

ANNUAL REPORT

1981-82

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am very pleased to contribute to this our 42nd Annual Report. This year has been a period in which the Council has worked hard to both stabilize its financial base and to increase its concern with the issues that have been affecting the economic well-being of our community. We have been very fortunate to have had a talented staff, headed by our Director, Peter Faid, working on behalf of the Council. As a result of their expertise and commitment, the activities of the Council have been significantly extended and our profile in the community has been much improved.

I would also like to express my appreciation to all of the Board for their diligence and thoughtfulness throughout my term as President. It has been a pleasure to work with you all and I know that, given the work that has been accomplished during this year, all of our skills and philosophies have been challenged. Through the work of our Board committees we have taken an in-depth look at our programming directions and I am confident that the Council, in coming years, will increase its ability to respond to the major policy issues that will face Albertans.

During my four years on the Board I have worked hard to increase the involvement of our membership in the activities of the Council. Given the introduction of our new membership form and the proposed publication of a monthly digest of social policy issues, I am very confident that the input and influence of our members will be greatly enhanced. As well I am very hopeful that volunteers will continue to play as valued a part in the Council's services and programs as they have in the past. To those volunteers who have assisted us during this past year, we extend our sincere thanks.

The growing concern in our community, with soaring interest rates, increased inflation, high costs of housing, rising unemployment and the possible erosion of our health care system, suggests to me that the Edmonton Social Planning Council will have an increasing role to play in assisting citizens and organizations to better understand and respond to these challenges of the 1980's. I am confident that the Council is now in a strong position to accept this role and to make a contribution to the betterment of our community.

Respectfully Submitted

Cynthia J. Gereluk
President.

CURRENT ACTIVITIES AND THE FUTURE

During 1981, the staff and the Program Committee of the Board worked to develop a policy framework for our future social planning activities. A major theme that emerged from these deliberations was the importance of the Council having the capacity to be a 'cutting edge' in identifying and researching potential social issues that are a consequence of Alberta's rapid growth and energy development. Secondly, it was agreed that the Council should work to improve its ability to monitor and evaluate the impact of existing, or proposed, social policies. The third programming goal was to extend the Council's ability to meet the organizational and skill development needs of volunteers and staff engaged in working with voluntary agencies. In response to these programming initiatives, the staff of the Council have embarked in a number of innovative projects.

* Project Policy Update

With the assistance of a grant from the Federal government, the Council has recently hired three additional staff members who, as well as developing our capacity to monitor social policy questions, will be responsible for publishing a monthly digest of social policy news. Copies of the publication will be distributed to our membership as well as voluntary agencies in the city.

* Project Involvement

The Alberta Council on Aging have contracted the Council to assist with a major project intended to encourage senior citizens to become more actively involved in their communities. The Council is presently working to establish a series of 'viewing posts', using cable television, whereby senior citizen groups across the city will be able to participate in city-wide discussions on issues of importance to seniors.

* Parenting Education & Support Services

As a result of a growing concern about the need for additional parenting education opportunities in the city, the Council has been asked to carry out a major study of the existing parenting education and support services, and to make recommendations on any additional programs that may be required.

* Search for Shelter

The Council has been assisting with the organization of a series of workshops to help focus attention on the difficulties faced by a number of groups in finding suitable and affordable housing.

* Advocacy

In an effort to assist voluntary agencies to better understand the role of advocacy, the Council is presently developing resource materials and training workshops.

* After School Care Study

As a result of public concern about the future of funding for the After School Care Program the Council was asked to carry out a study of the existing Centres and to make recommendations on the future of the program. Staff, board members and parents from a representative sample of Centres participated in the study.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

Throughout 1981 the Edmonton Social Planning Council continued to provide services and programs that contributed significantly to meeting its two primary objectives: providing consultation and technical assistance to voluntary agencies and organizations, and encouraging public understanding and debate of important social and community issues.

* Financing Confederation

A major social policy issue of the year was the renegotiation of the Act governing the transfer of funds from the federal to the provincial governments for social programs. Recognizing the importance of the proposed changes for the future of health, education and welfare services, the Council organized a one day conference that brought together federal and provincial policy advisors, senior administrators, service providers and representatives of consumer groups.

* Affirmative Industry

As a result of the Council's previous research into sheltered employment for people with disabilities, a Planning Group was established to promote the development of an affirmative approach to employment opportunities. As well as organizing public education events, the Planning Group has presented briefs to the government on the important needs that have been identified.

* Transit Training for the Mentally Handicapped

The Council was contracted by the City of Edmonton to determine how many mentally handicapped persons in the city could benefit from a program that would teach them how to use the public transit system. The findings from the survey were used to develop an appropriate training program and implementation strategy.



Edmonton Social
Planning Council

*** Human Side of Energy Forum**

The Council assisted in the planning and organization of the Forum which provided an opportunity for over 300 participants to exchange ideas about the human implications of energy development.

*** Citizen Community Councils**

In response to a city initiated proposal, intended to encourage citizen participation in local government, the Council organized a community based study group to examine the proposal. As well the Council conducted a series of public workshops to assist local community organizations in their consideration of the Community Council concept.

*** Ward System Coalition**

In June the city conducted a plebiscite on the ward system of local government. Given its previous support for the ward approach, the Council organized an active coalition of community groups to encourage public recognition of the value of smaller wards.

Consultation and Training

During 1981 the Council continued to provide consultation and training services primarily in the areas of problem solving, planning and non profit management, to a wide range of human service organizations. Requests for our services showed a 75% increase over 1980.

*** Drama and Social Action**

A three day workshop to explore the use of dramatic techniques in community work was facilitated by Tony Hall, an actor with extensive experience in community theatre.

*** Development of College Curriculum**

The Council was hired by the Grande Prairie Regional College to assist in the development of a child care/social service worker curriculum.

*** West Jasper Place Community Profile**

In co operation with a number of service organizations, the Council produced a detailed community profile of West Jasper Place. The development work of the profile was carried out by Nancy Rubuliak, a placement student from the Faculty of Social Welfare, University of Calgary.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended December 31, 1981 with comparative figures for 1980

	1981	1980
Revenue:		
United Way of Edmonton and area	\$ 102,041	92,765
The City of Edmonton	15,000	15,000
The City of Edmonton - General Plan		14,557
The City of Edmonton - Transit Training Project	4,308	
Subletting space including supplies	6,400	4,249
Publication revenue	3,286	2,081
Edmonton Association for Continuing Education and Recreation	3,520	
Memberships	310	
Donations	140	
Special projects - Federal/Provincial Conference	9,903	
Grande Prairie Social Services		
Diploma Program	6,500	
The Town of Spruce Grove		9,000
Sundry	4,662	4,231
	156,070	141,883
Expenditures:		
Salaries - executive	85,045	73,636
Salaries - clerical	30,718	28,181
Employees' benefits	4,100	2,896
Consultant fees		1,278
Rent	15,175	14,797
Stationery, office supplies and printing	2,991	2,479
Maintenance	2,694	284
Books and publications	289	109
Postage	761	938
Telephone	2,536	2,307
Audit fee	722	821
Membership fees	335	335
Meeting and conference expenses	1,860	1,892
Staff recruitment and development	750	2,034
Transportation and car allowance	450	696
Insurance	454	420
Equipment		804
Promotion and publicity	4,365	993
Research		600
Sundry	65	372
Special projects - Federal/Provincial Conference	8,193	
Grande Prairie Social Services		
Diploma Program	3,132	
The Town of Spruce Grove		893
	164,635	136,765
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (8,565)	5,118
Statement of Unappropriated Funds		
Year ended December 31, 1981 with comparative figures for 1980		
Balance at beginning of year	\$ 11,443	6,325
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	(8,565)	5,118
Balance at end of year	\$ 2,878	11,443

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1981 - 1982**

Cynthia Gereluk - President
Robert McKeon - Vice President
Terry MacDougall - Vice President
Barb Burton - Vice President
Peter Faid - Ex officio

Susan Arrison
Allan Douglas
Const. Keith Duggan
Nick Hanevich
Meri Hazel *
Howard Kravitz
Francoise Lerrouart
Ron Levin
Shirley Philippe *
Butch Nutter
Trudy Richardson *
Rod Rodle
Len Seaby *
Jerry Royer
Stephen Zapp
(* Resigned during the year)

STAFF 1981

Peter Faid - Executive Director
Hope Hunter - Planner
Beverly Zubot - Planner
Nancy Kotani - Planner
Rose French - Office Manager
Marilyn Clark - Secretary
Arlene Swetz - Secretary (Part time)
Nancy Rubuliak - Placement Student

VOLUNTEERS

Marilyn Kaneo
Shelly Zuckerman
Jane Brown
Susan Wilson
Leonard Neufeld
Hank Binnema