

# RESEARCH UPDATE

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The *Public Engagement on Affordable Housing in Edmonton* report is a compilation of the responses and findings from focus groups and interviews, as well as a relevant literature review, conducted by the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) on key questions regarding perceptions of affordable housing and public engagement. City Council's Executive Committee made the decision to go forward with City Policy C601, the City-Wide Affordable Housing Framework that sets an affordable housing target of 16% for every Edmonton neighborhood. Community members, housing developers, and other stakeholders participated in these focus groups. One of the limitations in this study was not being able to engage with people who are in need of affordable housing. The focus groups occurred in collaboration with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues (EFCL) and its Committee members, who were charged with distributing information on details for the upcoming focus groups, which took place across six districts of the city. Participation ranged from 3 – 12 people per focus group, with a median age of 55 years, 65.7% female, and 45.7% holding an undergraduate or college degree. This is not representative of the general population in the city, which was another limitation to this study. However, the demographics of focus group participants could be considered an indicator of the demographics of people who are usually participating in public engagement meetings on affordable housing set up by the city. The publication includes a literature review on perceptions towards affordable housing, best practices for public engagement, and strategies to effect positive change in the community.

The results are provided in the form of quotes organized as responses to key questions around perceptions of affordable housing and public engagement. Since these are direct quotes collected through consented audio recordings of the discussion as well as notes from volunteers, the responses feel organic; when participants seemed frustrated, it came through in their words. There is also a clear difference between the jargon used by the community members and the stakeholders. The results of the study show that there is tension between community members, stakeholders, and the municipality. Community members repeatedly stated that they wanted active and full engagement, especially from the City, in almost every step of the development process.

One of the few obvious shortfalls of the public engagement process includes the length of time between the engagement session and the construction of affordable housing developments. Many community participants felt that the decision for development had already been made, and the engagement session was just a tick on the "checkbox." The quotes demonstrated that community members were not given information on the leadership roles of the city representatives who facilitated the public engagement meetings, may not have understood the definitions of "affordable housing" or other jargon, and were not given the full picture of why the City was proposing this type of development.

Another shortfall was the lack of engagement after the initial feedback session. People who participated in the meeting were not given updates on the plan, when feedback was not implemented members did not receive an explanation, and there were no follow-ups. Another frustration experienced by focus group participants was the perception that the engagement facilitators were not asking more specific questions on what the community wanted, and not considering the demographics of those who would be accessing affordable housing and whether they match with access to specific resources (schools, public transportation, clinics, etc.).

Another shortcoming was that those participating in the public engagement process were not always community residents, or representative of the neighbourhood's social and economic demographics. This may occur because the methods the city uses to inform residents of public engagement opportunities favour residents who are older, own their home, and are fluent in English. As a result, community members sometimes misunderstand and have a prejudiced view of what affordable housing is, who accesses it, why they need to access it, how it will improve not only the community but the long-term reduction of poverty, and other big-picture information. There was clearly a lack of information given on the right to housing as it relates to the United Nations' Declaration of Human Rights and Canada's own declaration to honour this.

It also seemed that the municipal government has not fully considered what it means to have 16% affordable housing in a neighbourhood. There are no clear guidelines or structures surrounding the public engagement process on affordable housing, leading to variation in engagement styles and feedback. There is a public perception of lack of transparency and a clear divide of "us" versus "them" from residents. This may be partly due to a general lack of understanding poverty itself, or a misunderstanding of what affordable housing looks like and how it might directly benefit individuals in the long-run. Keeping this in mind, facilitators should be well educated on the nuances of affordable housing, and trained to moderate emotional escalation during the engagement process.

Affordable housing developers and advocates differed from community members on their perception of the engagement process. They felt that the need for affordable housing should take priority over the views of residents who were in opposition. However, quite a few expressed that they believe the community members would not understand the "systemic perspective," and therefore simply go ahead with the plan.

The issue of property value, crime rate, communal green space, and fear of further segregation were some of the main concerns expressed by participants in the study. Thus, this study shows that by better connecting with neighbourhoods, and focusing on advocacy for marginalized populations, the City of Edmonton could increase the variety of locations for affordable housing without the type of pushback presently received. The literature review in this publication cited various studies showing how a municipality can best help those needing affordable housing by working in collaboration with all groups involved. More studies will need to be done to gather information for groups needing affordable housing, and appropriate education and communication methods, to enact positive change in the community.

*Publication Source:*

*Sandra Ngo (October, 2019). Public Engagement on Affordable Housing in Edmonton. Retrieved from:*  
<https://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca/index.php/resources/digital-resources/a-espcc-documents/a06-newsletters/a06g-reports/1078-public-engagement-on-affordable-housing-report/file>

## **ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:**

*Akshya Boopalan has a passion for helping people. She has a degree in psychology and anthropology, and works with people with autism, developmental disabilities, and brain injuries. Her hobbies include fitness activities, making artwork, and spending quality time with family and friends.*

## SUPPORTING VULNERABLE TENANTS IN NON-PROFIT HOUSING

REVIEWED BY AGATHA BRIGLIO

Ellen Smirl's report, written for the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives (CCPA), examines how to better support vulnerable tenants who live in non-profit social housing in the province of Manitoba.

Social housing is housing that is partly subsidized by government or non-profit organizations. More than 50% of all renting households in Manitoba live in unacceptable housing conditions, and a large portion of tenants are single parents under the age of twenty. When examining tenant demographics it is important to consider vulnerable populations. Vulnerable populations are those who have multiple barriers that impede them from achieving and maintaining stable housing, such as: newcomer/immigrants, low income seniors, single parents, and individuals with physical/mental health issues.

In Manitoba, there are approximately 30,000 social housing units; just over half are owned and managed by non-profit organizations. Of these 17,000 units, 20% - 30% are subsidized by government. If not for subsidized housing, it would be nearly impossible for low income earners to find affordable housing.

An earlier report done by CCPA in 2016 studied West End Commons, a non-profit project that focused on building relationships within the community by incorporating support in the form of onsite "connector" staff. Connector staff perform a variety of case-management tasks such as investigating tenant/landlord disputes, connecting tenants to support services, and responding to emergencies. The 2016 study illustrated that connector staff were important to the success of tenancies. Applying a holistic approach can address the various challenges facing vulnerable tenants — this report identified that the sooner an issue was identified, the higher the likelihood there was to keep the tenant successfully housed. Social housing and community programming support more than the tenant, they support neighbourhoods.

Many non-profit housing providers fundamentally believe people deserve a place to call home, regardless of their ability to pay, or other barriers that may prevent them from achieving stable housing. Typically these social support organizations lack consistent core funding for support workers or programs.

An important part of social housing is to encourage successful tenancies. A holistic approach that incorporates social programs is as important as bricks and mortar to ensure stable housing for vulnerable tenants.

*Publication Source:*

*Ellen Smirl (September, 2019). Supporting Vulnerable Tenants in Non-Profit Housing. Retrieved from:*  
[https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2019/09/Supporting\\_Vulnerable\\_Tenants.pdf](https://www.policyalternatives.ca/sites/default/files/uploads/publications/Manitoba%20Office/2019/09/Supporting_Vulnerable_Tenants.pdf)

### ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:

*Agatha Briglio works as a policy analyst for the province. She is keenly interested in low income issues and those most at-risk in our community. Through volunteer she hopes to continue to grow professionally as a researcher, policy analyst, and facilitator.*

REVIEWED ALYSIA ELLIOTT

Marked by both opportunity and turmoil, there lies a period that is no longer considered adolescence, and not yet thought of as adulthood. Referred to as *emerging adults*, researchers are now characterizing the age range from 18 to 24 as its own distinct developmental stage. This period can be especially tumultuous for those who have had involvement with Children's Services, and are therefore more likely to experience barriers to their well-being and have limited connection to support networks.

Del Graff, an advocate with Alberta's Office of the Child and Youth Advocate (OCYA), published this report to examine the delivery of Support and Financial Assistance Agreements (SFAAs) provided to emerging adults through Children's Services. SFAAs target emerging adults who are involved with Children's Services on their 18th birthday, and aim to help them gain independence, life skills, and foster stable relationships through a variety of services—some of which are accessible up to the age of 24. On average, more than 600 emerging adults age out of Children's Services each year in Alberta, with an estimated 90% entering into SFAA agreements.

To gather data, Graff examined the lives of six emerging adults who died within a nine-month period in 2018, all of whom had received SFAAs. Taking the time to learn about the lives of these six emerging adults by speaking to those closest to them, Graff wove their stories throughout the report and provided a detailed snapshot of their lives. Each emerging adult encountered multiple challenges in their too-short life: challenges such as substance use, mental health, family violence, exploitation, abuse, isolation, or a lack of healthy connections. Data was also gathered from 102 emerging adults who contacted OCYA advocates within the same nine-month period in 2018 regarding issues related to their SFAAs. Graff strengthened this report further with information provided to OCYA from Children's Services, as well as by reviewing the available research on this particular developmental stage. Lastly, views of approximately 200 emerging adults and service providers across Alberta were gathered through focus groups, community meetings, and one-on-one interviews.

Graff reported finding the following themes, on the need to: 1) focus on increasing belonging and decreasing isolation through more meaningful connections and relationships, including cultural support and connection; 2) increase access to appropriate housing and other basic needs; 3) address and consider mental health and substance use challenges in regards to treatment, service accessibility, and specialized housing options; 4) recognize the impact of trauma, intergenerational trauma, loss, and grief; 5) provide support in exploring and accessing education; 6) understand feelings of unclear expectations for those with an SFAA; 7) understand feelings of unpreparedness to meet societal expectations of adulthood; 8) increase consistency and transparency within SFAA service; and 9) provide training for SFAA caseworkers.

Based on the findings, Graff made three recommendations in this report: 1) recognize the age of 18 to 24 as a critical period in order to improve policy and practice in Children's Services, and allow staff time and training to be more responsive in meeting the unique needs of this age group; 2) provide clarity, consistency, continuity, and flexibility of SFAAs, and connect emerging adults to appropriate adult services prior to SFAA termination;

and 3) provide access to safe housing options that are not conditional on behaviour, and that understand the needs and challenges of this developmental stage.

Graff noted that Children’s Services has made progress in regards to recommendations made by previous OCYA reports. Unfortunately, Graff’s report comes on the heels of the Government of Alberta’s decision to rollback SFAA eligibility from 24 years of age to 22, which will be implemented by April 2020. Although this report was undertaken prior to the legislative announcement, Graff urges more funding and support to be directed to emerging adults, encompassing the full age range from 18 to 24 years old. Graff has laid out a compelling argument that is easy to follow and paints a picture of how dangerous it can be to expect emerging adults to successfully navigate adulthood too soon or without adequate support. At times evoking chills for what could have been for those six deceased emerging adults, Graff’s report is an essential read for anyone in the social services field.

*Publication Source:*

*Del Graff, Alberta Child and Youth Advocate (November, 2019). A Critical Time: A Special Report On Emerging Adults Leaving Children’s Services Care. Retrieved from: <https://www.ocya.alberta.ca/adult/news/a-critical-time-a-special-report/>*

**ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:**

*Alysia Elliott moved from Kelowna to Edmonton with her family last summer. She has a Master’s degree in Social Work and has worked with high-risk youth in an outreach capacity. Though she has worked mostly with youth, she is interested in most topics related to social welfare.*

## EDUCATIONAL AND LABOUR MARKET OUTCOMES OF CHILDREN WITH AN IMMIGRANT BACKGROUND BY THEIR REGION OF ORIGIN

*REVIEWED BY HANNA NASH*

In Martin Turcotte's study for Statistics Canada, he explores the educational and labour market outcomes of children from different immigrant backgrounds in comparison to children of Canadian parents (third generation or higher).

This study uses integrated data from the 2006 and 2016 federal censuses to examine immigrant populations that experience higher numbers of their youth who complete high school and post-secondary education, and ultimately how that affects their labour market outcomes, in comparison to those immigrant populations which have fewer youth attain a high school diploma and/ or higher education and how their labour market outcomes are affected. This study also explores how the educational pursuits and labour market outcomes of children of immigrants, as a whole, compare to third generation or higher Canadian children.

In this study, children considered to have an immigrant background are those who immigrated to Canada before the age of 15, or who may have been born in Canada but have at least one parent who is an immigrant. Children who are considered born to Canadian parents are children who are third generation or higher.

In an overall assessment, children with an immigrant background were generally more likely to achieve a high school diploma and post-secondary education when compared to those who are third generation or higher. Turcotte's findings demonstrate that 43% of children with an immigrant background from the 2006 census had earned a post-secondary degree by 2016, compared to 29% of children third generation or higher. Within the immigrant populations, children of Asian immigrants, followed by children of North African immigrants, were most likely to achieve post-secondary education when compared to children of immigrants from any other region and third generation or higher children.

Of the 15 immigrant regions that were assessed in this study, all but two groups had children who were more likely to attain a high school diploma and/or complete post-secondary in comparison to third generation or higher children. The children with an immigrant background from Central America and the Caribbean & Bermuda regions were less likely to achieve a high school diploma or a certificate in post-secondary education compared to their peers of third generation or onwards.

The results of this study indicate that children with an immigrant background, taken as a whole, are more likely to achieve a higher level of education than third generation or higher Canadian children. These findings are consistent despite the diverse backgrounds that children of immigrants generally come from, including whether or not parents have a post-secondary education of their own.

These findings are important for Canadian educators to study as they will help determine which groups of school-aged children are at higher risk of experiencing educational difficulties and what kinds of support these groups would benefit most from. These statistics are also very valuable in that they help identify which groups encounter intangible factors that contribute to success in education, and what educators can learn from them.

The findings of this study, however, do not reflect higher labour outcomes from groups who achieve higher levels of education. Children with an immigrant background who hold a post-secondary certificate are less likely to earn as high of a wage once they are a part of the labour force as third generation or higher children who have earned an equivalent diploma or degree. Turcotte examines this in great depth and compares the

results between women and men in both groups. His conclusions find that women with the same education levels between the two groups earn relatively similar wages, however, men who are the children of immigrants with an education tend to earn less income compared to their third generation or higher counterparts.

This study's investigation into the general patterns that exist in Canadian society provides a deeper analysis of which populations are attaining higher education and which are faring better once in the work force, as opposed to those who may be struggling with educational difficulties, and ultimately which groups earn lesser wages. Although the effects of cultural factors, discrimination, family backgrounds etc. cannot be explored in this study, these insights can help enable researchers and educators to create strategies for all populations to succeed.

*Publication Source:*

*Statistics Canada (November, 2019). Educational and Labour Market Outcomes for Children of Immigrants. Retrieved from: <https://www150.statcan.gc.ca/n1/pub/89-657-x/89-657-x2019018-eng.htm>*

#### **ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:**

*Hanna Nash enjoys ballet performances and other live theatre as well as outdoor sports like skating, skiing, and hiking. She enjoys travelling to new countries. Hanna is interested in bringing information and knowledge to Edmonton's diverse communities.*

## CASE STUDY: ALBERTA PROVES THAT YES WE CAN! REDUCE POVERTY

REVIEWED BY SHAWNA LADOUCEUR

This case study by the Tamarack Institute looks at the progress that has been made in recent years in reducing poverty in Alberta. While Alberta has the highest wages and after-tax median income in the country, it also has the largest income gap. Edmonton and Calgary occupy second and third spots, respectively, for highest income inequality with the richest 1% earning 46 times more than the poorest 10%. Boom and bust cycles, growing household debt, and an increase in precarious and low-wage jobs profoundly affect health, well-being, and poverty, and disproportionately affect marginalized groups such as those identified as Indigenous, racialized, LGBTQ2S+, lone parents, women, children, and those with disabilities. Factoring in attributable health care, crime, intergenerational & opportunity costs, the price of poverty in Alberta amounts to \$7.1 to \$9.5 billion per year. In 2014, these costs amounted to a staggering 2.5% of Alberta's net GDP.

But over the two-year period from 2015-2017, Alberta achieved an historic reduction in poverty. Overall poverty rates declined from 8.25% to 6.8%, and child poverty dropped by 50% (from 10% to 5%) making it the lowest in Canada. Both the Market Basket Measure and Census Family Low Income Measure After-Tax confirm these numbers, making this provincial reduction in poverty the most dramatic on record in Canada. Key federal and provincial benefits and supportive provincial programs and policies contributed to the decline, the success of which highlights dependence on strong collaboration between federal and provincial governments, cities, and communities, in achieving such laudable success.

In examining important federal and provincial contributions to this dramatic reduction in poverty, key benefits are of note. An Alberta Child Benefit (ACB) was introduced by the Alberta NDP government in 2015. Significant increases were also made to the federal Child Benefit that same year. When combined, these benefits, directed to low and modest income families with children, as much as doubled the income support a household received when compared to the previous year.

In addition to the ACB, the provincial government contributed to the observed reduction in poverty through a range of supportive programs and policies. Spanning the years 2015 through 2019, these can be categorized across a range of domains implicated in poverty. This case study provides listed details on these programs and their benefits in reducing poverty.

Strong partnerships with cities and communities play a key role in ensuring benefits reach those in need. By raising awareness of federal and provincial government programs, policies, and benefits; assisting in overcoming barriers to access; and supporting beneficiaries to meet application, registration, and tax-filing requirements, cities and communities play an essential role in reducing poverty. Key community stakeholders have also played critical roles in influencing provincial policy— several are mentioned within this case study. Each of these more detailed examples highlight the importance of the collaborative relationship between federal and provincial governments, cities, and communities.

Having celebrated real success in poverty reduction, Alberta's story exemplifies the need for strong collaborative relationships between federal and provincial governments, cities, and communities in effecting large-scale, population-level change. Despite this unmitigated success, the recently elected UCP government has dishearteningly rolled back or cancelled many of the policies and programs that allowed for this historic provincial poverty rate decline. However, as indicated by this case study, Alberta has proven: yes we can! reduce poverty. We have only to summon the political will to do so.

At the time of writing for this case study, below is a list the author provided on the status of each of the poverty reduction measures that led to the significant decrease in child poverty in recent years:

- *Alberta Family Employment Tax Credit* and *Alberta Child Benefit* combined into a new *Alberta Child and Family Benefit* (Current status: funded at a reduced level)
- *Minimum wage* (Current status: rolled back from \$15 to \$13 for 13- to 17-year-olds)
- *Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities* (Current status: indexing to cost of living scrapped)
- *Alberta Climate Leadership Adjustment Rebate* (Current status: discontinued)
- *Community Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) tax credit* (Current status: discontinued)
- *Provincial Affordable Housing Strategy* (Current status: rollbacks)
- *Electricity Price Cap* (Current status: discontinued)
- Calgary Transit's *Low Income Monthly Pass* sliding scale program and Edmonton's *Ride Transit* program (Current status: extended)
- *Early Learning and Child Care Centre* \$25/day childcare (Current status: decision pending)
- *Act to Reduce School Fees* (Current status: cancelled)
- *School Nutrition Program* (Current status: funded)
- *Act to End Predatory Lending* (Current status: enacted)
- *Consumer Protection Act* and *High-Cost Credit Regulation* (Current status: enacted)
- *Safer Spaces for Victims of Domestic Violence* (Current status: extended/enacted)

*Publication Source:*

*Alison Homer (2019). Case Study: Alberta Proves Yes We Can! Reduce Poverty. Retrieved from:*

<https://www.tamarackcommunity.ca/hubfs/Resources/Case%20Studies/Case%20Study%20%7C%20Alberta%20Proves%20that%20Yes%20We%20Can!%20Reduce%20Poverty.pdf?hsCtaTracking=953743dc-fc0f-47eb-9cd3-f2d0a85ab28c%7Cdccc1feb-9821-44d5-9f33-07d2591bd916>

#### **ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:**

*Shawna Ladouceur is a Registered Nurse who sees the impacts of the social determinants of health in ways that demand action. She has extensive experience working directly with vulnerable populations in the inner city. Her personal interests include skiing, hiking, biking, running, reading, and travelling.*

REVIEWED BY REEM SARAYA

This report outlines the experiences and needs of Indigenous children and families regarding early childhood learning and care in the City of Edmonton. A team of individuals from the University of Alberta organized Talking Circles to obtain the perspectives and experiences of Indigenous parents and early childhood care givers of Indigenous children, with the purpose of using this information to guide future policy-making, and to contribute to EndPovertyEdmonton's goal of achieving affordable and quality childcare.

The author effectively outlines the multifaceted barriers to affordable and quality childcare for Indigenous children and their families by situating early learning and childcare within the context of the Truth & Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action, and the history of colonization in Canada. The author also clearly illustrates the link between poverty and the overrepresentation of Indigenous children in government care.

There are several reasons why Indigenous children and their families in the City of Edmonton require a heightened focus:

- Indigenous peoples and communities in Canada have faced long-term underfunding of basic programs and services.
- Edmonton has the second highest Indigenous population in Canada, with 8.2% identifying as Indigenous.
- According to the 2016 Census, 29.2% of the Indigenous population in Canada are fourteen years of age or younger, compared to 16.6% of the overall population.
- Indigenous peoples experience poverty at rates 2.5 times higher than non-Indigenous peoples, with Indigenous women particularly affected (3 times higher).
- Indigenous children in nearly every Canadian territory and province are more likely to experience poverty than non-Indigenous children.
- In Alberta, more than 50% of Indigenous children live in poverty.

The report effectively uses these statistics and others to highlight the significance of addressing the barriers that Indigenous children and their families face in accessing affordable and quality childcare in the city. Developing an early learning and childcare system that reflects these realities is crucial to reducing structural inequality and advancing reconciliation.

Through the Talking Circles, Indigenous parents stressed that a responsive and culturally appropriate system of child care would facilitate greater opportunities for parents to achieve higher levels of education and more meaningful employment, and therefore act as an avenue out of poverty. The Talking Circles highlighted many issues such as: the importance of culturally relevant childcare providers and facilities, better understanding of Indigenous colonial history and the lived-realities of Indigenous peoples by childcare providers, the need for more Indigenous childcare workers, the importance of relationships and trust between childcare providers and

parents, the need for free or low-cost childcare that would prevent parents from having to make “trade-offs” (i.e. reduce spending on food, their own education, etc.), and the need for more and better access to resource hubs that would allow parents to access multiple services in one location.

Notably, the most powerful theme that emerged from these discussions with Indigenous parents was the fear that their children would be apprehended by child welfare. This is a reflection of the significant overrepresentation of Indigenous children in the child welfare systems throughout Canada, and the country’s policies toward Indigenous peoples throughout history.

In discussions with non-Indigenous participants (childcare providers), the importance of relationships arose, as well as the need for more Indigenous childcare workers and pre-service (and in-service) professional development to facilitate culturally-safe and trauma-informed childcare. Non-Indigenous participants also discussed the poor availability and accessibility of childcare spaces, as well as the lack of resource hubs or spaces within them to meet the needs of Indigenous children and their families in the city.

In response to these findings, the author makes several recommendations which point to the need for collaborative action between and by Indigenous parents and caregivers, different levels of government, and childcare professionals and service providers. Broadly, the author recommends: Indigenizing early childhood spaces and places; increasing the number of resource-hub childcare centres; providing free or low-cost care; recruitment of Indigenous peoples into the early child development field; mandatory pre-service training, as well as ongoing training and development for workers, including members of the Ministry of Children’s Services; and developing an Indigenous Early Learning and Care certificate/diploma.

The report acknowledges the ambitious and long-term nature of many of the recommendations, but effectively emphasizes the need for action in these areas in order to achieve the structural change necessary to create a childcare system that advances reconciliation and alleviates Indigenous-specific poverty.

*Publication Source:*

*Tibetha Kemble (December, 2019). Indigenous Early Learning and Care in Edmonton. Retrieved from: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1xcluyiqnUFjHqWI5-tfw7JukbtHu3qd8/view>*

**ABOUT THE RESEARCH REVIEWER:**

*Reem Saraya is interested in local and national politics, social policy issues including homelessness and poverty, violence against women, Indigenous rights, and refugee/migrant rights and issues. She enjoys volunteering, research, writing, hiking, painting and photography.*

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“Through our research, analysis, and engagement, we hope to create a community in which all people are full and valued participants.”

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—The Edmonton Social Planning Council

## *ABOUT ESPC*

The ESPC is an independent, non-profit, charitable organization. Our focus is social research, particularly in the areas of low income and poverty.

We are dedicated to encouraging the adoption of equitable social policy, supporting the work of other organizations who are striving to improve the lives of Edmontonians, and educating the public regarding the social issues that impact them on a daily basis.

## *OUR STAFF:*

**Susan Morrissey**, Executive Director

**Sandra Ngo**, Research Coordinator

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**Brett Lambert**, Community Engagement Coordinator

**John Kolkman**, Research Associate & Volunteer Coordinator

**Justine Basilan**, Executive Assistant

## *THE RESEARCH UPDATE:*

The Edmonton Social Planning Council, in collaboration with our volunteers, strives to provide stakeholders and community members with up-to-date reviews on recently published social research reports.

Interested in volunteering? Email [johnk@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:johnk@edmontonsocialplanning.ca)