

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended December 31, 1983 with comparative figures for 1982

	1983	1982 (Restated)
Revenue:		
United Way allocation	\$ 115,351	109,556
Grants:		
City	16,500	16,500
Government	7,004	4,620
Other receipts - publications, donations, memberships, bank interest	5,397	5,258
Fees for service	29,383	7,515
Net revenues from special projects:		
Casino	18,371	14,194
Conference Proceedings	6,780	—
Lethbridge Project	—	7,388
Project Involvement	—	8,813
Parenting Education Study	—	15,120
Project Policy Update	—	1,289
Community Economic Development Conference	—	219
	198,786	190,472
Expenditures:		
Salaries:		
Professional	110,320	105,826
Clerical	37,750	35,585
Student internship	3,067	—
Employee benefits	6,177	4,393
Building occupancy	18,254	19,018
Offices expenses:		
New equipment	2,295	5,222
Supplies	2,521	1,836
Postage	3,201	751
Xeroxing	1,391	1,079
Telephone	3,803	2,917
Maintenance	455	352
Bonding	121	377
Recruitment and education	1,546	2,511
Promotion and publicity	2,419	237
Audit fee	1,031	874
Transportation	68	5
Miscellaneous including agency publications	2,398	456
Recreational and educational	128	—
Research	287	—
	197,232	181,439
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	\$ 1,554	9,033

Statement of Unappropriate Funds

Year ended December 31, 1983 with comparative figures for 1982

	1983	1982 (Restated)
Balance, beginning of year as previously reported	\$ 2,225	2,878
Prior period adjustment	9,686	—
Balance, beginning of year as restated	11,911	2,878
Excess of revenue over expenditures for the year	1,554	9,033
Balance, end of year	\$ 13,465	11,911

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS
1983-1984**

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 Sheila Smith * - Journalist
 Candis Dorsey - Journalist
 William Moran - Social Planning Intern
 Lori Adams - Social Planning Intern

(* Resigned during the year.)

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
 #418, 10010 - 105 St.
 Edmonton, Alberta T5J 1C4
 Telephone: (403) 423-2031

**ANNUAL REPORT
1983-84**

**Edmonton Social
Planning Council**

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The 44th year of the Edmonton Social Planning Council has been one of challenge and change.

We, along with the rest of the community, have had to address the impact of recession and cutback.

The volunteer sector and those they serve have experienced reduced levels of funding and services.

This sector is at the same time being asked to prepare itself to accept responsibilities for services the community once received from government.

The decision to re-order the pattern of service delivery in social services is, I believe, a significant step toward rebuilding and revitalizing our communities.

This trend can lead, according to Amitai Etzioni, to a time when "social services will have to be provided in large part by neighbourhoods, voluntary associations, religious and ethnic groups, local communities and as a last resort, by government."

The government, the community and the Council have shared concerns and must balance one another in the effort to ensure that individual and community needs are provided in an effective and efficient way.

Clearly, the Council's mandate to monitor the effect of social policies, identify social costs and to be a vehicle through which people in the community and volunteer social agencies can express their concerns is one of increasing importance.

We, for our part, are structuring to meet the challenges of the changes we have foreseen and will continue as we have this year to foster communication between government and the community and to help empower the community's major resource - the concerned citizen.

In addition to providing overall policy direction to the Council, our Board of Directors has through the work of its committees examined and refocused all of our activities to account for fiscal restraint, effectiveness and efficiency.

This includes work by our program committee on a V.O.T.S. evaluation, prioritized program directions, work plan development and a very successful series of "brown bag" lunch discussions of issues of social concern.

The finance committee completed the restructuring of the new program budgeting system, providing for improved budgetary controls and worked very hard examining cutback alternatives.

The personnel committee completed work on salary base and merit pool considerations, job descriptions, appraisal system and provided a benefit package that we hope will set the pace in the volunteer sector.

The communications committee continued its outstanding work with "First Reading" which plays an important role in informing the public of major social issues.

These are but a few examples of the many concerns the

members of the Board have given their time and talent to this year. I am personally very proud of the Board's achievements and want to thank all members of the Board of Directors for their support and hard work.

Challenge, change, restructuring, cutbacks, refocusing, required of our Executive Director and staff, loyalty, understanding, patience, courage and immense amounts of hard work - they saw us through and we thank them.

This Council has and will continue to have a vital role in the social service community in Edmonton. We will help this community and its social agencies to meet the future today, to provide the needs of tomorrow.

Our thanks to you, the member whose interest makes this happen, and to the United Way for its continued support.

KEITH DUGGAN
President

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR

During this past year the Program Committee of the Board worked hard to establish a basic program planning framework with which to guide the activities of the Council, provide a means of monitoring progress, enable staff to set yearly objectives, and ensure that members of the Board, and the Council, remain informed about the programming activities of the staff. As well as reaffirming the Council's commitment to its major programming thrust: a concern with poverty and unemployment in Alberta, the plan highlighted important programming strategies; such as the importance of applied, or participatory, research, the need to identify an existing, or potential, constituency that would be interested in the outcome of our work, the significance for the work of the Council of public education and debate about major social issues and the need to draw into the work of the organization members of the Board, as well as our membership and sympathizers.

Some of the programming highlights in 1983 included the following:

Unemployments' Social Costs: Strategies for Survival

Along with the Family Services Association and the Department of Family Studies at the University of Alberta, the Council organized a very well attended workshop to enable those in the helping professions to better understand, and respond to, the punishing social costs of rising unemployment in Alberta. Strategies examined during the workshop included maintaining self-esteem, gaining financial control, counselling strategies for families of the unemployed and self help strategies for those who are without work.

Social Allowance Cutbacks

Following the introduction of the 1983-84 provincial

budget the Minister of Social Services and Community Health announced major changes in the policies and funding concerning social allowance that were intended to save the department \$50 million. In response, the Social Planning Council worked with forty social service agencies in the city in order to highlight the damaging consequences of the department's actions and to urge immediate reconsideration of the cutbacks.

Friends of Medicare

The Council has continued to be an active member of the provincial health coalition. Close attention has been paid to the policy debates surrounding the new Canada Health Act. In particular the Council cosponsored a public forum entitled "Preserving Medicare", which featured the leading medicare advocate the Honorable Justice Emmett Hall.

More the Jobs: Workers' Cooperatives

In keeping with its interests in community economic development, and the problems of unemployment, the Council cosponsored a conference on the potential of worker cooperatives in Alberta. In other parts of the country workers' cooperatives have been very successful in creating new jobs and in stimulating local economies.

'Filling the Gaps' Conference

In October the Council assisted the Boyle Street Coop in organizing a conference that focused on the housing needs of ex-psychiatric patients. As well as serving as a follow up to a research report prepared by the Coop, the conference provided consumers and service providers with an opportunity to explore possible alternatives in meeting the housing needs of this disadvantaged group.

First Reading

During the year the Council continued to publish First Reading on a monthly basis. The twelve issues focused on a diverse range of social policy issues; including family violence, education, unemployment, racism, the Canada Health Act, the Young Offenders Act and divorce. First Reading has continued to increase its circulation to over 600 and the quality of the articles has consequently drawn favourable comments. The original federal funding for the publication expired in March 1983, following which time financial support has been provided by the United Way of Edmonton and Area and the Clifford E. Lee Foundation.

Neighborhood Mediation

During this past year the Council received financial support to allow it to explore the concept of neighborhood mediation. Concern that the traditional system of justice is often unable to meet the needs of a community has encouraged the establishment of volunteer based mediation programs in various cities in North America. Here disputing parties in a community problem - such as a landlord/tenant issue, noise or vandalism, are voluntarily brought together, with the assistance of a trained

volunteer mediator, to work towards a satisfactory resolution of their conflict. A report on the Council's findings is expected in the summer.

Charities and the Canadian Tax System

During the year the Council worked with the Legal Resource Centre to better inform local nonprofit organizations of major changes that were proposed in the Canadian Tax System. In particular was the likely impact that the changes would have on charitable registrations.

The New Child Welfare Act

Following the introduction in the Legislature of the new Child Welfare Act the Council, in cooperation with the Alberta Association of Social Workers, organized a very successful forum to discuss the findings of the Cavanagh Commission and the provisions of the new Child Welfare Act. Representatives from the Foster Parent Association, the Association of Childcare Centres, the legal profession, Grant MacEwan's Childcare Program and the Department of Social Services and Community Health lead the discussion and responded to questions from the audience.

Voluntary Sector Research Study

The Council has been working with the Alberta Human Services Association in developing a research project intended to define the nature and extent of voluntary sector participation in the provision of human services in Alberta. It is the hope of the Council and the Association that information of this kind will not only assist voluntary agencies in their future planning but will encourage improved dialogue between the provincial government and the voluntary sector on the human service needs of the future.

Training and Consultation

The Council has continued to assist voluntary organizations and social agencies improve their effectiveness in planning and management. The assistance provided is widely respected because of its practical approach and its accessibility. During 1983 the Council received over 100 service inquiries, assisted 73 organizations; including the delivery of 50 workshops to 36 organizations. As well, assistance has been provided to a number of emerging community organizations, in such areas as the preparation of briefs, funding proposals, the planning of special events, media relations, advocacy and program evaluation.

'Brown Bag' Lunchtime Forums

During the year the Program Committee undertook the task of organizing monthly "brown bag" lunchtime forums, in order to provide an opportunity for members of the Council to learn more about emerging social issues and new legislation. Guest speakers were invited to lead discussions on such issues as the real costs of medicare, the Young Offenders Act, the proposed divorce legislation, the problem of family violence, suicide prevention and the working poor in Canada.
