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Council Takes a Long-Overdue Look at Edmonton Youth

by SUSAN MORRISSEY, Executive Director, Edmonton Social Planning Council

Welcome everyone to this edition of *the fACTivist*, which focuses on youth issues. The idea behind this theme came out of a conversation I had with Karen Mottershead, Executive Director of Terra Association—a fascinating discussion about the numerous issues faced by teens who are pregnant or parenting. It's a topic that's had limited attention. In recent years, we have focused our newsletter on topics like food security, housing and election issues. Our last edition focussed on child poverty, a great segue to a long overdue focus on issues affecting youth. I hope that as you read this newsletter, you will—as I have after speaking with Karen—gain a better appreciation for how some of our young people are “making their way” through a variety of challenges in Edmonton.

On another note, I am pleased to report that our Annual General Meeting held on May 6 was a terrific success. We had more

than 40 members and guests in attendance to review the progress of the Council in 2007. We also took this opportunity to reinstate the ESPC Award (re-named the Award of Merit for Advocacy of Social Justice), which we awarded to Hope Hunter, Executive Director from the Boyle Street Community Centre. I am also happy to welcome two new board members, Patricia Cardinal and John Pater, who were voted in for their first terms.

The evening was rounded off by a presentation from Councillor Don Iveson (pictured). He talked about the realities of poverty amongst prosperity, and shared the many positive initiatives underway in Edmonton to address the issue. Our thanks to Councillor Iveson for remaining afterwards to answer the many questions.



The Trials & Successes of Teen Parents

By ANETTE KINLEY, Research & Communications Assistant

In *Tracking the Trends 2007*, we reported that Edmonton's 2005 teen birth rate was 19.52 per 1,000 females aged 15 to 19—half the 1993 rate. But numbers only tell a fraction of the story.

Before my recent visit to Braemar School, an EPSB school dedicated to helping pregnant and parenting teens to complete their high school diplomas, I can honestly say that I hadn't given the issue much thought. I knew that it was not an easy situation to be in – if single parents have a hard time, then teen parents would face even greater barriers. **Was I in for an eye-opener!**

Terra's Executive Director, Karen Mottershead, set up an interview for me with two Terra staff members, Nickall Bryan and Shelly Boonstra, and four Braemar students:

- ♦ Sarah, a 17 year old with a toddler, who lives with her mom.
- ♦ Cassy, an 18 year old with a 4 month old, living on her own at Terra's Hope Terrace.
- ♦ Nicole, a 19 year old with a toddler and an infant, living on her own with a partner “comes and goes”.
- ♦ Kristy, a 20 year old with a toddler, living with her partner.



Stigma & Strained Relationships

The first challenge the girls told me about was the discrimination they face on a daily basis.

“When we take the bus, we get the dirtiest looks and rude comments... bus drivers are rude to us... I know we're young. I know we made decisions [that led to this situation], but it's not fair... We're just trying to get to school to finish our education.” (Cassy)

A lack of support from family and friends is a reality for some young women, as well. Of course, the amount of support from family and friends varies for each young parent, and can change throughout their pregnancy and while parenting. Kristi, for example, found that her relationship with her mom improved when she became pregnant, and has been a strong support ever since. Nicole, on the other hand, has found mutual support in her sister, who is also a young parent.

Other young women might find their family and friends distancing

(Continued on page 2)





Teen Parents, *cont'd from page 1*

themselves.

"When I got pregnant my friends all drifted away... I didn't have many to begin with since I'm a very quiet type. My family sucks. My dad told me to have an abortion every day until I moved out at 8 months." (Cassy)

Fight to Survive

The teen parent experience seems best described as a fight to survive. Balancing school, employment, parenting, and self can be very difficult, not to mention making the transition from teenager to parent.

"It's a constant fight... for everything we have. You have to fight to go to school. I want to go to college. I don't want to live on Welfare for the rest of my life. I want to prove those people wrong. I want my son to have a better life than I did." (Cassy)

The daily grind of finishing their education while raising a child requires a lot of support, strength and persistence. (See *A Day in the Life* box to the left) The same applies to getting the financial support to allow them to even attempt to do so. There are a number of options available, including: government programs (Child & Family Services, Learner's Benefit, Advancing Futures Bursary, or Alberta Works), family, partners, or work. Which of these options are available to a young mom depends upon her personal situation.

In terms of government programs, some policies and regulations can create barriers to accessing supports. It can be frustrating and challenging to navigate through different systems without support. Even with an advocate assisting her, it took Cassy 6 months to get funding.

The biggest gap in services is for pregnant and parenting youth under 16 years of age. There are no government funding options available, and they will not qualify for a childcare subsidy to enable them to work or attend school. At this age, financial responsibility falls to the youth's parent or guardian.

Getting financial support from family may not be a viable option for some youth. Even if family relationships are intact, not all parents or guardians are in a financial position to support the cost of raising an infant.

As with family, support from a partner can vary from no involvement to full physical and financial support. Young partners have the same challenge of transitioning to parenthood. Some may still be in school. Those who work may not earn a regular or adequate wage, due to the types of jobs open to youth. Another consideration for young moms living with their partners is that they may not qualify for Alberta

Works or Learner's Benefit, depending on their partner's income.

Working during the school year is also an option for young moms, though work hours are limited by the time needed for classes, studying and parenting. More moms will work during the summer after the school year – and their education funding term – has ended.

Other Challenges

Finding housing is a challenge for anyone in the current rental market. The options are even more limited for renters with children, as many buildings in the city are "adult only". Kristi and her partner now pay \$1500 for an apartment – not even close to what I would call affordable.

Finding quality child care is just as tough, with long childcare waitlists making it necessary for parents to begin looking far in advance to get a space. The lack of quality infant childcare spaces can prevent a young parent from returning to work or school after their child is born. Young women on Learner's Benefit only receive a 15 school day maternity leave.

Parenting as a youth is clearly a tough road to follow, but it can have very positive aspects. Kristi, for example, said that becoming pregnant was a positive change for her because it helped her to choose to live a healthier lifestyle for her son. The youth Terra works with are resilient, strong, determined individuals that overcome obstacles and reach out for help when they need it.

Impact of Programs like Terra

Support from programs like Terra is incredibly important for young moms and dads. They provide assistance with basic, but important, things that teens normally don't have to do, like filing taxes or applying for Alberta Health Care. Terra has partnerships and resources to help young parents to successfully navigate government support systems. Other programs, like parenting support, onsite daycare at school, and housing support, etc., help make life a little easier.

The girls talked about how Braemar School is like a family. The environment of support and acceptance eases their daily trials and allows them to be successful.

"The teachers here give us the chances we need... [I don't always have time for my assignments, but] because [my teacher gave me] extra time, I was able to finish." (Cassy)

Thirty-six young women graduated from Braemar this year. A number of Braemar graduates have moved on to post secondary programs – great success in light of the common (and incorrect) perception that all opportunities end when teens become parents.

About Braemar School

Braemar is an Edmonton Public School that offers an academic program for pregnant and parenting teens working to complete their high school education.

The school works in partnership with Terra, which provides onsite support services to the students including childcare, counselling and group support activities to help them overcome the barriers and challenges they face.

To learn more, visit:
www.terraassociation.com
www.braemar.epsb.ca

A Day in the Life of a Braemar Student

- ♦ Wake up by 6 or 7AM (possibly earlier if you have an infant)
- ♦ Feed child & get ready for the day.
- ♦ Bus to school by 7 or 8AM
- ♦ Full school day (plus feedings if you have an infant—if you're lucky, a nap to catch up on lost sleep during spare period)
- ♦ Bus home by 6PM.
- ♦ Make dinner, clean up, put child to bed.
- ♦ Homework for a few hours, maybe a few moments to relax.
- ♦ Finally make it to bed by 10PM or midnight (or later).
- ♦ Late night feedings if you have an infant.
- ♦ And then start it all over again the next day...



Social Justice for Youth: The Power of Connection

By Dr. JOANNE C. MINAKER, *Grant MacEwan College Sociology Department*

Alberta Youth: Growing Up in the Boom Years

The ESPC's John Kolkman made a presentation on Alberta poverty trends at the annual conference of the **Alberta Teachers' Association's Committee on the Well-being of Children and Youth** in May 2008.

A copy of the *Poverty Trends and Solutions* presentation is available @ edmontonsocialplanning.ca in the Our Work-Publications section, under Poverty & Low Income.

Please contact John Kolkman at 780-423-2031 x 350 if you have any questions.

Youth crime pervades public consciousness. What is said about it, by whom, and who is listening have political implications and very real consequences, especially in the lives of criminalized youth. Having taught hundreds of students and spoken with dozens of community members on the subject, it is clear to me that everyone has a theory on youth crime! Unfortunately, there are those who maintain that the best approach to dealing with young people is to punish them for their problems rather than support them in making positive changes in their lives or challenge the society that marginalizes youth, especially racialized and/or disenfranchised young people.

I would like to suggest that our theories – or ways of making meaning out of the complexities of social life – be redirected. Rather than better understand youth crime per se, consider how different our attitudes, beliefs, and ideas about what to do could be if our starting point was the (inter)relationships between youth, crime, and society. Grappling with issues of power and justice exposes how intricate, nuanced, interwoven, and non-linear processes operate in any young person's "choice" to break the law. Although psychological factors such as low self esteem or desire for belonging are at play, individual motivation fails to capture the social forces and structural conditions beyond a young person's control. This new starting point offers a different lens from which to view the problem and our responses to it.

This is not to suggest that youth crime is not a problem; rather, thinking through the interconnections between youth, their criminalized behaviours, and the social, economic, cultural, and political context in which they take place allows us to better understand the conditions in which youth crime flourishes. Instead of focusing on the troubling behaviours of youth we would be looking at issues like poverty, racism, violence, institutional resources, social supports, and a host of other factors beyond any one individual. If we are willing to shift our focus, there is much potential for developing more effective crime prevention programs, intervention strategies, societal responses and for sustaining more humane relationships.

In Edmonton the iHuman Youth Society (www.ihuman.org) and the Youth Restorative Action Project (www.yrap.org), both aimed at criminalized and disenfranchised youth, are two

examples of innovative approaches that empower youth and give voice to their struggles and nourish their capacities. Alberta needs more initiatives that seek justice for youth rather than a stronger criminal justice response against them.

The most significant theme of my own research with youth and the professionals who work with them is social relationships – kids need to make meaningful connections (Minaker and Hogeveen, 2009). Given the transitional period of adolescence, the centrality of identity for social development and the powerful role of modeling, it is imperative that we recognize how significant the way adults treat young people is for who and what they become, and how they relate to others. After all, in so many cases the youth who end up in the Youth Criminal Justice System are those who have not benefited from caring, stable relationships with supportive adults. Youth who have meaningful social relationships are better equipped to make positive life choices, even in the face of dire social circumstances and limited alternatives.

Social justice for youth is about asking particular kinds of questions (e.g. what circumstances along this child's journey helped or hindered her/his potential?). It also involves ways of being in the world guided by a culture of sensitivity (rather than disdain) for youth, an ethic of care and positive discipline (rather than punishment), and respect for the other and celebration of difference and diversity (rather than perpetuating exclusion). Young people today are confronting social inequalities – not limited to race, class, gender, sexuality, and age – that make it particularly challenging for them to act in humane and respectful ways. How can we expect youth to act respectfully to others if they have not themselves been shown respect?

In closing, I defer to one of the most important social relationships in my own life, that with my 5 year old son, Ayden Hogeveen. According to Ayden, "life is about living, learning and loving." Far too often we forget the wisdom, imagination, beauty, and sheer brilliance of children and youth. All children matter – that includes criminalized youth.

Reference

Minaker, Joanne and Bryan Hogeveen, 2009. *Youth, Crime, and Society: Issues of Power and Justice*. Toronto: Pearson.

Dr. Joanne C. Minaker holds a PhD in Socio-Legal Studies and teaches criminology courses in the Sociology Department at Grant MacEwan College. Her ongoing research includes the Youth Voices/ Youth Professionals Study and a project on Criminalized Girls and Motherhood. She has also published in criminology and youth justice, including a recent book *Youth, Crime and Society* (cited above).



iHuman: Creativity & Connections for High-Risk Youth

By ERIN KREKOSKI, *Resource Coordinator*

"iHuman": the name signifies the relationship of the individual to the collective community. And it is through recognizing interdependence and collectively supporting the individual, this Edmonton youth organization assists youth in transitioning from high-risk lifestyles into independent living and steady employment.

"We are young people, ages 12 years to 24 years. Many of us have lived in group homes, foster care, or on the streets. We're considered at risk because we've had trouble with the law, and we haven't done all that well with staying in one place."

"We all have drug or alcohol problems, and some of us are struggling with being abused, or having to battle with problems such as Attention Deficit Disorder. We all want the best, and we're trying to make that happen. That's where iHuman comes in. They have this cool place where we can work on making our dreams come true."

iHuman provides a point of contact for youth to access a multitude of supports and services, from access to basic needs such as shelter and food, to income supports, health and mental health care, addictions counselling, education and employment. iHuman staff and mentors work with youth to provide workable pathways to healthy lives.

A fundamental component of iHuman programming is arts-based education, self-exploration, and healing. iHuman encourages street-involved youth to explore their identity and often traumatic experiences through working with the arts: music, visual art, dance, writing, theatre, design. The studio, located on 95th St and Jasper Ave, provides access to professional instruction, production equipment, supplies, and support. A state of the art recording booth was recently donated, which youth can use on an appointment basis to record their own music. Silkscreening and print-making are also popular activities; youth can drop in any time to create their own T-shirt, for example, or use the other art materials available. iHuman encourages working with the arts as a means of self-expression and self-exploration, but it also provides the tools required to use artistic abilities as a means of earning an income, getting an education, or building a resume.

And the collective arts resume of iHuman youth is long and impressive, including theatre performances at the Citadel and at Edmonton festivals, visual arts exhibitions in some of the city's finest galleries, poetry readings, dance performances, documentaries, and conference presentations and workshops on the topics of

addictions, youth issues, arts, and education.

It's not the arts resume, though, that is most impressive about this organization. It's the program's successful track record of transitioning kids into healthier, more stable lifestyles. iHuman staff are explicitly non-judgemental when it comes to the circumstances facing the youth accessing the studio and programming. They don't need a referral or an appointment, and most of the time, youth find out about the program through their friends, or word of mouth.

Demi's story, which appears on the iHuman website, captures the success of the iHuman approach:

"Ms. Demi's story begins on the street at the age of 15. Addicted to Crystal Meth she was not unlike a number of lost young people of her generation. About a year later, with support and guidance from iHuman, Demi made the decision to turn her life around. Over the next two years she took herself from the streets to graduating valedictorian of her high school class."

"Seeking an alternative that would lead to a 'good job', Ms. Demi chose to study social work. This casual choice was to prove fortuitous. As her education took hold Ms. Demi became aware of the opportunity that she had to make a difference – to help others who faced the challenges that had been a part of her life journey."

"In a few short weeks Ms. Demi will graduate and will join the working force as a professional social worker. Throughout her journey, iHuman, has been a constant mentor and financial supporter (through its scholarship program) and now employing her as a youth worker and will soon employ her as a fully qualified social worker."

"Ms. Demi is much sought after as a community leader, a speaker, a youth worker, a mentor and also as a multi-disciplinary artist. She paints, dances, acts, sings and writes songs and poetry, using these vehicles as important harm-reduction contributors to her work helping high-risk youth across the continent..."

When we were fierce

iHuman graduate, Kirsten Sikora

*Once upon a time
We weren't afraid of anything
Holes in our elbows and knees
Dirt under our nails
Homeless, Restless, Aimless
An extensive wardrobe of adventure*

To find out more about the iHuman Youth Society and how you might support their work, visit their website, www.ihuman.org.

It's a Youth Summer

There are a number of organizations offering youth programs in the summertime. Some of them include:

- ♦ **Action For Healthy Communities:** free day camp for immigrant & refugee youth. 780-944-4687
- ♦ **Boys and Girls Clubs of Edmonton:** free to join clubs & Camp Discovery. 780-422-6038
- ♦ **Camp fYrefly:** leadership camp for LGBTQ youth. www.fyrefly.ualberta.ca
- ♦ **Community Leagues:** variety of summer activities for children and youth www.efcl.org
- ♦ **City of Edmonton:** variety of recreation programs www.edmonton.ca (click on Attractions & Recreation)
- ♦ **University of Alberta Sports:** array of sports & rec. camps for kids & teens. www.campusrec.ualberta.ca/smrccamps.cfm
- ♦ **YMCA:** variety of child & youth day camp programs www.edmonton.ymca.ca
- ♦ **Ben Calf Robe Society:** free drop-in programs 780-868-8504
- ♦ **Alberta Diabetes Foundation:** Rock'n August www.afdr.ab.ca/id/28
- ♦ **Big Brothers & Big Sisters:** various activities www.bbbsedmonton.org
- ♦ **Make-A-Wish Foundation:** Car & Truck Races www.makeawish.ca

More details are available @ edmontonsocialplanning.ca on the [Community Bulletin Board](#).



Youth Advocating for Youth: COE Youth Council

By DAVID FISCHER, *Summer Research Assistant*

Did you know that the City of Edmonton has an official Youth Council?

It's true! The City of Edmonton Youth Council was formed as a committee of Edmonton's City Council. Kim Krushell is the Council Member currently in charge of the committee.

In essence, the purpose of the Youth Council is to bring the concerns and perspectives of Edmonton youth to the attention of City Councillors. It not only offers young people a great opportunity to give voice to their concerns, it also gives hands on experience and an inside look at how the municipal decision-making process works.



About the Youth Council

In more official terms, the Youth Council serves two main functions:

1. Provides feedback and input to City Council, municipal government and other various civic committees on issues affecting youth. This is often accomplished by placing youth councilors on committees for a period of time in order to give feedback on issues.
2. Works on its own projects it thinks deal with issues important to youth around the city, and this is accomplished by establishing ad-hoc committees.

The General Assembly (GA) of the CEYC, which consists of all members of the Youth Council, has between 35 to 50 people. Out of the GA come several different groups:

- The Executive, which is made up of seven elected members from the GA and one appointed city councilor;

- The Policy committee, responsible for overseeing any policy work done by the Council;
- The Events & Social committee, who oversee any events the Youth Council hosts;
- The Representation committee, made up of CEYC members who sit on civic committees to ensure that a youth perspective is represented;
- Ad-hoc subcommittees which are established through proposals from Council members; and,
- Working groups who undertake short-term projects.

Unfortunately, we were unable to connect with a representative of the Youth Council to learn about the specific initiatives they are currently working on. We encourage you to get in contact with them for more details.

How to Get Involved

Young people interested in becoming a member of the Youth Council must be:

- a resident of the City of Edmonton;
- between the ages of 13 and 23;

An interest in being involved in civic youth issues is also a helpful, but it is not a requirement.

Youth who are not a members of the Council but still wish to participate can join any of the subcommittees, which are open to membership for all youth in the city.

In addition, anyone—youth or not—interested in observing the Council in action is welcome to attend the Youth Council's monthly meetings.

For more information, visit the Youth Council's website (www.ceyc.ca) or the City of Edmonton website (www.edmonton.ca).

Looking for Information on Social Issues?

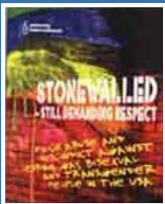
Visit the ESPC Resource Library today!

Open to the public:
M– F 8:30am– 4:30pm

Online Catalogue:
Available 24/7 @
socialresearchlibrary.ca

Our resource library is a rich source of current and historical publications on social issues.

Featured Book:



Stonewalled-Still Demanding Respect: Police Abuse and Misconduct against

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender People in the USA (Amnesty International)

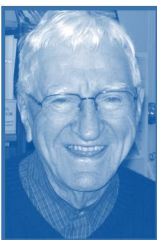
Featured Subscription:

Alberta Sweetgrass (Aboriginal Multi-Media Society)



meet the ESPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Active Community & Board Member: Father Kennedy

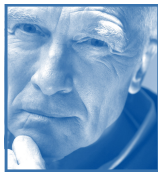


Edward F. Kennedy is a Redemptorist priest who is presently on sabbatical after completing 12 years as pastor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help parish in Point Grey, Vancouver.

He has been actively involved in social justice initiatives in Alberta and British Columbia. He was Alderman on Edmonton City

Council for six years; a member of Alberta Inter Faith and president of the Edmonton District Council of Churches and founding member of the Ecumenical Commission of the Archdiocese of Edmonton.

A native of The Pas, Manitoba, he is of highland Scottish descent whose forebears came to Nova Scotia and Glagarry County in Ontario over 200 years ago.



Book Club Review Excerpt: *My Home Street Home*

By ERIN KREKOSKI, *Resource Coordinator*

Val Stevens' struggle to understand how the homeless survive on the streets is palpable. Errors and inconsistencies plague this Edmonton author's first novel, but the compassion and commitment that she brings to the telling of this story are compelling enough to make up for it.

Her protagonist, an unnamed, middle-aged woman from small-town Saskatchewan is swept off her feet and living the high life with her new partner in Edmonton when her world comes crashing down around her. Her boyfriend – a caring, loyal provider – dies; his family cuts off her access to their shared apartment, shared bank accounts, and shared social networks. Suddenly, she goes from fancy dinners on Rice Howard Way to the occasional day-old pastry from generous cafe workers and soups cooked over an open fire in the river valley.

Whether it's by mistake or on purpose, Stevens does a good job of forcing the reader to imagine how they would react in the same situation. Similar to the demographic to whom the book is seemingly targeted, the protagonist is a middle-class, non-racialized individual with – it seems – life skills, financial literacy, and the desire to live a good life. It's tempting, as a reader, to rationalize why this shouldn't have happened to

her – how it could have been prevented. Why doesn't she go to a shelter? Why doesn't she ask for help? The reader wants to rage at this misled, mistaken character: you have rights, pursue them! After all, having volunteered for many Edmonton shelters and agencies for those in poverty, she knows what her options are.

She doesn't access them, however, and we see the slow, unrelenting dehumanization of hard living: her lack of access to bathrooms, food, shelter, and kindness wear ever more heavily on her. Aside from her small and supportive circle of homeless friends and the occasional compassionate stranger, society treats her in a way she has never been treated before – not as a human being with needs, hopes, dreams, and a history; but as an object, an animal, an icon. She is homeless, and for many, that is all that matters.

But through the author's portrayal, we see that this character is more than just homeless; she is proud, strong, resilient, dignified, and determined to survive. ...

To read the rest of Erin's review, visit the Book Club page of edmontonsocialplanning.ca (under Resource Library & Links).

ESPC Book Club

The Council has started a book club!

At our first meeting on July 8th, we discussed Edmonton author Val Stevens' novel, *My Home Street Home* (see review excerpt, right).

Our next book will be *The Glass Castle: A Memoir* by Jeanette Walls.

Meeting: September 2, 2008

Please join us!

Visit the Book Club page on edmontonsocialplanning.ca (under Resource Library & Links) for more information.

We'd like to give a **Big Thank You** to the 700+ Edmontonians who filled out our Edmonton Renters Survey!

~and~

Congratulations to Kimberly Schmidt—the winner of our draw for a \$50 Safeway gift card!

ESPC Begins Community Consultations: Summer

In an effort to better align our social research agenda with the needs of organizations working in the community, the ESPC has begun a new community consultation project. The consultation process is meant to be an ongoing one, with a series of focus groups, surveys, and other events held periodically as we continue to research and advocate for social policies that will improve the lives of Edmontonians.

We are going to use this community input to inform our work, and to ensure that the research and policy advocacy that we engage in is mandated by community need.

Input from our community partners might also point to new directions for research, new collaborations and partnerships, and new trends currently taking root in our community. We will do our best to ensure that the results of these consultations translate into action.

Our first set of consultations will be taking place on July 21st and August 12th. Please contact Erin Krekoski at 780-423-2031 x 354 if you are interested in participating.

Visit edmontonsocialplanning.ca for more information.

Outstanding Survey Response from Renters

We received an overwhelming response to our Edmonton Renters Survey—over 700 surveys were submitted online and by mail/fax between April 16 to May 31, 2008 (a few continued to trickle in over the past month and a half). Not only did we get answers to our simple multiple choice questions, we got an incredible amount of comments—around 150 pages worth!

If nothing else, this huge response tells us that the rental housing situation in Edmonton is a

major concern that is in serious need of attention.

We are currently in the process of analysing all of the data we've gathered, and hope to have our report ready for release by the end of August.

Please contact Anette Kinley at 780-423-2031 x 351 or anettek@edmontonsocialplanning.ca if you have any questions.



The Little Project that Grew: Child Poverty Report Card

Work on the Alberta Child and Family Poverty Report 2008 will be continuing at the Edmonton Social Planning Council throughout the summer and will culminate in the public release of the final report in early October. Along with the release of the report there will be a provincial tour with stops in Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, and Edmonton. Michael Mendelson from the Caledon Institute of Social Policy, Jen Kern from the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now (ACORN), and John Kolkman from the Edmonton Social Planning Council will be a part of the tour which will include press conferences, forums, and meetings with decision makers.

Funding has also recently been secured for a purchase of data from the 2006 Census. The data requested will be used to look at the number and rate of low income children, non-low income children, and all children living in

census families with at least one parent/guardian working full-time, full-year, or with both parents/guardians working the equivalent of full-time, full-year. Other analyses will be conducted once we receive the data sometime in August.



Public Interest Alberta



The Child Poverty Report Card and provincial tour have been made possible by support from the Muttart Foundation and other dedicated organizations.



The Muttart Foundation

MEMBERS SURVEY RESULTS

The results of our 2008 Members Survey are now available @ edmontonsocialplanning.ca

Thank you to all ESPC members who took the time to give us their valuable feedback!

24th Annual Inner City BBQ Coming Up!

ESPC staff members are looking forward to once again lending a hand at the Annual Inner City BBQ being held on Friday, July 18th at 12 noon at Giovanni Cabotto Park.

This is the 24th annual BBQ. The event was organized by the Bissell in the early years, but is now coordinated by the Urban Core Support Network (of which the Council is a member).

The BBQ is a fun event for inner-city residents who cannot afford to participate in some of Edmonton's renowned summer festival season

(for instance, Klondike Days/Capital Ex). The entertainment, free food, and friendship in a relaxed atmosphere (even when the temperature is high) makes for a great time for all.

It will be a great time with lots of good food and fun!



Welcome & Thank You!

The ESPC is proud to welcome David Fischer to our team for the summer!

David's contributions to the Child Poverty Report Card and other projects have been invaluable. We'll be sad to see him go at the end of August.

meet the ESPC STAFF

David Fischer Enthused About Summer with Council



David Fischer joined the ESPC at the end of May to fill the role of Research Assistant. The position is part of the Summer Temporary Employment Program (STEP), and David will be working with the Council until the end of August.

Currently enrolled at Grant MacEwan College, David just completed his fourth year of his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology with a minor in Psychology. He is an active member of the MacEwan community through his activities with the MacEwan Institute for Research on Family & Youth (MIRFY), the Student Success Committee, the Canadian Journal on Family

and Youth, the MacEwan Ambassador Program, and the Student Mobilized Research Team (SMRT). David was also a Research Assistant with the MIRFY research team that examined issues relating to recruitment and retention of human service workers in Edmonton during the fall of 2007.

Hired primarily to assist in the production of the Alberta Report Card on Child Poverty, David will also be working on other projects – like reviewing issues surrounding the proposed downtown arena, and assisting with the rental housing survey data analysis.

David is enthusiastic and looks forward to the rest of his summer with the Council.



our VISION

A healthy, just and inclusive community.

our MISSION

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policy.

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by BECOMING A MEMBER, you will...

- ... support our efforts to remain on the forefront in dealing with social issues
- ... make it possible for us to distribute our materials freely and widely to all
- ... receive our newsletters, fact sheets and other publications
- ... be eligible to vote at ESPC AGMs and have a say in the direction of the organization
- ... be eligible to serve on the board of directors



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name _____

Organization _____

Position _____

Address _____

City/Town _____ **Postal Code** _____

Phone _____ **Fax** _____

Email _____

Membership Type	NEW Fees (after May 1, 2008)
<input type="checkbox"/> Small Organization	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> Large Organization	\$75
<input type="checkbox"/> Family	\$40
<input type="checkbox"/> Individual	\$25
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate (no vote)	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Limited Income/ Student/ Senior	\$5

Donations Welcome - Can be included with cheque or money order for membership.

PAY ONLINE or mail the completed form with a cheque or money order payable to:

Edmonton Social Planning Council
Suite 37, 9912 - 106 Street
Edmonton, Alberta T5K 1C5

Online payment and membership details available @ edmontonsocialplanning.ca.