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## ‘They Help Each Other’: Learning About Wicihitowin

By ERIN KREKOSKI, *Resource Coordinator*

*On April 20, I sat down with Lewis Cardinal to talk about an initiative currently taking shape in Edmonton, called the Wicihitowin Circle of Shared Responsibility. Lewis has done a lot of work in Indigenous governance, media, and education, and currently he’s working with Wicihitowin to finalize some of the structure and processes.*

### What is Wicihitowin?

There’s no simple answer, no easy translation. Listening to Lewis, though, I learned that Wicihitowin is many things. It is community; it is helping; it is revitalization; it is solidarity; it is hope.

Lewis used the analogy of a helper in a ceremony to help explain how Wicihitowin works in the community. In a ceremony, the role of a helper is vital. A helper gets everything ready – prepares the fire, makes sure the site is clean, prepares all of the elements that will be used. A helper makes sure that everything is ready so that those conducting the ceremony can focus on what they need to do. In a way, that’s how Wicihitowin will work in the community.

### Where does it come from?

The model is both historical and brand-new – right now there’s no comparable initiative in North America, so the initiative has garnered a lot of attention. It didn’t just come

out of nowhere, though. Long before the Edmonton area became a gathering place for Albertans, it was a gathering place of Indigenous nations from across the continent. Lewis explained that historically, this land, and the people that lived here hosted a gathering of nations to engage in trade, ceremony, and social and spiritual sharing. This was known as Wicihitowin. This history of coming together, building relationships, and working together is the heart of the Wicihitowin initiative today.

### Where is it going? How will it get there?

Wicihitowin is a governance model that is inclusive, participatory, empowering, solutions-oriented, and Aboriginal-driven. The structure of this initiative includes an overall council, action circles, advisory councils, a resource partner circle, and a secretariat.

Action Circles are created according to need – they will change and evolve over time in order to deal with the needs and priorities of the community. Action Circles might be developed to look into housing, health, education, or language, for example. Everybody who can commit to engaging meaningfully in the consensus-based process and who can agree with the terms of relationship is welcome to participate in the Action Circles – Aboriginal or non-

*(Continued on page 2)*

### Wicihitowin Fast Facts

- ♦ Pronounced [Hwich-ih-hee-toe-win].
- ♦ The name, roughly translated, means ‘they help each other.’
- ♦ A participatory, solutions-oriented, inclusive process to identify concerns, develop solutions and take action in Edmonton’s Aboriginal community, led by Aboriginal community members.
- ♦ Strongly rooted in traditional Aboriginal principles and values identified through extensive consultation.
- ♦ A governance model for addressing urban Aboriginal concerns unlike any other in North America, and quickly building interest across the continent.
- ♦ Uses a consensus decision making model emphasizing dialogue and relationships.
- ♦ Partners includes: government, Aboriginal governments, funders, elders, youth, Aboriginal organizations and the wider community.





## Wicihitowin, *cont'd from page 1*

Aboriginal. If somebody has an idea, for example, of how to address affordable housing needs, they can bring that idea forward to a relevant Action Circle. As the proposal moves through the process, it will be discussed and refined as each participant adds their own unique perspective. The process welcomes even the smallest voices to share their ideas and participate in working on solutions. In this way, Wicihitowin respects the balance between the individual and the collective. It nurtures individual gifts and talents, and connects these to the well-being of the wider community. As Lewis explained to me, the Wicihitowin Circle is the collective, but it is the individuals that make it happen.

The work of Action Circles is also considered by the Elders Council, by the Youth Council, by the Women's and the Men's Councils; each of these councils meet together and add their thoughts and recommendations to further develop solutions to concerns identified. Lewis clarified for me how important the role of each of the Councils. Each Council adds its perspective, which ensures that the proposal or project remains true to all members of the community.

Because government partners and funding bodies are included in the process, funding and other resource supports can be provided, thus translating thoughtful, community-driven solutions into actions. As Lewis explained to me, with Wicihitowin, it is the people calling government to the table, instead of the other way around.

Government – including elected representatives from the federal, provincial and local levels, and officials from First Nations and Metis governments – sit at the same table as community members to dialogue solutions. This enables our existing governments to be good leaders, and enables citizens to participate actively and constructively in the process, as well.

The beauty of a consensus based process is that it allows for meaningful contributions from advisory groups, instead of tokenistic consultations that call for input with no intention of following through. And while we may think that consensus processes take forever to get through, Lewis told me that in reality, consensus processes move surprisingly quickly. When you sit down at the table, you've already done the work, gotten support, and discussed the idea. Furthermore, this consensus process is critical when it comes to the issues that matter. As Lewis said, "the real, pressing issues need to be deeply discussed". Not only does consensus allow for thorough and thoughtful consideration, but it also revitalizes traditional Aboriginal processes of governance, participation, and decision-making that are consensus-based.

Right now, the Wicihitowin Circle of Shared Responsibility is in the process of getting the final nuts and bolts in place – accountability structures, website, communication guidelines, etc. Lewis anticipates that by the fall, everything will be in order and Edmontonians will start to see projects hitting the ground.

As the parable goes, 'anything worthwhile takes time'. Wicihitowin is a process years in the making; it has deep, deep roots into this land and Edmonton's people. It is an open door, a welcome, an invitation to come on in and be a part of the process. The Edmonton community will be a better place for it.

**Want to learn more about Wicihitowin?**  
Contact Lewis Cardinal at 780-288-0314 or [lewiscardinal@gmail.com](mailto:lewiscardinal@gmail.com).  
Or, take a look at some of the documentation of the process on the City of Edmonton website: [www.edmonton.ca](http://www.edmonton.ca)

## ESPC 2008 Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, May 5, 2009  
5:00pm

### Family Centre Media Room

3rd Floor, 9912 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5K 1C5

#### Keynote Address:

*The Long Road to Ending Homelessness*

Susan McGee,  
Executive Director,  
Homeward Trust Edmonton

Please join us to celebrate our accomplishments, and to hear about the upcoming activities of the Council.

**Your membership must be current in order to vote.**

Memberships may be purchased or renewed at the door.

Light refreshments will be served & a **Silent Auction** will also be held, with proceeds going to support the work of the ESPC.

Please RSVP by  
April 30th, 2009

RSVP to Stephanie:  
780-423-2031  
or  
[stephanieh@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:stephanieh@edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

An audio version of this newsletter is available on our website ([edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca)).



Recordings of *the fACTivist* are generously provided by VoicePrint Canada, the non-profit, 24/7 audio newsstand. Visit [www.voiceprintcanada.com](http://www.voiceprintcanada.com) for more information.

**Disclaimer:** Articles, quotes and commentary in this edition of *the fACTivist* produced by contributors outside the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) reflect the views of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policy of the ESPC.



# Angels Among Us: Esquao Awards & Montana's Story

By MURIEL STANLEY VENNE, Executive Director, Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women

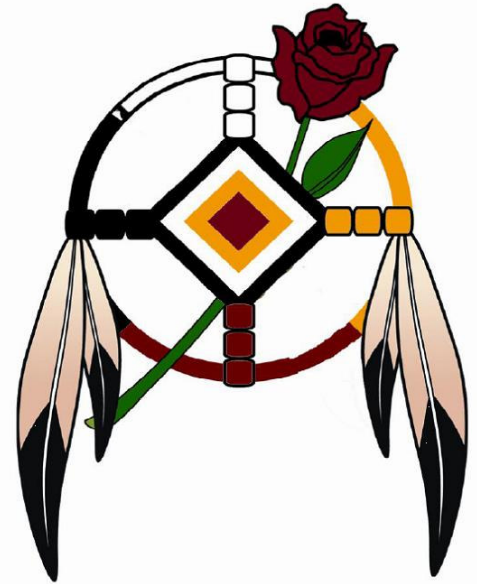
Montana Sharphead Wells was six years old when she first walked down on the red carpet to attend the Esquao Awards six years ago. Her Mom and Dad were with her and saw the twenty wonderful Aboriginal women being honoured. They were thrilled when the Elders welcomed each outstanding Aboriginal woman into the Circle of Honour by wrapping a traditional blanket around her. They saw the beautiful fancy dancers and heard the drums, and enjoyed the entertainers. The Grand Entry was magnificent with the IAAW flag, along with the Provincial and Canadian Flag, Elders, Aboriginal Leaders, Sponsors, Dignitaries, Aboriginal women in the Edmonton Police Service, the RCMP, the Calgary Police Service, the Blood Tribe and the Ontario Provincial Police. Above all, Montana saw the Aboriginal women honoured from across the province—recognized for their strength and beauty, and their value to their families and communities.

"I think this little girl needs to attend the Esquao Awards," the Family Centre worker Bev said, after hearing what had happened to Montana. Montana was being called names at school: "Dirty little Indian," "Dirty little Squaw," and other bad names. After going to the school to ask that this name-calling be stopped, and was brushed off by the Principal saying it was only a joke, Montana's Mom brought her to the Family Centre for counseling after finding Montana in the bathroom trying to put bleach on her face.

After the Awards, Montana wrote a letter of thank you. In the letter, she said that when she walked on the red carpet she "felt famous," that "it wasn't so bad to be an Indian," and that "the show was great, great, great!"

Montana has attended the Awards every year since to join other "Little Angels" at "Montana's table," which was created for little girls and their families. Montana also presents the "**Angel of Hope**" Award.

In 2005 the first "Angel of Hope" was given posthumously to Peacha Atkinson, mother of Nina Courtepatte, the young girl who had been so brutally murdered. This year she will present the "Angel of Hope" Award to Tana Mitchell from Grande Prairie.



The 14th Annual Esquao Awards Gala, produced by the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW), is being held Saturday May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009 at the Shaw Conference Centre Hall D in Edmonton.

The Esquao Awards have honoured more than three hundred outstanding Aboriginal women in the province of Alberta. This event, with an audience of over a thousand people, highlights the strength and beauty of Aboriginal women and is unique in the world!

For more information on recipients, tickets or sponsorship call IAAW at:

Phone: 780-479-8195  
Toll-free: 1-877-471-2171  
Fax: 780-471-2169

### Did you know?

© "Esquao" is the stylized version of the Cree word for Woman

To learn more about the Institute for the Advancement of Aboriginal Women (IAAW) and the many projects it is involved in, visit: [www.iaaw.ca](http://www.iaaw.ca)

For more about the Esquao Awards, visit: [www.iaaw.ca/esquao-awards.htm](http://www.iaaw.ca/esquao-awards.htm)

## ESPC Book Club

The book club has a great lineup of literature for 2009!

Our next books will be:

*Some Great Thing*  
by Lawrence Hill

Date: May 7, 2009

&

*The Letter Opener*  
by Kyo Maclear

Date: Jul 2, 2009

Please join us!

Visit the Book Club page on [edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca) (under Resource Library & Links) for more information.

## Farewell

As the school year draws to a close, the ESPC has to say farewell to our two social work practicum students, Cheryl Melny and Jaylene Ellard.

The girls have made a significant contribution to a number of our projects. We will miss them!



# A Statistical Picture of Aboriginal Edmonton

By ANETTE KINLEY, *Research & Communications Assistant*

Given that Edmonton has one of the largest urban Aboriginal populations in Canada—second only to Manitoba—it is important for us to understand the unique culture, structure and circumstances of this significant part of our community. This article is an overview of data from the 2006 Census, as well as information from the City of Edmonton's *Aboriginal Edmonton* report.

## Population (2006)

- 52,105 people in Edmonton Census Metropolitan Area (CMA) identified themselves as Aboriginal; this equates to 23,985 households.
- Breakdown by Aboriginal identity types:
  - ⇒ 43% North American Indian
  - ⇒ 53% Métis
  - ⇒ 1% Inuit
- 20,920 individuals were Registered Indians.
- The Aboriginal population of Edmonton is growing 2.5 times faster than the overall CMA population.
  - ⇒ Aboriginal population grew 27.3%
  - ⇒ CMA population increased 10.4%
- The median age of the Aboriginal identity population is 25.1 years.
  - ⇒ Much younger than the Edmonton CMA's median age of 36.4 years.

## Language

- Just 9% of Edmonton Aboriginal people reported that they knew an Aboriginal language. (2006)
- The First Nations languages most commonly heard in Edmonton are:
  - ⇒ Cree, Stoney, Chipewyan, Saulteaux, Dene, Beaver, Blackfoot, and Sarcee

## Income (2006)

- The median income of Aboriginal households was \$51,551.
  - ⇒ A 27% increase from the 2001 median income of \$40,595
  - ⇒ 81% of median CMA income (\$63,082)

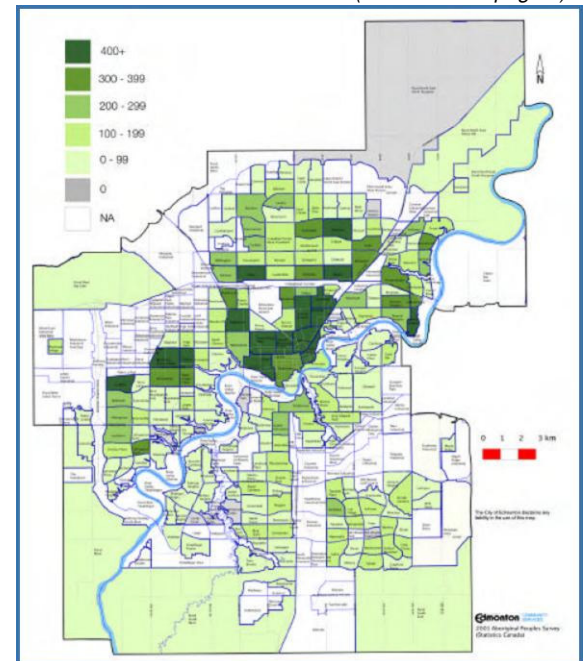
## Unemployment (2006)

- 9.8% of Aboriginal Edmontonians were unemployed in 2006.
  - ⇒ More than twice as high as the 2006 CMA unemployment rate (4.6%)
  - ⇒ 3.3% lower than the 2001 Aboriginal unemployment rate

## Poverty (2001)

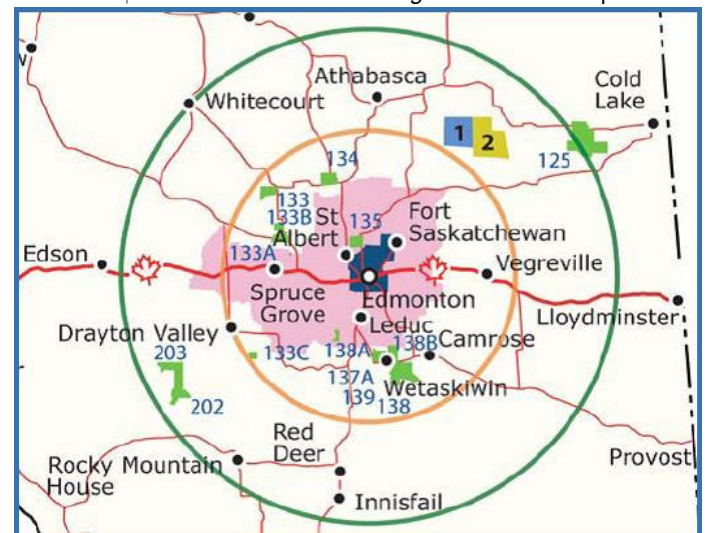
- Four in ten (42.3%) of Aboriginal people lived in poverty in 2001.
  - ⇒ Over double the CMA poverty rate.

(Continued on page 5)



**Above:** Map of Aboriginal population in Edmonton (dark areas have highest Aboriginal population).

**Below:** Map of First Nations within a 2 hour drive of Edmonton. Source: *Aboriginal Edmonton* report.



## Did You Know?

There are 7 First Nations in the Edmonton Region:

- **Alexander (Cree)**  
*Morinville, Map: 134*
- **Enoch Cree,**  
*Enoch, Map: 135*
- **Ermineskin Cree**  
*Hobbema, Map: 138 & 138A*
- **Louis Bull (Cree)**  
*Hobbema, Map: 138B*
- **Montana Cree**  
*Hobbema, Map: 139*
- **Paul (Stoney & Cree)**  
*Duffield, Map: 133A-C*
- **Samson Cree**  
*Hobbema, Map: 137A*

There are also 4 other First Nations within a 2 hour drive of Edmonton:

- **Alexis Nakota Sioux (Stoney)**  
*Glenevis, Map: 133*
- **O'Chiese (Cree & Saulteaux)**  
*Rocky Mountain House, Map: 203*
- **Saddle Lake (Cree)**  
*Saddle Lake, Map: 125*
- **Sunchild Cree**  
*Rocky Mountain House, Map: 202*



## Aboriginal Edmonton Statistics, *cont'd from page 4*

### Education

- ♦ 39.6% of Aboriginal adults had less than high school education, and 37.5% had a trades, college, or university certificate or degree. (2006)
- ♦ Aboriginal women made great progress in completing post-secondary education between 1981 and 2001:
  - ⇒ 30% of Aboriginal women aged 20-24 had completed post-secondary education in 2001, compared to 17.3% in 1981.

### Housing

- ♦ 43% of Edmonton Aboriginal people own their own home. (2006)
  - ⇒ Lower than CMA rate (69%).
- ♦ 44% of Aboriginal renter households in

Edmonton spent 30% of their income, or more, on housing. (2001)  
 ⇒ Compared to 25% of non-Aboriginal renters.

### Family

- ♦ 42.6% of Edmonton Aboriginal people live in lone parent families. (2006)
  - ⇒ Much higher than CMA rate (6%).
- ♦ Aboriginal children and youth are 6 times more likely than non-Aboriginal youth to receive child protection services; 5 times more likely to be in care under Permanent Guardianship Orders.
- ♦ 43% of the average monthly child protection caseload are Aboriginal families.

*See side bar on the left for data sources used.*

## Sources: Aboriginal Edmonton Statistics

- ♦ City of Edmonton. (March 2008). *A Statistical Profile of Aboriginal Population of the City of Edmonton. Partial Update.* Available at: [www.edmonton.ca/city\\_government/edmonton-urban-aboriginal-acco.aspx](http://www.edmonton.ca/city_government/edmonton-urban-aboriginal-acco.aspx)
- ♦ Statistics Canada. 2001 & 2006 Census profiles. Available at: [www.statcan.gc.ca/](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/)

## REMINDER TO MEMBERS

Don't forget to fill out and return the Member Survey by May 31, 2009!

### Want to fill it out on-line?

Visit

[edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca), go to the "Support Us" page, and click on "2009 Members Survey."

*To get a paper copy of the survey, contact Stephanie Haar at (780) 423-2031*

## Urban Aboriginal Community Building: *In Their Own Voices*

**A Review of *In Their Own Voices: Building Urban Aboriginal Communities*, by Jim Silver (2006)**

By JAYLENE ELLARD, *MacEwan Social Work Practicum Student*

"...we can best learn about the urban Aboriginal experience by talking with, and listening to, urban Aboriginal people themselves" (p. 31)

Have you ever wanted to learn about Aboriginal community building, but weren't sure where to start? How about gaining a greater understanding of urban Aboriginal people in Canada? Well if you've answered yes to either of these questions; even if you haven't, this book is for you. A captivating read which incorporates a holistic approach to community development, *In Their Own Voices* discusses many aspects of urban Aboriginal living. Reconnecting to Aboriginal culture, along with traditional values of sharing and community provide a strong foundation for the beginning of an optimistic outlook for building urban Aboriginal communities.

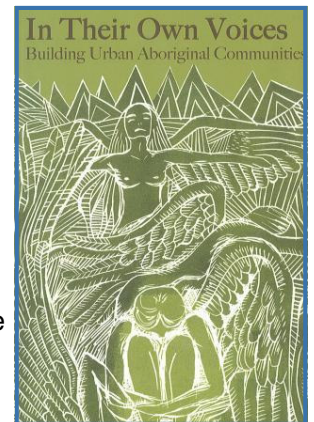
Starting with brief histories of Aboriginal urbanization and the deep-rooted effects of colonization on Aboriginal persons in Canada, Jim Silver and his partners go further to support a positive emphasis on decolonization and finding solutions to various everyday issues many Aboriginal people face. Together with participatory research centered on Winnipeg's inner-city Spence neighborhood, solutions such as promoting involvement of Aboriginal persons in the neighborhood and what is needed for Aboriginal electoral participation are discussed. Included is a chapter on

adult learning centres and their part in building social capital among urban Aboriginal communities. The belief expressed is that adult education centered on Aboriginal culture provides a supportive base for healing in many Aboriginal people.

*In Their Own Voices* highlights grassroots initiatives to reclaim Aboriginal identities and revitalize their communities. The responsibility is given to Aboriginal communities by Aboriginal communities while welcoming anyone who wishes to work alongside them. A strong and meaningful addition to the book is the vast array of comments from personal experiences, mostly from those involved in the research.

When learning about Aboriginal people in an urban environment, what makes more sense than hearing it in their own voices?

*In Their Own Voices* is part of the ESPC's Resource Library collection.





# Energy, Activity & Humor Kick Off Spring at ESPC

by SUSAN MORRISSEY, Executive Director, Edmonton Social Planning Council

Welcome to the Spring edition of *the fACTivist*. This Aboriginal issues focus came out of a discussion amongst our staff and students, as well as the realization that many years ago ESPC did a similar issue. I hope you will find the articles interesting and stimulating to read.

I also want to take a moment to acknowledge the work of two students who have both completed their practicum placements with our organization. These two talented women brought some new ideas, energy and humor to our office which was appreciated by all the staff. I thank them for the many long days they spent working on projects at ESPC, and wish both of them future success in their chosen fields.

Although not a part of the newsletter, I want to mention a recent new activity of ESPC.

Erin Krekoski and Anette Kinley have brought *podcasting* to the ESPC. I have listened to a few of the episodes, which have been very interesting and entertaining; I encourage you to visit the podcast page of our website ([edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca)) to have a listen! The most recent episode features a recap by John Kolkman of the recent Alberta budget.

As always, our staff is very busy. Currently, we are preparing for our annual general meeting, producing a new edition of the *Tracking the Trends*, adding to our library collection, and preparing to travel around the province to present information from our *We Can Do Better* report. These are interesting times in Alberta, and the ESPC continues to work towards our vision of a *healthy, just and inclusive community*.

## 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](http://socialresearchlibrary.ca)

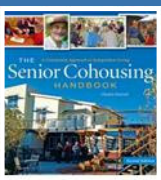
Our resource library is a rich source of current and historical publications on social issues.

## Featured Report:

Mobilizing for Action: A Report to Help Create Culturally Responsive Pathways for Isolated Immigrant Seniors (Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council)



## Featured Book:



The Senior Cohousing Handbook: A Community Approach to Independent Living (Durrett, C.)

## Poverty Forums Travel Across Alberta this Spring

The ESPC's John Kolkman is hitting the road over the next few weeks to help build public support for a comprehensive poverty reduction strategy in Alberta.

John will visit five medium-sized Alberta communities starting in Red Deer on April 29, followed by Fort McMurray on May 6, Grande Prairie on May 7, and ending with Medicine Hat on May 11 and Lethbridge on May 12. John will be presenting information on poverty from the recently published *We Can Do Better* report. Specific information on child poverty trends in each community will also be presented.

The regional forums are being organized by

Public Interest Alberta (PIA). Bill Moore-Kilgannon, Executive Director of PIA, will be presenting recent information on wages and employment in each community.

One of the main purposes of the forums is to listen to the thoughts of service providers, funders, business people, municipal representatives and interested citizens on the keys to reducing poverty both in their local community and province-wide. Forums in Edmonton and Calgary are being planned for October.

Further information on the forums is available at [www.pialberta.org/events/wecandobetter](http://www.pialberta.org/events/wecandobetter)

## meet the ESPC BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### John Pater: ESPC Board's Communications Professional



John Pater is a professional communicator with experience in broadcasting, public relations and strategic communications. He worked for 10+ years for CBC Radio in Edmonton and the Eastern Arctic as a news reporter, news reader, news editor, and host. For two year (2003-2005) he was ESPC's communications coordinator.

John now works for the City of Edmonton's

Planning and Development department as a public information officer, offering expertise in strategic communications, writing, editing and public speaking. He is a member of IABC (International Association of Business Communicators) and has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications (1980) and Master's degree in Theological Studies with a focus on cultural studies (2000).

John joined the Council board in May 2008. We are thrilled that to have his strong communications background on our Board.



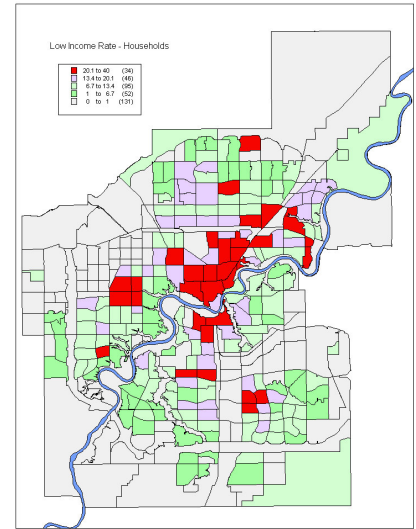
## Update: Tracking the Trends 2009

We have been working steadily over the past few months on the 10th edition of our flagship publication, *Tracking the Trends*.

*Tracking the Trends* provides a comprehensive overview of social and economic trends in the Edmonton area. The new edition will feature new data variables, a more comprehensive social health index, and—the pièce de résistance—a selection of maps illustrating neighbourhood level data!

*Questions or Comments?*

Contact Anette Kinley at 780-423-2031 x 351 or [anetek@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:anetek@edmontonsocialplanning.ca)



## Aboriginal Agencies

This list is just a selection of some of the Aboriginal agencies, services and groups operating in the Edmonton Area.

- ♦ Aboriginal Business Service Network
- ♦ Aboriginal Disabilities Information Centre
- ♦ AMISK Housing
- ♦ Apeetogosan (Métis) Development
- ♦ Ben Calf Robe Society
- ♦ Bent Arrow Traditional Healing Society
- ♦ CESO Aboriginal Services
- ♦ Canadian Native Friendship Centre
- ♦ Eagle Spirit Cultural Programs
- ♦ Edmonton Aboriginal Urban Affairs Committee
- ♦ Edmonton Métis Cultural Dance Society
- ♦ Four Winds & Associates
- ♦ Sun & Moon Visionaries Aboriginal Artisans Society (SMV)
- ♦ Two Spirit Circle of Edmonton Society
- ♦ White Buffalo Dancers & Drummers Society

Visit

[edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca) for a more complete list with descriptions & contact information.

## Alberta Budget Disappoints

The ESPC took more than usual interest in this year's provincial budget which was brought down on April 7. We wanted to ensure that investments in programs benefitting low income Albertans continued despite the current economic downturn.

The budget did have some good points. Notable among them was an increase of \$100 in monthly Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped (AISH) benefits. The increase brings the incomes of disabled Albertans who rely on AISH somewhat closer to the poverty line. The budget also included a welcome increase in benefits for low income seniors.

On a less positive note, despite the

Province announcing a plan to end homelessness in the lead up to the budget, the government plans to spend less building new affordable housing this coming year last year. Support for renters is also being reduced by \$60 million from last year.

The budget also failed to deliver a comprehensive plan to reduce poverty.

For more on poverty reduction strategies and our response to the 2009 Alberta Budget, visit [edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca), where you can read:

- ♦ John Kolkman's opinion article published in the Edmonton Journal; and,
- ♦ Our 2009 Alberta Budget Fact Sheet.

## meet the ESPC STAFF

### Student Cheryl Melney has Passion for Policy, Budgets



Cheryl Melney joined the ESPC this January. She is a fourth year BSW student at Thompson Rivers University, in Kamloops, and is completing an out-of-province practicum placement with ESPC. Cheryl

has worked with the ESPC staff on many interesting projects such as the Federal Budget Fact Sheet. She is also a regular contributor the ESPC's Social Exchange Forum, and encourages everyone to join the conversations! (Visit [socialplanningforum.ca](http://socialplanningforum.ca))

Cheryl was drawn to the ESPC by her passion for social justice and social policy. Cheryl's professional interests include: poverty studies with a specific focus on structural causes of poverty, and intersectionality between different categories

of social location, as well as the history and advancement of Aboriginal communities in Canada.

Prior to her start at the ESPC, Cheryl worked for Alberta Employment and Immigration as an Income Support Case Manager. She has also volunteered for years in Canada and internationally.

Cheryl grew up in Haida Gwaii (the Queen Charlotte Islands), but moved throughout Western Canada over the last six years. She completed her Social Work diploma at MacEwan College in 2007, and Edmonton continues to hold a special place in Cheryl's heart. It doesn't hurt that Edmonton is where she met her fiancé, Jason, whom she is marrying this Fall.

Cheryl greatly enjoyed working at the ESPC!



## 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.

### CONTACT US

Suite 37, 9912 - 106 Street  
Edmonton, AB T5H 4H8  
Tel: (780) 423-2031  
Fax: (780) 425-6244

[info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

### STAFF

**Susan Morrissey**  
*Executive Director*

**John Kolkman**  
*Research & Policy  
Analysis Coordinator*

**Erin Krekoski**  
*Resource Coordinator*

**Anette Kinley**  
*Research &  
Communications Assistant*

**Stephanie Haar**  
*Administrative Assistant*

**Jaylene Ellard**  
*Practicum Student*

**Cheryl Melney**  
*Practicum Student*

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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	Fees
<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.

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