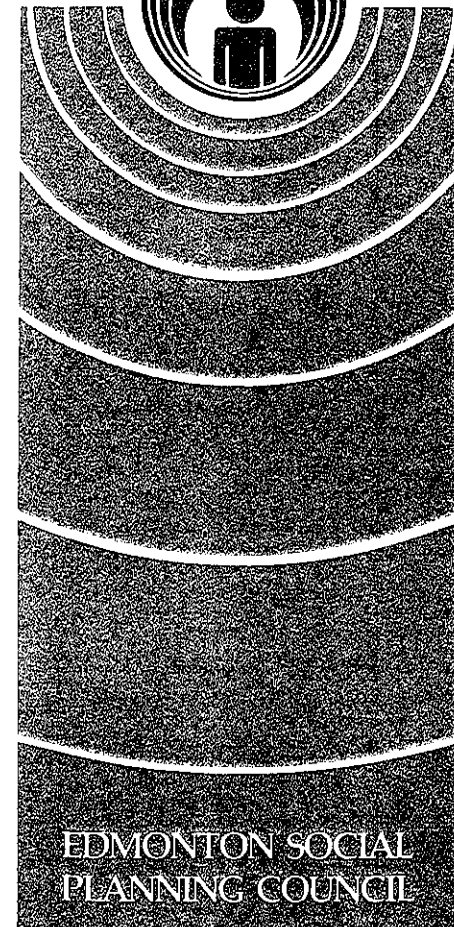


# ANNUAL REPORT

1985



EDMONTON SOCIAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL

## Statement of Revenue and Expenditures

Year ended December 31, 1985  
with comparative figures for 1984

	1985	1984
Revenue:		
United Way allocation	\$ 137,352	\$ 129,684
Grants:		
City of Edmonton	17,500	17,000
Government of Alberta	3,200	4,000
Clifford E. Lee Foundation	—	6,000
Government of Canada	30,550	—
Other receipts - publications, donations, memberships, bank interest	5,668	13,636
Fees for service	15,723	16,783
	<u>209,993</u>	<u>187,103</u>
Expenditures:		
Salaries:		
Professional	103,469	83,521
Clerical	39,952	38,738
Employee benefits	11,351	11,432
Building occupancy	16,774	17,495
Office expenses:		
New equipment	543	1,426
Supplies	2,920	2,273
Postage	3,509	2,020
Xeroxing	1,231	2,345
Telephone	4,412	3,755
Maintenance	844	481
Bonding	87	86
Recruitment and education	3,229	4,341
Promotion and publicity	221	1,319
Audit fee	1,300	1,246
Transportation	225	890
Miscellaneous including agency publications	612	1,655
Recreational and educational	—	66
Research	762	3,639
Council projects	21,923	18,439
Conference proceedings	—	4,474
	<u>213,364</u>	<u>199,641</u>
Excess of expenditures over revenue	<u>\$ (3,371)</u>	<u>(12,538)</u>

## Statement of Unappropriated Funds (Deficit)

Year ended December 31, 1985  
with comparative figures for 1984

	1985	1984
Balance, beginning of year	927	\$ 13,465
Excess of expenditures over revenue for the year	(3,371)	(12,538)
Balance, end of year	<u>\$ (2,444)</u>	<u>\$ 927</u>

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

1985-1986

Keith Duggan	-President
Leanne Forest-Zapisocky	-Vice-President
Judy Padua	-Vice-President
John Gill	-Vice-President

Margaret Asch  
Sudah Choldin\*  
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Pat Hirsche  
Sarah Miller  
Carol Sapracolle\*  
Jean Stewart  
Audrey Swaffield  
Marian Warwick\*  
Howard Welch  
Donna Wood\*  
Andrew McCready  
Beth McCullough  
Karen Munro  
Holly James

(\*Resigned during 1985)

## STAFF 1985

Peter Faid	-Executive Director
Thomas Grauman	-Planner
Barbara Sykes	-Planner
Karen Munro	-Research Assistant
Henry Dembicki	-Research Assistant
Rose French	-Office Manager
Mardy Clark	-Secretary
Meg Hagerty	-Project Staff
Roger Laing	-Project Staff
Patricia Sytnick	-Project Staff
Gayle Dreaver	-Project Staff
Lorraine Mitchell	-Project Staff
Joseph Miller	-Editor-First Reading
Cathe Rutherford	-Student Placement
Heather Morrison	-Student Placement

## THE YEAR IN REVIEW

In his budget speech for 1985 the Provincial Treasurer reassured Albertans that his budget was one of "economic recovery and growth" and that as a result the province could now look ahead "with self assurance and enthusiasm...poised for years of steady growth and job security." For the thousands of Albertans who over the past few years have found themselves joining the ever increasing line ups for unemployment insurance, social allowance and food hampers this officially prescribed optimism must have seemed particularly misplaced.

In fact few Albertans have been left untouched by the devastating downturn in the provincial economy in the past four years. We have come to appreciate some of the important economic indicators or our sad decline - 12% unemployment, record numbers of bankruptcies, an alarming rise in foreclosures and even the demise of banks - but we have yet to comprehend some of the significant social indicators and the serious damage that has been done to the social and health fabric of our province's communities and families.

Despite the Treasurer's reassuring words 1985 saw Alberta achieve the unenviable reputation of being the province with the greatest increase in poverty since 1981. With more than double the number of poor families we discovered that 110,000 families, residents of Canada's richest province, were now living with incomes that were below the officially recognized poverty line. We came to appreciate that some groups are particularly vulnerable to poverty: - over half of the families headed by women are poor, one in three families headed by a person under 25 is poor and one Canadian child in five lives in a family that is poor.

The cause of this increasing poverty is undoubtedly linked to the major changes that have occurred in the province's employment picture. Younger and older workers alike, as well as many more Alberta families, have been hit by the harsh realities of unemployment. Although we reassure ourselves that there is in place a comprehensive safety net of unemployment insurance and social allowance to relieve the worst of the difficulties, it is evident that it is the financial hardship which accompanied unemployment which is the main source of distress. It must also be remembered that work is among the most pervasive of human activities and besides the loss of a pay cheque unemployment and poverty, bring with them the abandonment of ambition and purpose, the destruction of self worth and accomplishment and the constriction of ones self and family image.

It is against this backdrop that the Edmonton Social Planning Council continued to address its mandate in 1985. Highlights included the following:

## The Social Costs of Unemployment

A major project in 1985 was a comprehensive study of the social and psychological costs of unemployment. The study was based on a thorough review and analysis of the literature on unemployment and an application of the findings to the recent unemployment situation in Alberta. The report of the study, entitled "Counting the Costs", documents the impact of unemployment on the family, on physical and mental health, and on the incidence of suicide and crime. The findings offer support to the conclusion that the social and psychological impacts of unemployment are numerous and profound.

## Work for All: Changing Perceptions of Work, Leisure Employment and Unemployment

In March 1985 staff of Council helped to organize a two day workshop that was intended to provide participants with an opportunity to examine and discuss future perspectives on work and leisure. The very successful event was led by Dr. Robert Theobald, an internationally known economist, educator, futurist and author. As a result of the workshop groups of participants have continued to network and provide discussion opportunities on work related issues.

## The Other Welfare Manual

With the support of a grant from Canadian Employment and Immigration the Council was able to hire four additional project staff to carry out an extensive study of the problems faced by those receiving social allowance. Based on the findings of the study the project staff have prepared "The Other Welfare Manual", which is intended to provide support and assistance to those who have encountered difficulties in dealing with the social allowance system in the province. The extent of individual advocacy that the staff became involved in during the time of the project has encouraged the Council to examine, more systematically, the advocacy needs of social allowance recipients. Further, the Council has continued to press for improvements in the social allowance levels of support, in policy matters and in the administration of the present system.

## The Food Bank Convention

At the request of the Edmonton Food Bank, Canada's oldest food bank, the Council helped to organize the first national convention of such organizations. Approximately sixty participants attended the three day event, including representatives from France and the United States, at which major policy and service delivery issues were fully explored.

## First Reading

With the addition of a new editor to the staff of the Council the organization's bi-monthly publication, "First Reading", has continued to make substantial improvements in both content and appearance. The various issues of "First Reading" have addressed such topical issues as daycare policy, unemployment, the provincial government's economic strategies, the last federal budget, welfare rights and children's poverty. The Publication Distribution Service made its first appearance in First Reading during 1985. Along with the Council's own publications the service made available to members and supporters important national publications on social issues published by the Canadian Council on Social Development and the National Council of Welfare.

## Suicide Prevention Workshops

Working within the guidelines provided by the province wide Suicide Prevention Training Project the Council helped co-ordinate a series of two day suicide prevention workshops in Edmonton during 1985. In all 130 participants, representing a wide range of human service agencies in the city, were involved in the workshops. As a result of the work carried out by the Council on the issue of suicide prevention a contract was signed with the Department of Social Services and Community Health to assist in the design and curriculum development of suicide prevention training for all child welfare staff.

## City of Lloydminster Social Services Inventory

Following the acceptance of a contract with the City of Lloydminster the Council undertook to prepare a detailed inventory of existing human services available in the city. The study also examined service provider's perceptions of existing gaps in service and of potential needs in the future. Recommendations were made in a presentation to the Lloydminster City Council for inclusion in the city's new general plan.

## Youth Innovations and Initiatives Project

In conjunction with International Youth Year, the Edmonton Social Planning Council undertook the western Canadian portion of a national Secretary of State study. The project identified and documented over 100 innovative youth initiated projects with the aim of compiling a national inventory of such projects to share ideas and information among Canadian youth. The study identified facilitators and retardants to successful projects and yielded policy recommendations for the enhancement of youth initiatives in western Canada.

## Daycare and Out of School Care

The Council continued its involvement in child care issues in 1985, providing support to the newly-formed Edmonton Coalition for Quality Child Care and participating actively in the Emergency Ad Hoc Committee for Out-of-School Care. A brief on out-of-school care was submitted by the Council to Alberta Social Services and Community Health. As well, a series of public meetings on child care, organized by the City of Edmonton, was chaired by Council staff.

## 'Brown Bag' Lunchtime Forums

During 1985 the Program Committee continued to provide a spring and fall series of monthly lunchtime forums. Guest speakers led discussions on such social issues as family violence, feeding Edmonton's hungry, the principle of universality and the federal budget, the new Young Offenders Act, the future role of social action, the aspirations and expectations of Canada's youth, pornography and social policy and the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

## Inter-Agency Coordination

As an organization known for its concerns for community issues and its experience in planning, the Council's assistance was frequently called upon during 1985. In particular the Council has been actively assisting the work of the Edmonton Youth Services Cooperative, which was established in order to improve the availability of services to street involved youth. Along with the Council's continuing involvement with daycare, assistance was also provided to a Coordinating Committee for Parenting Agencies. As well the Council continued to take a leadership role in organizing a number of agency 'study groups' discussions on such issues as the Canada Assistance Plan and the Established Programs Financing Act, responsible for federal funding of health and post secondary education.

## Training and Consultation

Requests from social service agencies and community groups for assistance with planning workshops, problem solving, clarifying board and staff roles and responsibilities, establishing self help groups, conducting self evaluations of agency programs, public relations and advocacy continued to be met by the staff of the Council during 1985. As well the Council received a constant flow of inquiries for a correct information on social trends in the community.