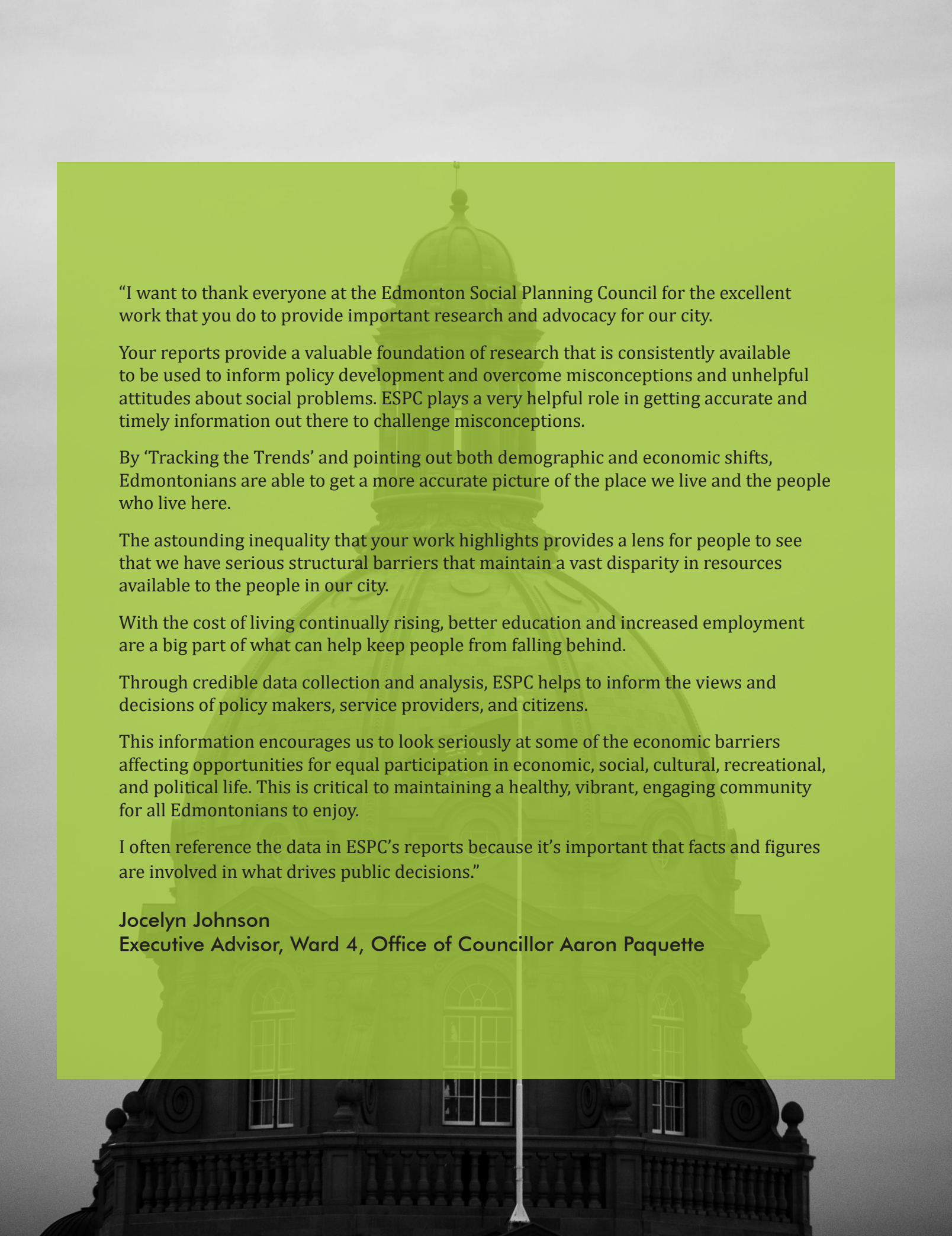




ANNUAL REPORT 2019



A faint, light green background image of the Edmonton City Hall dome, showing its ornate architectural details and the surrounding building structure.

“I want to thank everyone at the Edmonton Social Planning Council for the excellent work that you do to provide important research and advocacy for our city.

Your reports provide a valuable foundation of research that is consistently available to be used to inform policy development and overcome misconceptions and unhelpful attitudes about social problems. ESPC plays a very helpful role in getting accurate and timely information out there to challenge misconceptions.

By ‘Tracking the Trends’ and pointing out both demographic and economic shifts, Edmontonians are able to get a more accurate picture of the place we live and the people who live here.

The astounding inequality that your work highlights provides a lens for people to see that we have serious structural barriers that maintain a vast disparity in resources available to the people in our city.

With the cost of living continually rising, better education and increased employment are a big part of what can help keep people from falling behind.

Through credible data collection and analysis, ESPC helps to inform the views and decisions of policy makers, service providers, and citizens.

This information encourages us to look seriously at some of the economic barriers affecting opportunities for equal participation in economic, social, cultural, recreational, and political life. This is critical to maintaining a healthy, vibrant, engaging community for all Edmontonians to enjoy.

I often reference the data in ESPC’s reports because it’s important that facts and figures are involved in what drives public decisions.”

Jocelyn Johnson

Executive Advisor, Ward 4, Office of Councillor Aaron Paquette

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ESPC ORIGINS

In 1939, a group of Edmonton-based social service organizations voted to coordinate their efforts and move towards the integration of a larger and more useful sphere of social service. This was in response to an identified increase in the needs of impoverished families, and the need for more equitable and coordinated distribution of services following World War II.

In February of 1940, a council was incorporated under the Societies Act and began its work as the Edmonton Council of Social Agencies, with more than 60 social agencies coordinated through one office. Over the years the Council has evolved, adapting its focus to meet the changing needs of Edmonton's population.

Key organizations that the Council was instrumental in starting include:

ABC Head Start
Boyle Street Community Services
Edmonton Christmas Bureau
Edmonton Community Legal Centre
John Howard Society
Seniors Association of Greater Edmonton
WIN House
And many more!

To continuously provide support to the community and other social service agencies, we offer our boardroom to organizations that need meeting space. Here are some organizations we have shared our space with:



Citizens for Civil Society
EndPoverty Edmonton
Keep Alberta Strong
Nutrition Students Teachers Exercising with Parents (NSTEP)
Pan-Edmonton Group Addressing Social Isolation of Seniors (PEGASIS)
United Way of the Alberta Capital Region

WHO WE ARE

The Edmonton Social Planning Council is an independent, not-for-profit, non-partisan social research organization with registered charitable status. Our focus is social research, particularly in the areas of low-income and poverty. ESPC is a source of knowledge and expertise on social issues within our community.

We are dedicated to encouraging the adoption of equitable social policy, supporting the work of other organizations who are striving to improve the lives of Edmontonians, and educating the public regarding the social issues that impact them on a daily basis.

Our Vision

A community in which all people are full and valued participants.

Our Mission

Through rigorous research, detailed analysis, and community engagement, we deepen community understanding of social planning issues, influence policy, and spark collaborative actions that lead to positive social change.

80th ANNIVERSARY UPDATE

Although the Edmonton Social Planning Council officially commemorates its 80th anniversary in 2020—with the organization opening its doors for operation in February 1940—the year 2019 also marked a notable milestone anniversary for the Council.

Eighty years ago, in 1939, after years of stalled efforts to get the idea off the ground, representatives from 50 social service agencies in Edmonton gathered to vote in favour of a coordinating council. The purpose was to foster better collaboration and cooperation among the various agencies serving the community to avoid duplication, fill in gaps of service, and moreover, to address pressing social issues in the areas of family and child welfare and homelessness, among others. From this, the Edmonton Council of Social Agencies was founded (subsequent name changes in the intervening years eventually led to our current name, the Edmonton Social Planning Council).

The birth of our organization was motivated by an increasing awareness of child welfare issues following the First World War. The Council was well-positioned to speak to these, and other, evolving social welfare needs as Edmonton grew and changed along with it.

It is in this story that we seek to reflect and build upon our 80 years of building a community in which all people are full and valued participants, and to look towards the next 80 years. One of the most indelible parts of our

legacy is the role we have had in the development of various other community organizations throughout the years: the Edmonton Christmas Bureau, Boyle Street Community Services, WIN House, and John Howard Society, to name only a few.

The scope of our 80th anniversary activities is in flux due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic (as of this writing, gatherings of more than 15 people are banned by public health officials at least through the summer). However, we will still find ways to tell our story and remind people of the impacts to community we have had as a leader in the social development of this city and province.

Look out for a retrospective publication taking a deep dive into our history, chronicling our evolution, and marking the ups and downs of our history set to a backdrop of unprecedented societal change and upheavals, both in Edmonton and globally. We hope it will be an illuminating story for those passionate about social issues in our city and the wider community.

Anyone with a story to share is invited to reach out to Brett Lambert, Community Engagement Coordinator, at brettl@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

ESPC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR VISION

A community in which all people are full and valued participants.

OUR MISSION

Through rigorous research, detailed analysis, and community engagement, we deepen community understanding of social planning issues, influence policy, and spark collaborative actions that lead to positive social change.

OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Social Equality and Inclusion

We are dedicated to helping our community become more inclusive and equitable.

Independent Voice

We are an independent and nonpartisan organization that does not speak for or represent the views of other organizations, governments, or political parties.

Actionable Research

We do relevant and timely research that helps others identify and implement solutions to social planning issues.

Social Awareness

We value accessible information that helps a wide range of audiences understand community challenges and opportunities.

Strategic Collaboration

We collaborate with diverse partners to achieve shared goals without duplicating the work of others.

Community Capacity

We build knowledge and skills in our community by openly sharing our learning, experience, and expertise with others.

THE OUTCOMES WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE

INFORMED COMMUNITY

A community that is knowledgeable about social planning issues, challenges, and potential actions to improve the lives of all.

ENGAGED COMMUNITY

A community that works together to determine priorities and to organize efforts to achieve common goals.

CHANGED COMMUNITY

A community that advocates for the benefits from positive social change

STRATEGIES WE USE TO ACHIEVE OUR OUTCOMES

- Conduct, aggregate, and disseminate research to help our community understand current issues, government policies, and systems, and identify potential courses of action.
- Achieve shared goals and make best use of resources by leading and participating in collaborative partnerships focused on producing positive, sustainable change.
- Work with decision-makers and influencers by sharing our comprehensive evidence-based research in a timely manner so they are able to make informed decisions.
- Share our expertise to help individuals, organizations, governments, and community groups better achieve their goals.
- Act as the community go-to organization for relevant and quality research on social planning issues
- Engage in and contribute our research and perspectives to public conversations.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



It is a strange time to be writing a President's report for this year's Annual Report, in the midst of social isolation of unknown length, and facing unknown changes to our own lives and those of our communities. While there is no escaping that this will be a transformative event and a defining memory of this year, we should remind ourselves

of what continues across Edmonton—the hard work of the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC), and organizations like ours, to improve equity and quality of life for all members of our communities.

As life-changing as this experience is for all of us and our society, it's nonetheless important to recognize the work that ESPC and the Board had done throughout the bulk of the year leading up to the sudden changes wrought by COVID-19. And as much as some of this work will be impacted by this global event in ways we can't completely predict right now, I believe it has laid a solid foundation for future boards to carry forward.

A large part of the work of the Board and committees has revolved around the process of developing a new strategic plan. Under the guidance and tireless work of the Policy and Governance Committee, the Board engaged in discussions and exercises throughout the year to hone in on some key questions about who we are, what we do, and how we will continue to do the valuable work that a progressive social policy community needs. In particular, we spent a full day in November taking part in a strategic planning retreat at the wonderful facilities of the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, where we were able to focus on these thoughts and questions. The result was excellent groundwork for our continued discussions throughout the year as we began to formulate a plan and document these thoughts. Unfortunately, our follow up and final retreat was cancelled, as COVID-19 had other plans.

We had anticipated having a draft and final plan to be considered by ESPC members and stakeholders leading up to our May AGM, and then getting final approval there. Instead, the Board will preserve our notes, reports, and work to date and entrust a future Board to continue this process when it is again possible to have the in-person discussions and meetings that facilitate this type of thinking and planning. I think all of us on the Board found the process valuable and productive, and have arrived at a solid draft that will help guide the next Board in restarting and completing their own process to a new strategic plan.

While, as always, we have had a busy year with packed agendas, one of the highlights has been the opportunity to mark ESPC's 80th Anniversary year. The Board, in conjunction with staff, have been planning ways to celebrate and recognize this milestone throughout the year. It is perhaps a particularly timely reminder—when there is so much uncertainty about

the future of our communities and society—that ESPC has been an integral and leading voice in progressive social policy and advocacy for Edmonton and its people for 80 years, through many kinds of change and upheaval. I've always believed that one of the best ways to plan for the future is to examine the past, and to consider where progress has and hasn't been made over the last 80 years can perhaps give us some guidance on how we might envision our recovery from COVID-19 and ESPC's role in the community in that process.

The discussions we will need to have in the coming months will no doubt be quite different than the ones the Board has had over the past year. However, I think this year's Board has prepared future Boards very well for those discussions. The breadth of experience, perspective, and respect for each other's viewpoints and knowledge exhibited by this year's Board has greatly benefited the conversations we've had, which at times have demanded a lot of insight, introspection, and novel thinking. I thank the members of the Board for their ongoing commitment and willingness to engage in this work throughout the year.

As always, I am impressed and greatly appreciative of the professionalism, dedication, hard work, and outstanding skill and expertise of the staff. It is their hard work that ensures that ESPC continues to be a leading voice and resource in Edmonton and Alberta. And, even in the tumultuous days and weeks after COVID-19 initially hit, ESPC staff continued to produce important work and participate in a range of community initiatives to help represent a range of viewpoints and experiences through a rapidly changing policy environment. On behalf of the Board, I would like to thank them for their continued work over the year, and their resiliency in recent months.

I would also like to thank the Executive Director, Susan Morrissey, who demonstrated calm and confident leadership through an unprecedented event. Susan remains a go-to resource for many organizations and media when the social and economic environment of Edmontonians needs to be discussed or researched. ESPC is well served by her continued commitment to our Council and our values.

I hope that we will all return to some form of normalcy soon, and that the new normal might reflect a more inclusive and just society: a community in which all people are full and valued participants, as ESPC's vision statement reflects. Wishing you all good health as you read this year's Annual Report.

Gwen Feeny, President

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT



The year 2019 marked a time of expanding horizons and capacities as ESPC continued our work in social research, social policy analysis, and community engagement.

A number of significant accomplishments were marked in this calendar year. Alongside our updated annual Living Wage Edmonton report, the updated biannual A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton (produced in partnership with End Poverty Edmonton), and the annual Vital Signs report (produced with the Edmonton Community Foundation), we also completed a number of other notable projects. This included our Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors report in partnership with Age-Friendly Edmonton—the culmination of an 18-month community participatory research project that relied heavily on hearing and understanding the issues and solutions regarding social isolation from Indigenous seniors living in Edmonton. We also completed the Public Engagement on Affordable Housing in Edmonton report, with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues, which gained great insight into the thoughts, minds, and concerns that community league members feel towards proposed affordable housing developments in their neighbourhoods. Through a community-based participatory process we were able to analyze the findings from focus groups and interviews to develop strategies for collaboration between developers and community members to dispel misconceptions and work towards mutual betterment.

I, along with Research Coordinator Sandra Ngo, also had the unique opportunity to give a presentation and follow-up discussion on poverty with Grade 5 and 6 students at George H. Luck Elementary School. It was very much a mutual learning opportunity, as we gained insight into what poverty means from a child's perspective, and they learned what they can do to help address the issue.

The year saw ESPC strengthen and expand its partnerships with other community groups and organizations. While we have always worked with other not-for-profit organizations to address social issues, 2019 saw a broadening of our scope to a provincial level that allows us to work more collaboratively with like-minded agencies in other parts of Alberta on issues that unite us all. This was demonstrated with the creation of Keep Alberta Strong, a coalition of over 40 organizations in Alberta calling for the provincial government to maintain key investments in social programs that support vulnerable Albertans. In addition, our work in developing the Alberta Living Wage Network, made up of organizations and municipalities, continues with its

mandate to build awareness and encourage the adoption of living wage policies throughout the province. Expect to see more coordinated action in 2020, and beyond, on this issue. Initiatives like these prove that our voice is stronger when we work together!

ESPC was pleased to welcome some new faces to our team in 2019. Thanks to new funding from the Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) program, we were able to hire Jenn Rossiter as Project Coordinator (Research Services and Capacity Building) in April. Her position supports ESPC's operations while also being a dedicated staff person to work directly with other agencies to help increase their capacity building and provide hands-on research support. This also helps us gain a better understanding of the depth and breadth of social issues that impact many people in our community, and to help identify solutions. In August, we welcomed Brett Lambert as our new Community Engagement Coordinator, who has been hard at work maintaining our social media presence, preparing press releases, organizing Lunch and Learn sessions, compiling our fACTivist newsletter, developing key messaging from our work, and much more. We also hired Jack Cherniawsky as a student research assistant during the summer, who was an invaluable help in gathering data for various publications.

As Executive Director, my work with the Board of Directors has included a significant amount of time fine-tuning our financial process and practices, understanding membership engagement, and moving the organization towards developing a new strategic plan. It is still a work in progress as of this writing, but when completed it will chart a successful path for ESPC for many years to come.

In 2020, ESPC will be celebrating its 80th anniversary, taking time to look back at our storied history as a leader and a part of the history of social development in both the city and the province. As we look back on our extensive accomplishments, we hope to take stock of all that we have learned and apply it to the next 80 years.

Finally, I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to our passionate Board of Directors, our generous funders, loyal members, volunteers, and of course our dedicated staff for their invaluable contributions!

Sincerely,

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director

MEET OUR STAFF



Susan Morrissey, Executive Director

Susan Morrissey has been with ESPC for over 14 years. In her position as Executive Director, Susan works collaboratively with others in Edmonton's not-for-profit sector towards moving the needle on the bigger social issues facing the community.

Susan is a member of the EndPoverty Edmonton Stewardship Committee, but her involvement dates back to 2013 when she was a member of the original Poverty Elimination Strategy Steering Committee. She is also involved in developing and disseminating the annual Vital Signs report in partnership with the Edmonton Community Foundation.



John Kolkman, Research Associate

John has several decades of experience working as a public policy researcher, both in the not-for-profit sector and at the political level. Since joining the Council in May 2006, he has worked on social policy issues related to poverty; wealth and income inequality; the removal of employment barriers for those with low and modest incomes; social determinants of health; affordable housing; and neighborhood revitalization.

John has resided with his family in the inner city McCauley neighborhood of Edmonton for the past 30 years, and has been an active volunteer and leader in a number of community organizations. Married to Kate Quinn, they have two adult sons.



Sandra Ngo, Research Coordinator

Sandra Ngo graduated from the University of Alberta with a master's degree in Agricultural Economics. Prior to coming to ESPC, Sandra was the community Resource Coordinator with the Multicultural Health Brokers and ENRICH.

Sandra was instrumental in starting the Grocery Run which is a program that provides fresh fruits and vegetables to refugee families living in crisis. She has been very active in the food security scene in Edmonton for a number of years.



Justine Basilan, Executive Assistant

Justine Basilan graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree in Psychology. After graduating, and prior to joining ESPC, she invested much of her time volunteering for other not-for-profit organizations.



Jenn Rossiter, Project Coordinator (Research Services and Capacity Building)

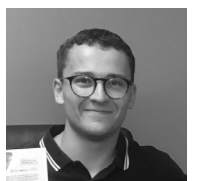
Jenn Rossiter completed her MA from York University, Toronto, in international Development Studies, during which time she studied child protection policies and informal child care practices. Recognizing the importance of grassroots development, she has since aimed to translate her international experiences into domestic practice. Jenn spent several years working at the University of Alberta, most recently with the Faculty of Native Studies learning more about Alberta and Treaty 6. Respectfully connecting this knowledge with her social sciences background has been rewarding, and a practice that grounds her ongoing work.



Brett Lambert, Community Engagement Coordinator

Brett Lambert has worked in a number of communications roles at the University of Alberta and not-for-profit organizations, such as Native Counselling Services of Alberta and Public Interest Alberta. Brett has a diploma in Journalism from Grant MacEwan as well as a Bachelor of Arts and master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta. Brett lives on the south side of Edmonton with his wife, Diana, and two young sons.

SUMMER AND PRACTICUM STUDENT



Jack Cherniawsky

In the summer of 2019, Jack Cherniawsky worked with ESPC while he was pursuing his Bachelor of Arts degree in the School of Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Alberta. During his time, he gathered data for various publications dedicated to the topics of affordable housing, green spaces, recreation services, and others.

MEET OUR STAFF

JOHN KOLKMAN'S RETIREMENT



It is with mixed feelings that we announce that long-time staff member, John Kolkman, retired from ESPC effective March 31, 2020.

John originally joined ESPC in May 2006 as Research Coordinator. He worked extensively on social policy issues related to poverty; wealth and income inequality; the removal of employment barriers for those with low and modest incomes; social determinants of health; affordable housing; and neighbourhood revitalization. His vast wealth of knowledge, passion, and

expertise in policy research made an indelible mark on the research output and capacities of the Council, and we remain eternally grateful for his contributions.

In 2017, John stepped back from his full-time role as Research Coordinator to take on a part-time position with the Council as Research Associate and Volunteer Coordinator. In this role, he provided invaluable mentorship and guidance to his successor, Sandra Ngo, who carries on many of his responsibilities, ensuring that our strong research acumen will continue for years to come.

While we are sad to see John leave, we wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement, which will likely be spent tending to his garden, travelling, and keeping an eye on the weather.

OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gwen Feeny, President

Dave Trautman, Chairperson, Membership & Engagement Committee

Ben Whynot, Chairperson, Policy & Governance Committee

Vanessa Zembal, Chairperson, Finance & Audit Committee

Peter Schalk, Treasurer

Theresa Vladicka

Zahro Hassan

Danielle Dolgoy

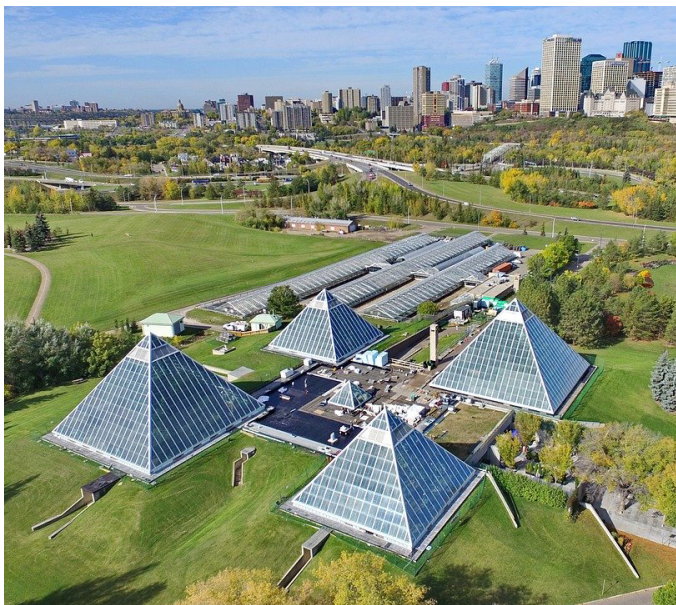
Jalene Anderson-Baron

Naomi Achus

Paula Kirman

Nicole Smith

BOARD REPORTS



Finance & Audit

Vanessa Zembal (Chairperson); Peter Schalk (Treasurer); Naomi Achus; Zahro Hassan

For the Finance and Audit Committee, 2019 provided a chance to reflect and think about the future financial health of ESPC, while also keeping busy with the regular financial reporting and grant updates. This year, we focused our energies on writing policies and procedures to help streamline financial decision-making and communication, contributing to the development of the upcoming strategic plan, and considering how current economic realities might impact ESPC.

Our committee consists of four Board members who met on a monthly basis throughout the year. As a group we brought together a range of experiences and perspectives, and with our high energy level and commitment, we were able to stick to the work plan and help our Board make necessary decisions throughout the year. The committee Chair would like to thank the members (Naomi, Peter and Zahra) for contributing their time and keeping up momentum throughout the year. Over the past year, we found time to write risk management and budget development policies, review the allocation of casino funding, explore options for investments, keep up-to-date with financial statements and other reporting, and bring all of these conversations to the Board in a cohesive and well researched manner. The policies and research completed as a committee over the past year will certainly benefit the future discussions and decisions of this committee, and the overall Board-level discussions.

We approved the 2020 Budget with a 3% wage increase to staff members as an indication of our appreciation of their work and commitment to the organization. The budget was based on the confirmation of several grants and secured funding for the current fiscal year. We would like to extend our gratitude to the ESPC staff and Board members involved in preparing grant applications because the success of several grants, including the FCSS grant, has lasting impact for the organization.

Also, based on staff efforts in 2019, there was a significant surplus coming into 2020. We allocated a portion of the 2019 surplus to ESPC staff in recognition of their efforts and were able to secure a large portion to internal reserves. In addition, we allocated a portion of the surplus to secure funding for an evaluation framework, and to help grow the skills and services provided by ESPC. By evaluating the work of ESPC within the community, the organization gains a better understanding of its impact, is able to provide important evaluation data to project participants, and can present outcomes to funders and the community at large. The Board and committee both agreed the larger-than-usual surplus was a good opportunity to invest in developing this framework, and building the capacity of the organization as a whole.

Alongside our fellow Board members (and under the guidance of the Policy and Governance Committee), we thought hard about the future of the organization through the development of the upcoming strategic plan. This was an important process to get a better understanding of how the financial goals of ESPC align with other committees, and the overall role of the organization within the community. The lively conversations and contributions that occurred throughout the process point to the continued commitment and engagement of Board members, and the variety of strengths and perspectives we bring together as a Board. We are also aware of the financial realities on a larger community and global perspective that may impact our organization. This led to contributing a portion of our 2019 surplus into reserves, doing a full review of our current investment and endowment fund (which is still ongoing), and continuing to monitor the decisions of our funders. We continue to see support from our members and communities, in addition to growing our network locally and provincially, which helps confirm that the work and presence of the Council benefits the lives of those in our community. We would like to thank Susan for keeping us up-to-date with the progress of grants,

funding, and other financial related items, answering any of our questions, and continuing to change how she presents the information to help us get a clearer image of the situation. With changes to grants, or unexpected projects, the financial situation can often change, and requires special attention to ensure accuracy, and present things in a way that we can understand. Susan is an important asset when it comes to responding to these changes, overall organizational requirements, and communicating these to the Board so we can make sound and appropriate decisions.

Our 2019 audited financial report will be presented at the AGM by Carla Walker of Peterson Walter LLP and is available to members upon request. Feel free to contact the ESPC office at info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca for more details, to submit your questions, or if you are interested in helping with our committee (we welcome external members with open arms!).

Membership & Engagement

Dave Trautman (Chairperson); Paula Kirman; Danielle Dolgoy; Nicole Smith

The committee's activity in 2019 involved looking at membership value after the Membership Committee's role was expanded to include outreach and engagement with ESPC members.

Our committee volunteered to organize the nominations of, and choose the best candidate for, our annual Award of Merit and present it to the Board for approval.

The newly formed committee took the first steps by developing a series of small actions we believe will build a deeper understanding of what our membership expects, who they are, how members can contribute their experience and skills, and what some of the issues our members feel are important.

In the coming year, this committee will finish its review of membership feedback, a comparison to other Social Planning organizations, and build a foundation of knowledge from which to guide the actions of future committee initiatives. In the next few years the committee will use what it has learned to establish social activities and public events to express the organization's appreciation for their support. Future efforts of the committee will focus on ways to engage members more

directly about their expectations for the ESPC. The committee has also renewed its focus on current clients and stakeholders who support our continued existence. We believe our efforts will result in a more responsive organization whose supporters find good value in being a member.



Policy & Governance

Ben Whynot (Chairperson); Gwen Feeny; Peter Schalk; Theresa Vladicka; Jalene Anderson-Baron; Danielle Dolgoy; Colin Johnson (external)

The Policy and Governance Committee was highly active in 2019-20, meeting throughout the summer of 2019 and every month from September 2019 to April 2020.

Building on extensive preparatory efforts in 2018-19, the development of a new strategic plan was a central focus for the committee this term. The committee organized a full-day strategic planning session with the Board and Executive Director on November 16, 2020. The over arching structure and high-level priorities were approved in February 2020.

A second full-day session to flesh out key actions, timelines, and measures was scheduled for March 21, 2020. However, the widespread implementation of physical distancing measures led to the cancellation of this second session, which affected the overall schedule for the project. While the plan will not be completed this spring as envisioned, a substantial foundation exists that can be built on when the Board revisits the strategic plan later in 2020.

The committee also made significant progress on several additional priorities from its 2019-20 work plan.

Committee members led an initial review of the Council's bylaws (Peter Schalk); an assessment and prioritization exercise related to governance policies (Jalene Anderson-Baron); and the refinement of standard Board templates (Theresa Vladicka and Gwen Feeny). Given the considerable effort invested in the strategic plan, the objective of these projects was to complete manageable work that would set the stage for further progress in future terms.

The committee Chair would like to thank all of the committee members for their diligence and hard work over the 2019-20 term. It's been a tremendous year!

Looking ahead to the 2020-21 term, the committee would be pleased to welcome new external members from the voting membership. Members interested in serving on the committee as an external member are encouraged to contact the Council, or complete a volunteer application form online.



Board Recruitment Ad-Hoc Committee

Naomi Achus, Peter Schalk, and Theresa Vladicka

An effective Board is essential to the ongoing success of any non-profit organization. As terms end, there can be

Board turnover which presents new opportunities for individuals to serve. This year the Board Recruitment Committee was convened in January 2020 with a mandate to complete recruitment by May 2020.

The committee implemented processes that incorporated tools and templates for standardization. These tools were brought in by the 2019 Board Recruitment Committee, and included a competency matrix for assessing applicants.

The original timeline had Board positions posted on February 19, 2020, for a period of 30 days. This was to align with the agreement of nominations at our April Board meeting, and to be followed by an election at the AGM.

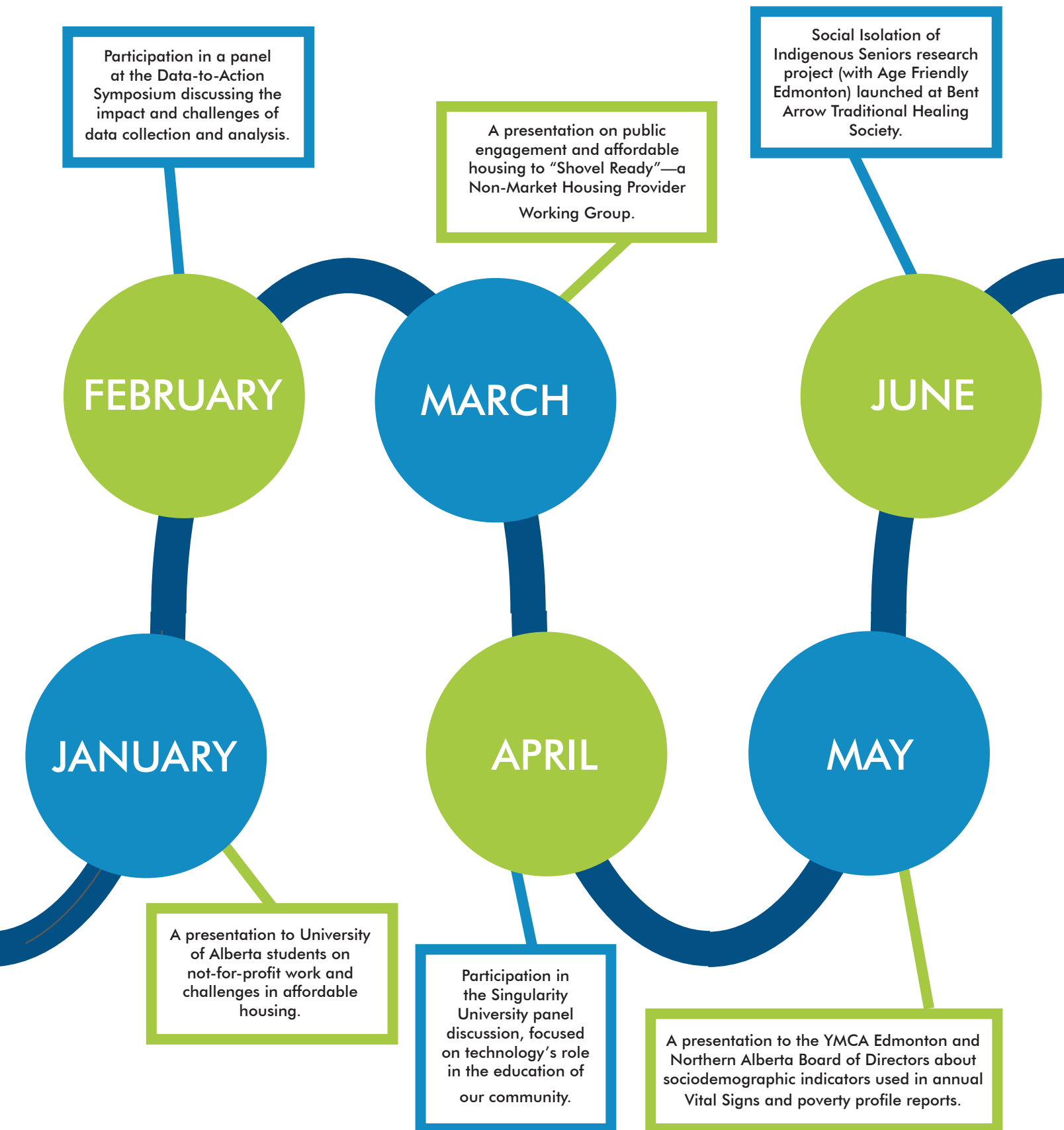
However, a major challenge in the recruitment process was felt with the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which caused many changes to the way a typical recruitment process would take place. Adapting to work/ life changes may have resulted in conflicting responsibilities for would-be applicants. At the same time, the format and date of the AGM was shifting, which would impact our original timelines.

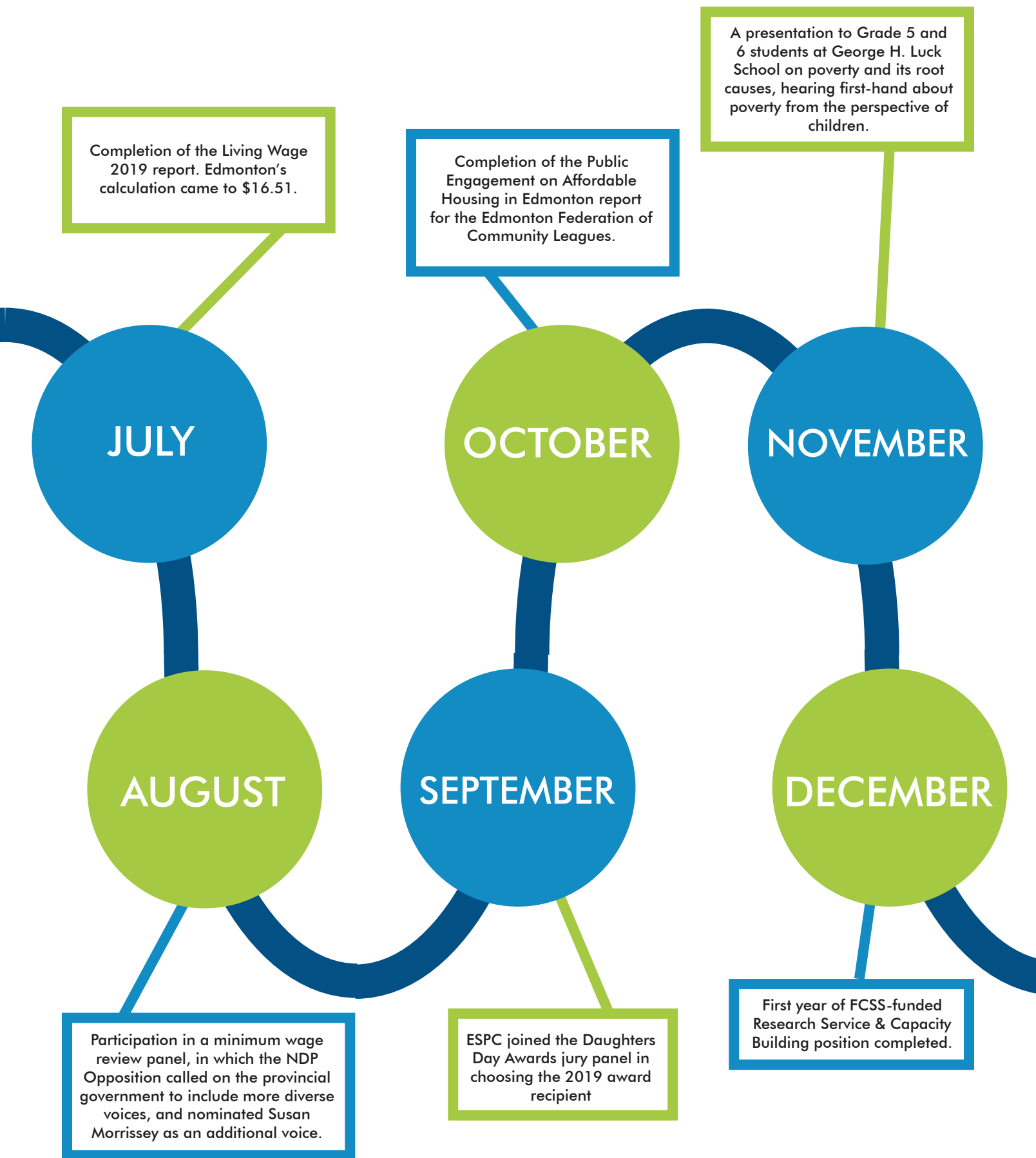
The committee worked remotely through these challenges by corresponding via email and setting up zoom meetings. The deadline for applications was extended to April 8, 2020 to allow individuals further opportunity to apply, and resulted in slightly more applications to the vacancies on the Board. Applications were assessed and the committee is currently in the process of interviewing candidates.

Overall, the committee is pleased with the quality of the applications received. We anticipate that the nominated applicants will bring their diversity, skills, and experience to achieve the objectives of the Board of Directors. We look forward to referring our nominations for election at the AGM!

A special thank you to the Board Recruitment Committee members for their work during this process. If members have any questions regarding the Board recruitment process, please do not hesitate to contact us at info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

MONTHLY HIGHLIGHTS





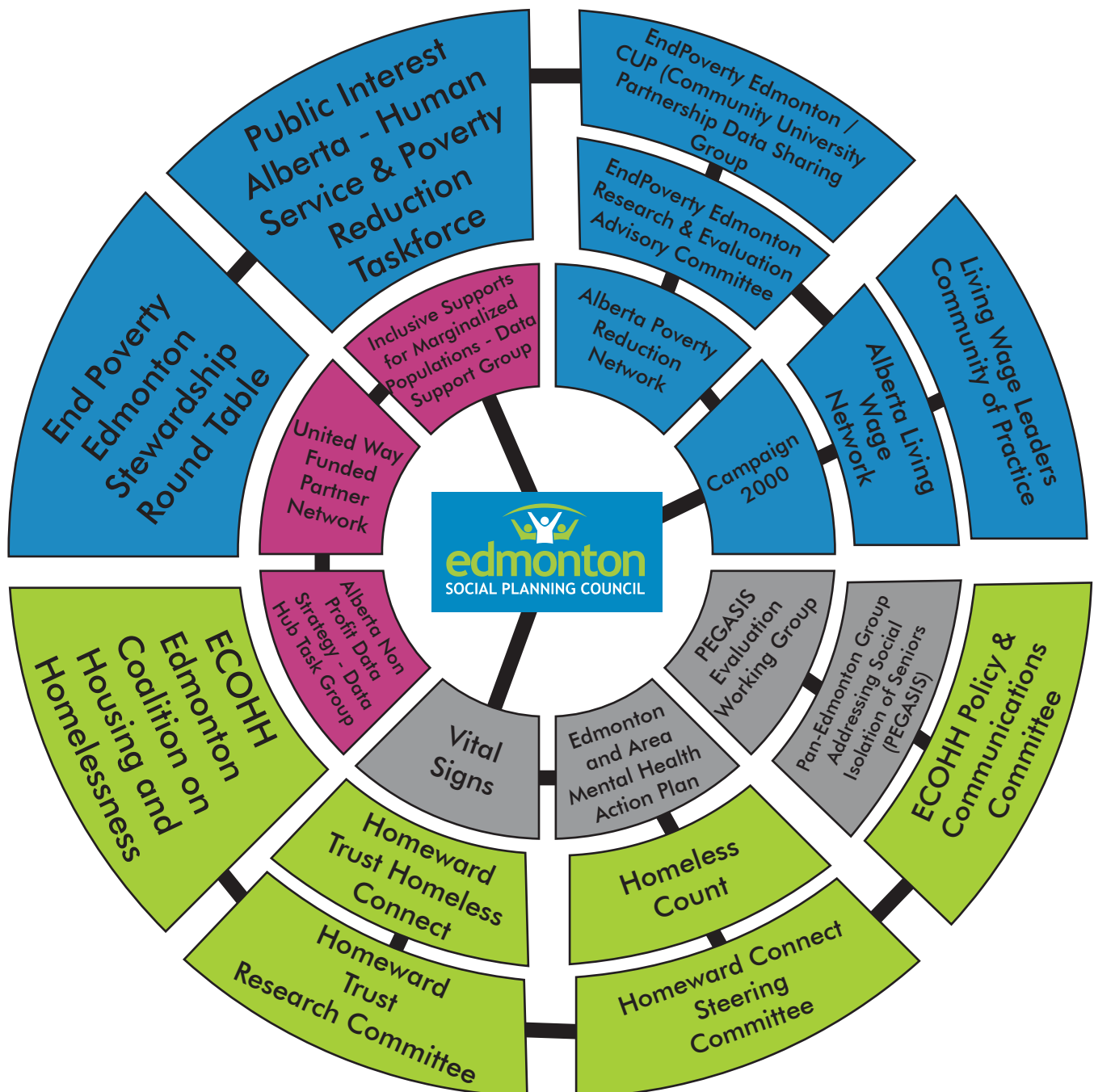
COMMITTEES AND COLLABORATIONS

POVERTY

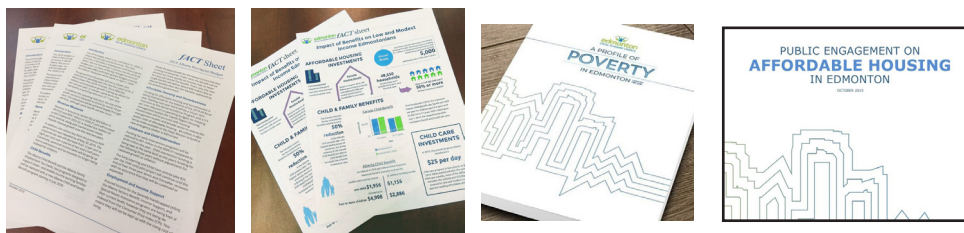
HOMELESSNESS

COMMUNITY

RESEARCH



PUBLICATIONS



ESPC is a source of knowledge and expertise on social issues within our community

RESEARCH REPORTS

- FACT sheets
 - *Impact of Benefits on Low- and Modest-Income Edmontonians*
 - *2019 Alberta Provincial Budget*
- *Living Wage 2019*
- *A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton (with EndPoverty Edmonton)*
- *Public Engagement on Affordable Housing in Edmonton (with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues)*
- *Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors (in partnership with Age Friendly Edmonton)*
- *Vital Signs 2019: Vital Living in Edmonton*
 - *Arts in Edmonton*
 - *Philanthropy in Edmonton*
 - *Green Spaces in Edmonton*
 - *Sport & Recreation in Edmonton*
 - *Special: Indigenous Women in Alberta*

THE FACTIVIST NEWSLETTER

Feature articles from our fACTivist newsletters:

- *What is Food Insecurity?* by Sandra Ngo, Edmonton Social Planning Council
- *Community Economic Development in Edmonton* by Brooks Hanewich, Matchworks
- *Strengthening Heritage Language Learning Among Children in Newcomer Families* by Jenn Rossiter, Edmonton Social Planning Council
- *Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors* by Sandra Ngo and Alexa Byrd, Edmonton Social Planning Council

LUNCH & LEARNS

ESPC's Lunch & Learn events are a series of engaging lunch-time talks about social issues and organizations that have an impact on our community.

Vital Signs (October 2019)

Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with ESPC, to measure how the community is doing.

If Not You... Then Who? Becoming a Foster, Adoptive, and Respite Caregiver in Alberta (November 2019)

A Child's Hope is a program designed to recruit foster and adoptive parents to provide temporary and permanent homes for children and youth in the care of the government.

Prevent It! A Little Warriors Program (December 2019)

The Little Warriors Prevent It! Workshop is an interactive workshop designed to improve attitudes, knowledge, and behaviour of workshop participants with regards to child sexual abuse.

"Thank you! Great honest presentation!"

MEDIA INTERVIEWS



- CBC — Importance of ethnic supermarkets on sense of belonging (July 2019)
- Edmonton Journal & Medicine Hat News — Nomination of ESPC as an additional voice at the minimum wage review panel (August 2019)
- Global News Edmonton — Significance of the increase use of the Edmonton Food Bank's services (November 2019)
- Edmonton Journal — "Albertans should brace for more cuts" Op-Ed (November 2019)
- Alberta NDP Caucus — Impact to cuts on rental assistance programs (December 2019)
- 630 CHED — Implementation of the new poverty line definition (December 2019)

KEEP ALBERTA STRONG

A coalition of organizations—including ESPC—got together in September to start a new campaign called "Keep Alberta Strong," in anticipation of the 2019 Alberta Budget. The origins of Keep Alberta Strong stem from a movement in Calgary called "Keep Calgary Strong," where concerned citizens spoke out against proposed cuts to municipal services such as public transit and community services. Keep Alberta Strong called for the provincial government to maintain current investments in the following priority areas:

1. The Alberta Child Benefit program
2. Affordable public transportation
3. Family and Community Support Services (FCSS)
4. Affordable, quality child care
5. Social assistance rates
6. Affordable housing

Programs such as these support some of the most vulnerable Albertans to not only survive, but thrive. The consequences of poverty and economic exclusion are well-documented, both in terms of the economic cost to our province (at least \$7 billion each year), and the impact on our social fabric. This is why maintaining investments in programs and initiatives that support vulnerable Albertans and the working poor is vital to ensuring Alberta's prosperity. As part of the campaign, a petition was circulated and signed by Albertans urging these programs to be maintained.

KEEP ALBERTA
STRONG

21%
coverage on
Keep Alberta
Strong Campaign


**Media
Interviews**

21%
coverage on Vital Signs
2019 Launch


KEEP ALBERTA
STRONG

PRESENTATIONS AND CONSULTATIONS



ESPC was active in presenting and consulting on a variety of topics, at a variety of locations, and with a variety of organizations in 2019.

PRESENTATIONS

A Profile of Poverty in Edmonton 2019	Indigenous Women in Alberta
Alberta Non-Profit Network: Data to Action	MacEwan Changemaker Wheel
Data-to-Action Symposium	Shovel Ready
George H. Luck School	Singularity University
Growing Recreation Together Symposium	Social Isolation of Indigenous Seniors report launch
	Vital Signs launch

CONSULTATIONS

ABC Head Start	Islamic Family and Social Services Association
C5 North East Community Hub	M.A.P.S. Capital Region
Calgary Homeless Foundation	Multicultural Family Resource Society
Capital Region Interfaith Housing initiative	Multicultural Health Brokers Co-op
Caregivers Alberta	Norwood Child & Family Resource Centre
City of Edmonton: Non-Market Housing Provider Working Group	PEGASIS
Daughters Day	RECOVER: Edmonton's Urban Wellness Plan
Edmonton Council for Early Learning and Care	Terra Centre
Edmonton Early Years Coalition	WAVE: Women's Initiative Edmonton
Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council	Wood Buffalo County
Edmonton's Food Bank	

ENGAGING IN POLICY DISCUSSIONS

Michael Walters, City Councillor
Ward 10

Rachel Notley, Premier of
Alberta, MLA Edmonton-
Strathcona

Shannon Marchand, Deputy
Minister, Community and Social
Services

CITATIONS

ESPC has a long-standing reputation for having our important work cited in other research reports and journals, both locally and internationally:

“Shades of Edmonton: My Neighbours Outside,”

Diversity Magazine, January 2019

“Socially Accountable Academic Health Centres: Pursuing a Quadripartite Mission,”

Herbert Smitherman, Richard Baker, & M. Roy Wilson, February 2019

“Reforming Residential Tenancy Law of Victims of Domestic Violence,”

Taproot Edmonton, March 2019

“Edmonton, Amiskwaciy Waskahikan, and a Papaschase Suburb for Settlers”

Rob Shields, Kieran Morgan, & Diane Gillespie, August 2019

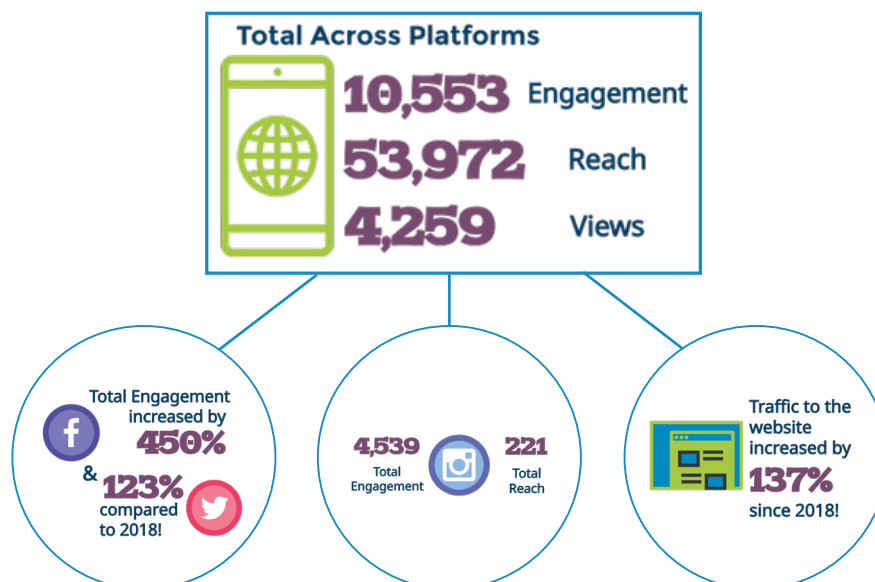
“Engaging Individuals Experiencing Poverty in Poverty Initiatives,”

Emma-Lynn Wallace, September 2019

“Overview of EndPoverty Edmonton,”

EndPoverty Edmonton Secretariat Team, December 2019

ANALYTICS



VOLUNTEERS

In 2019, a total of 67 generous volunteers contributed more than 784 hours of their time to ESPC. Volunteers contributed to writing for our Research Update reviews and FACTivist newsletters, transcribing notes from focus groups, serving on our Board of Directors and its committees, and baking for our annual United Way Bake Sale. ESPC staff also volunteered their time to help out at events in the community, including Homeless Connect, Canadians for a Civil Society, and the Daughters Day Awards.



PARTNERS



SUPPORTERS



United Way
Alberta Capital Region

PROJECT COORDINATOR

In 2019, ESPC established a dedicated research position to enhance research services and provide capacity building support to direct service agencies in Edmonton and the surrounding community.

In a partnership between ESPC and FCSS, Jenn Rossiter was hired as the Coordinator in spring 2019 to work with FCSS-funded community agencies. The position works closely with City of Edmonton FCSS Liaisons who oversee four general social service sectors:

- Early Years & Family Support,
- School Aged Children, Youth, and Mental Health,
- Newcomers and Indigenous Support, and
- Adults & Seniors.

In 2019 FCSS funded a total of 70 organizations within these four sectors, covering over 100 different programs. Presentations were made at sector meetings so that representatives for all these agencies and programs know they can reach out to an individual at ESPC who is dedicated to respond directly to their research and capacity needs. Organizational needs ebb and flow, but the response to these meetings demonstrates that there is certainly a gap being filled by this support, as these groups work tirelessly through their own resource challenges.

Issues around poverty are constantly changing. This position provides ESPC with the opportunity to remain highly engaged with community needs and City of Edmonton FCSS liaisons. Through these meaningful connections ESPC has been able to gain further insight into some of the complexities that agencies are facing, opening up avenues to advocate objectively based on current experiences.

Over the course of the year, the research requests processed were diverse and interesting. Some of the projects covered:

Requests that came in 2019 focused on:



- Social benefits and the economic value of informal caregiving;
- Best practices around heritage language learning for young children;
- Economic issues and statistics related to Child Intervention and Children's Services in Alberta;
- Statistics on senior immigrants in Edmonton and Canada;
- Community profiles, including data and analysis, focused on children, youth, and family supports.

The Coordinator has learned so much from the incredible individuals and agencies that they have met, and is looking forward to building on these connections throughout 2020!

If you are part of an organization that is interested in discussing research and capacity needs, please contact jennr@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

79th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Edmonton Social Planning Council
79th Annual General Meeting
May 23, 2019
5:30 – 6:30pm

Welcome and President's Remarks

The meeting was convened at 5:35 p.m. by Gwen Feeny, President of the ESPC Board of Directors, who welcomed everyone and delivered a brief opening statement recognizing that we are having this meeting on traditional Treaty 6 land. Gwen welcomed all ESPC members attending and introduced the current Board members. Gwen thanked Candace Jane Dorsey for her work as a Board member with ESPC and wished her well in her future endeavors.

Approval of the Agenda

Motion: MOVED by Peter Schalk, seconded by Dave Trautman to accept the agenda as presented.

Motion: CARRIED

Approval of Minutes of May 24, 2018

Motion: MOVED by Lenard Legault, seconded by Dave Trautman to approve the minutes from the May 24, 2018 AGM as presented.

Motion: CARRIED

Award of Merit For Advocacy of Social Justice

Dave Trautman presented Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice to e4c Youth Housing Program who was in attendance to accept their award.

President's Report

Gwen Feeny acknowledged and thanked the Edmonton Food Bank for allowing ESPC to use their facility, free of charge. She reflected on the work of the Board and Council for the year 2018 and asked people to review our 2018 Annual

Report.

She thanked Board members and ESPC staff for their great work and achievements from the year. She reflected on how the Board has undergone reviews and revised its committee structures to better serve the Board, and in its inclusion of external committee members to have a broader perspective of the community. The Council has secured a stable future with the work of the Board on the development of a strategic framework as well as upcoming research conducted by the Council.

She thanked the Executive Director for representing ESPC in the community and ensuring that the Council has a strong voice in the community.

Operations Report

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director, reflected on the work of the Council and change within our community, and province, for the 2018 year. She highlighted that 2018 was full of new beginnings, from moving to a new office, staff changes, the development of a consistent list serv, and expanding ESPC's horizons through working with MacEwan nursing students and the Alberta College of Social Workers. Finished projects included the completion of the 2018 Vital Signs report, the Living Wage report, and the Food Bank Client Survey, just to name a few.

She highlighted some of the upcoming activities planned for the 2019 year, such as the Vital Signs and Living Wage reports, as well as projects that the Council is doing for Homeward Trust and the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues. These new projects further bring ESPC to the community due to higher community engagement needed for the projects. She also thanked FCSS for providing funding support, and recognizing the need for a Project Coordinator position.

Susan thanked the staff, volunteers, Board of Directors, funders, and ESPC members for their continued support of ESPC work. She also extended a thanks to the Edmonton Food Bank for allowing us to use their meeting room facility free of charge.

Presentation of Financial Report

On behalf of Vanessa Zembal, Chair of the ESPC Finance and Audit Committee, Peter Schalk invited Carla Walker, from Peterson Walker LLP to report on the 2018 Financials.

Carla Walker presented the 2018 Audited Financial statements.

Motion: MOVED by Peter Schalk, seconded by Dave Trautman to approve the audited 2018 financial statements as presented.

Motion: CARRIED.

Motion: MOVED by Peter Schalk, seconded by Dave Trautman to appoint Peterson Walker LLP as Auditors for the 2018 year.

Motion: CARRIED.

Peter Schalk thanked Carla Walker for her work.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Board Recruitment

Ben Whynot introduced the new nominees to the Board.

Paula Kirman (1st Term – 1st Year Candidate)
Danielle Dolgoy (1st Term – 1st Year Candidate)
Naomi Achus (1st Term – 1st Year Candidate)
Nicole Smith (1st Term – 1st Year Candidate)

Due to a recent resignation from a Board member, a fifth candidate was nominated on the floor.

Jalene Anderson-Baron (1st Term – 1st Year Candidate)

Motion: MOVED by Peter Schalk, seconded by Dave Trautman, to nominate Jalene Anderson-Baron on the floor.

Motion: CARRIED.

CALLS for nominations on the floor.

Motion: MOVED by Ben Whynot, seconded by Rose Marie Tremblay to elect the above-mentioned candidate(s) to the ESPC Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 year.

Motion: CARRIED.

Ben Whynot introduced the continuing Board members.

Gwen Feeny (3rd Term – 1st Year Continuing)
Dave Trautman (3rd Term – 1st Year Continuing)

Motion: MOVED by Ben Whynot, seconded by Doug Meggison, to re-elect above mentioned candidates to the ESPC Board of Directors for the 2019-2020 year.

Motion: CARRIED.

Other Business

No further business called upon the floor.

Adjournment – (adjourned at 6:25 pm)

Motion: MOVED by Adrian Tremblay, seconded by Dave Trautman to adjourn the business portion of the 79th ESPC AGM.

Motion: CARRIED.





Edmonton Social Planning Council
Suite 200, Bassani Building
10544 – 106 Street NW
T5H 2X6
780-423-2031

www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca



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