

2012 Annual Report



Annual Report 2012

Our Vision

A healthy, just and inclusive community.

Our Mission

The ESPC provides leadership within the community by addressing and researching social issues, informing public discussion and influencing social policy.

Our Goals

To undertake research into the nature and magnitude of social issues in the community.

To increase public awareness and understanding of current social issues and be an independent voice in the community.

To encourage public participation in the development of social policies and the implementation of programs.

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President's Report



You have spoken and we are responding. Our annual members survey indicated that, while you are satisfied with our current effectiveness in meeting the Council's mission and with our research and publications, you would like to see the Edmonton Social Planning Council have a higher profile in the community and in the media, increase our advocacy activity on emerging issues with elected officials, and involve more volunteers in the Council's work.

I am pleased to report that this year we formalized an Advocacy Board Committee that will help increase our advocacy work and enhance our profile and identity. Our advocacy activities will always be non-partisan and conform to the Canada Revenue Agency guidelines, and our advice to decision-makers will always be based on research and innovation. Over the year, we have worked with elected officials on developing strategies for dealing with emerging social issues and have also established a network with senior staff in the ministries with whom we meet on an ongoing basis. I am proud to say that we submitted policy strategies to the Minister of Human Services that are closely reflected in the final Social Policy Framework released by the Premier last month. We have also stressed that, jointly with other non-profit organizations, we want to be a full participant in the implementation of the Framework.

We formed an ad hoc Fund Development Committee this year to explore ways to sustain and enhance our funding sources so that we can realize our vision of a healthy, just and inclusive community. We are very pleased with the response we got from donors and volunteers for our awareness event/fashion show, which was held during 2012. Our Finance Committee reported a small surplus this year, which shows that we are using the money we receive in a wise manner. While talking about finances, I want to assure the members that the Finance Committee and the Executive Director have ensured that our expense reimbursement procedures are transparent and in line with practices of other local non-profit agencies.

With the help of law students at the University of Alberta, the Policy Committee meticulously reviewed the Council's bylaws to ensure conformity to the Societies Act and other legislation. The updated and revised bylaws will facilitate our future governance and decision-making.

Cont'd....

President's Report—Cont'd.

Over the years our community has evolved and people's problems and needs have changed; thus the new environment calls for new approaches and new solutions. In 2013 we will be evaluating our past activities and our current role, and moving forward by developing a new vision that involves listening to our membership and partners. We will also hold a retreat for board members and staff. Our strategic plan has completed its three years and is due for renewal in the fall of 2013, and so we have our work cut out for us.

I am pleased to inform the membership of the Council that this year we brought in younger board members with fresh ideas and great enthusiasm to make an impact, and we increased the board's size by three members to respond to its increased undertakings. One member just completed his four-year term, making a valuable contribution, and the Board Development Committee has recruited a new member for the coming year.

Last year saw a lot of changes in the province – the new premier and cabinet, the new official opposition, the province's unsteady fiscal situation, and the ensuing effects on various programs and services. Our Council's role will become even more important in the coming years and, with a strong and focused leadership, we are ready for the challenge.

Vasant Chotai, Board President

Executive Director's Report



It is my continued pleasure to report on the operations of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for 2012. ESPC staff was involved in many work activities this past year and my remarks will only hit some of the highlights.

It was an interesting year to say the least from the perspective of social policy development. In mid spring the Provincial Government started on a journey to gather input from Albertans to help design a social policy framework that would inform priority setting and decision-making to address social challenges.

Cont'd....

Executive Director's Report—Cont'd

Our staff met the challenge and held 8 focused discussions with over 100 individuals living in low income situations. With the assistance of ESPC volunteers we gathered participants' input, told in their words, and submitted 8 separate reports to government.

Following in a similar vein, ESPC was one of a number of organizations instrumental in providing a compelling argument for city council to embark on the development of a poverty elimination strategy for Edmonton. In 2010, data from Statistics Canada showed that 120,000, or 10%, of individuals in the Edmonton census metropolitan area were living in low income. Co-chaired by the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region and the City of Edmonton, ESPC continue to be involved in the work of developing a coordinated, place based approach to addressing poverty issues. Looking forward, we are very excited to see how this work at the local level will complement the work now underway on the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy, knowing that the Premier has established the goal to end child poverty within 5 years.

The issue of homelessness continued to keep our staff busy in 2012 from a number of angles. We continued to monitor progress on the 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness. We also, once again, completed research and prepared the Edmonton Homeless Commission yearly update, and were actively involved in the Homeless Count and Homeless Connect events.

Along the same lines, we were fortunate to partner with the Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness to do a community research project titled Understanding Tenancy Failures and Successes. Hearing for some time that several community organizations were concerned about clients who were successfully housed but later returned to homelessness, and the recurring need to find new accommodations for these clients, we conducted a research project that involved an in-depth examination of the challenge of housing retention.

In 2012, ESPC once again hosted a number of discussions amongst community members through our Lunch and Learn series established in 2010 in partnership with the Stanley Milner Library. Looking back, I am struck by the diversity of topics that were covered by our guest speakers: Literacy, racism, public safety, elder abuse, the labour movement, and particular forms of violence against women.

ESPC produced many factsheets and newsletters, prepared and distributed monthly research reviews, and continued to produce our annual Alberta child poverty report card, Achieving the Promise: Ending Poverty in Alberta, in partnership with Public Interest Alberta and the Alberta College of Social Workers.

Cont'd....

Executive Director's Report—Cont'd

So far, I have only scratched the surface of the tasks and projects we were able to accomplish over this past year. I would encourage readers to look further into this report for greater details.

As always, I want to acknowledge the work of ESPC staff. It continues to amaze me that a team of 5 people can accomplish so much. It is obvious that their passion for the issues, combined with the desire to see change, is what drives their work.

Our Board of Directors and volunteers continued to perform stellar work this year. Whether it was attending board meetings, working on subcommittees, providing input to our report or writing articles for our publications, I am always encouraged to see individuals give freely of their time and contribute to their community by putting their mark on the work of ESPC.

Finally, my thanks again goes to the ESPC members and our major funders, including the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, the Edmonton Community Foundation, and the City of Edmonton. It's one thing to have the passion and desire to make change, but continued financial support is required for success.

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director



Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee Report



The Board has reached a consensus that it should be more active in advocacy. Accordingly, the Ad Hoc Advocacy Committee drafted an Advocacy Policy in 2012, which the Board amended and adopted in February, 2013. The Board then converted the Ad Hoc Committee into the Standing Advocacy Committee.

Our new Advocacy Policy recognizes that advocacy always has been part of the ESPC mission and operations, and affirms that it will continue to be. The direction of advocacy will be the responsibility of the Board, consistent with the ESPC Strategic Plan, Bylaws, Policy and government regulations, and will be informed by advice from the Executive Director. Advocacy activities normally will be executed by the Executive Director or delegated Staff but may be executed by the Board President or delegated Board members. The spirit of this new Advocacy Policy is to enhance the ESPC's ability to further its Mission and Strategic Plan while clarifying lines of responsibility and encouraging co-operation and collaboration among the President, Board, Executive Director and Staff.

Ron Chalmers, Committee Chair

Policy Committee Report



This year the Policy Committee has focused on reviewing and revising the Council's bylaws. We connected with the local chapter of Pro Bono Students of Canada (PBSC) at the University of Alberta's Student Legal Services. A team of PBSC law student volunteers, supervised by a lawyer, thoroughly reviewed ESPC's bylaws for completeness and conformity with applicable legislation, such as the Societies Act. The Policy Committee then worked to revise the bylaws to address the recommendations of the review. The proposed revisions aim to improve the comprehensiveness, clarity and consistency of the bylaws, particularly those that outline various methods of decision making. The revised bylaws should facilitate the smooth governance of the Council. The Policy Committee was also responsible for reviewing applications for the Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice.

Beth Hayward, Committee Chair

Finance Committee Report



The Edmonton Social Planning Council proposed a balanced budget for our fiscal year, which runs from January through December. In 2012, with posted revenue of \$374,780.00 and expenses of \$373,832.00 we actually achieved a very small surplus.

Just over half of the ESPC's revenue comes from the United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, with whom we continue to partner both directly and indirectly. The ESPC has been a member agency of the United Way since inception.

The Council has continued to do volunteer casinos, and on an annualized basis, these revenues represent around 10% of our budget. In 2012, the Council also obtained over \$6,000 in revenue from our first multi-agency Care with Flair Fashion Show.

Council Executive Director Susan Morrissey has continued to successfully pursue and capture several fee-for-service contracts. Complex bookkeeping continues to be undertaken by our contract bookkeeper Don McFarlane.

Our 2012 audited financial report will be presented to the AGM by Peterson Walker LLP, and is available to members on request.

Doug Meggison, Committee Chair

Fund Development Committee Report



It has been an interesting and busy year for the Ad Hoc Fund Development committee. In an environment that is seeing increasing economic uncertainty, and fluctuating budgets, we continue to explore ways we can promote the valuable contributions of the ESPC and bring stability to the organization with regards to funding.

In 2012, ESPC piloted a fundraiser called the Care with Flair Fashion Show. By all accounts it was a tremendous success that raised awareness around the ESPC and many of our partner associations. We received support from a large cross section of the public, everyone from government representatives, business owners to general members of the public. For 2013 our key focus is to ensure that we fulfill our commitment around the Casino fundraiser. We look forward to the event as it is an important fundraising activity for us.

Cont'd....

Fund Development Committee Report-Cont'd

I would encourage all members to see how they can get involved in the coming years to help grow our organization and continue to promote the wonderful work done by ESPC staff and volunteers.

Sumeet Shinde, Committee Chair

"We are very fortunate to have the ESPC working in Edmonton. The services that you provide are essential to the well-being of our community. Thank you."



Board Development Committee Report



The Board Development Committee is responsible for the recruitment and nomination process of new Board members in accordance with ESPC by-laws. ESPC is keenly aware that having an effective and engaged board membership depends on a clear understanding of responsibilities, desired skills and time commitments of potential candidates.

Over the past year, the committee focused on reviewing the ESPC Board Manual to ensure it was comprehensive, accurate and up-to-date. Special attention has been given to the process of orientation of new Board members. It is our hope that new Board members will feel well integrated into the Board. The committee will continue to recruit and nominate new Board members from diverse backgrounds whose interests align with those of ESPC.

Our overall goal is to ensure that we bring committed individuals to the board who can play a critical role in helping ESPC realize its vision of a healthy, just and inclusive society.

Oliver Kamau, Committee Chair

2012 Lunch and Learn Series



In 2012, the ESPC hosted six Lunch and Learns at the Stanley Milner branch of Edmonton Public Library.

January 25, 2012

Literacy: Implications For Us All

With Jonna Grad and Wendy Peverett,
Centre for Family Literacy

February 29, 2012

Honour-Based Conflict and Violence Against Women in Immigrant Communities in Canada

With Sabrina Atwal, Project Director, Indo-Canadian Women's Association

April, 4, 2012

The Power of Organized Labour: The History of the Alberta Federation of Labour

With Winston Gereluk and Jim Selby, Alberta Labour History Institute (ALHI)

May 23, 2012

Public Safety in Edmonton

With Jan Fox, Executive Director, REACH Edmonton.

September 12, 2012

Hatred: Racial Discrimination and Its Impact on Edmonton

With Charlene Hay, Executive Director, Centre for Race and Culture

November 14, 2012

Seniors Abuse in Edmonton

With Anjulie Talwar and Amanda Gravel,
Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton (SAGE)

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Next Lunch and Learn:

September 11th, 2013

Exploring Early Cultural and Economic Adaptation Process of the Newcomers in Michener Park, Edmonton, Alberta

With HM Ashraf Ali, ESPC Social Justice Intern and doctoral student at the University of Alberta

The ESPC's Social Justice Intern, HM Ashraf Ali, will discuss findings from his research project on social, cultural and economic constraints experienced by immigrants living in Edmonton's Michener Park area. It is the hope of the author that this research will help shape policies that address the unique problems that immigrants in our community face.

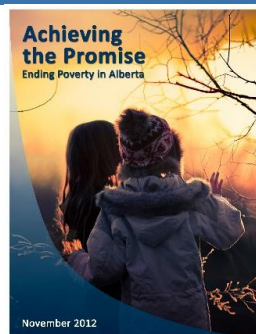
Location: Audio Visual Room (Main Floor) - Stanley Milner Library (7 Sir Winston Churchill Square) - **Time:** 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm

2012 Major Publications

Achieving the Promise: Ending Poverty in Alberta

November 2012

The Edmonton Social Planning Council, the Alberta College of Social Workers, and Public Interest Alberta released a report on current poverty trends in Alberta titled *Achieving the Promise: Ending Poverty in Alberta*. Using the latest available data, the report revealed that 91,000 Alberta children lived below Statistics Canada's low-income measure in 2009. The document also offered solutions to alleviating poverty in Alberta.



Edmonton Social Research Directory: 2012 Edition

September 2012

The Edmonton Social Planning Council began publishing the Social Research Directory in the 1980s. This guide was created to provide information about library collections of interest to social researchers in our community. While the ESPC hoped to update the Directory biannually, publication halted in 1989. The Social Research Directory was resurrected in 2010 and was updated in 2012.

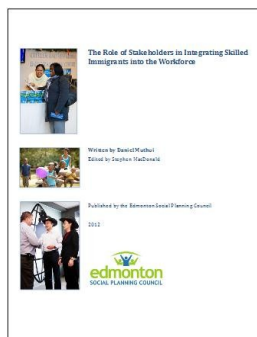
This year's directory contains information about 28 public, academic and special libraries, archives and information centres, the latest addition being the APIRG Resource Library.

The role of stakeholders in integrating skilled immigrants into the workforce

September 2012

In the Spring and Summer of 2012, Kings University College student Daniel Muthui served as ESPC's Social Justice Intern. This volunteer internship gives local post-secondary students an opportunity to explore a social problem in Edmonton and propose solutions to address it.

Mr. Muthui chose to write a paper about recent immigrants' access to the Canadian job market, focusing on the barriers they encounter as they try to find work that is commensurate with their education, skills and work experience. His paper also proposed solutions to help new immigrants find suitable employment opportunities in Canada.



2012 Activity Overview

Reports Released	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Cost of Poverty Report (ESPC contribution with Action to End Poverty in Alberta)</i>• <i>Impact of the Recession (jointly with Alberta Human Services)</i>• <i>Edmonton Social Research Directory</i>• <i>Role of Stakeholders in Integrating Skilled Immigrants into the Work Force – SciP Student intern for ESPC</i>• <i>Achieving the Promise (jointly with PIA, AB College of Social Workers)</i>
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the fACTivist Newsletter	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Income Inequality (Winter)• Local Social Safety Net (Spring)• Fair Taxation and the Role of Government (Summer)• Race and Racism (Fall)
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Research Reviews	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Monthly Research Review newsletter (12 editions)
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fACT sheets	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Position Statement of Reduced Transit Fares• Race and Racism• Poverty Trends in Alberta• Labour Movement in Alberta• 2012 Federal Government Budget Review• 2012 Provincial Government Budget review• Culturally Motivated Violence Against Women
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Articles	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• “Increase for Albertans with handicaps not just about the money,” (1News8:00AM.com, February)• “Census workers take count,” (24 Hrs., Edmonton, April)• “Advocates waiting on Redford to deliver on anti-poverty promise,” (Edmonton Journal – April)• “Edmonton/Calgary leads the country in economic growth, says report,” (Edmonton Sun – September)• “Child wellbeing initiative at AB Legislature demands increase in minimum wage,” (Edmonton Sun – November)• “AB pledges to eliminate child poverty within 5 years,” (The Sun – November)• “Study shows improvement, but more needs to be done to end child poverty,” (CTV Edmonton- November)• “91,000 paper prayers offered to end child poverty,” (Edmonton Journal – November)• “Working Poor: Many Edmonton residents put in long hours for low pay,” (WE Magazine – Winter 2012)
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2012 Activity Overview—Cont'd

Media Conferences / Releases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Redford Government Challenged to Achieve the Promise (November)
Committees / Coalitions	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action to End Poverty in Alberta• Strategic Alliance on Low Income Issues• CEASE• Homeward Trust Research Council• Homeless Memorial Planning Committee• Homeward Trust Homeless Connect Planning Committee• ECOHH Communications and Policy Committee• Public Interest Alberta Human Services & Poverty Reduction Task Force• Alberta Asset Building Collaborative• Alberta Quality of Life Commission• City of Edmonton Food and Agriculture Strategy• City of Edmonton Poverty Elimination Strategy• Urban Core Support Network• United Way ED Network• Data Users Group• Campaign 2000
Consultations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• YMCA Edmonton Health of Canadian Families Discussion• United Way of the Alberta Capital Region Strategic Plan• City of Edmonton, The Way We Prosper plan• Boyle Street Community Services Street Outreach Advisory Committee• Mature Neighborhood Sustainability Taskforce• Edmonton Economic Development Employment Discussion• Alberta Human Services Social Policy Framework Consultations• University of Alberta Human Ecology department• Government of Alberta Youth Homelessness Strategy• Meeting with Minister Dave Hancock
Conference attended	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Government of Alberta Policy Matters conference• Tamarack Community Collaborative Institute

Cont'd....

2012 Activity Overview—Cont'd

Contracts Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Edmonton Homeless Commission Year 3 Update• Understanding Tenancy Failures and Successes Research Project• Achieving the Promise: Ending Poverty in Alberta• University of Regina, Faculty of Social Work Research Request
Presentations	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Frontier College Connections Community• University of Alberta Business Students• St. Joseph's College• Public Interest Alberta Conference• Philanthropic Education Organization• City of Edmonton Community Services Committee• City of Edmonton Executive Committee• Servus Credit Union• Parkland Institute Disparity Gap Symposium• Grant Mac Ewan University Nursing Students• University of Alberta Physical Education Students• Canadian Public Health Association• Progressive Librarians' Guild of Edmonton
Events Hosted	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Co-hosted Edmonton Homeless Commission Outreach Roundtable discussion• Lunch and Learns Series<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Literacy: Implications for Us All, Centre for Family Literacy• Honor-Based Conflict & Violence Against Women in Immigrant Communities in Canada, Indo-Canadian Woman's Association• Public Safety, REACH Edmonton• Hatred- Racial Discrimination and its Impact on Edmonton, Centre for Race & Culture• Elder Abuse in Edmonton, SAGE
Events Participated in	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• ECOHH Homeless Memorial• UCSN Inner City BBQ• United Way Kick-off Event• Homeless Count• Homeless Connect



"Tracking the Trends is a valuable resource—with important socio-demographic information about Edmontonians. I can't think of another publication that provides this sort of information at a local level"

ESPC Web and Social Media

The Edmonton Social Planning Council has endeavored to reach out and engage with a wider audience through the use of its website and social media tools. Feel free to connect with the Council through our various online outlets!

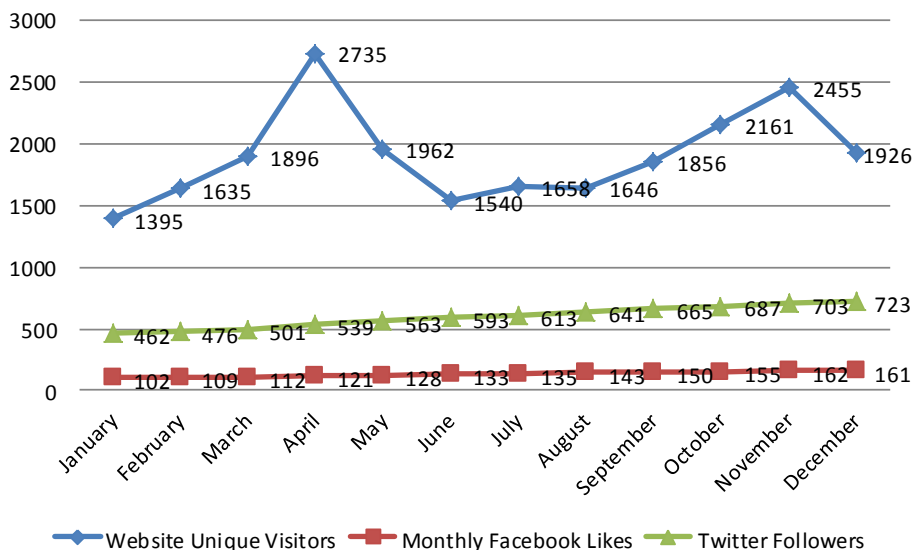
Online statistics in 2012

Website Visits: 26,291 (61.8% increase from last year)

Website Unique Visitors: 20,794 (71.2% increase from last year)

723 Twitter followers as of December 2012 (54.5% increase from start of 2012)

161 Facebook 'Likes' as of December 2012 (57.8% increase from start of 2012)



facebook®

www.facebook.com/edmontonspc

twitter

<http://twitter.com/edmontonspc>

You Tube

<http://www.youtube.com/edmontonspc>

flickr™

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/edmontonsocialplanning/>



threeSOURCE
A RESEARCH & RESOURCE HUB
FOR ALBERTA'S THIRD SECTOR

threeSOURCE is a research database that is freely accessible to the public and is managed by the Resource Coordinator. It serves as an access

point for social research reports produced by the third sector in Alberta and in other parts of Canada. In 2012, 129 print and digital publications were catalogued in this database.

From January 1st to December 31st, 2012, threeSOURCE was accessed 1,637 times by 1,189 visitors. Users accessed 5,520 pages in the database, accessing an average of 3.19 pages per visit. In 2012, threeSOURCE received 15% more visits, 27% more visitors and 6% more page views than it did in 2011. Individuals that relied on threeSOURCE to retrieve information included employees who work in local and provincial levels of government, the province's health care sector, universities, organizations in the social services sector, and the general public.

Research Update Newsletter

The monthly Research Update newsletter contains reviews of research publications that focus on important social issues that are of interest to Edmontonians and Albertans. These reviews are written by our volunteers. In 2012, 10 Research Update e-newsletters were released. The newsletter was primarily sent to Albertans who work in local and provincial levels of government, universities and colleges, individuals who work in the local social services sector and to the general public.

Research Services

In 2012, the ESPC received 16 research requests for information on a variety of social issues. These requests for information came from social activists and employees of local social agencies, other non-profit organizations, and municipal and provincial levels of government. Examples of topics that these individuals and organizations requested information about included poverty trends in Alberta, family violence reduction programs and services, the impact of wet shelters, social issues that impact seniors, and immigration trends in Edmonton. Organizations who requested this information requested it to develop a better understanding of the clients they serve, to educate the public about particular social issues in our community, and develop programs and other initiatives to improve the wellbeing of disadvantaged groups in our community.

2012 Members Survey Summary



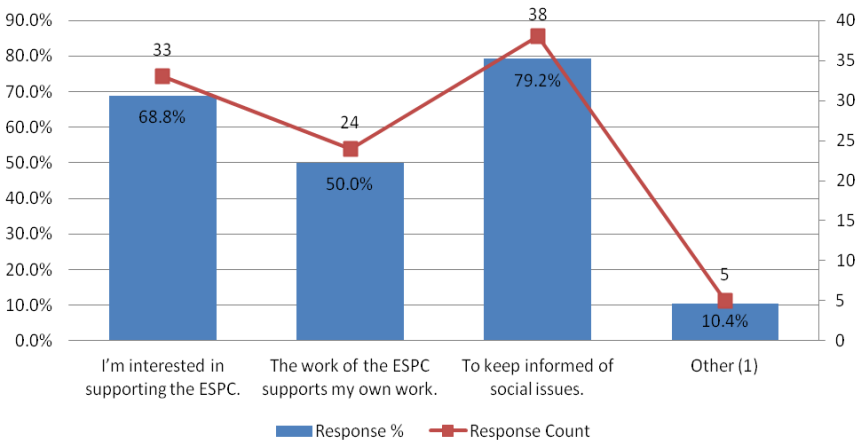
The annual ESPC member’s survey was conducted from January 17 to January 31, 2013. The survey was sent to 112 member emails addresses which were drawn from the Vertical Response list-serve. To increase response rate, mail merge was used to personalize the survey invite to each member. Relative to past member surveys, the response rate was high with 48 survey participants (42.9%).

The reason most respondents state for becoming members is to stay informed about social issues (79.2%), followed by a desire to support the Council’s work (68.8%). The majority (83.0%) read ESPC’s publications and also visit our website (51.5%). 91.7% of respondents agreed that the ESPC’s work supports their own work and interests.

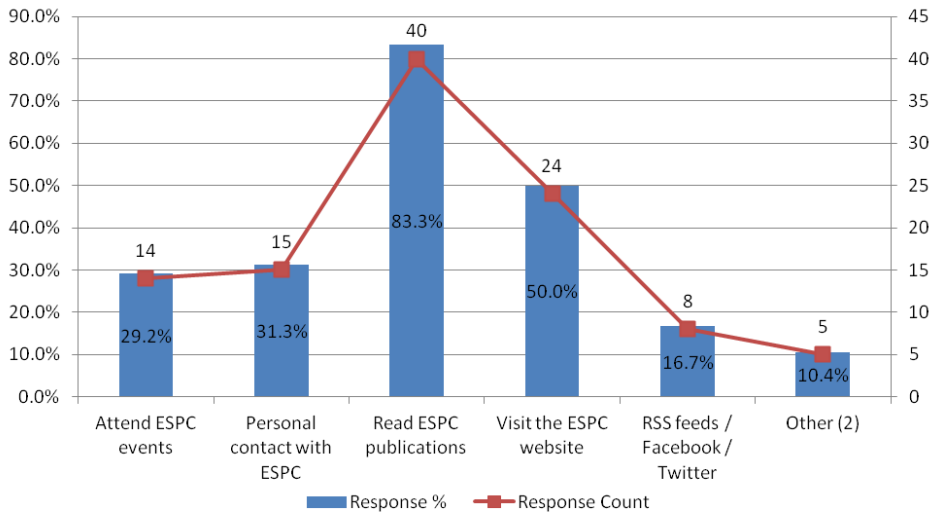
The majority of respondents were either satisfied (45.7%) or very satisfied (28.3%) with the value of their membership. Some expressed an interest in being a more active member in the organization, such as through committee work or volunteering. Since some ESPC events are held at variable times throughout the year, the ability to webcast events was suggested to increase accessibility.

50.0% of respondents were satisfied and 18.8% were very satisfied that the ESPC was effectively meeting its mission. When asked to elaborate on how ESPC could increase its effectiveness, suggestions included increasing media exposure and collaboration with community partners, acting as a consultant with community based organizations, or acting more as a leader in the community on policy issues.

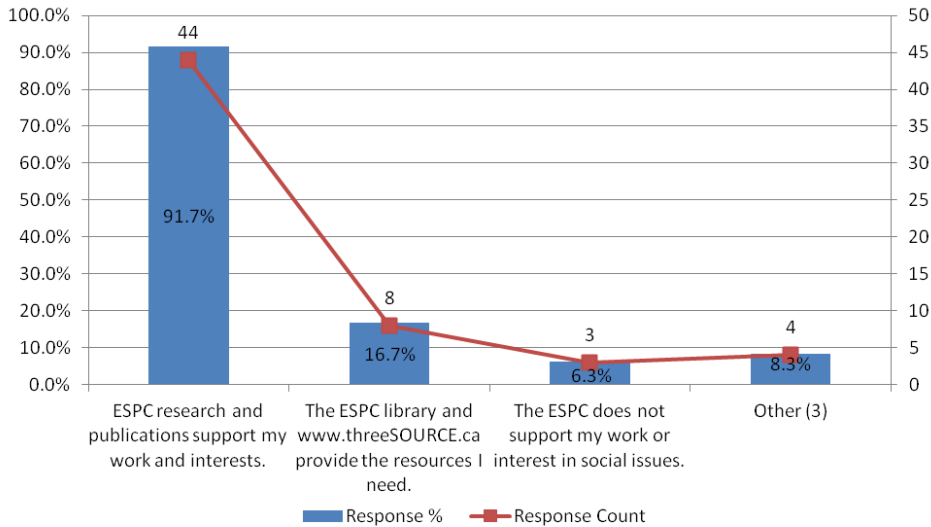
Question 1: What is your primary reason for being a member of the Edmonton Social Planning Council? (Choose all that apply)



Question 2: How do you stay informed about the ESPC's work? (Choose all that apply)



Question 3: How does the ESPC support your work or interest in social issues? (Choose all that apply)



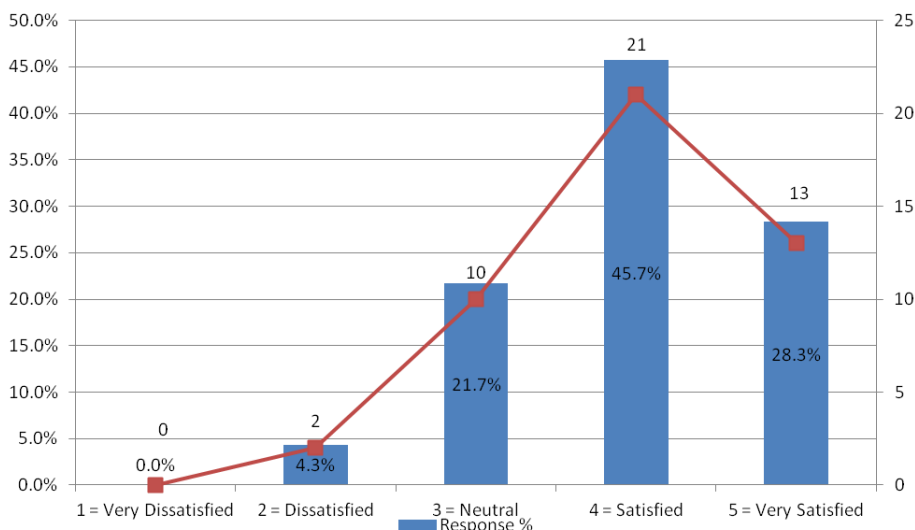
“quote”

“Excellent publications—high quality analysis and plain language.”



"The Quality of Life Commission depends on support from the staff of ESPC when we put on community events, etc. It has skills and facilities which we do not have, and we appreciate that."

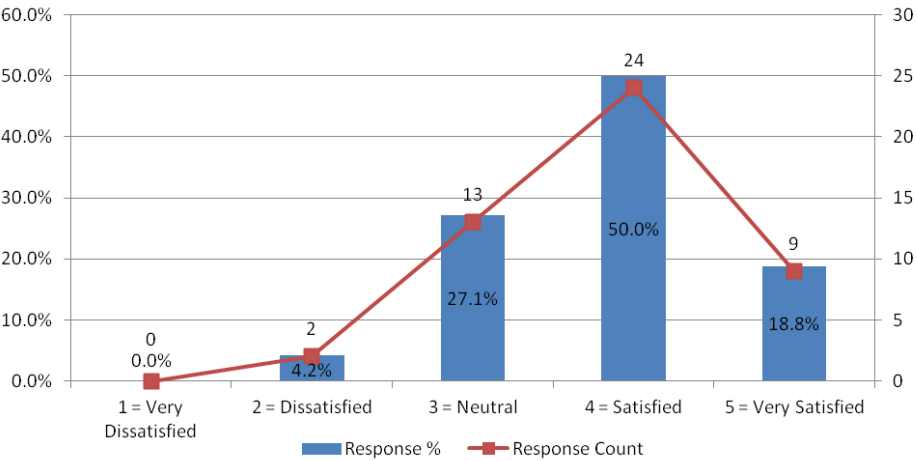
Question 4: On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the value of your ESPC membership? [1 = Very Dissatisfied, 3 = Satisfied, 5 = Very Satisfied]



Question 5: What do you think the ESPC could do to increase the value of your membership?

Members were asked an open-ended question about what they believed could increase the value of their membership. There were 26 responses (a rate of 54.2%). The qualitative responses to this question can be roughly divided between a desire for greater involvement/interaction, suggestions, positive comments, and neutral observations.

Question 6: On a scale of 1 to 5, how would you rate the ESPC's effectiveness in meeting its mission? [1 = Very Ineffective, 3 = Effective, 5 = Very Effective]



Question 7: Any suggestions that can increase our effectiveness?

An optional question sought suggestions in how to increase the Council’s effectiveness. The way the question was framed invited a more critical assessment of the ESPC. There were fifteen responses. The proposed ideas can be divided into five areas: **advocacy, collaboration, recruitment, neutral comments, and positive assessments.**

Question 8: Do you have any additional feedback?

The last optional question asked for any additional feedback. It had 6 responses divided between **positive feedback** and **reaffirmations** of what was said earlier in the survey concerning involvement and supporting initiatives.

“I was positively impressed with the content of the March 2013 factsheet.”



“The role you took in getting information from vulnerable populations on Alberta Social Policy was outstanding.”

2012-2013 Board of Directors

President

Vasant Chotai

Policy Committee

Beth Hayward (Chair)
Lindsey Graham
Oliver Kamau

Finance Committee

Doug Meggison (Chair)
Ron Chalmers

Casino/Fund Development Committee-

Sumeet Shinde (Chair)
Iris Moreno
Jarrod Bayne
Rose Marie Tremblay

Board Development Committee

Oliver Kamau (Chair)
Doug Meggison
Lindsey Graham

2013-2014 Board of Directors Candidates Retirees

First Term - 1st Year Candidates:

Continuing First Term - 2nd Year

Candidates:

Lindsey Graham
Sumeet Shinde
Jarrod Bayne
Rose Marie Tremblay
Oliver Kamau
Doug Meggison

Second Term - 1st Year Candidates:

Beth Hayward
Vasant Chotai
Iris Moreno

Second Term - 2nd Year Candidates:

Retiring Board Members:

Ron Chalmers

ESPC Membership

We would like to thank our current members for their support, which allows the Council to meet its vision of a healthy, just and inclusive community. The strength of our voice and our role in the community is based on the support of people and organizations concerned about social issues. Members of the ESPC add their voices to our message of positive social development and policy change. Our members also benefit by:

- **Staying informed** - ESPC members are the first to receive our newsletters, publications, and other updates.
- **Getting involved** - Members have a say in the direction of the Council by voting for our board of directors, and are eligible to serve on the board. We also welcome members' suggestions and support throughout the year to better meet the Council's objectives.
- **Supporting their community** - The contributions of members help us to remain at the forefront regarding social issues.

One of the Council’s top priorities is to add value to our membership. We are continually working to identify new ways to keep our members informed and engaged.

2012 Staff Members

Susan Morrissey	Executive Director
John Kolkman	Research Coordinator
Stephen MacDonald	Resource Coordinator
Joseph Ahorro	Research and Communications Assistant
Sabrina Sperber	Administrative Assistant

Consultants and Students

Don McFarlane	Bookkeeper
Paul Dobrotvorsky	IT Services (PD Compserve)
Microtek	Web Hosting
Brittany Christiani	Grant MacEwan Social Work Student (until April 2012)
Lindsey Loset	King’s College Internship Student (Sept to Dec 2012)
Daniel Muthui	SCiP Bursary
Nasreen Rajani	STEP student

Core Funders

- United Way of the Alberta Capital Region
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Alberta Gaming and Liquor Commission (ESPC Casino Fundraising Event)
- City of Edmonton Community Investment Grant and Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)

Partners and Supporters of Projects


- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Action to End Poverty in Alberta (AEPA)• Alberta Human Services• City of Edmonton Integrated Panhandling Advisory Committee• Edmonton Coalition on Housing and Homelessness (ECOHH)• Edmonton Homeless Commission• Grant MacEwan Social Work Program | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Homeward Trust Edmonton• PovNet• Public Interest Alberta (PIA)• Strategic Alliance on Low Income Issues• Union 52 Benevolent Society• United Way of the Alberta Capital Region• Urban Core Support Network (UCSN) |
|---|---|

ESPC Volunteers

In 2012, a total of 962.5 hours were contributed by volunteers to the ESPC. This is a slight increase from 2011, when volunteers contributed 858 hours of service to the work of the ESPC.

Carling Anderson-Severage	Sadia Husain	Adrian Pook
Kayla Atkey	Noelle Jaipaul	Marg Poon
Mona Bacon	Maxwell Jenkins	Leah Read
Sarah Basso	Stella Johnson	Chris Rudge
Tania Brito	Megan Jones	Lubna Sami
Elise Broughton	Eric Joyal	Ghislain Sangwa-Lugoma
Raymond Cheung	Anna Kessler	Dan Scratch
Brigitte Cisneros	Diane Kratky	Eric Sereti
Michael Colborne	Victoria Kubinski	Tamara Stecyk
Kelta Coomber	Darlene Lau	Esther Steeves
Priti Dake	Amanda LeBlanc	Teresa Thomas
Sasha Deelstra	Marc LeBlanc	Nalini Unny
Catharine Disnard	Ben Lemphers	Kevin Unrau
Adam Dombovari	Rebecca Leonard	Diana Varvis
Christine Donnelly	Kristen Leppington	Rina Willier
Manuel Escoto	Barbara Lyon	Lindsay Wodinski
Grace Han	Sandra MacKeigan	Brenda Wong
Curtis Haugan	Michelle Maitland	Justyna Zaprawa
Michelle Harkness	Amanda Nickerson	Vanessa Zembal
Adam Henley	Darlene Paranaque	
Hayley Orton	Leah Phillips	

ESPC Volunteer Opportunities

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Our volunteer opportunities are different than those of other service organizations in the community.

We are a not-for-profit organization that focuses primarily on social research. We are dedicated to encouraging the adoption of equitable social policy and educating the public regarding the social issues that impact them on a daily basis. The ESPC tries to align an individual's particular policy interests, availability, and skills with various volunteer opportunities. By going to our website at www.edmontonsocialplanningcouncil.ca > Support Us > Volunteer, interested volunteers can sign up to:

- Write research reviews
- Contribute to ACT *sheets* and quarterly *fACTivists* newsletters
- Draft film / book reviews
- Help our community partners
- Apply to the Board of Directors

- Spearhead a project as a Youth Intern (age 18-25)
- Be a general researcher for the ESPC
- Assist with fundraising
- Support our special events

Minutes of 72nd Annual General Meeting

Date: May 15, 2012 5:30 pm

Location: Unitarian Church, 10804 - 119 Street, Edmonton, AB

1. Welcome and President's Remarks

The meeting was convened at 5:40 p.m. by John Pater, President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, who welcomed everyone and delivered a brief opening statement. John welcomed guest speaker Gurchuran Singh Bhatia who would be speaking after the official meeting.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Motion: MOVED by Beth Hayward, seconded by Vasant Chotai to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: **CARRIED**

3. Approval of Minutes of May 18th, 2011

Motion: MOVED by Ron Chalmers, seconded by Beth Hayward to accept the minutes from the May 18th, 2011 AGM as presented.

Motion: **CARRIED**

4. Award of Merit For Advocacy of Social Justice

Beth Hayward presented Award of Merit For Advocacy of Social Justice to Yvonne Chiu.

5. President's Report

John Pater reflected on the work of the Board and Council for the year 2011.

6. Operations Report

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director, reflected on the work of the Council and change within our community, province and federal level of government.

The ESPC fought really hard, around the long form census, met with our MP Laurie Hawn as well, and tried to convince the government of the importance of the long form census however was not successful in that.

Major cuts are made every day, we understand and appreciate that budgets must be balanced however the federal budget cuts seems on side of the vulnerable and those who speak for the vulnerable.

The National Council of Welfare that we have relied on has been eliminated from the

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budget. Major cuts have been made to the research arm of the status of women in Canada, and an increase in old age security eligibility.

Change is also relevant with a prominent Alberta Wildrose Alliance in the legislature.

We are into year 4 of the 10 year provincial plan to end Homelessness. We are carefully tracking the numbers and being a watch dog to the government.

Premier Redford has promised to end Child poverty within 5 years. This was welcomed news and the ESPC will be closely following the efforts made and the work being done by the provincial government.

We also have coordination with street Outreach programs.

Poverty Reduction Strategy is finally under discussion within our government.

Susan Morrissey thanked the staff, and the board of directors.

Susan Morrissey also thanked our volunteer program research volunteers.

Susan Morrissey thanks our major funders the Edmonton Community Foundation, The United Way of the Alberta Capital Region, The City of Edmonton and also the ESPC members.

Susan Morrissey introduced Sabrina Sperber.

Sabrina introduced herself. Thanked Susan Morrissey for her work with the ESPC this year. Sabrina Sperber went on to introduce the upcoming Fall Fundraiser. The "Care with Flair" Fall Fashion Show and Auction, held Sunday Sept 16th at the EPCOR Tower. Doors open @ 1:30pm will run through to 4:30pm. Board members and council are encouraged to seek out auction items or financial sponsorship.

John Pater thanked Susan Morrissey and introduced Ron Chalmers to present the 2011 financial report.

7. Presentation of Financial Report

Presentation of the 2011 Audited Financial statements.

Carla Walker presented the Audit Report.

Question: On page 5 I do not know what the Community initiatives Program is, how come the funds appear as an expense and revenue

Answer: Funds appear in both expense and revenue since they are funds for projects and can only be used in full for the funding of that project.

Question: Edmonton Community Foundation Grant is considerably lower than previous years. Why?

Answer: Upon first receiving the Grant it would remain the same dollar amount for several years. The Edmonton Community Foundation did state that upon review the Grant amount would be reduced or eliminated completely. We gladly accepted a reduced amount for 3 years. This was determined by the funder.

Question: Social return from a project in 2010 was about \$21, 000 expensed but there was no funds in the budget for it.

Answer: The money comes in after the budget was approved. The project was under Foundation Grant the revenue and expenses match.

Motion: MOVED by Doug Meggison, seconded by Brian Henderson to approve the audited 2011 financial statements as presented.

Motion: CARRIED

Motion: MOVED by Brian Henderson, seconded by Vasant Chotai to appoint Peterson, Walker for the 2012 audit.

Motion: CARRIED

John Pater thanked Carla Walker and Ron Chalmers for their work.

8. **Bylaw Amendment**

John Pater announced the ESPC Board would like to reduce the size of the board from 10 – 15 members down to 8-12 members.

Motion: MOVED by Vasant Chotai, seconded by Ann Goldblatt to reduce the size of the board from 10-15 to 8-12.

Motion: CARRIED

John Pater presented the change in wording in order to allow for voting by the Chair.

Motion: MOVED by Vasant Chotai, seconded by Rose Marie Tremblay to change the wording in order for the Chair to vote.

Discussion ensued.**Motion: CARRIED**

9. **Board Development/Nominating Committee Report**

Susan Morrissey presented John Pater with a token of appreciation.

Introduction of current Board Members

Ron Chalmers

Beth Hayward

Iris Moreno

Vasant Chotai

Applicants for the upcoming Board members. John Pater introduces 5 candidates that have gone through the interview process and have been acknowledged as a fit for the ESPC Board.

Lindsey Graham
Sumeet Shinde
Jarrod Bayne
Rose Marie Tremblay
Oliver Kamau

Each candidate had an opportunity to speak about themselves.

CALLS for nominations from the floor.

Ron Chalmers nominated from the floor.

Doug Meggison

Motion: MOVED by John Pater, seconded by Ron Chalmers, that nominations cease.

Motion: CARRIED

Motion: MOVED by John Pater seconded by Ron Chalmers to elect all 6 candidates (the above mentioned) to the Edmonton Social Planning Council's Board of Directors.

Motion: CARRIED

10. Policy Committee

Beth Hayward thanked Iris Moreno for her help on the Policy Committee, as well as thanking John Pater for his guidance since Beth Hayward and Iris Moreno were both new to the board in 2011. Beth Hayward reflected on the work of the Policy committee during 2011.

11. Advocacy Exploration Team Report

Vasant Chotai reflected on the creation, vision and work of the Advocacy Exploration Team and what sort of impact the ESPC will have when advocating for those who may not have a voice.

12. Other Business

None.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Ken Stickland adjourned the formal meeting at 6:55pm.

www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca
[www.facebook/edmontonspc](https://www.facebook.com/edmontonspc)
info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca
Twitter: @edmontonspc

Suite 37, Commonwealth Building
9912 - 106 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1C5
Tel: 780.423.2031



United Way