

REPORTS PRESENTED TO THE NINTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE

EDMONTON COUNCIL OF SOCIAL AGENCIES

on March 21, 1949, covering the year 1948 - 49.

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HONORARY SECRETARY'S REPORT

We are so often asked what the Council of Social Agencies is - I think it might be worthwhile if I were to commence my report by outlining briefly the purposes and objectives of the Council, and the way in which the Council functions.

Briefly stated, the purpose of the Council is to promote, coordinate and interpret social welfare work in the Edmonton district. It attempts to fulfil this purpose by group education, consultation, coordination of social welfare effort, and social action based on informed opinion.

It works: through member agency delegates and interested citizens of the community at large who meet in the Council Divisions to discuss matters of concern in their particular fields and consider action to be taken;

through the Executive Committee of the Council - which deals with recommendations forwarded by the Divisions, matters of policy, and problems which are not within the scope of any one division; and -

through the Council Office, which provides technical advice and assistance, secretarial services to Council committees, general information, and certain central services.

From the reports you will hear tonight, you will be able to judge how far the Council has succeeded during the past year in carrying out its purpose.

In reporting for the Executive Committee I would point out that much time and consideration is necessarily devoted 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.

Member organizations of the Council now number 59, with applications pending from three additional new members.

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

CHILD WELFARE COMMISSION

Child welfare, of course, continued to be a matter of prime interest to the Council, and the report of the Royal Commission when released, was studied by the members of the Executive. The opinions and recommendations brought down by the Commission, together with direct references made to the Council's brief in the Commission's report, give us the satisfaction of believing that our submissions were found constructive and helpful. It is to be hoped that the Government will proceed to implement many of the recommendations of the Royal Commission as rapidly as possible.

CHILD WELFARE ACT

The Bill to amend the Child Welfare Act, introduced at the present session of the Legislature, was studied by a special committee of the Executive and a number of suggestions for change were forwarded to the Minister of Health and Welfare. It appears, however, that none of the changes suggested were considered advisable by the Department.

MOTHERS' ALLOWANCES

Representations were also made to the Minister requesting that consideration be given to increasing the rates payable to families qualifying for Mothers' Allowances. It is gratifying to note, from the Speech from the Throne that some improvement in these rates is being recommended this year.

CITY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The decision of the City Council to appoint a professionally trained and qualified person with experience in this field of social work, as Superintendent of the Edmonton Relief and Children's Aid Department, upon retirement of the present Superintendent, was viewed as a constructive forward step and has the complete endorsement of this Council.

OTHER MATTERS

A watching brief was held throughout the year on the employment situation and resultant effects upon need for indigent and unemployment relief.

We were privileged to have with us at one meeting, Miss Bessie Touzel, Secretary of the Public Welfare Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, and for a number of years Secretary of the Toronto Welfare Council. Numerous matters of timely interest relating to Council programmes and community organization were discussed with Miss Touzel to our very real benefit.

Other topics dealt with during the year included: Reciprocal enforcement of maintenance orders; Edmonton Donations Advisory Board; Civil Rights; the effects of rising milk prices upon low income families; and, the proposed revisions of the Community Chest Constitution and By-laws and the Agency Agreement.

Appointments made to the Board of Directors of the Community Chest were - Mr. W. J. A. Mustard, and Mr. Harold Fazackerley; and to the Budget Committee of the Chest - Mr. J. B. Whelihan, Mrs. George MacDonald and Mr. J. W. Winn.

Representatives appointed to the Chests and Councils Division of the Canadian Welfare Council were - the President, Mr. Wilson, and the Executive Director, Miss Bishop.

We wish to express our appreciation to all of these for accepting these assignments for us - also to all who have worked on the Executive or special committees of the Executive, for their valued assistance during the year.

(Signed) Jean Davison
(Mrs. G. R. Davison)
Honorary Secretary.

CHILD AND FAMILY DIVISION REPORT

There were four general meetings of agency delegates during the past year - and three meetings of the Division Executive. Forty-five organizations concerned with the welfare of children, or with helping families and individuals seeking counselling or material assistance, were affiliated with the Division, as members.

GUIDANCE SERVICES

At one meeting we were privileged to have Dr. Randall R. MacLean and Dr. A. Ralph Schrag describe the services at present available through the Provincial Guidance Clinic and their plans for future expansion. At the same meeting Mr. W. P. Wagner outlined the guidance work which is being carried on in the Edmonton Public Schools.

FAMILY ALLOWANCES

Some of the children's institutions having asked that representations be made to the Dominion Government for amendment of the Family Allowance Act to permit payment of the Allowances direct to the institutions, - a committee was appointed to enquire into the situation. After studying the details as reported by the institutions the committee reached the conclusion that there would be little if anything to be gained by a change and no action was therefore taken.

JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

Action taken by the Alberta Government in conjunction with Saskatchewan and Manitoba, in urging the Dominion Government to establish a Borstal School unit for Prairie Provinces - for the training of delinquents between the ages of 16 - 23 - was endorsed by the Division. Concern was expressed however, over the continued lack of adequate retraining facilities for the younger offender, it being considered that the limited services introduced at the Oliver Mental Institute were not satisfactory, on any continuing long-term basis for numerous and obvious reasons. It is interesting to note that this position is supported by the findings of the Royal Commission on Child Welfare.

A special meeting of the Division was held at the request of a committee of the Edmonton Ministerial Association to discuss the desirability of trying to set up here, a home for non-Roman Catholic delinquent girls. The Division was of the opinion that the Mountview Home in Calgary could satisfactorily accommodate Edmonton girls in need of rather extensive re-training, and that possibly a small home providing short-term detention care should be considered for this City. The committee has recently brought in a report, following further study of the problem, concurring in this opinion and recommending a specific line of action.

Another meeting of the Division was devoted to hearing a presentation by Constable D. R. McNaughton of his Junior Police Plan. The strengths and weaknesses of the proposal were discussed and delegates undertook to inform their respective organizations concerning it.

OTHER MATTERS

Other matters under consideration included: care of the aged, the Royal Commission on Child Welfare; Mothers' Allowances; and the proposal to lower the juvenile court age.

All in all it has been a busy, and I think, a profitable year.

(Signed) GRACE TAYLOR
(Mrs. C. D. Taylor)
CHAIRMAN

GROUP WORK DIVISION REPORT

Thirty-four organizations interested in promoting recreation and group work - more particularly for children and young people - are affiliated with the Group Work Division. During the year seven meetings of the delegates of these organizations were held, in addition to six meetings of the Division Executive, and a number of special conferences and committee meetings.

SUGGESTIONS FOR SERVICE CLUBS

One project undertaken and completed by the Division was the preparation of a consolidated list of needed developments and facilities in the recreation field - offered as suggestions to clubs and community groups which might be seeking ways to assist in expanding and improving community recreation. The list, which contained some 24 items - both great and small - was not in any sense complete or all inclusive, and it will be revised and added to from time to time should local clubs find it of value to them to have such suggestions continuously available.

SUMMER CAMPING

Another piece of work which is going forward, is the preparation of a statement of minimum standards for the guidance of organizations operating summer camps in the northern part of the Province. Twelve camp agencies are participating in this work - concentrating, as their first objective, upon minimum standards for health, safety and nutrition. It is anticipated that other phases of camp operations will be dealt with in due course.

A special meeting of camp people was held with officials of the Canadian Camping Association visiting Edmonton last spring, and serious consideration was given to the desirability of forming a Northern Alberta Branch of the Association. It was finally decided however, that under present conditions it would be well to defer action on this matter for possibly a year or two.

LEADERSHIP RECRUITING AND TRAINING

Recruiting and training leadership continues to be a problem for all recreational organizations, and appreciation is expressed to the Department of Extension of the University for its ever-ready willingness to assist in any way it can. Last spring the Division had an opportunity to participate in the planning of a new short course sponsored by the Extension Department, to help meet community recreation needs - particularly in relation to summer programmes. A somewhat similar course is being given again this year and it is hoped that voluntary agencies unable to take advantage of the course may also benefit if special evening institutes led by the visiting instructors brought in for the course by the University Department, can be arranged.

RECREATION AT U.S. AIR BASE

Concern continued over the almost complete lack of recreational opportunities for children living in the area known as the U.S. Air Base. All efforts made by the Group Work Division to improve the situation in the past had proved unsuccessful. A delegation therefore was sent to the Civic Recreation Commission placing the problem before that body, and it is a pleasure to be able to report that the Commission has agreed to initiate in that district immediately, such programme as its resources will permit.

WHITE MUD CREEK PARK

Representations were also made to the City Parks Department concerning certain safety provisions which seemed necessary at White Mud Creek Park, and improvements in transportation facilities to the Park on week-ends and holidays were urged upon the City Transit System.

CIVIC AUDITORIUM

Developments in relation to the proposed Civic Centre and Auditorium have been followed closely by the Division during the year because it is felt to be important that any plan put forward for community support should be designed to meet the requirements of as many youth and adult organizations as possible, representing a wide diversity of interests and activities. The Division has representation on the newly organized Citizens Committee and hopes to be able to interpret and gain support for the project once a suitable plan has been agreed upon.

JUNIOR POLICE

The widely discussed Junior Police programme was carefully considered, and a modified alternative scheme, deemed more practical from an operational point of view but retaining the more valuable elements of the original plan, was suggested to officials concerned. The Division offered its assistance in putting this modified programme into operation should members of the City Police Force be in a position to proceed and wish to do so.

OTHER MATTERS CONSIDERED

Other matters dealt with included: the relationship of the Division to the Canadian Welfare Council and ways in which we could be mutually helpful - (we were fortunate in having an opportunity to discuss this with Mr. Ernest McEwen, Secretary of the Recreation Division of the Canadian Welfare Council, on a field trip to Edmonton); Provision of instructors to assist leaders in junior church groups with the teaching of handicrafts; formation of a city-wide recreation planning body.

(Signed) RAYMOND E. SHAUL
DIRECTOR

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Having heard the reports of the Honorary Secretary, and the Chairmen of the Child and Family and the Group Work and Recreation Divisions, I shall complete the "Council story" for the past year by touching briefly upon services rendered more directly through the Council Office.

HEALTH DIVISION

Before doing this, however, I wish to comment on the absence of a Health Division report - a matter which some of you have no doubt noted - particularly if you happen to be delegates appointed to the Council by organizations functioning primarily in the health field.

Council activities vary greatly from year to year, directly reflecting the areas of greatest community interest and concern at any given time. While not by any means implying that there were no health problems in Edmonton during the past year which could have been jointly considered to advantage, by the member health organizations, nevertheless, it was a fact that health groups seemed to feel the need for Council meetings less urgently than some others. Therefore, when the Chairman of the Health Division found it necessary to resign owing to pressure of other duties, and the Office also became short-staffed, it was decided to leave programming for this Division in abeyance for the time being, in order to give as much attention as possible to more urgent matters. The reintroduction of regular Health Division meetings, however, is planned for review early in the coming year.

ASSISTANCE IN ORGANIZING NEW SERVICES

One natural outcome of continuous study of the policies and programmes of existing social services is the recognition of unmet needs, or gaps, in community services. In consequence, the Council is frequently in a position to be of considerable assistance to citizens' groups which are contemplating the initiation of some new social welfare venture, either by suggesting to them, when consulted, unfilled areas of service which they might fill, or, in helping them to assess the value of the new service which they are thinking of starting. If satisfied that the new service proposed is needed, in the interests of the welfare of the City, the Council may go further and place at the disposal of the sponsoring group, such resources as it has in the nature of secretarial assistance, technical information, and advice - until such time as the new organization has become well established and in a position to carry on alone.

During the past year the Council staff rendered assistance of this kind to two new social service organizations - namely, the John Howard Society of Alberta, and the still newer recreational club for elderly people - which only last week had its first club gathering at the Recreation Building and was officially named by its members - "The Edmonton Friendship Club". Your director serves as an Advisory member on the boards of both of these organizations; and also continues to act in like capacity on the Junior Hospital League Committee, operating the Emergency Housekeeper Service, which was launched in a similar way - with the help of the Council two years ago.

SURVEYS AND SOCIAL STUDIES

Sometimes incidental to the setting up of new services, but more frequently, in connection with self-study or evaluation of long established programmes, it is found that special surveys and fact-finding studies are required. These the Council is prepared to undertake within the limits of its staff and financial resources.

Projects of this kind completed during the past year were:

First - publication and distribution of a report on the findings of a community recreation survey previously undertaken.

Secondly; - a brief study of the present services and facilities of the Edmonton Creche and Day Nursery with suggestions for possible consideration in relation to future plans.

Thirdly; - an enquiry into the extent to which education for family living is being provided in this part of the Province.

The first two of these studies were made at the request of the Budget Committee of the Community Chest, which is turning more and more to the Council for assistance in relating to agency programmes and their social values to the costs of maintaining them - a trend which we are pleased to record. The third enquiry originated with the Canadian Welfare Council, which had been asked to collect and correlate this material for Canada as a whole, and which when completed, will be of interest and value to all parts of the country.

Still another request was received from the Community Chest, which for various reasons the Council has not been able to comply with up to the present, namely - that it endeavour to put into effect the recommendations contained in its study of two years ago relative to intake and discharge policies in the children's institutions affiliated with the Chest. Possibly some progress in this area may be possible in 1949.

CENTRAL SERVICES

Certain central services are maintained by the Council through its office, for the benefit of the member agencies and the community - for example; the library, the Social Service Exchange, and the Christmas Clearing Service.

The library contains a fair number of books, and quite an extensive collection of periodicals and pamphlets on social welfare topics. This material is available on loan to any responsible person who may wish to borrow.

The Social Service Exchange is a confidential central index for the use of bona fide social welfare organizations through which to prevent duplication and confusion in service, and it represents a simple, routine method of promoting inter-agency cooperation in the interests of the clients served. The Exchange is not, as many people mistakenly think, a centralized file of case records. No information about the personal lives and experiences of the applicants is given or recorded, and the whole operation is surrounded with protective devices which completely safeguard the

confidential nature of the work. Total enquiries made at the Exchange during 1948 numbered 755, of which 179 or 23.7% were identified as already known to other organizations. Recognizing that many organizations which had previously used the Exchange regularly and which would stand to benefit from it, had been backsliding in this respect, and since the effectiveness of the Exchange depends directly upon the extent to which it is used by all organizations giving service in the City, a meeting was held last fall to discuss the matter and it hoped that the record for 1949 will be considerably improved in consequence.

The Special Christmas Clearing is operated each year to prevent duplication in distributing Christmas dinners. Thirty-three clubs and societies made 519 enquiries last year, and 72 duplications were avoided, with the result that Christmas cheer was thereby made available to that many more families.

EDUCATION

In addition to participating in the informal group education which occurs in Council Division and committee work, it falls in the Staff's line of duty to accept invitations to address community clubs and groups upon request, on various aspects of welfare needs and services. A number of engagements of this kind were filled by your Director during the past year. Also, lectures were given to undergraduate nurses at the University, Royal Alexandra and Misericordia Hospitals, and a course of twenty lectures to the public health nurses and those proceeding to the B. Sc. degree in the School of Nursing at the University of Alberta.

THANKS

On behalf of the Council I wish to thank the Y.M.C.A., Child Welfare Clinic, and the Community Chest for generously providing accommodation for meetings during the year. We also wish to thank the Press and Radio Stations for excellent cooperation and generous coverage at all times; the Tegler Trust and the Community Chest for financial support; the Canadian Welfare Council and the members of its staff for much help upon innumerable occasions; also the many local organizations, clubs, groups and individuals, who have done so much to advance the Council's work throughout the year.

CONCLUSION

Ordinarily the annual meeting provides one of the best opportunities an organization can have to stand a little apart from the busyness of its every-day activities and analyze with some degree of detachment and objectivity wherein real gains can be counted in terms of the goals which the organization is seeking; wherein and why some undertakings have fallen seriously short; and where and how next steps should be directed in the year which lies ahead.

I do not propose to engage in any such evaluation or speculation tonight - as time is short and we are all anxious to hear from our speaker. I do hope, however, that you will each give some thought to areas of study or action in which you think the Council should engage in 1949 - ways in which it might be of help to organizations in which you may be interested - and also, perhaps, how your organizations, or you personally, can bring more help to the Council. The Council is, after all, a joint enterprise, and the more who support it, the faster and more surely we shall approach our objective.

(Signed) HAZELDINE BISHOP
Executive Director

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

1949

TREASURER'S REPORT

The books were audited for the year ended December 31, 1948, by Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and Company. A copy of the full report was tabled.

RECEIPTS:

From Community Chest of Edmonton	\$6,300
From Tegler Trust	200
Refunds	<u>47.61</u>
Total Receipts	\$6,547.61

DISBURSEMENTS:

Salaries	\$4,785
Rent and light	480
Stationery, printing and mimeographing	261.79
Conference and meetings expenses	265.63
Postage, telephones, office equipment and sundry general expense	<u>532.35</u> <u>\$6,324.77</u>
Excess of Receipts over Disbursements	\$222.84

(Signed) Percy Cowley
Honorary Treasurer.

Hon. President
S. W. Field, K.C.

Hon. Vice-President
Percy Cowley

President	-	W. J. A. Mustard, K.C.
Past President	-	E. B. Wilson, K.C.
Vice-President	-	Mrs. J. Russell Love
Vice-President	-	J. Percy Page
Honorary Secretary	-	Mrs. G. R. Davison
Honorary Treasurer	-	G. Roy Barnhill

Division Chairmen:

Health	-	(To be appointed)
Child & Family	-	(To be appointed)
Group Work	-	Raymond E. Shaul

Members:

Mrs. D. M. O'Brien
Mrs. H. C. Newland
Robert Chapman
Miss M. Dick
E. F. Foy, M.D.
Mrs. A. Lobsinger
William Pettigrew
Clark Ready
Raymond E. Shaul