



1996 Annual Report

Kevin Feehan
President

Greetings from the Edmonton Social Planning Council: 1996 proved to be a busy year for the Council. Firstly, the Board of Directors approved a new Vision and Mission Statement and with this new guideline it initiated a comprehensive review of all Council projects and designed a strategic plan for the organization.

Advocacy priorities were set for 1996 which included child welfare, human rights/diversity and income security. Work was accomplished in each of these areas. The Council completed the Food Bank Study *Two Paycheques Away—Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton* as well as a Children's Services Research project which will recommend a monitoring mechanism to the provincial government to ensure that service providers will adhere to formalized objective standards. Issues of *First Reading* magazine and *Alberta Facts* were devoted to income security, child welfare and human rights and diversity. This work has provided all of us with important information on these timely issues. We also produced a calendar for 1997, *Voices In Action*, which has helped raise awareness and challenged the myths associated with living in poverty.

The Food Bank Study attracted national attention and has once again established the Council as a respected and vocal advocate for persons living on low or fixed incomes. Numerous projects were completed or initiated in 1996 on top of our advocacy priorities—all serving to keep our core staff and contract personnel working at a hectic pace.

The Board of Directors has reaffirmed the direction of the Council and I am confident the Board and staff will continue to work towards our vision of a community where all people have a commitment to social justice and shared responsibility as the foundation for community well-being.

On a personal note, my time as President and as a member of the Council concludes with our annual general meeting. My experience on the Council has been challenging, rewarding and insightful. My personal thanks to everyone who made the work of the Council both enjoyable and productive and my best wishes to those who continue this vital societal work.

Brian Bechtel
Executive Director

1996 was my first full year as Executive Director of the Council. Thanks to great support from the staff and Board of Director, I think we all managed the transition smoothly.

I am particularly pleased with our advocacy efforts over the year. I believe the Council is in a position to have a real impact as the children's services reforms unfold, to play a key role in the restructuring of municipal social services funding, and to lead the first formal public review of the 1993 welfare reforms. By 1998 we'll know whether or not our efforts to participate in a proactive way have paid off. Regardless of the outcome, we have fought for and gained some important inroads at both the provincial and municipal levels.

While the Council is perhaps best known for its high profile advocacy work, there was a lot of good work in 1996 which was less visible, but equally important. These projects ranged from seniors' gambling to an ongoing role coordinating the Nobody's Perfect parenting program throughout Alberta. The many dedicated people who work on these projects don't get their names in the newspaper, but they do important work every day in a capable and professional manner and they deserve our thanks.

1996 Highlights

- Welfare Advocacy:** In December we released a Food Bank Study *Two Paycheques Away—Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton* which was a compilation of many months of work by both the Edmonton Social Planning Council and Edmonton's Food Bank. Research for the study included 816 interviews with food bank recipients which revealed serious problems with government income support programs. We also continued to answer questions relating to income security programs and we produced a magazine, fact sheet and calendar which served to educate people on the problems associated with living on a low income.
- Child Welfare:** The Council completed the first phases of the Children's Services Research project which will develop a monitoring mechanism model to ensure service providers adhere to standards. This project is well ahead of the province's own redesign of children's services and the final phase will begin once the redesign is unveiled to the public. A magazine and fact sheet was also produced on this topic.
- Other Projects:** Edmonton LIFE (Local Indicators For Excellence) kicked off in 1996. This project will identify a set of quality of life indicators for the city of Edmonton relating to people, the economy, the environment and the community. The Edmonton LIFE report will be released in 1997 and will involve yearly updates. Reaching Out—Regional Tobacco Study brought youth workers and agency personnel together to come up with ways to teach teens the harm associated with tobacco use. A curriculum was designed and is now being taught in the Boyle Street Community Services Co-operative. Working Together—a project which documented proven strategies for collaborating on service delivery to street-involved and marginalized individuals who are HIV positive. Yukutsk—helping to introduce social planning policies and practices in the Siberian city of Yakutsk. Six delegates from Yakutsk visited Edmonton as part of the project. Upon their return to Yakutsk they proposed two initiatives which will receive federal funding. The Council will be involved in evaluating these initiatives. Shared Responsibility—part of the AIDS Community Action Program (ACAP) to educate female inmates and prevent the spread of HIV. An HIV/AIDS education and prevention took place in both the Fort Saskatchewan Correctional Centre and the Edmonton Institution for Women in 1996.
- Research:** We completed the Seniors Independence Research Program—a study of the transportation needs of the frail elderly. We began a funding study of the charitable sector on behalf of the Muttart Foundation. We completed the Healthy Transitions Study which explored the move toward community-based mental health services for mentally ill persons. A study was initiated on seniors gambling—to review exemplar programs and services that could provide the basis for a treatment program.
- Evaluations:** The final evaluation of the Breton/Buck Creek Brighter Futures project was completed. The Council also evaluated the Health For Two project of the Capital Health Authority which involved adapting parenting programs for three multicultural communities. A forum with other agencies in the city who provide parenting programs to multicultural communities was held at the end of this evaluation. Work began on a strategic plan for Grant MacEwan Community College Day Care Centres.
- Coordination:** Nobody's Perfect underwent a provincial evaluation this year and the Council will continue to function as the site for provincial coordination of this program. We also received approval to conduct a community parents project which will help to adapt Nobody's Perfect for multicultural communities. The Quality of Life Commission was coordinated through the Council office and early in 1996 we helped them draft and release Listen To Me which reported their findings from holding a series of hearings to establish how people were being affected by provincial government cutbacks. The Council also acted as the coordinator for FCSS-funded agencies to respond to the provincial government's decision not to cost-share municipal contributions to agencies with federal dollars.

Community Initiatives: Council staff were involved in several initiatives including the Child Poverty Action Group, the Urban Core Support Network, the Womens Health Network, Success By Six, Safer Cities, the Rotary Urban Hope Conference, the Dignity Foundation and Random Acts of Kindness.

Publications: Four issues of First Reading were released in 1996: March—Fundamentalism-searching out the truth; June—The path to new children's services; September-Button-up on human rights and December—The long cold wait for income security. We published two issues of Alberta Facts: September—Child Welfare in Alberta-three years after the review and December—Hunger in Edmonton-understanding the need for food banks. The Council also produced a multi-lingual video and manual to help newcomer parents choose quality child care. The 10-minute video and accompanying manual (Choosing Quality Childcare—A Guide for Newcomers) was released in Cantonese, Vietnamese, Spanish and English. The Voices in Action calendar for 1997 was published as a project to mark 1996 as the United Nations International Year for the Eradication of Poverty. The calendar had people relate their experiences of living life on a limited income. Together with their portraits these stories have helped to dispel some of the myths associated with living on social assistance. Tracking The Trends went through an evaluation in 1996 and therefore there was no publication produced. The Council also developed a home page on the internet to provide information and publications via electronic communications.

Board of Directors

President Kevin Feehan

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Jeannette Sinclair

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Year Ended Dec. 31, 1996)

	1996 (Budget)	1996 (Actual)	1995 (Actual)
Revenue			
Project revenue	648,762	619,897	644,810
Government grants			
Federal Government	-	14,036	18,791
City of Edmonton	-	-	21,500
Other receipts	27,000	12,911	26,762
United Way	-	1,513	173,151
Casino	20,000	33	7,885
	<u>\$695,762</u>	<u>\$648,390</u>	<u>\$892,899</u>
Expenditures			
Project expenses	467,753	431,044	472,779
Salaries and benefits	125,086	123,343	341,041
Building occupancy	30,451	25,335	24,616
Office expenses	45,763	17,086	51,085
Professional fees	10,509	13,455	8,805
Meetings	8,500	5,796	11,121
Insurance	1,500	1,400	1,250
Internet expenses	-	1,152	-
Recruitment and education	3,000	240	8,972
Transportation	1,400	21	1,130
Research	-	17	25
Agency publications	-	-	263
Alberta and Edmonton Facts booklets	-	-	328
Library	-	-	2,086
Miscellaneous	1,800	-	1,770
Professional services	-	-	243
	<u>\$695,762</u>	<u>\$618,889</u>	<u>\$925,514</u>
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	-	29,501	(32,615)

Statement of Members' Equity (Year Ended Dec. 31, 1996)

	1996	1995
Equity in Capital Assets		
Balance, beginning of the year	78,837	71,486
Capital asset additions during the year	2,103	7,351
Balance, end of the year	<u>\$80,940</u>	<u>\$78,837</u>
Unappropriated Funds		
Balance, beginning of the year	(10,446)	22,169
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures	29,501	(32,615)
Balance (deficit), end of the year	<u>\$19,055</u>	<u>\$(10,446)</u>

Notes on financial statements:

The statement of revenue and expenditures and the statement of members' equity have been extracted from the December 31, 1996 financial statements as audited by Bruha, Hawkings, Epp, Dumont. The financial statements are available from the Council office.

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The Edmonton Social
Planning Council is a
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United Way
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