

# ANNUAL REPORT 1982-83



## A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT

There have been rapid changes in Edmonton and Alberta over the past twelve months. An economy which was seen as being strong and dynamic has shown itself to be surprisingly fragile. Alberta's already high level of social problems has been exacerbated in this time of economic decline. In particular unemployment has doubled and virtually all sectors of the economy have felt the impact of this sudden downturn in the province's economic fortunes.

Despite the increased need for social services, all levels of government have been shifting their spending priorities; with the result that funding for social and health programs has been significantly controlled. Clearly vulnerable groups in our community - senior citizens, the disabled, the unemployed and young people - will be faced with reduced levels of service or the additional barrier of user fees, in this time of their increasing social needs.

In periods of such uncertainty the work of the Edmonton Social Planning Council becomes even more critical. During its 43rd year of activity the Council has been working hard to develop its ability to monitor the key social and economic indicators. This information is of considerable interest to social agencies in the community as they work to anticipate the possible demands on their services. As well the Council has taken an important role in informing the public of major social issues through its publication **First Reading**. The Council has also continued to address questions such as the introduction of hospital user fees, changes in social allowance legislation, Edmonton's Transportation Plan and the role of the voluntary sector.

In addition to providing over all policy direction to the Council, our Board of Directors has been working hard to address concerns through our various Board committees - evaluating our programs, encouraging membership support, clarifying and establishing personnel policies, developing a new logo and brochure, maintaining sound financial management and organizing fund raising ventures. I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks to all members of the Board of Directors for their support and hard work during the past twelve months. Volunteers have continued to provide excellent service to the Council when they have been called upon to help, and again I am pleased on behalf of the Board to thank them all for their assistance.

Of course the successes that the Council has achieved during this past year would not have been possible without the dedication, professional competence and creativity of all of our staff. During my four years with the Board of Directors I have been very grateful for the assistance and support that all of the staff have so willingly provided. This past year has been no exception.

As I complete my term as President, I see the Council being faced with a major challenge. The challenge will be

to find ways of better addressing the serious social and economic issues facing us in an informed and effective manner in conjunction with other voluntary agencies, community groups, and the general public. This will have to be accomplished at a time when the Council itself is facing difficult financial constraints.

However I am confident that the Council, through the co-operative efforts of the Board, staff, members and volunteers can meet this important challenge.

Respectfully submitted,

Robert McKeon,  
President  
Edmonton Social Planning Council

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

As an independent voice in the community the Social Planning Council continues to have an important role to play in **MONITORING** the effect of existing social policies, **IDENTIFYING** some of the social costs of economic and physical planning, **HIGHLIGHTING** the difficulties faced by disadvantaged groups and **ASSISTING** social agencies and community groups to respond to issues that are of concern to them.

In working to meet its mandate the Council has continued to maintain three active programming areas. The first is **APPLIED RESEARCH**, through which the Council provides current information on major social issues affecting the city, and as well carries out research and evaluations for governments or social agencies. The Council's second area of programming is **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT** and **POLICY ANALYSIS** where the concern is to stimulate public awareness and understanding of current social issues and to provide resources and support to groups who wish to respond to social or community concerns. **VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION TRAINING SERVICES (VOTS)**, the third area of programming, assists voluntary organizations to more effectively plan and manage their activities.

The highlights that were achieved through these three programming areas during this past year included the following:

### First Reading

With the support of two departments of the federal government the Council began publishing **First Reading**, a monthly review of social policy issues of concern to voluntary social agencies and interested individuals. In the first nine issues of **First Reading** major policy questions which have been examined included - the decentralization of Alberta's Social Services, changes in Medicare, pension reform, the Young Offenders Act, the Social Services and Community Health budget for 1983-84, and income security policy. As well as a feature article each issue of

**First Reading** has included current information on important reports, studies and social statistics.

### Project Involvement

Over the past year the Council has been involved in an unique community development initiative aimed at encouraging senior citizens to participate more fully in the community.

A series of 4 hour-long television programs entitled "Input, Seniors Talking to Seniors" was produced under the direction and guidance of a Senior Citizen's Advisory Committee and aired this past September. Fourteen Viewing Centres were organized across the city where senior citizens watched the programs and became involved in lively discussions. As a result of the success of the process, the videotapes and accompanying discussion manuals will be made available to interested community groups.

### Privatization

With an increasing emphasis being placed upon the voluntary sector for the provision of social services, the Council has begun to monitor and assess the impact and effect of this public policy initiative. The Council has identified impact upon volunteer sector management, personnel issues, and services to the community as areas of particular concern.

### Provincial Budget:

In April the Provincial Government tabled its Budget Estimates for 1983-84. The Council staff and members have begun a year-long process of monitoring government expenditures in Social Services and Community Health. The impact of decreases in shelter allowance on social allowance recipients, and the budget cuts in services for the handicapped, and vocational rehabilitation, and mental health have been targeted as key elements in this fiscal year.

### Community Economic Development Conference

In November the Council, in cooperation with the Calder Action Committee, hosted a national conference entitled "Community Profit! The Nuts and Bolts of Community Based Economic Development." The conference attracted conference participants from as far afield as Cape Breton, Victoria and Inuvik and served as an important catalyst for the development of western associations concerned with community economic development.

### Consultation and Training

Throughout 1982 there were a growing number of requests for assistance through the Council's Volunteer Organization Training Services; in such areas as the roles and responsibilities of volunteer boards, financial management for non profit agencies, organizational planning and evaluation and board/staff relationships. Interest was also shown in the areas of long range

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planning and legal accountability - an indication of the growing expectations of voluntary organizations.

#### Resource Library

During the past year the Council received financial assistance to allow us to hire a full time librarian for our Resource Library. This has enabled the Council to reorganise the library and to catalogue and cross reference all materials. As well we have been able to keep up to date in obtaining current publications, reports studies and relevant journals.

#### Program Evaluations

The Council completed program evaluations for two non profit agencies and provided consultation to other agencies conducting in house evaluations. There has been an increasing demand for this service during the past twelve months.

#### Goals for Edmonton Study

The Council was invited to participate as a member of a city committee established to examine the feasibility of the city carrying out a comprehensive Goals for Edmonton study. While it was felt that such a study could provide important guidance for the city's future it was concluded that the cost of the proposed study could not be justified at this time of restraint.

#### Parenting Education and Support Services

During this past year the Council was contracted to carry out a comprehensive report on parenting education services that were presently available in the city. Following interviews with agencies, professionals and parents, the Council's report made recommendations concerning the need for future services and the necessary binding responsibilities.

#### Social Goals and Services Study - City of Lethbridge

Working as a subcontractor the Council was hired to assist in the development and operation of a comprehensive public participation program as part of the Social Goals and Services Study being carried out for the City of Lethbridge. Of particular interest was the setting up of twenty live "community forums" in various locations in the city, all of which were linked by community television in order to discuss the future of social services in the city.

#### Poverty and Unemployment in Alberta

On the recommendation of the Program Committee the Board accepted as a major area of concern for 1983 poverty and unemployment in Alberta. As a result the staff have been examining the growing levels of unemployment, the increasing number of Albertans who now are finding it necessary to claim social allowance, and the problems faced by the province's "working poor."

### Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended December 31, 1982 with comparative figures for 1981

	1982	1981
Revenue:		
United Way allocation	\$ 109,556	\$ 102,041
Grants:		
City	16,500	15,000
Provincial Government (EACER)	4,620	3,520
Other receipts - publications, donations, memberships, bank interest	4,544	8,398
Fees for service	7,515	6,400
Net revenues from special projects:		
Lethbridge Project (Schedule 1)	7,388	
Project Involvement (Schedule 2)	8,813	
Parenting Education Study (Schedule 3)	15,120	
Project Policy Update (Schedule 4)	1,289	
Community Economic Development Conference (Schedule 5)	219	
Federal/Provincial Conference	--	1,710
Grande Prairie Social Service Diploma Program	--	3,368
Transit Training Project	--	4,308
	175,564	144,745
Expenditures:		
Salaries:		
Professional	105,247	85,045
Clerical	36,164	30,718
Employee benefits	4,393	4,100
Building occupancy	19,018	17,833
Offices expenses:		
Supplies	1,836	2,163
Postage	751	761
Xeroxing	1,079	828
Telephone	2,917	2,536
Maintenance	352	36
Bonding and Insurance	377	454
Recruitment and education	2,511	2,899
Promotion and publicity	237	4,365
Audit fee	874	722
Transportation	5	450
Miscellaneous	456	400
	176,217	153,310
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ (653)	(8,565)

### Statement of Unappropriated Funds

Year ended December 31, 1982 with comparative figures for 1981

Balance at beginning of year	\$ 2,878	11,443
Excess (deficiency) of revenue over expenditures for the year	(653)	(8,565)
Balance at end of year	\$ 2,225	2,878

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1982 - 1983

Robert McKeon	- President
Susan Arison	- Vice-President
Barbara Burton	- Vice-President
Keith Duggan	- Vice-President
Peter Faid	- Ex Officio

Don Bevan \*  
Allan Douglas  
Nick Hanevich  
Howard Kravitz  
Richard Nutter  
Elizabeth O'Neill  
Judy Padua  
Eva Nolan Roche  
Rod Rode  
Jerry Royer  
Audrey Swaffield  
Donna Wood

(\* Resigned during the year.)

### STAFF 1982

Peter Faid	- Executive Director
Hope Hunter	- Planner
Beverly Zubot	- Planner
Nancy Kotani	- Planner
Rose French	- Office Manager
Mardy Clark	- Secretary
Sharon Breum	- Secretary (Part-time)
Alice Colak	- Practicum Student
Chris Richards	- Practicum Student
Anne Martineau	- Practicum Student
Nick Stow	- Social Planning Intern
Flem Seaman	- Editor, First Reading
Sheila Gupta-Smith	- Journalist
Valerie Kupsch	- Resource Librarian

### VOLUNTEERS

A special thanks to the many volunteers who have assisted with Social Planning Council programs and projects during the past year.

For further information on the services and programs provided by the Edmonton Social Planning Council, or on how to become a member of the Council, please contact:

Edmonton Social Planning Council  
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Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1C4  
Telephone: (403) 423-2031