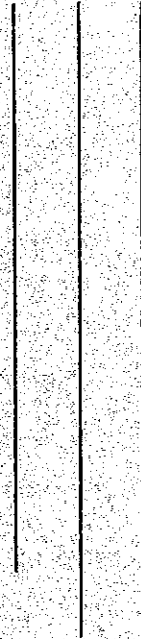


947

Annual Report

1947



Edmonton Council of Social Agencies
10128-98 St.



REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

EDMONTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

on March 10, 1948, covering the year 1947 - 48.

HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

For the benefit of any who are not altogether familiar with the Council of Social Agencies, its purpose, and the way in which it operates, it seems that I should perhaps, take a few minutes to explain.

Every community of any size has a number of organizations, clubs and groups interested in promoting some phase of community welfare or civic betterment. Edmonton has many such. There quickly comes a time when, working independently, overlapping and duplication of effort and services may occur, while at one and the same time, other existing needs are not being met at all, or at best, very inadequately. The Council of Social Agencies, therefore, is established to provide the means through which all organizations concerned may cooperate in planning, and join forces in seeking maximum benefits in human welfare in their community.

Naturally, the work of the Council covers a wide range of interests and activities, and it is carried on in a variety of ways. First, there are the three Divisions - Health, Child and Family, and Group Work and Recreation. Here, agency representatives meet to discuss matters of concern in their particular fields and consider action to be taken. Then there is the Executive Committee of the Council, which deals with recommendations forwarded by the Divisions; matters involving the formulation of policy; and problems which cut across Divisional interests or which concern only a small portion of the members of any one Division. Thirdly, there is the Council Office, providing technical assistance and secretarial help to the various committees, general consultation and information services to the committees, agencies, and community at large, and, in addition, maintains certain central services.

It will be obvious from the way in which the Council operates, that much time and consideration is necessarily devoted by the Executive Committee to many things which originate in the Divisions, or come directly through the Office. To avoid repetition I shall deal here with only those matters which are not covered in the reports to follow.

There were six meetings of the Executive Committee since last report, and a number of meetings of special sub-committees.

During the year the Council lost through death, one of its oldest friends and staunchest supporters, the late Warren W. Prevey, Honorary President and member of the Executive Committee. We wish to record our deep sense of loss, and sympathy for his family.

Welcomed to the Executive Committee as new members were Mrs. A. Earnshaw and Mr. Clark Ready, being elected representatives to the Group Work Division.

Appointments to the Board of Directors of the Community Chest were Mr. Percy Cowley and Mr. Harold Fazackerley; and to the Budget Committee - Mr. H. Guy Greenwood and Mr. A.H. Skenfield.

Organization membership in the Council now numbers 60, one new member, the Council for Canadian Unity having been added during the year.

Following the appointment of a full-time Executive Secretary by the Community Chest, the Council requested that its Executive Officer be relieved of the Secretaryship of the Budget Committee, a post she had filled for more than a year and a half. The transfer was effected on June 1st, with continuing contact between the Chest and Council being assured through the Council Director serving as an Advisory member.

A memorandum prepared by the Canadian Welfare Council, outlining a national housing policy and submitted to various organizations across the country for study and comment prior to presenting it to the Ottawa authorities, was considered by the Council Executive, and endorsed in principle in its entirety.

Amendments to the Provincial Child Welfare Act and to the Bureau of Public Welfare Act, introduced at the 1947 session of the Legislature, were also considered, and representations were made to appropriate Ministers asking that, particularly with respect to adoptions, no change in the Act be made until those concerned had had an opportunity of studying the matter thoroughly. Similar representations were also made at that time by other organizations in the Province. While some alterations were made which tended to improve some of the more objectionable features the major request for delay was not granted.

Other matters dealt with were: a request from the Community Chest Budget Committee for a report concerning the work of the Alberta Humane Society in relation to its eligibility for admission to Chest membership; also from the Budget Committee, an opinion was sought regarding the desirability of the Y.M.C.A. embarking on a decentralized community-centred programme, bearing in mind particularly the existing and proposed programmes and services of other group work and recreation organizations in the City. Consideration was also given to a proposed amendment of the Sex Disqualification Act, and to the need for reciprocal arrangements with other provinces and countries for the enforcement of maintenance orders.

(Signed) JEAN DAVISON
(Mrs. G. R. Davison)
Honorary Secretary.

CHILD AND FAMILY DIVISION REPORT

Delegates of the Child and Family Division were called to four meetings during the year - two in connection with the preparation and endorsement of the brief submitted to the Provincial Commission of Enquiry on Child Welfare; one at which Mr. Robert E. Mills of the Toronto Children's Aid Society discussed foster home placement and care of children, and at which he showed films on the foster home work of his organization. The fourth meeting was one at which Mr. Raymond M. Dilliard gave an address on care of the aged, infirm, and chronically ill, based largely upon his experience in this field in Illinois.

The studies on juvenile courts and probation services, detention homes and training schools for juvenile delinquents, undertaken by this Division during the previous year, and which at that time had seemed disappointingly inconclusive, provided very useful material for the committee charged with preparation of the Council brief on child welfare, as did also the report prepared on licensing and inspecting foster homes for children.

The Division has followed with keen interest, reports issued from time to time during the year regarding progress being made in the remodelling of the Edmonton Detention Home for Boys. It will be recalled that this is a matter which has been the subject of delegation and communications between this Council and the City for the past three years. We understand that the building is now ready for occupancy as soon as suitable staff can be engaged. It is sincerely hoped that the City will be successful in obtaining the services of personnel for this work who are well qualified by personality and experience, since it is generally accepted that the degree to which a Home of this type will succeed in fulfilling its function, depends directly upon the quality of its staff. It is also hoped that the authorities responsible for its operation will establish and adhere strictly to a policy of admitting to care only boys who are delinquent and in need of being detained. Experience elsewhere has proven beyond a doubt that homeless and neglected boys generally, have no place in a home of this kind.

Should there be any way in which this Division or its member organizations can be of assistance to the City in carrying through to its objective of making this detention home one of the best of its kind, the Division stands ready at all times to try to do so.

(Signed) JOHN McINTYRE,
DIVISION CHAIRMAN.

GROUP WORK DIVISION REPORT

4.

There were four meetings of the Group Work Division during the year, two Executive meetings, and many meetings of special committees.

The most ambitious project undertaken was probably the three-day institute on Leadership Training held in November, in response to agency demand. We were fortunate in obtaining as principal leader and instructor for the Institute, Miss Dorothea Spellmann, of the School of Group Work, University of Denver, whose clear, enthusiastic presentation of the fundamentals of group work method proved a real inspiration to all privileged to hear her. One hundred and forty persons registered for the course, coming from more than thirty different Edmonton organizations, as well as from such out-of-town points as Calgary, Ponoka, Wetaskiwin and Fort Saskatchewan. We wish to record our thanks to Prof. A.S.R. Tweedie, Dr. J.W. Gilles, Miss Beatrice McBain and Miss Maimie S. Simpson, for assisting as leaders of evening discussion groups; to the Recreation Commission for making its building available to us for this purpose; to the special committee, chaired by Mrs. Cora Casselman, which was largely responsible for the details in connection with planning and promotion, and to the many others who helped in numerous ways.

A second undertaking of the year centred in efforts to assist residents of the American Air Base and Camp 550 Districts, to secure more recreational opportunities for children living in those parts of the City. For several reasons beyond the control of the cooperating organizations, plans for the Air Base did not materialize, but at Camp 550, where there was a Community League through which to work, quite a number of additional activities were provided during the summer months. Among these were an In-the-City camp for boys, and a Daily Vacation School for younger children, directly sponsored by Division organizations. Contact between local committees in that area and the Council Office continues.

Several conferences were held for the purpose of clearing plans for avoiding overlapping in relation to the location and development of City playgrounds, Daily Vacation Schools, and In-the-City Camps. Further, the need has been recognized for closer working relationships on a regular year-round basis, and clarification of fields and functions of the various organizations in the recreation field - particularly with respect to the Civic Recreation Commission, the Federation of Community Leagues, the Group Work Division of the Council of Social Agencies, and the Arts and Sports Councils. As the result of preliminary discussions it is expected that a representative standing committee of the Division will be formed shortly for this purpose, and that out of its deliberations will emerge a greater degree of co-ordination in the development of recreation activities and facilities, than has existed in the past.

Other matters in which the Division has been and continues to be interested are: (a) the proposed Civic Centre; (b) the provision of leadership training courses through the Department of Extension of the University; (c) preparation of a film depicting the work of group work and recreation agencies.

On behalf of the Division I wish here to record sincere thanks to the members of the Executive who retired during the year. Particularly, I wish to pay tribute to Mr. Harold Fazackerley who for nearly three years served as Division Chairman, and to whose energetic leadership much of the success of the Division's work is due.

(Signed) GLADYS EARNSHAW.
(Mrs. A. Earnshaw)
Division Chairman.

HEALTH DIVISION REPORT

Bearing in mind the fact that the Council, through its other Divisions, had several major projects in hand in which members of the Health Division were interested, this Division refrained from developing a programme of its own in order that members might be free to participate in the other projects, according to their interests. Preparation of the brief for presentation to the Royal Commission of Enquiry on Child Welfare is cited as a case in point.

Members also attended the meeting addressed by Mr. Raymond Hilliard, on the care of the aged, infirm and chronically ill. Similarly, they participated in a film showing jointly sponsored by the Department of Extension of the University of Alberta and the Council of Social Agencies, when three films were viewed, two of which dealt with child development from a mental health standpoint. Health Division members were also invited to join with the Child and Family Division in a discussion of foster home care and placement, led by Mr. Robert Mills of the Toronto Children's Aid Society.

It will be seen that generally this Division has developed an elastic type of programme. When no specific health problem is on the agenda the Division has grasped the opportunity to combine their meeting with other groups. This policy appears more likely to maintain an active and interested organization than to resort to formal addresses on such occasions. With the co-operation of other Divisions it is thought that this principle can be developed further to the advantage of all concerned.

(Signed) E. C. EMMOTT,
Division Chairman.

REPORT OF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Having heard the reports of the Honorary Secretary, and of the Divisions, there remains for me to add only a brief account of the activities of the Council Office to complete the picture of the past year. These are so varied, and at times so unpredictable, it is a little difficult to present them in anything resembling a well-defined pattern.

CENTRAL SERVICES

There are of course, certain central services which are maintained regularly, for the benefit of all member organizations - such as the Social Service Exchange, the Christmas Clearing Service, and the Library.

The Social Service Exchange is a confidential central index for the use of bona fide social welfare organizations, through which they may be directed to other organizations previously having dealings with individuals now appealing for assistance. The Exchange is not, as many people seem to think, a centralized file of case records. No information about the personal lives and experiences of the applicants is recorded in the Exchange. Indeed, none is known. In each instance where a case enquired about, is identified in the Exchange as known to another agency, the enquiring organization must then get in touch with the agency or agencies having previous contacts, and elicit from them the information they require in order to help the client most effectively in the current situation. It cannot be over-emphasized that the whole operation is surrounded with protective devices ensuring the confidential nature of the work.

It should also be pointed out that no City-Community today, can operate its welfare services adequately and efficiently without an Exchange or Index. It is designed to prevent duplication and confusion in service, and it represents a simple, routine method of promoting inter-agency cooperation. We now have some 12,000 cases registered in the Exchange. Total enquiries made during 1947 numbered 841; of which 148, or 17.6%, were identified as known to other organizations. Obviously 841 represents but a small fraction of the total numbers of persons receiving service from welfare agencies during the year. The effectiveness of the Index depends directly upon the extent to which it is used, and it is hoped that more of our member organizations will take advantage of the service in the coming year.

The special Christmas Exchange which is operated for the prevention of duplication in the giving of Christmas dinners, registered 410 enquiries last year, with 49, or nearly 12% of the families being enquired of from two to four times.

The Library - of books, periodicals and pamphlets, dealing with a wide range of social welfare topics, available on loan to anyone interested, was maintained as usual. It is a source of satisfaction to us that increasing numbers of students and agency staff members utilize the library each year.

TECHNICAL AND SECRETARIAL ASSISTANCE

In addition to the provision of central services of the types just discussed, it is a responsibility of the Council staff, to give technical and secretarial assistance to committees appointed for specific tasks.

In line of duty therefore it fell to the staff to analyze, correlate and prepare in the form of a brief, the material collected by the Council Committee

for member agencies, for submission to the Judicial Commission of Enquiry on Alberta Child Welfare. This was an exacting and time-consuming assignment, but inasmuch as it carried with it the interest and concern of a large number of member organizations, it was accorded top priority, at the expense of some other projects which, of course, had to be deferred. It is sincerely hoped that the recommendations, suggestions and information placed before the Commissioners will prove to be of assistance to them in carrying out their difficult and very responsible task.

The Council staff has also been working closely with the Committee appointed following a public meeting last fall, to investigate ways and means of bringing into existence a John Howard Society for the Province of Alberta. As many will know, John Howard Societies are primarily devoted to the rehabilitation of ex-prisoners from jails and penitentiaries. Alberta, at the present time is the only Province in the Dominion which does not have such a Society, and we bespeak the support of all citizens in the furtherance of this worthwhile, constructive effort, to the end that the Alberta Society may become one of the best of its kind when it does come into operation.

RESEARCH & SOCIAL STUDIES

Basic to sound planning in any field is a thorough knowledge of the facts. One of the functions of a Council of Social Agencies is to try to see that the facts are in hand for consideration before conclusions on any important social welfare issue are reached. Responsibility for heading up major fact-finding studies or research projects, devolves upon the staff. Unfortunately, recognized needs far exceeding the staff's ability to meet them, and pressure of the day-to-day job - with numerous unplanned developments and emergencies - tend to push aside any sizeable research undertaking for the "quiet time", which never comes.

One project, completion of which was long overdue, and which had been planned for last fall, but which then, was necessarily once again set aside, was publication of a report on the Community Recreation Survey started approximately two years ago. The survey was ambitiously conceived and was intended to be carried out in four parts - the whole providing a body of factual data upon which sound planning for the future growth and development of recreation in Edmonton could be based.

Actually, with the funds and staff at our disposal it has not been possible to undertake more than the first Section of the over-all survey, and it is only by dint of much overtime work in recent weeks that I am able to state tonight that a few copies of a report setting forth the major findings of this First Section of the Survey, have now been completed. This report will be reproduced in some quantity, and I think I can safely promise that by the end of this month, if not before, it will be possible for any organization or individual interested to obtain copies.

CONSULTATION AND INFORMATION SERVICES

It is a source of satisfaction to us in the office to note the steady increase each year in the number of calls by telephone, by mail, and by personal interview, from people wanting information or advice on a great variety of matters directly or remotely connected with social welfare agencies and service. The Council Office of course is not intended to, nor does it, deal with individual cases seeking assistance. Hardly a week goes by however, without someone asking us for suggestions as to where they might find care for an aged parent, or a small

child, or where to send a single man in need - all these are referred to the appropriate agencies - high school and University students want information regarding training and employment opportunities in social work, or ask where they can obtain information for a paper they are writing; clubs want advice as to what they might usefully undertake as a club project, or who might speak to their group on some special topic in which they are interested; or agencies want to discuss possible changes in policy or programmes. These and more, are tangible evidence to us, that the Council is recognized as a useful and accessible place to go to talk things over.

I would like to mention here the Directory of Welfare Services which was re-issued by the Council during the past summer. This little booklet is a handy-sized classified Directory of Edmonton social welfare organizations and Departments, as well as service clubs and similar groups. Anyone wishing a copy may have one on request. There is no charge.

EDUCATION

A course of 20 lectures on social work was again given for Public Health Nurses and those proceeding to the B. Sc. degree in the School of Nursing. Sincere thanks are due to Miss Margaret Dick and Miss Gunnhilde Dellert for sharing responsibility for this series, with your Director.

Additional speaking engagements included lectures to the nurses at the Royal Alexandra and Misericordia Hospitals; talks to several women's clubs and church groups, a talk to the Provincial Public Health and District Nurses at their spring Conference, also one to the Social Service Club at the University, and a lecture to the playground supervisors of the Civic Recreation Commission, - opportunities which were much appreciated.

WESTERN REGIONAL SOCIAL WORK CONFERENCE

Last spring I was privileged to attend a conference on social work in Regina, which was unique, in that it was the first Western Regional Conference on Social Work ever held. Geared to the needs of western cities and rural communities, it was most practical, and provided an opportunity to learn about problems, developments and methods in the west, in a way that has heretofore not been possible. It was considered so valuable in fact, that a similar conference will be held in 1949 in Vancouver. May we hope that perhaps Edmonton might be hosts to the third Conference in 1951?

THANKS

On behalf of the Council I wish to thank the Y.M.C.A., Y.W.C.A., Child Welfare Clinic, and the Community Chest for generously providing accommodation for meetings during the year. We also wish to thank "The Bulletin" and "The Journal" for excellent cooperation and generous coverage at all times; likewise the many organizations, clubs and groups which have worked with the Council in its various endeavours. We must not forget also to thank the Community Chest for its financial support.

CONCLUSION

In closing may I say that I feel that the Council is growing in usefulness, - if not as rapidly as some of us would like to see. It should be remembered that the Council was created by organizations in the City, to help them to make possible greater inter-agency cooperation, and through that cooperation, develop plans for better and continually improving social welfare conditions and services for Edmonton people. Thus, the member organizations and the delegates through whom they act, are the Council. The Council can and will be, whatever the participating organiz-

ations choose to make it.

I would also like to say just a word to those of you who may be here tonight, in no official organizational capacity - but simply because you are interested. The Council needs and values your interest and support. We not only invite you, but we urge you to come to Division meetings and take part in the discussions. It is at these meetings that information, experience and varying points of view are pooled, and plans developed for meeting particular problems and situations. The greater the number of Edmonton citizens who are informed, and interested, in the social welfare of our City, and contribute in this joint enterprise - the Council - the more rapidly and wisely we shall move forward.

(Signed) HAZELDINE BISHOP,
Executive Director.

FROM THE TREASURER'S REPORT

The books were audited for the year ended December 31, 1947 by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company. A statement of Receipts and Disbursements is set forth below:

Receipts:

Community Chest Allotment		\$5,425.00
" " reimbursement salaries for services to Chest		<u>465.00</u>
		5,890.00
Tegler Trust		350.00
Leadership Course (Fees and Contributions)		370.00
Refund of deposit on service contract		<u>5.00</u>
		\$6,615.00

Disbursements:

Salaries	\$5,399.47	
Rent and Light	487.08	
Stationery, Printing & Mimeographing	443.91	
Meetings and Conference Expense	148.35	
Leadership Training Course	398.12	
Sundry (Postage, telephones & general expenses)	<u>574.99</u>	
	\$7,451.92	<u>7,451.92</u>
Excess of Disbursements over Receipts		836.92

Decrease in funds:

Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1946	1,050.77	
Cash in bank and on hand, December 31, 1947	<u>213.85</u>	<u>836.92</u>

(Signed) PERCY COWLEY,
Honorary Treasurer.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1948

Hon. President
J.T.J. Collisson, K.C.

Hon. Vice-President
Mrs. John Gillespie

President	-	E.B. Wilson, K.C.
Past President	-	S. W. Field, K.C.
Vice-President	-	Wm. J.A. Mustard, K.C.
Vice-President	-	Mrs. J. Russell Love
Honorary Secretary	-	Mrs. G. R. Davison
Honorary Treasurer	-	Percy Cowley

Division Chairmen:

Health	-	E.C. Emmott
Child & Family	-	J. L. McIntyre
Group Work	-	Mrs. A. Earnshaw

Members:

Frank Healy

Clark Ready

Mrs. Allan Lobsinger

Wm. Pettigrew

Mrs. H.C. Newland

Mrs. D.M. O'Brien

Mr. L.W. White

M E M B E R O R G A N I Z A T I O N S

- 1947 -

Alberta Protestant Home for Children
All People's Mission, United Church
of Canada
Beulah Home
Board of Health, City of Edmonton
Boy Scouts Association, Edmonton
District Council
Boy's Work Board, Edmonton and
District
C.G.I.T. Board of Edmonton
Canadian Girl Guide Association,
Alberta Council
Canadian Legion, Montgomery Branch
Canadian National Institute for the
Blind, Northern Alberta Branch
Canadian Red Cross Society, Edmonton
Branch
Catholic Women's League, Edmonton
Senior Sub-Division
Chamber of Commerce (Junior)
Chamber of Commerce (Senior)
Children's Work Board
Council for Canadian Unity
Council of Jewish Women
Diocesan Council for Social Service,
Church of England
Edmonton Creche Society
Edmonton General Hospital
Edmonton Hospital Board
Edmonton Public School Board
Edmonton Separate School Board
Edmonton Trades and Labour Council
Elks Lodge of Edmonton
Family Welfare Bureau
Federation of Community Leagues
Good Shepherd Home
Gyro Club of Edmonton
Hope Mission
Imperial Order Daughters of the
Empire, Municipal Chapter
Interdenominational Young People's
Union
Junior Hospital League
Kinsmen Club of Edmonton
Kiwanis Club of Edmonton
Lions Club of Edmonton
Local Council of Women, Edmonton
Ministerial Association, Edmonton
Misericordia Creche
Misericordia Hospital
Navy League of Canada, Northern
Alberta Division
O'Connell Institute
Optimist Club of Edmonton
Our Lady of Atonement Home
Outpatients' Department, University
of Alberta Hospital
Registered Nurses' Association
Relief & Children's Aid Departments,
City of Edmonton
Rosary Hall
Rotary Club of Edmonton
St. John Ambulance Association,
Edmonton Centre
St. John's House
St. Mary's Home
Salvation Army, Alberta Division
Sisters of Service, Residential Club
University of Alberta Hospital,
Women's Auxiliary
Victorian Order of Nurses, Edmonton
Young Men's Christian Association
Young Women's Christian
Association.