

1991 Annual Report



**Edmonton Social Planning
Council**

A Message from the President

1991 has been a year of tumult in Canada and the world. War and the accompanying human and environmental concerns reminded us all of the importance of caring for one another and acting responsibly to protect our world.

Canada's Constitutional crisis figured prominently in the concerns of Canadians and the Edmonton Social Planning Council. We hope 1992 will bring resolution which is satisfactory to all Canadians.

The propensity for change was reflected in a quieter, if no less dramatic way in the changes of staff at the Council. As the Council moves into its second half century, it does so with a complement of new staff.

We appreciate the hard work and dedication of those staff and Board members who have moved on. We welcome new staff and members of the Board, and look forward to continuing the Council's record of advocacy and commitment to those in our community without a voice.

The focus of the Edmonton Social Planning Council over the past year has included initiatives to eliminate child poverty, increased public awareness of the circumstances of urban natives, submissions on Constitutional proposals and programs to combat racism through multi-cultural training packages for public and private sector use.

1992 will offer new and interesting challenges for the staff and the Board. Taking opportunities to effect change was never more important. We welcome your energy and support in working with us to accomplish our goals.

Myron M. Lewis

Executive Director's Report

Andy Desjarlais' bloodied body was found in a skid road rooming house. Nearby, police arrested his friend and charged him with the murder. Andy was a talented artist and one of the world's great jokers. But for him, life on the drag seemed more pleasant than the alternative.

He could have worked the rigs, hauling pipe until his body was worn out, or he could have picked beets down in Taber, for a few weeks a year, depending on welfare and unemployment the rest of the time. Or he could have stayed on the settlement, no job, no hope of a job, no future.

The economy doesn't need everybody. There's an oversupply of labor. So we invent reasons to blame the surplus people. Indians are drunk. Immigrants don't respect our way of life. Kids are lazy.

Social programs are based on these assumptions and prejudices. It's assumed the people on welfare don't want to work, so we make them go through resume writing programs, even though they don't have a resume to write or a job to apply for. The wealthy are frightened of the poor, so they don't want subsidized housing in their neighborhoods. Put them all together down in the inner city so they can steal from each other rather than us.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council tries to look at things a little differently. We know that social investments can make good economic investments. Good housing, an adequate social safety net, mixed neighborhoods, racial harmony, healthy children, all pay off in the long run. An optimistic, trained and motivated workforce will allow our businesses to compete with Japan, Germany, Sweden, and the United States.

The Council's multicultural training package can help employers benefit from the skills and diversity of a changing workforce. Our work on aboriginal issues will help erase the wounds felt by native people, allowing them to contribute as founding peoples of this country. A focus upon child poverty recognizes that healthy children become healthy adults and in turn produce healthy children of their own.

The environmental movement has been successful because it has shown the long term costs of polluting our world. Polluting our society is just as costly.

In 1992, let's look beyond the need to make a fast buck, and instead value the long-term returns on investment in people.

Jonathan Murphy

1991 Highlights

•*Welfare Advocacy*

Our pressure to improve rates was partially rewarded in January when the province marginally enriched the program and streamlined benefit packages. The Council continued to press for changes to welfare regulations eliminating discrimination against teenagers and the 'employable'.

•*Evaluations and Needs Assessments*

The Council carried out evaluations of the KARA Family Support Centre, the Development and Education Co-ordinating Council of Alberta, and Big Sisters Life Choices Program. We also began to review services to sixteen and seventeen year-olds for the Provincial government.

•*Immigration and Multiculturalism*

The Council believes a healthy society is built upon recognition of diversity. During 1991 we organized a settlement agency conference for the provincial government and began development of a workplace 'managing diversity' training program. **Tracking The Trends** is an annual publication produced in conjunction with program funders and government departments. In 1991 it addressed the demographic trends in immigration and the service implications of those trends.

•*Child Poverty*

Happy children form the foundation of a healthy society. During the past year, we presented information to Parliament about the extent of child poverty in Alberta, developed board policies on the proposed 'children's benefit', supported the expansion of Headstart programs, and developed fact sheets on poverty and its impact on children.

•*Public Events*

Public education is a large part of the Council's work. During 1991, we hosted a number of successful public events. Our annual Politicians' Breakfast attracted over 100 human service agency representatives seeking to meet with and lobby their elected representatives. Seventy people attended a springtime forum on aboriginal issues, while in the fall Mayor Reimer's address to a crowded ballroom at the Hotel MacDonald focused on "Potholes and Human Services."

The Council co-sponsored two book launchings with Athabasca University. In September, Linda McQuaig spoke on her new book criticizing the federal government's economic and social policies. The next month Geoffrey York described life behind the barricades during the Oka crisis.

1991 Highlights

•*Publications*

Almost twenty years ago, the Council published a workbook designed to help Boards of non-profit organizations deal with setting-up and managing social service organizations. With financial assistance from the Edmonton Community Foundation we updated the workbook. **Get On Board!** will be published in April 1992.

Several years ago, the Boyle Street Co-op produced **The Family Budgeting Guide**, a unique publication which outlines the real costs of living a healthy but basic lifestyle. The Council co-ordinated the development of a new edition of the Guide, which is to be published in March 1992.

The Council's 1991 newsletters are listed below:

First Reading

- Corporate Giving
- Supports for Independence: Increased Equality or Equal Poverty
 - Home and Native Land
 - Welcome to Canada

Alberta Facts

- Poverty in our Province: Myths and Realities

Edmonton Facts

- Edmonton's Native People: Surviving in a Racist Society

•*New Involvements*

Despite the myriad social and economic issues facing urban aboriginal people, the Council has not made their concerns a priority in recent years. Things changed in 1991. We welcomed two aboriginal members to our Board of Directors, and the Council began exploring ways to assist the Native community's struggle for self-determination. A fact sheet was produced which outlined the serious economic obstacles facing aboriginals in Edmonton, and towards the end of the year the Council began work to improve services for Native people living in the inner city.

•*Continuing Concerns*

Canada's endless constitutional crisis resurfaced. The Council's Board developed and presented to the Alberta government a paper outlining our positions on constitutional reform. We emphasized the role of both aboriginal people and visible minorities in a new Canada, the need for a strong federal government, and our support for bilingualism.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

For the Year Ended December 31, 1991

	1991 (Budget) (Unaudited)	1991 (Actual)	1990 (Actual)
Revenue			
United Way allocation	\$ 189,788	\$ 189,162	\$ 181,226
Project revenues	40,879	85,684	76,005
Government grants:			
City of Edmonton	19,000	19,000	19,000
Federal Government	-	2,703	2,226
Casino	10,000	21,623	16,567
Other receipts	6,800	34,477	15,666
50th Anniversary	4,000	4,704	22,149
	<u>270,467</u>	<u>357,353</u>	<u>332,839</u>
Expenditures			
Salaries and benefits	199,119	208,263	207,191
Project expenses	17,500	52,233	9,904
Office expenses	25,392	28,764	20,472
Building occupancy	27,576	23,861	21,269
Professional fees	7,520	7,960	7,416
Agency publications	-	6,446	311
First Reading	6,600	5,104	4,748
Meetings	2,340	4,404	3,078
Miscellaneous	1,800	1,659	3,065
Insurance	1,440	1,402	1,355
Library	1,200	1,178	949
Recruitment and education	500	1,176	2,167
Professional services	-	832	12,418
Transportation	600	677	256
Alberta and Edmonton Facts booklet	-	674	1,248
Research	-	31	220
Promotion and publicity	960	-	3,101
50th Anniversary Celebration	-	(99)	35,214
	<u>292,547</u>	<u>344,565</u>	<u>334,382</u>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue Over Expenditures	<u>\$ (22,080)</u>	<u>\$ 12,788</u>	<u>\$ (1,543)</u>

Statement of Members' Equity

For the Year Ended December 31, 1991

	1991	1990
<u>EQUITY IN CAPITAL ASSETS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 40,303	\$ 37,134
Capital Asset Additions During the Year	10,071	3,169
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 50,374</u>	<u>\$ 40,303</u>
<u>APPROPRIATED FUNDS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 3,928	\$ 1,439
Add: Transfer from Unappropriated Funds	2,531	2,489
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 6,459</u>	<u>\$ 3,928</u>
<u>UNAPPROPRIATED FUNDS</u>		
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 5,353	\$ 9,385
Add: Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenditures	12,788	(1,543)
	<u>18,141</u>	<u>7,842</u>
Deduct: Transfer to Appropriated Funds		
Interest earned from Casino account	(2,531)	(649)
Specified donation	-	(1,840)
	<u>(2,531)</u>	<u>(2,489)</u>
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$ 15,610</u>	<u>\$ 5,353</u>

Notes on the financial statements:

The statement of revenue and expenditures and the statement of members' equity have been extracted from the December 31, 1991 financial statements as audited by Bruha, Whelan & Hawkings. The financial statements are available from the Council office.

Board of Directors

Executive

Alyson Lavers	President
Heather Konrad	Vice-President
Stephen Crocker	Vice-President
Elizabeth Massiah	Vice President

Members at Large

Papiya Das	Michael Phair
Jackie Fiala	June Sheppard
Pat Hagey	Donald (Rocky) Sinclair
Violet Hill	Iris Sulyma
Nancy Kotani	Katherine Weaver
Ken Mackenzie*	Lilian West*

Staff

Jonathan Murphy	Executive Director
Alison MacDonald	Social Planner
Pearl Bennett	Social Planner
Jennifer Hyndman*	Social Planner
Pratima Rao*	Social Planner
Sheila Kushniruk	Publications Editor
Laurie Kolada*	Communications Coordinator
Diane Goodall	Executive Assistant
Kathie Sutherland	Office and Communications Assistant
Luciana Pizzi	Project Staff
Bev Sankarelli-Roche*	Summer Student
Keith Andony*	Summer Student

*Resigned during the year

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