

# Annual Report

**Heather Konrad**  
President

The Edmonton Social Planning Council has had a successful year. Our Executive Director Jonathan Murphy and staff members have been working very hard on projects that are making a difference in our community. Through these projects we have sought to facilitate change and make a difference to those who most need it. A couple of examples are the establishment of the prostitute resource centre in the inner city and addressing the needs of children through the Children and Families initiative.

One of the goals of this organization for the past few years has been to raise the profile of the Council and let the community know who we are and what we stand for. Progress has been made toward that end in the past year. Our profile in the media has increased and our membership is up. I believe more Edmontonians are aware of our presence.

Another issue the Council has addressed is our future financial stability. While the Council is in very good financial health now, to ensure that continues, we have effected an organizational change which we hope will allow us to address the needs of the community while safeguarding the financial health of the organization.

The Board has had some vital discussions this year. Our attention has been centred around the reality in the 1990s that governments are focused on deficit and ultimately debt reduction. The effects on the poor and disadvantaged must be addressed. Although I am leaving the Board this year I hope the new Board will continue to consider and meet these challenges.

Finally, I wish to thank the Council staff and Board for their hard work over the past year. I leave the Board with the knowledge that the commitment and work continue.

**Jonathan Murphy**  
Executive Director

The Canadian welfare state has been limping along for years, suffering from both intellectual and financial malnutrition. We have forgotten why many of the elements of the safety net were developed, their continued existence dependent largely on the power of bureaucratic self-preservation. Governments already unsympathetic to the social agenda are only too happy for the chance to leach the lifeblood from programs through continual benefit cuts and tightening of program eligibility criteria.

During 1993, the long slow decay came to an end. Alberta's government felt sufficiently emboldened by its election victory to impose spending cuts which will leave this province with much less generous social and health programs. The new government in Ottawa followed suit with reform plans, although its direction contrasts to Alberta's in emphasizing social goals as well as deficit reduction.

In this era of rapid change, our organization has taken the lead. Our independence from provincial government funding allowed us to speak openly of the damage being caused by arbitrary cuts to income support programs and to helping agencies. Through our co-ordination of the Children and Families Initiative, we have consulted widely on ways to improve the social safety net. We have used information from the community consultations and from the Initiative partners in proposing modernized income security and child welfare services to the federal and provincial governments.

The Council's regular work continues apace. Program and agency evaluations, research contracts, publications, and public events allowed us to expand the profile and reach of our organization into ever more diverse sectors. Since 1990, the Council's revenues have grown 82 per cent entirely as result of growth in projects. Recognizing this growth, the Board launched an organizational review during 1993 which led to restructuring of our core staffing to create a new position responsible for securing and managing Council contract work. With these changes in hand, the Council is well placed to further expand our work in fulfillment of our mission of social justice.

# Highlights 1993

**Child Poverty:** The Council is an active participant in the Children and Families Initiative which was developed to raise awareness and promote long term change for Edmonton children living in poverty. Our office plays a coordinating role in the initiative which is now involved in the redesign of child welfare services, the call for a national annual income program and the support of many innovative community programs in our city. The *Other Child Welfare Manual* was published in 1993—to guide teens through the Child Welfare System (Wild Rose Foundation and Children's Advocate—funders). We also continue to be active with the Child Poverty Action Group in the city.

**Prostitution:** A study of *Street Prostitution in Edmonton* was completed with a recommendation to develop a local resource centre for prostitutes. A proposal was put forward to Health and Welfare Canada and funding was subsequently awarded to start the resource centre—a coordinator has since been hired.

**Inner City Work:** Research was well underway for the Helping Inner City Families Conquer Substance Abuse project, when the Alberta Family Life and Substance Abuse Foundation (the project funders) was eliminated by the government. We were forced to stop research early in 1994. On behalf of the Inner City Violent Crime Task Force, the Council submitted a proposal to Justice Canada to begin an Aboriginal Community Demonstration Project which would be aimed at reducing crime and recidivism. This project has since got the go-ahead. The Council also submitted an application to do a national study of inner city seniors which would be followed up by a national conference. A feasibility study was conducted for developing a city core small business development centre and the Council is still seeking funds to set it up.

**Welfare Advocacy:** We received a lot of attention as we embarked on a court challenge against the Alberta government for failing to provide the necessities of life to people on the Supports For Independence (SFI) program. We continue to support individual clients in their dealings with the department and we also continue to work with ISAC (Income Security Action Group) and the Client Advisory Committee. We published and distributed *The Other Welfare Manual* in 1993 (The Muttart Foundation and Clifford E. Lee Foundation—funders). It didn't take long to run out of copies as frustrated clients and advocates struggled with all the government's changes to the SFI program. We also helped to put on the Food Fight conference on food security which proved to be very successful.

**Multiculturalism:** The Council is participating in the Challenge to Change project which was initiated through the United Way. The project is challenging us to do some internal analysis of our policies at the Council in order to become more responsive and reflective of the city's multicultural communities. The workplace multicultural training manual *People, Jobs and the Changing Workplace* is expected out in early 1994. We continued to be involved in the planning of the annual Race Relations Resource Fair and March 21 projects for the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. We coordinated the formation of the Intercultural and Race Relations Committee of North East Edmonton. We helped organize a rally in February for Human Rights. We also participated in a forum for Vision TV which focused on Human Rights in Alberta—it aired in October. Our own show—*Socially Speaking* also addressed the problem of racism in its last program which aired in May of 1993.

**Evaluations:** We completed an evaluation of the Health for Two program which is coordinated through the Edmonton Board of Health. We also provided the Edmonton Board of Health with a *Goal Implementation Report* to help with their Healthy Edmonton 2000 project. We completed an evaluation of the Life Choices program for the Big Sisters and Big Brothers Society of Edmonton. We began work on an evaluation of the Board Development Program offered through Alberta Community Development.

**Other Projects:** The ESPC took on the sponsorship role of Nobody's Perfect—Alberta. This involves support for the Nobody's Perfect programs which are operating across Alberta. Nobody's Perfect is a self-help parenting program which provides the opportunity for young parents who have children aged zero to five to build or enhance their skills. The Council has also put in a proposal to publish a *Tenants' Rights Manual* which would outline important changes in provincial legislation.

**Publications:** 1993 was a busy year for publications—both *The Other Welfare Manual* and *The Other Child Welfare Manual* were released. The Council adopted a new logo and corporate image which we feel is more reflective of the times. Our regular magazine *First Reading* was also redesigned in 1993 to give it a sharper look. Five issues were published: *Behind the Bars* (on the criminal justice system); *Lessons in Learning* (on education); *Wasted Lives* (on substance abuse); *Health Cuts*; and *Empty Stockings* (on cuts to social programs). We also produced two *Alberta Facts* sheets: *Poverty in our Province* and *In Justice to Women* (on the justice system). The *Alberta Facts* publication has since been re-formatted to match the look of *First Reading*. The 1993 issue of *Tracking the Trends* was published with a special focus on Aboriginal people in Edmonton.

**Public Events:** We organized a conference for Edmonton agencies interested in meeting the funding challenges of the 1990s. The forum centred around the pressure for agency mergers, public skepticism of the effectiveness of social programs and limited resources. We produced four television programs for Edmonton cable television. The shows were called *Socially Speaking* and each focused on an issue relevant to our community: the first dealt with prostitution in the inner city; the second was on community planning; the third focused on the criminal justice system and the last on racism. All the programs were live phone-in shows with panelists from the community and our own ESPC host. We also put on a brown bag forum on Women's Day with Linda Hughes, publisher of the *Edmonton Journal* as our guest speaker. We hosted two Politicians' Breakfasts in 1993: one with the Edmonton area provincial election candidates and the second with the Edmonton area federal election candidates.

## Board of Directors

**President**  
**Vice President**

Heather Konrad  
Jackie Fiala  
David Hewitt  
Hubert Kammerer

**Members**

Richard Arcand  
Stephen Crocker  
Papiya Das  
Kevin Feehan  
Lois Gander  
Rick Guthrie •  
Maggie Hodgson •  
Nancy Kotani  
Noreen Marshall •  
David Schneiderman  
Shirley Serviss  
Bernd Walter

• Resigned during the year

## Staff

**Executive Director**  
**Social Planners**

Jonathan Murphy  
Alison MacDonald  
Pearl Bennett  
Ivone Martins

**Publications Editor**  
**Executive Assistant**  
**Office Assistants**

Anne Fitzpatrick  
Dana Diamond  
Sheila Kushniruk  
Alison Roppel  
Bola Fadeyi  
Marie Krosova

**Project Staff**

Rita Egan  
Louise McRee  
Carlos Pilquill ••  
Cindy Bleiler ••  
Sarana Dion ••  
Lori Ford •

**Summer Staff**

Sandra Head •  
Lesli Thompson  
Rick Maher

**Practicum Students**

Jennie Promislow  
Michael Hoyt  
Bill Burrows

• Resigned during the year  
•• Project completed

## Statement of Revenue and Expenditures (Year ended Dec. 31, 1993)

|                                     | <u>1993</u><br>(Budget) | <u>1993</u><br>(Actual) | <u>1992</u><br>(Actual) |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Revenue</b>                      |                         |                         |                         |
| United Way allocation               | 181,649                 | 182,308                 | 182,295                 |
| Project revenues                    | 154,930                 | 286,123                 | 218,882                 |
| Government grants                   |                         |                         |                         |
| City of Edmonton                    | 20,000                  | 21,000                  | 20,000                  |
| Federal Government                  | 15,000                  | 10,345                  | 12,746                  |
| Provincial Government               | -                       | 552                     | 429                     |
| Casino                              | 27,500                  | 36,848                  | 34,820                  |
| Other receipts                      | 31,831                  | 41,967                  | 28,907                  |
| 50th Anniversary                    | -                       | -                       | 23                      |
|                                     | <u>430,910</u>          | <u>579,143</u>          | <u>498,102</u>          |
| <b>Expenditures</b>                 |                         |                         |                         |
| Salaries and benefits               | 264,177                 | 250,052                 | 262,756                 |
| Project expenses                    | 78,370                  | 216,829                 | 145,855                 |
| Office expenses                     | 28,260                  | 46,785                  | 26,888                  |
| Building occupancy                  | 26,316                  | 23,049                  | 24,441                  |
| First Reading                       | 9,050                   | 10,325                  | 12,870                  |
| Professional fees                   | 8,710                   | 7,939                   | 8,869                   |
| Meetings                            | 3,500                   | 5,926                   | 4,053                   |
| Agency publications                 | -                       | 2,835                   | 8                       |
| Miscellaneous                       | -                       | 2,800                   | 469                     |
| Promotion and publicity             | 2,500                   | 2,257                   | 1,140                   |
| Professional services               | 2,762                   | 1,705                   | 55                      |
| Recruitment and education           | 2,000                   | 1,497                   | 2,715                   |
| Insurance                           | 1,500                   | 1,476                   | 1,462                   |
| Transportation                      | 1,115                   | 1,439                   | 1,079                   |
| Library                             | 1,000                   | 1,317                   | 901                     |
| Alberta and Edmonton Facts booklet  | 1,650                   | 1,052                   | 1,575                   |
| Bad debts                           | -                       | -                       | 451                     |
|                                     | <u>430,910</u>          | <u>577,283</u>          | <u>495,587</u>          |
| Excess of Revenue Over Expenditures | <u>\$ -</u>             | <u>\$ 1,860</u>         | <u>\$ 2,515</u>         |

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## Statement of Members' Equity (Year Ended Dec. 31, 1993)

|   | <u>1993</u>      | <u>1992</u>      |
|---|------------------|------------------|
| <b>Equity in Capital Assets</b>         |                  |                  |
| Balance, beginning of the year          | 51,502           | 50,375           |
| Capital asset additions during the year | 11,029           | 1,127            |
| Balance, end of the year                | <u>\$ 62,531</u> | <u>\$ 51,502</u> |
| <b>Unappropriated Funds</b>             |                  |                  |
| Balance, beginning of the year          | 18,124           | 15,609           |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures     | 1,860            | 2,515            |
| Balance, end of the year                | <u>\$ 19,984</u> | <u>\$ 18,124</u> |

The Edmonton Social  
Planning Council is a  
member of the



**United Way**  
Alberta Capital Region

### Notes on financial statements:

The statement of revenue and expenditures and the statement of members' equity have been extracted from the December 31, 1993 financial statements as audited by Bruha, Whelan and Hawkings. The financial statements are available from the Council office.