

1973

**EDMONTON  
SOCIAL  
PLANNING  
COUNCIL**

**ANNUAL  
REPORT**

**1973**



## CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

When a girl dreams of being "Queen for a day" she imagines herself omnipotent. From that day forward she will put an end to hunger and poverty, and there will be no more war. For me that dream became reality -- I became "Chairman for a week".

My illusions are gone! A Chairman, even a Chairman of the Edmonton Social Planning Council, is not omnipotent. We still live in an imperfect world; the poor are still with us; Edmonton still has all the problems of a growing city; our prisons and hospitals are still crowded; and many of our citizens are still alienated from the decision making process.

How did I come to be Chairman for a week? The easy answer would be that there can be no annual report without a Chairman's Report, and no Chairman's Report without a Chairman. The real answer is discussed below.

While this Report bears my signature as Chairman, responsibility for its content are not entirely mine, for I share that responsibility with the rest of the Co-ordinating Committee (both volunteers and staff) and with the other Co-chairman who served with me in the past twelve months (Diann Wright, Sam Walz, George Fuller and Gerry Wright).

Over the past year, the Edmonton Social Planning Council has conducted short-term task forces and continues to staff four on-going commissions (Humane Urban Environment, Decent Standard of Living, Humane Social Controls and Participatory Democracy).

Through the mechanism of task forces, the Planning Council has brought together information on a variety of issues of importance to Edmontonians. Concerned citizens, from all walks of life, have participated in these task forces, contributing their knowledge and

expertise. The reports published have attracted the attention of both government and the public at large.

The commissions continue to work towards long-term goals in our community. Their activities have been low key, and have not attracted the public attention of the task forces. We are, however, moving towards our long-term goal and hope eventually to be able to see all four commissions produce an annual audit of progress in Edmonton in each of the four commission areas.

The standard of Council work has been high, and this has been welcomed by many in the City. Our relations with the United Way have improved, and some of our documents have been given respectful attention by our civic officials.

#### The Co-ordinating Committee

Over the past several years, the Co-ordinating Committee has been seen as closely involved in all the work of the Council. The Committee was expected to give leadership in all areas of Council activity. This was our rationale for our constitutional changes in 1972, and also for the Co-ordinating Committee's decision at the beginning of last year to experiment with a more egalitarian form of operation.

Over the past year, the Co-ordinating Committee has included both elected volunteers and staff members. All planning staff and our Office Manager, Rose French, have been members in the last year. Staff and volunteers have equal voting rights. There have been three Co-chairmen, who have rotated as Chairman of the Co-ordinating Committee meetings.

Also as part of our egalitarian experiment the staff have been allowed considerable autonomy. Decisions that affect their work have been left to the individual staff members, who have not been subject

to either the authority of the staff Co-ordinator or the Co-ordinating Committee. The Committee, however, retained the right to fire staff whose work did not meet Council expectations. We assumed that information exchange within Co-ordinating Committee meetings and staff meetings would be the best way to assist the staff in the design and implementation of their projects.

In many ways this approach has been successful. The Co-ordinating Committee has not fired anybody, and the quality of work by Council staff has been high. Our staff has been energetic and dedicated, and has amply proved that a worker will work better when trusted with autonomy.

However, there have been some problems, and these were discussed by the three Co-chairmen and the out-going Co-ordinating Committee at some length. We have found that some administrative matters which required private and/or detailed attention have either been neglected or dealt with entirely by staff. Also, we found that our leadership situation, with three Co-chairmen, is confusing to the community. There is no one person who can be identified as the chief executive of the Planning Council. The third problem area has been the lack of a line of authority to handle such matters as staff grievances over salaries, etc.

Another factor considered by the Co-ordinating Committee in its discussion was the changing role of the Committee itself. Where the Committee had in the past been the focus of all Council activities, this focus has now been transferred to the task forces and commissions. We suggested that the functions remaining to the Co-ordinating Committee are now: (a) overall policy, (b) administration and (c) finance.

The Committee also suggested that membership in the Co-ordinating Committee not be essential for all staff and that certain short-term or part-time staff might prefer to attend just those discussions that affect their own work.

The Co-ordinating Committee therefore decided to re-establish an Executive, consisting of staff Co-ordinator, one Chairman and two Co-chairmen. The suggested functions of the Executive to be: (a) to provide leadership to the Co-ordinating Committee in the area of policy and priorities, (b) be responsible for less than major administrative matters on behalf of the Co-ordinating Committee, (c) ensure that the Co-ordinating Committee is sufficiently informed about Council matters.

I was somewhat saddened by the need to re-establish an "Executive" group for the Planning Council. However, bearing in mind the reduced role of the Co-ordinating Committee, I think this is a good decision, and I would like to encourage future Co-ordinating Committee members to contribute to the work of the Planning Council through work on task forces and commissions as well as their membership in the Co-ordinating Committee.

In conclusion, I would like to congratulate the staff and the Co-ordinating Committee on a successful year's work. We have not yet created a perfect world, but we have tried and perhaps next year the Planning Council may even succeed.

Leslie Bella  
Chairman

Co-ordinating Committee  
EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

## EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

1973

In 1973, the Edmonton Social Planning Council concentrated its efforts in three program areas: the development of "citizens' commissions", the organization of task forces and the provision of aid to citizens' groups. The first program areas were determined at the beginning of the year to be likely worthwhile approaches to social change.

Each of the four citizens' commissions is seen as on-going, comprises about ten people, and has been organized by one planner. The commissions are concerned with the following broad subject areas: Participatory Democracy (Roger Soderstrom), Humane Social Controls (Deloris Russell), Humane Urban Environment (Batya Chivers) and Humane Standard of Living (Chelene Koenig to April, 1974; now Jean Dragushan).

The commissions were set up to offer to the community broad commentaries on their respective areas of concern; they have tended so far to concentrate on certain aspects of their areas. For instance, the Participatory Democracy Commission is concentrating on community, area and neighbourhood councils; the Humane Social Controls is beginning with an examination of, and suggestions for, the Alberta correctional system; the Humane Standard of Living Commission began by focusing on the work disincentives of the present welfare system. The Humane Urban Environment Commission, however, is still intent on developing a comprehensive "citizens' general plan". Reports from these Commissions will appear beginning this summer.

Members of the commissions are professionals concerned with the subject matter and citizens directly affected by current policies; but

in both cases, they are members as individuals and not as representatives of organizations.

The commission approach is ambitious, and thus the less-than-a-year that they have been operating does not yet provide adequate time to evaluate the approach.

In connection with the commissions it should be mentioned that a program relevant to women's concerns has been established. The work is to be oriented toward the development of a City/Provincial council (independent of the Edmonton Social Planning Council) for women.

Like the commissions, the task forces of the Edmonton Social Planning Council have each been organized by one planner and have involved on average about ten members (though the range has been from about four to forty). The task forces deal with specific issues and terminate when their report is completed (usually after about four months). The following eight task forces were organized in 1973 and all are now completed:

Task Force on Public Assistance Food Allowance Increase - examines the May, 1973, increase in food allowance to social assistance recipients in light of the dramatic increase in food costs.

Task Force on High Density Housing in Northeast Edmonton - investigates the condition of multiple-dwelling housing in northeast Edmonton.

Task Force on Minimum Property Standards By-Law - a response to the City Planning Department on proposed By-laws and tackles a number of questions including assistance for poorer home owners.

Task Force on Operational Plans for Early Childhood Services - a discussion of the contradictions between the philosophy of the Early Childhood Services plans and the implementation of the policies.

Task Force on Day Care - examines the present demand for day care spaces, the goals and the advantages of adequate day care spaces.

Task Force on Dr. Snider's Report - commentary on Dr. Snider's Report on Medical Problems and the Use of Medical Services Among Senior Citizens in Alberta: A Pilot Project; stresses the need for co-ordination of health care services to the elderly.

Task Force on the XI Commonwealth Games - looks at the XI Commonwealth Games in terms of the philosophy, costs and benefits of proposed facilities and the effects of the facilities on neighbouring communities.

Task Force on Women in the Albertan Labour Force - reports on the position of women in Alberta's labour force; study is based on the 1972 and 1973 Alberta Salary and Wage Rate Survey issued by the Alberta Bureau of Statistics.

(Two task forces begun in 1974 -- "Local Initiatives Programs" and "Emergency Dental Services" -- were also completed prior to this Annual Meeting.)

The Council is continuously attempting to increase the effectiveness of the task forces as instruments for social change. This effectiveness depends on the nature of the issue, on the task force members, on the quality of the report, and on follow-up procedures. In regard to follow-up, we frequently find that the task force reports are useful in unexpected ways; for instance, by providing the basis for presentations to public hearings or reactions to proposed government policies.

Both the commissions and the task forces often provide the opportunity for information exchange among the different people sitting on these bodies, and in several instances contacts have been made between citizens' groups and professionals -- contacts which are of use beyond the Council's work.

The third area of Edmonton Social Planning Council activity -- provision of aid to citizens' groups -- was the predominant activity of the Council a couple of years ago. This activity now is fitted in with the task forces and commissions -- partly because many of the groups with which the Council was most actively involved no longer require Council assistance, and partly to ensure that staff have the time to work on task forces and commissions. The consultation role



of Council staff now tends to be limited to occasional contacts with groups as opposed to sustained involvement.

The commissions, task forces and consultations seem to complement one another as activities leading to needed change in social policies.

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.  
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

2500 Alberta Telephone Tower  
10020 - 100th Street  
Edmonton, Alberta  
T5J 0N4

AUDITORS' REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have examined the balance sheet of the Edmonton Social Planning Council as of December 31, 1973 and the statements of income and expenditure, surplus for the year then ended and Christmas Bureau trust fund for the period January 1, 1973 to June 6, 1973. Our examination included a general review of the accounting procedures and such tests of accounting records and other supporting evidence as we considered necessary in the circumstances.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly the financial position of the organization at December 31, 1973 and the results of its operations for the year then ended.

(SIGNED)

PEAT, MARWICK, MITCHELL & CO.

Chartered Accountants

Edmonton, Alberta  
March 14, 1974

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Balance Sheet  
 December 31, 1973  
 with comparative figures for 1972

	<u>Assets</u>	
	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Current assets:		
Cash	\$ 1,419	1,622
Accounts receivable	470	2,346
Prepaid expenses	<u>64</u>	<u>64</u>
Total current assets	1,953	4,032
Christmas Bureau trust fund:		
Cash	-	3,043
Fixed assets, at nominal value:		
Furniture and fixtures	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>
	\$ <u>1,954</u>	<u>7,076</u>
 <u>Liabilities and Surplus</u> 		
Current liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$ 961	2,907
Due to Receiver General of Canada	<u>806</u>	<u>569</u>
Total current liabilities	1,767	3,476
Trust funds - Christmas Bureau	-	3,043
Surplus	<u>187</u>	<u>557</u>
	\$ <u>1,954</u>	<u>7,076</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL  
Statement of Income and Expenditure Year ended December 31, 1973  
with comparative figures for 1972.

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>AID Service</u>	
Income:			(note 1)	Total
Funds from:	<u>Council</u>	<u>Council</u>		
United Way of Edmonton & Area	\$60,966	58,648	3,269	61,917
The City of Edmonton	12,000	12,000	14,826	26,826
Directory sales	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>736</u>	<u>736</u>
	72,966	70,648	18,831	89,479
Less amount allocated to AID in 1972 & not recovered from United Way of Edmonton	<u>397</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Total income	<u>72,569</u>	<u>70,648</u>	<u>18,831</u>	<u>89,479</u>
Expenditures:				
Salaries - executive	39,133	34,489	5,316	39,805
Salaries - clerical	17,469	15,895	7,978	23,873
Employees' benefits	776	1,284	322	1,606
Rent	5,750	5,940	873	6,813
Stationery, office supplies & printing	1,480	3,361	430	3,791
Maintenance of office equipment	550	618	42	660
Purchase of furniture & fixtures	657	522	217	739
Less grant from United Community Fund	<u>496</u>	<u>522</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>522</u>
	<u>161</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>217</u>	<u>217</u>
Books, publications & directory	762	397	-	397
Postage	679	957	72	1,029
Telephone and telegraph	1,835	2,046	534	2,580
Less grant from United Community Fund	<u>-</u>	<u>428</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>428</u>
	<u>1,835</u>	<u>1,618</u>	<u>534</u>	<u>2,152</u>
Telephone answering service	-	-	277	277
Audit fee	403	300	225	525
Membership fees	197	222	-	222
Meeting & conference expenses	1,991	1,360	402	1,762
Staff recruitment	154	134	92	226
Transportation & car allowance	2,175	1,601	259	1,860
Insurance	227	195	10	205
Special projects:				
Task Force on wage discrimination	100	-	-	-
Worth Commission	-	1,000	-	1,000
Action Group of Disabled	-	481	-	481
Alternatives to Poverty in Alberta publication	(1,087)	2,239	-	2,239
The Sun Climbers	<u>137</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>(950)</u>	<u>3,720</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>3,720</u>
Sundry	47	271	31	302
Total expenditures	<u>72,939</u>	<u>72,362</u>	<u>17,080</u>	<u>89,442</u>
Net income (loss)	<u>\$ (370)</u>	<u>(1,714)</u>	<u>1,751</u>	<u>37</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Statement of Surplus  
Year ended December 31, 1973  
with comparative figures for 1972

	<u>1973</u>	<u>1972</u>
Surplus at beginning of year	\$ 557	1,028
Deduct grant to AID Service of Edmonton	<u>-</u> 557	<u>508</u> 520
Net income (loss) for year	<u>(370)</u>	<u>37</u>
Surplus at end of year	\$ <u>187</u>	<u>557</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements  
December 31, 1973

1. Advice, Information and Direction Service operated as part of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for the nine months ended September 30, 1972. As of October 1, 1972 the Service operated separately from the Edmonton Social Planning Council as AID Service of Edmonton.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Statement of Christmas Bureau Trust Fund  
 Period January 1, 1973 to June 6, 1973  
 with comparative figures for  
 year ended December 31, 1972

	Period January 1 to June 6, <u>1973</u>	Year ended December 31, <u>1972</u>
Receipts:		
Transfer of prior years' surplus	\$ 3,043	4,118
Contributions received during the year	768	15,681
Interest on savings account	<u>44</u>	<u>-</u>
	<u>3,855</u>	<u>19,799</u>
Disbursements:		
Distribution of prior years' surplus to other charitable organizations	1,500	4,531
Registration fee	10	-
Transfer of funds to Christmas Bureau of Edmonton	2,345	-
Purchase of food hampers and vouchers	<u>-</u>	<u>12,225</u>
	<u>3,855</u>	<u>16,756</u>
Balance at end of year	\$ <u>-</u>	<u>3,043</u>

See accompanying notes to financial statements.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

Notes to Financial Statements  
 December 31, 1973

2. The Christmas Bureau Trust fund operated as part of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for the period January 1, 1973 to June 6, 1973. As of June 7, 1973 the Bureau was registered as a society and operated separately from the Edmonton Social Planning Council as the Christmas Bureau of Edmonton.

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

CO-CHAIRPERSONS

George Fuller - *Chairman*  
Leslie Bella - *Chairman*  
Gerry Wright - *Chairman*

MEMBERS:

Jean Battell - *Member*  
Peter Boothroyd - *Member*  
Batya Chivers - *Member*  
Rose French - *Member*  
Sam Gerszonowicz - *Member*  
Bettie Hewes - *Member*  
Chelene Koenig - *Member*  
George Mossman - *Member*  
Ron Mossman - *Member*  
Ted Parnell - *Member*  
Deloris Russell - *Member*  
Roger Soderstrom - *Member*  
Margaret Souch - *Member*  
Robert Tailleir - *Member*  
Sam Walz - *Member*  
Diann Wright - *Member*

STAFF

Peter Boothroyd - Co-ordinator  
Roger Soderstrom - Senior Planner  
Deloris Russell - Planner  
Chelene Koenig - Planner  
Batya Chivers - Planner  
Rose French - Office Manager  
Sharon Borschik - Stenographer  
Mona Morgan - Receptionist

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