

Research Update

July 2009

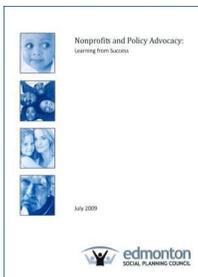
Research News



Youth GAP: The Youth Gang Alternatives Project

Jacalyn Ambler and Kavina Mistry, the ESPC's two new youth interns, will be conducting research on youth gangs in Edmonton over the next few months. If you would like to share information with them about youth gang involvement or prevention, please get in touch by emailing [youthgap at gmail dot com] or by calling 780.690.6416. If you have any questions about our internship initiative, contact Erin at 780.423.2031x354.

Tracking the Trends is on its way! Stay tuned for the release of the 2009 version of our flagship publication soon!



Nonprofits and Policy Advocacy: Learning from Success

Our newest publication is a review of successful non-profit policy advocacy practices. Using case studies and examples from Alberta, Canada, and internationally,

this guide outlines how and why non-profits should participate in policy advocacy, and breaks down some of the key features of successful policy advocacy efforts. You can download the report from our website, edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

Just Food Edmonton - The former Edmonton Food Security Network has incorporated as a non-profit society under the new name, Just Food Edmonton. Keep watching for new projects and initiatives in the near future. Check out the website, foodforalliedmonton.org.

The 211 Tough Times Handbook

is now available from the Support Network!

Copies can be purchased for \$0.50 each or in bundles of 25 for \$12.50. Contact the Support Network at 780.482.0198 to order your copy.



HIV Edmonton has partnered with AIDS Calgary to develop a new Provincial Advisory Committee on HIV/AIDS for gay/bisexual men. The committee will work collaboratively with communities and organizations on emerging issues in HIV/AIDS and social and public policy. For more information contact HIV Edmonton, 1-877-388-5742 or [go to the website](#).

Local Housing Initiatives Across Canada

Produced by the Wellesley Institute, this new tool allows users to share information about housing initiatives with

others from across the country. The interactive map allows you to learn more about housing initiatives in your area. Over time as the map grows in comprehensiveness, it could be utilized as a tool to assess gaps, track progress, and call for changes to policy. Currently, only ONE Edmonton-based project is listed!! The map is located at wellesleyinstitute.com.



Do you have news, information, or new research to share? Let us know and we'll include it in our next Research Update.

Most articles listed here are also available in PDF format by searching in the online catalogue.

The catalogue is available 24/7, and can be accessed by going to:

socialresearchlibrary.ca

Or, drop by our Library to read materials or make copies during business hours.

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Reviews

Poverty Reduction Policies and Programs

Series of provincial reports by various authors, edited by Katherine Scott, Canadian Council on Social Development, 2009.

- Did you know that, unlike in most parts of Canada, poverty rates in rural Nova Scotia are higher than those in urban Nova Scotia?
- Did you know that 22% of Yukoners have reported having financial difficulties securing food?
- Did you know that 50% of children of Aboriginal descent in Saskatchewan live in poverty?

This series of reports takes an in-depth look at poverty, poverty reduction policies, and community action on poverty in 9 provinces and 2 territories (remaining provincial/territorial profiles are forthcoming). The reports are each written by different authors, and highlight trends and statistics, explain the historical context, and examine current initiatives.

The **Alberta report** examines our province's historic boom-bust economic cycle and patterns of poverty. It looks at government responses to poverty: the development of a social safety net, subsequent erosion of supports, and more recently, the challenges posed by the latest economic boom. The Alberta profile also takes into account the *growing role of the voluntary sector* in addressing poverty, and questions what this might mean for poverty reduction in the province.

We know that many of the provinces and territories have similar struggles to those we face in Alberta when it comes to poverty and the attempt to eliminate it. This series of reports shows how other jurisdictions across Canada are dealing with poverty – both at the local and provincial levels. Unique programs, innovative solutions, and strategic partnerships are being creatively implemented from coast to coast to coast.

Living Green: Communities that Sustain

Book by Jennifer Fosket and Laura Mamo, 2009.

All too often, 'going green' is used as a catch-all term for activities like recycling, using cloth grocery bags, and switching to energy efficient lightbulbs. Don't get me wrong – these are great activities, but in this book, authors Jennifer Foskett and Laura Mamo illustrate **how**

For example:

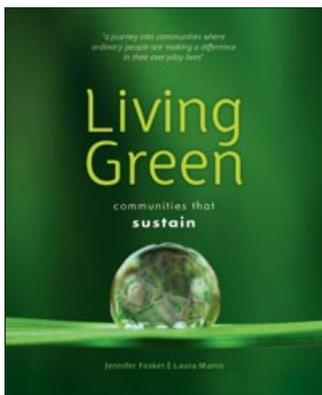
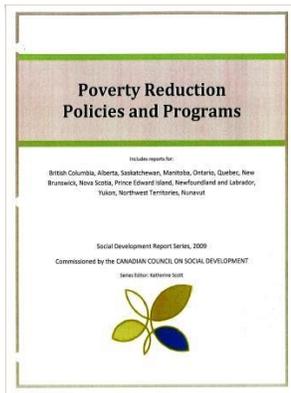
- The **Newfoundland and Labrador report** documents how the consistent work of community groups and government, together with a depressed economy after the collapse of the fisheries shaped the political, social, and economic context in which the province's Poverty Reduction Strategy – one of the first in Canada – was created. The Poverty Reduction Strategy followed years of collaborative effort marked by both victories and losses for anti-poverty advocates. While there is still a long way to go in terms of dealing with poverty in Newfoundland, the report notes that *a lot of progress has been made since the implementation of the provincial strategy in 2006*: more people are working, fewer are reliant upon Income Support, and the number of people living below LICO is falling. What can Albertans learn from the experiences of Newfoundlanders?

- The **BC report** similarly looks at the history of poverty and poverty policy responses in the province. It looks at how frequent political shifts and the boom/bust economic cycle in the province have affected social programs and the well-being of communities. It notes that while there are some initiatives on behalf of the government to address poverty, several population groups are now experiencing increased risk of poverty. Like in Alberta, government seems to have taken a backseat; and it has been civil society actors that have played – and continue to play – the central role in poverty prevention and reduction in BC.

This resource is useful for anybody interested in learning more about poverty and poverty reduction programs across the country. Each provincial/territorial profile is written by local experts, and the references contain information about many of the groups and individuals that work both behind-the-scenes and on the front-lines in poverty reduction. You can download the individual reports from the website of the Canadian Council for Social Development (although beware, there have been some troubles with this website of late), or you can access hard copies in our library.

communities across North America are engaging in much more holistic, people-centred, and socially just practices of 'going green'.

Living Green: Communities that Sustain tells the stories of how we can create communities that are both socially and environmentally sustainable. It includes a number of case studies of different sustainable living designs, including homes and communities that are based on a



number of different concepts of sustainability, such as:

* **Ecovillages** such as LA Ecovillage, where residents share common facilities and a commitment to living in harmony with the environment. Some interesting features of the community include 'car retraining' sessions, community meals on the street, community gardens, and a bike kitchen.

* **Elder cohousing**

* **Aging in community** designs such as Chez Soi in Montreal. The formerly tight knit community of young families – and the buildings – had disintegrated over the decades. It became a difficult and isolating place to live for the primarily senior residents. Renovations to some of the buildings preserved the positive aspects and improved on others. Common spaces such as kitchens, gardens, and a breezeway allow community members to rebuild relationships and support one another.

* **Co-operative housing**

* **Mixed-supportive green housing** such as the Folsom/Dore apartments in San Francisco. The mixed income building includes a

minimum of 20 units for individuals who have been chronically homeless, 20 units for individuals and families at risk of homelessness and a number of market-rate units. Everybody shares a number of common areas (including meeting spaces, day rooms and computer room) and greenspaces and gardens, all in an environmentally designed building and grounds.

* **Green nuclear family homes and neighbourhoods.**

There are countless ideas and designs in sustainable living; this book highlights the benefits that residents experience from living in communion with others, but also notes the difficulties and challenges that creating community can pose. Unlike many books on green housing that simply focus on the physical elements of sustainability – water conservation, alternative energies, recycled materials, etc. – this book is unique in its discussion of the social features that make our communities sustainable: diversity, support, inclusion, solidarity, equality. **Living Green is a useful resource for anybody involved in building sustainable communities, or simply interested in learning more.**

Resources

Children

Beyond Child's Play: Caring for and Educating Young Children in Canada. Spring 2009 edition of

Our Schools, Our Selves, edited by Erika Shaker.

Best Interests of the Child: Meaning and Application in Canada. Report by UNICEF Canada et al. July 2009.

State of the World's Mothers 2009: Investing in the Early Years. Report by Save the Children, May 2009.

Community Safety

Introducing the Women's Court of Canada. Journal Article by Diana Majury, 2006.

Police-reported Hate Crime in Canada, 2007. Report by Phil Walsh and Mia Dauvergne, Statistics Canada, May 2009.

Residents of Canada's Shelters for Abused Women, 2008. Report by Julie Sauve, Statistics Canada, May 2009.

Voices of our Sisters in Spirit: A Report to Families and Communities. Report by the Native Women's Association of Canada, 2009.

Youth Custody and Community Services in Canada, 2007/2008. Report by Rebecca Kong, Statistics Canada, May 2009.

Economy

Breaking the Cycle: Stimulus with Responsibility, Stewardship and Sustainability. Report by Greg Flanagan and Diana Gibson, Parkland Institute, June 2009.

Economics for Everyone: A Short Guide to the Economics of Capitalism. Book by Jim Stanford, 2008.

Environment

Living Green: Communities that Sustain. Book by Laura Mamo and Jennifer Foskett, 2009.

Plan B 3.0: Mobilizing to Save Civilization. Book by Lester R. Brown, 2008.

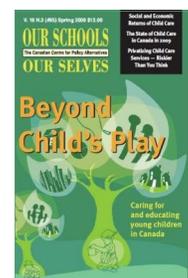
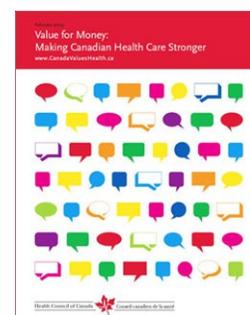
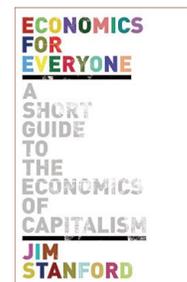
Gone Tomorrow: The Hidden Life of Garbage. Book by Heather Rogers, 2005.

Food Issues

Food Insecurity: It cannot be counted...But it counts! Report by Linda Tremblay, QC, 2009.

Provincial Approaches to Food Security: A Scan of Food Security Related Policies in Canada. Report by Stefan Epp, Manitoba Food Charter, May 2009.

Understanding the Link Between Welfare Policy and the Use of Food Banks. Report by Michael Goldberg and David Green, Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2009.



Resources, cont.

Health & Well-Being

Health Indicators, 2009. Report by CIHI and Statistics Canada, June 2009.

How are Canadians Really Doing? The First Report of the Institute of Wellbeing. Report by the Institute of Wellbeing, June 2009.

Value for Money: Making Canadian Healthcare Stronger. Report by the Health Council of Canada, 2009.

Housing

From Homeless to Home: Learning from the People who have been Homeless in Ottawa. Booklet by Tim Aubry, Josh Greenberg and Fran Flodawsky, 2009.

Homelessness, Program Responses, and an Assessment of Toronto's Streets to Homes. Report by Nick Falvo, Canadian Policy Research Networks, 2009.

The Homelessness Partnering Strategy: Partnerships That Work. Report by Human Resources and Social Development Canada, 2008.

Poverty & Poverty Reduction

A Compendium of Poverty Reduction Strategies and Frameworks. Report by Garry Loewen, Tamarack Institute, 2009.

Breaking the Links Between Poverty and Violence Against Women: a resource guide. Booklet by PHAC, 2008.

Canada's Declining Social Safety Net: The Case for EI Reform. Report by Lars Osberg, CCPA, June 2009.

Collaboration on Policy: A Manual developed by the Community-Government Collaboration on Policy. Report by the Caledon Institute on Social Policy, June 2009.

Rethinking our Approach: A Wise and Human Choice. Report by the Government of Quebec, 2009.

Scanning the Terrain: A Discussion Document for Poverty Elimination. Report by Bissell Centre, January 2009.

Poverty Reduction Policies and Programs. Report Series edited by Katherine Scott, Canadian Council on Social Development, May 2009.

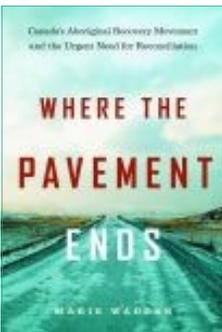
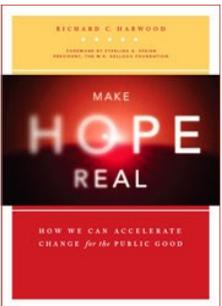
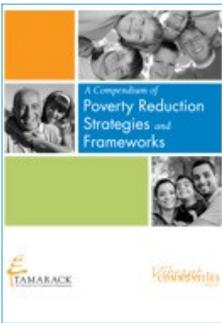
Other Topics

Make Hope Real: How we can Accelerate Change for the Public Good. Essay by Richard Harwood, 2007.

Pathways for First Nation and Metis Youth in the Oil Sands. Report by Alison Taylor, Tracy Friedel and Lois Edge, Canadian Policy Research Networks, June 2009.

Where the Pavement Ends: Canada's Aboriginal Recovery Movement and the Urgent Need for Reconciliation. Book by Marie Wadden, 2008.

Enhancing Community Capacity to Engage and Involve Immigrant and Refugee Families: A Model for Inclusive Collaboration. Report by Charlene Ball, July 2008.



Of Interest...

Photography

New Gallery Open for Viewing throughout July
Featuring Photography by



EMCN's Trinity Manor and the Haven Men's Group Photo Club

Location: 10209-97 St. (Wentworth Building)
Opening: Wednesday, July 22, 6pm.
Gallery Hours: Monday to Friday, 9-5; Saturday and Sunday, 1-4.

Podcast

Have you heard our podcast?

Ear on Social Issues

Check out episode 5, which features comments from participants of the inaugural Canadian Social Forum. The Forum was held from May 19 -22 in Calgary, Alberta.



Listen to the episode at earonsocialissues.mypodcast.com, or on our website.

We want your input! How can this Update be made more useful for you? Contact us:

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