased involvement of residents in their communities (i.e., formation of new groups, new memberships) and increase utilization of community resources; as determined by pre- and post program data.</p>

OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMS	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA
<p>2. To facilitate awareness among inner city residents, governmental and non-governmental officials regarding existing and possible social and physical planning policy alternatives for the inner city.</p>	<p>Policy Awareness</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Identification and dissemination of information on existing policies which affect inner city neighbourhoods.</li> <li>2. Identification and dissemination of alternative urban development policies which are relevant to the inner city.</li> <li>3. Community workshops for citizens to examine current policies and study alternatives.</li> <li>4. Workshops for governmental and non-governmental officials to facilitate on-going awareness of citizen concerns.</li> <li>5. Use of radio and TV to facilitate policy awareness.</li> <li>6. Set up seminars.</li> <li>7. Set up informal neighbourhood contacts.</li> <li>8. Theatre and drama events to facilitate community involvement in neighbourhood concerns.</li> </ol>	<p>See attached sheet.</p>	<p>Increase in policy awareness as demonstrated by objective indicators such as: types of materials distributed, number of residents reached, household survey results, face to face encounters, number of written submissions and public meetings; as determined by pre- and post program data.</p>



OBJECTIVES	PROGRAMS	ACTIVITIES	RESOURCES	PROGRAM EVALUATION CRITERIA
<p>3. To aid in developing <u>opportunities</u> for citizens of the inner city to develop social and physical policy alternatives.</p>	<p>Citizen Planning</p>	<p>1. Gather and disseminate information regarding alternative community based structures which provide opportunities for citizen planning; e.g., community development corporations, non-profit housing corporations, area planning groups.</p> <p>2. Identify and disseminate information regarding alternative administrative structures; e.g., regional advisory groups, community resource boards, area planning associations.</p> <p>3. Public education, consultation and coordination to facilitate the <u>opportunity</u> for development and use of skills, strategies and resources required to formulate alternative planning, methods and policies for inner city neighbourhoods.</p> <p>4. Consultation regarding <u>procedures</u> to develop possible community based and administrative based planning structures.</p>	<p>See attached sheet.</p>	<p>Increase in opportunities for citizens of inner city to develop policy alternatives as demonstrated by objective indicators such as the frequency of contact of groups and individuals with elected representatives and officials; formation of new groups; increase in community leadership, joint cooperation with community groups and agencies, coalition formation, frequency of meetings, frequency of policy proposals, frequency of planning seminars, and frequency of task forces; as determined by pre- and past program data.</p>

RESOURCES

START DATE: APRIL 1, 1977

DURATION: 3 years

STAFF COSTS for total 3 year period

1 Research Assistant	\$ 38,956.00
1 Planner	48,696.00
1 Community Development Worker	48,696.00
	TOTAL
	\$ 136,348.00

The above represents a basic wage plus an 8% increase per year. The basic wage for the Research Assistant is \$12,000/year. Basic wage for the Planner and Community Worker is \$15,000/year.

OTHER COSTS

(i.e., travel expenses, auto allowance, employee benefits, supplies)

TOTAL = \$ 25,331.00

This includes a basic cost of \$8,000/year plus an 8% increase per year.

OVERALL TOTAL = \$ 161,679.00

## E. SUMMARY

Briefly, this preliminary project proposal has provided the following outline:

1. Introduction to the Edmonton Social Planning Council, including its structure, role in the Edmonton community, methods of operation and concern with inner city Edmonton.
2. Introduction to overall goals of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, emphasizing the need for citizen participation in developing policies related to a humane urban environment.
3. Rationale for concern with the inner city neighbourhoods.
4. Project design indicating the overall goal and intermediate objectives and activities directed towards goal obtainment.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council feels that not only will the proposed project contribute to sensitive planning for the inner city, but will demonstrate, perhaps most significantly, the applicability of this kind of project to other large urban centres, which may be experiencing similar problems in the inner city.