

espc

## **Community Partners**

The ESPC continues to work to support other agencies and organizations in Edmonton. In 2002 the ESPC provided ongoing support to Poverty In Action, Alberta Quality of Life Commission, Northern Alberta Alliance on Race Relations (NAARR) and Alberta Community Crime Prevention Association (AACPA). ESPC support ranges from administrative assistance to coordination and management support.

2003 will see the ESPC looking to solidify new partners and reinvest in old relationships

## **Tap In**

Tap In facilitates skills development for the staff, clients and volunteers of non-profit agencies by matching learners to surplus training opportunities in local post secondary institutions. These professional development opportunities are offered at little or no cost in order to enhance skills and develop the labour force.

This program also provides an opportunity for training institutions to invest in community capacity building, promote their programs to a new market and fully utilize training spaces. The goal of the program is to promote the concept of life long learning to adult students in Edmonton's non-profit sector.

Currently two local education institutions have joined the Tap In project. Grant McEwan Community College and NAIT have offered to provide training seats to Tap In participants. Last year saw an agreement reached with GMCC through both the Business Sector Program and the Computer Centre. In 2003 classes are also being offered through the Voluntary Sector Management Program. NAIT will also offer courses in 2003 to Tap In participants.

## **Nobody's Perfect**

In 2002 the Nobody's Perfect program continued to be coordinated by the ESPC. The project has a strong Steering Committee and continues to be one of the most widely used parent education programs in Alberta. ESPC distributed newsletters, maintains a database and coordinates facilitator training.

In 2003 the funder, Health Canada has decided to terminate the coordinating role that has existed for the program. As of April 2003 Nobody's Perfect is run by a voluntary group of Steering Committee members.



### **Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities**

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg administers the Centre of Excellence (COE) project. It is comprised of six satellite sites across the Prairies. The focus of the project is to identify both the challenges and opportunities urban prairie communities face in supporting the healthy development of their children and youth. This project has a specific goal of identifying these issues in relation to Aboriginal communities. ESPC provides the coordination and administration for the Edmonton network. In 2002 a great deal of work was done to develop a comprehensive community network that included Aboriginal groups. With the assistance of two Aboriginal students and the guidance of our community networks a research project was chosen for Phase Two of the COE project.

Research will be done in 2003 to examine the effectiveness of parenting programs in the Edmonton region.

### **Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice**

The Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice (ECEJ) is a community based pro bono legal clinic that assists clients in the area of civil and administrative law. The goal of the clinic is to provide legal assistance, representation, information and referral to people living with low incomes who would otherwise not have access to such services. The clinic was built with the investment of many community stakeholders and opened its doors in January of 2002; in the first year of operations the Centre provided advice to over 500 clients. ECEJ provided services in the areas of Landlord and Tenant, income security, human rights, debtor/creditor and immigration issues.

In 2003 the team of staff will grow to include a legal assistant and an outreach worker. We believe these services will be a positive addition to the services offered by ECEJ to the Edmonton Community.

### **Alberta Consortium for Health Promotion Research and Education**

The Edmonton Social Planning Council continues to play a coordination role with the Alberta Consortium. Consortium members include the Centre for Health Promotion Studies at the University of Alberta, the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Calgary, Nechi Institute, the Alberta Centre for Active Living, the David Thompson Health Region and the Chinook Health Region. Health Canada provides advisory support. In 2002 the Consortium developed a written submission to the Romanow Commission on the Future of Health Care in Canada, and was invited to present the health promotion perspective in a small group discussion that took place when the Romanow Commission conducted hearings in Edmonton.



### **Food Bank Study**

In the fall of 2002 the Edmonton Food Bank and ESPC once again formed a partnership to study Food Bank usage and the reasons why there is increased frequency of usage by some recipients. Additionally, the Food Bank hopes to identify some of the attitudinal and systemic reasons that usage is high for those individuals. The study will include focus groups and one-on-one surveys over the late spring of 2003. It is expected the survey results will be completed by summer of 2003.

This is the fourth time the Food Bank and the ESPC have worked to examine why people access food from the Food Bank. Previous to this work the Food Bank and ESPC co-produced the documents *Two Paycheques Away, A Return Look at Two Paycheques Away* and *Often Hungry, Sometimes Homeless*.

### **Laidlaw Foundation**

In September of 2002 ESPC was asked by the Laidlaw Foundation to host one of ten cross-Canada community soundings. The Laidlaw Foundation is in the process of assessing the needed tools to build inclusive communities. ESPC arranged for many community stakeholders to attend the sounding and give feedback to an orchestrated process. The final report on the soundings was published in January 2003 and is available on their website. This feedback has been used to generate a proposal to the federal government for a research project.

If the project, called Cross Canada Civic Initiatives on Building Inclusive Communities is funded it will see the creation of cross Canada networks, the development of a social inclusion audit and a national conference. Additional work will be done to influence policy around including marginalized groups. ESPC has signed on as a partner in this venture.

### **Publications in 2002**

In 2002 the ESPC renewed its publication *Edmonton LIFE*, a community based quality of life indicators project. The United Way of the Edmonton Capital Region and the City of Edmonton supported this publication.

*Tracking the Trends* was reproduced in February of 2002 having been partially revised in relation to major social and economic trends, and the *Edmonton Social Health Index*. The *Cost of Healthy Living* has not been updated since the previous publication in 2000.

## FIRST TERM CANDIDATES

### Terry Anderson

Terry Anderson is a past president of the Riverdale Community League and has been active in the 8 years he has lived in Edmonton in a variety of community organizations and issues. Professionally, Terry is a Full Professor and holds the Canada Research Chair in Distance Education at Athabasca University. He teaches and consults on a variety of issues related to e-learning and is active in a number of individual and national research initiatives related to networking, educational technologies and lifelong learning. Terry is an active member of the Unitarian Church of Edmonton. Terry and his wife Susan are the parents of two University age children. He looks forward to assisting the Edmonton Planning Council in meeting its organizational and strategic goals.

### Marilyn Corbett

Now retired, Marilyn Corbett gained a great deal of experience in strategic planning and policy development during her many years as a public library director. As a public library Director reporting to a volunteer board of directors, she brings a good understanding of the role that governance boards play in an organization. Mrs. Corbett also worked for a number of years with the former provincial government department of Social Services and Community Health. This work, combined with her personal experience of a number of social and health challenges, have provided her with an understanding of the many social issues facing people in today's society. Mrs. Corbett is active in the Garneau Community League, as Secretary, Newsletter editor and member of the Garneau Traffic Planning Committee. She welcomes the opportunity to work with the Council to address the many concerns that currently have an impact on people in our community.

### Mayja Embleton

Most recently, Mayja was the Executive Director of the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, a community based entity that conducts research and creates plans to help alleviate Edmonton's homeless and housing problems. Prior to this, she was the Web Producer for TELUS' BC Community Directory, a position that allowed her to work with non-profit organizations, assisting them with their web pages and unlocking the power of the Internet. Mayja has always enjoyed working with communities, and was the first Safety Audit Coordinator for the City of Calgary. Safety Audits are a community development tool that encourage citizens to evaluate the safety of their neighbourhoods, often working with the more marginalized members of a community. Mayja has always been an advocate for fairness and equality, and was pleased to sit of the U of C's Board of Governors for two years, as the Graduate Students' Association President.

### John T. Henderson

John Henderson is a lawyer and a partner in the law firm of Fraser Milner Casgrain where he has practiced in the area of civil litigation for the last 24 years. He is currently a member of the Finance Committee of the Law Society of Alberta and is a "Mentor" in the Law Soci-

ety Mentor Program. He has been a lecturer for the Legal Education Society of Alberta and the Canadian Bar Association and has also been a guest lecturer in Advocacy at the University of Alberta Law School. John has been involved in a number of community organizations and has been active in the United Way, most recently as the Co-coordinator for the Legal Section of the United Way campaign for 2002 and 2003. John is also serves as a volunteer at the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice.

### Cindy Olsen

Cindy brings a wealth of knowledge and experience to the Board of ESPC. She graduated from the U of A in 1973, and worked for 10 years as a social worker in the young offenders unit. She then "retired" to raise her family, and has since been extremely active in the community. She worked with the community league, serving as president for a number of years, and spearheaded the drive to complete the Capilano Freeway. Cindy also ran for alderman. She developed a Junior Forest Wardens Club, has been involved in parent advisory groups, and with various health related boards and was awarded a medal by the federal government for her contribution and community involvement. Cindy was a co-founder of a small aboriginal not-for-profit organization, which she operated successfully as the Executive Director until the society was dissolved in June 2002, when the program was brought into the separate school system. Cindy is currently a volunteer with the Board Development Program. She returned to school in September 2002 and will graduate from the Voluntary Sector Management Program, with a major in fundraising.

### Wilson (Wil) Porat

Born on a farm in Saskatchewan, Wil has served as a developer of persons and communities. A broad range of involvement in community activities as well as operating several businesses is part of his CV. Wil's formal education is in theology and psychology. He has extensive experience in board governance, having served as Co-Chair of Hearthstone Child and Family Services Authority 1998-2003, Chair of a Regional mental Health Advisory Committee and Community Advisory Committee 1992-1999 and as Chair of the South Alberta Church Workers Conference for two terms. Wil was also a board member and the Chair of the Innisfail health Care Centre, 1992-1995. Experience with FCSS included being a board member of the Bowden and Didsbury, Alberta FCSS committees. In addition, Wil has experience in Conflict Management, Change and Transition Management and in community capacity building. Wil is happily married to Bonnie. They have two sons and two daughters.

### Peter Rothe

Peter Rothe is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, University of Alberta and he is the senior researcher for the Alberta Centre for Injury Control and research. He is primarily involved in social/contextual/cultural analysis of risk, injury and emergency care as they reflect community norms, belief systems and social behavior. His primary interest is with vulnerable populations and intentional violence. Peter was previously a member of the Howe Sound School Board in British Columbia, and research director for the Insurance Corporation of British Columbia in North Vancouver.

Andrea Spevak

Andrea is currently completing her masters degree in Educational Policy Studies at the U of A. For her thesis research, Andrea is investigating how a violence prevention program, the Safe and Caring Schools Project, is working at one school in Edmonton. She is also on contract with the Project to conduct similar research at other schools. In the past, Andrea worked with the Alberta Metis Settlements where she compiled socio-demographic data and conducted youth surveys to guide the development of community programs. She has taught English overseas, as well as locally, at the Centre for Immigrant Women, where she still volunteers. She was also an instructor at the Goodwill Community Training Centre, where she helped adults with disabilities prepare for employment and independent living.

Jenny Wong

Jenny Wong is a native Edmontonian who grew up in a diverse, multicultural downtown neighbourhood between Chinatown and Little Italy. She has a Bachelor of Commerce in marketing from the University of Alberta and a Public Relations Diploma from Grant MacEwan College. At present, she is the Marketing/Communications Coordinator for the Alberta Centre for Injury Control & Research at the University of Alberta. Having worked with organizations such as the Edmonton Heritage Festival Association and the Alberta Tobacco Reduction Alliance, Jenny has shown a strong interest in improving the well being and livelihood of her fellow Edmontonians. Over the years, she has volunteered at The Works art festival, the Edmonton Art Gallery and the Citadel Theatre. As an Interim Board Member for the Edmonton Social Planning Council this past term, she has gained deeper insight into social justice issues and programs and looks forward to her involvement in the Council's future endeavors.

## CONTINUING BOARD MEMBERS

Wanda Dennelly

Wanda has an intense interest in poverty issues and assisting people who are marginalized. She has worked with organizations such as the Alberta Association for Community Living, Provincial Health Ethics Network and the Lakeland Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Centre. Currently, Wanda is the Director of Public Relations and Social Action with the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

Marcel Labbe

Marcel Labbe is a life long resident of Edmonton and has sat as a board member of the ESPC since April/02. Marcel's vision is to assist and provide dignity for people in need. He brings a message about creating social change through awareness and education of individuals and governments in a proactive and effective manner. He currently works for the City of Edmonton and sits on the Private Colleges Accreditation Board and has in the past served on the board for Concordia University College, as well as ACTISEC (a provincial education based lobby and advocacy group).

Bryan Sandilands

Bryan currently holds a position with the Clinical Islet Transplant Program, where work on the Edmonton Protocol continues for Canadians with Type 1 Diabetes. His focus is on psychosocial intervention and investigation of peer/patient mentorships. He currently hosts "Coping and Hoping", an internet program on [www.diabetesstation.com](http://www.diabetesstation.com), where he provides assistance and advice on issues related to Juvenile Diabetes and Transplantation. Previously with the Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, Bryan has collaborated with local, provincial and national disability organizations, creating the foundation for Alberta's Disability Strategy - a framework for policy development, advocacy and evaluation. This opportunity stemmed from years of work in community mental health and Edmonton's inner city community. Bryan is a graduate of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary with training in the fields of neuropsychology and social work.

Sarah Wall

Sarah has worked in the health care sector for many years and has a special interest in the social determinants of health. Her background is in nursing, although she has held administrative positions for a few years and is currently working in clinical program development and planning. She has volunteered with local initiatives and has contributed to the work of international relief agencies.



## Wanda Dannelly —President

From time to time, all organizations face periods of transition and change. The Edmonton Social Planning Council experienced several challenges in 2002 that resulted in such a transitional period. We dealt with human resource, project development, and funding issues.

Activity in the first quarter was fairly typical—recruitment of new Board members, on-going project development, seeking of grants and report writing. The second quarter began with strategic planning (Board and staff) with the assistance of Peter Faid. However, in July, recruitment for key staff positions became a high priority as the Executive Director had resigned and the Staff Lawyer for ECEJ had left the organization. We were successful in recruiting a new Executive Director, Nicola Fairbrother, who started work on September 30, 2003, and a new Staff Lawyer, Andrew Bachelder, who started on September 5, 2003. A panel of staff and Board members participated in the hiring process.

I served as interim Executive Director in a volunteer capacity from July until the end of September while the recruitment process for a new Executive Director took place. During this period, an important job for me was meeting with ESPC and ECEJ funders to provide information and to ensure their cooperation and support. I'd like to thank the United Way for the encouragement and assistance.

Recruitment of board members also became a high priority. Over the summer three Board members resigned because of differences of opinion as to Board direction, and two others indicated that they were not available to serve beyond the year. We were successful in recruiting two new Board members, John Henderson and Jenny Wong. In the process we reviewed our bylaws because we wanted to ensure that the Board was acting in a manner consistent with the Bylaws. In order to ensure that the existing elected Board members continued to be empowered to act on behalf of the organization until the next Annual Meeting, we determined that a Bylaw change was needed. You will see this in your agenda package. Joan Welch served as President from May to July 2002 but asked to be replaced due to personal and business reasons. I was elected President in July, and Joan continued to serve both as a Board and Executive Committee member.

The Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice experienced some growing pains in its first year of operation. In July, John Henderson, a lawyer with Fraser Milner Casgrain, stepped in to ensure the project continued to function while we sought a new staff lawyer. The Law Society of Alberta and the Alberta Law Foundation were also very supportive during this time, and we are very appreciative of their assistance. The staff of the ECEJ were also commended for their unwavering support and dedication to the people served by the ECEJ and for working closely with the Board to ensure the project's success.

With a full complement of staff once again, the Board could turn its attention to the work of governance. In November we participated in a board development workshop with Alberta Community Development. We examined our governance model and roles within the model; brainstormed ideas for the future; set short and long term



priorities; and began to revise policies, procedures and practices as required. Work also began again on the strategic planning process.

This is an overview of a year that was both challenging and exciting. When faced with problems, the staff and Board members pulled together to ensure whatever needed to be done was attended to for the good of the organization. In the end, I believe we are much stronger and more focused than ever before. I would like to acknowledge the effort and commitment of the ESPC staff. The staff, more than anyone, have been impacted by all of the challenges and changes in the past year. It takes a great deal of integrity and commitment to continue to work in the face of uncertainty. We are privileged to have such dedicated people to work with.

## Statement of Operations (Year Ended Dec. 31, 2002)

	2002 (Budget)	2002 (Actual)	2001 (Actual)
<b>Revenue</b>			
Foundations grants	\$236,085	\$294,576	\$185,646
United Way	180,000	192,291	197,767
Government of Canada	114,712	56,355	118,699
Government of Alberta	41,000	28,161	24,000
City of Edmonton	17,000	14,516	49,000
Other	10,600	9,043	14,712
Publications revenue	7,600	5,820	8,722
Donations	850	4,224	43,979
Memberships	800	2,655	1,440
Capital contributions recognized	-	4,574	7,456
Revenue recognized (deferred)	<u>183,498</u>	<u>31,450</u>	<u>(97,500)</u>
	<b>792,145</b>	<b>643,665</b>	<b>553,921</b>
<b>Expenses</b>			
Salaries and benefits	\$423,788	\$405,899	\$277,842
Office expense	80,485	63,501	69,315
Building Occupancy	53,170	56,792	41,220
Professional fees	12,000	17,187	14,923
Consulting and honoraria	38,800	12,236	32,561
Transportation	16,614	10,291	30,045
Meetings and volunteer appreciation	7,560	9,450	14,594
Research	-	8,462	221
Recruitment and Education	2,400	5,158	2,406
Miscellaneous	53,221	3,076	4,700
Insurance	6,100	2,631	2,171
Resources and project expenses	62,057	1,972	7,203
Loss on disposal of assets	-	4,682	21,374
Amortization	<u>24,942</u>	<u>28,534</u>	<u>14,369</u>
	<b>781,137</b>	<b>629,871</b>	<b>532,944</b>
<b>Excess of Revenue Over Expenses</b>	<b><u>\$11,008</u></b>	<b><u>\$13,794</u></b>	<b><u>\$20,977</u></b>

**Statement of Net Assets (Year Ended Dec. 31, 2002)**

	<u>Invested in Capital Assets</u>	<u>Unrestricted Surplus</u>	<u>Total</u>
Balance (Deficit), Beginning of year	\$60,333	13,713	74,046
Excess of revenue over expenses	-	13,794	13,794
Amortization of capital assets	(28,534)	28,534	-
Purchase of capital assets	43,698	(43,698)	-
Disposal of capital assets	<u>(4,682)</u>	<u>4,682</u>	<u>-</u>
Balance, End of Year	<u>\$70,815</u>	<u>\$17,025</u>	<u>\$87,840</u>

The full financial statements are available from the Council office.

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- 1939 • A survey of needs finds that public interest in social services has increased. **The Council of Social Agencies** is formed with four divisions: Family, Children, Health and Group Work.
- 1941 • A resolution is passed, authorizing the Council to develop a constitution and elect a volunteer board for a community chest.
- 1943 • A report on child welfare made to the government recommends that a survey of services be performed. When the government declines, the Council's Child and Family division undertakes the Whitton Study with the Canada Welfare Council. The results of the survey reveal adoption practices that horrify the public.
- 1944 • The Council begins to add research studies to the major services it offers.
- 1948 • The Council helps to form the John Howard Society.

In the 1950s, focusing on public education, the Council publishes a regular newsletter and becomes the central organization for resolving social crises, bringing diverse interest groups together and playing a liaison role between government and voluntary forces. The Council commits itself to being a voice for and with the whole community.

- 1951 • Name changes to **Edmonton Council of Community Services**.
- 1953 • The Council and Community Chest are combined.
- 1954 • Work around mental health brings about the Edmonton Mental Health Association.
  - Brief on Foster Care; study on aging; directory of services for the elderly.
- 1956 • Addition of Youth Division; three fall institutes on social welfare issues.
- 1958 • Standing Committee on rehabilitation does extensive research on services, voting rights, employment and vocational training of the physically and mentally disabled.
- 1959 • Recommendation that government set up a Welfare Information and Referral Service. (1960)

In the 1960s, the voices of the Council become more identified with the disadvantaged: the Boyle Street population, Aboriginal people, females and youth. A community development worker is hired by the Council. Physical planning issues such as urban renewal, parks planning and co-op housing become a focus, as well as unemployment.

- 1960 • The Council develops a position to retain a separate identification as a social planning body with its own board and budget, but maintain a close working relationship with the United Community Fund (formerly the Community Chest; later to become the United Way in 1973), with whom it can interchange board members.
- 1960 • Major study of juvenile court; study of services for youth in northeast area.
- 1963 • Name changes to **Edmonton Welfare Council**.
- 1964 • A Council study affirms need for central and suburban area child care after the Creche, a child care place for indigent women, folds. As a result, the City provides preventive social service funding for day care services in Edmonton.
- 1964 • The Council helps to develop the first Head Start program in the Norwood area.
- 1967 • Name changes to **Edmonton Social Planning Council**.

- 1968 • Helps teens lobby for teen centre; publishes Blue Book of legal rights addressing transient youth. This handbook is criticized as being "subversive."
- Works with Indian and Metis organizations around foster care and adoptive homes.
  - Helps set up women's overnight shelter (now WIN House), with YMCA.

**From 1968 to 1972**, the Council aids in the development of the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired, Humans on Welfare Society, Disabled Action Group, Boyle Street Community Services Co-op. The Council's constitution is rewritten in 1972 and directions change. The result is a strong orientation toward urban issues and a research approach to social action and social change. Four citizen commissions are set up: 1) participatory democracy; 2) decent standard of living 3) human social controls; 4) human urban environment.

- 1971 • "West 10," a community service centre project is started, ending three years later with the publication of *Rape of the Block*—a lay person's guide to neighbourhood defence.
- 1972 • *Decent Standard of Living*, the first major Council document on poverty and social assistance, is published after the Progressive Conservative government is elected.
- *Alternatives to Poverty and Welfare in Alberta* is published, recommending a guaranteed annual income with work incentives. It becomes the basis for much of the Council's work.
- 1973 • Urban Gladiators—a group operating at the centre of the information network in ESPC and the University, decide the only way to have success in achieving their vision of the City was to run for City Council. The United Community Fund changes its name to the United Way.
- 1974 • The United Way undertakes a study of ESPC recommending a return to a traditional board structure. The Council makes consultation with neighbourhood and women's groups their priority.
- 1975 • Works with women's groups to begin Edmonton Rape Crisis Centre (Sexual Assault Centre); sets up workshops with Catalyst Theatre on issues of women and rape. Assists the City Planning Department in providing a public awareness campaign for Neighbourhood Improvement Program (NIP).
- 1977 • Training volunteers as para-professional community workers becomes part of the Council's work.

**In the 1980s** the ESPC changes from a predominantly community neighbourhood development agency to one concerned with broader issues of social policy. *First Reading* is published.

- 1981 • Holds major conference on social policy analysis.
- 1986 • Publishes *Unemployment—Reaping the Costs*, reporting on lost revenue through lost wages and the increase in stress-related illness, suicide and child abuse incidence.
- 1987 • Organizes live, phone-in discussions with seniors on local cable channel.
- Helps form the Edmonton Coalition for Quality Child Care.
- 1989 • The Council coordinates *Tracking the Trends* (to 1995) a publication highlighting the trends in human services in Edmonton and area.

#### **The 1990s**

The Council continues with its mandate for educating the public on issues of social justice, advocating for community well-being and supporting communities through research and coordination.

Many publications are released such as:

- ***Doing It Right (A Needs Assessment workbook)***
  - ***Family Budgeting Guide***
  - ***Get On Board (Board Development Workbook)***
  - ***Choosing Quality Childcare***
  - ***Two Paycheques Away (Food Bank Study)*** is published in 1996 with the help of Edmonton's Food Bank. This study gets national coverage and results in talks with the Minister of Family and Social Services in an effort to amend policy.
  - ***Edmonton LIFE—Local Indicators For Excellence*** report is first published in 1997. This project was coordinated by the Council and it involved the University, the business community, municipal government and the social sector in reaching a shared definition of what constitutes quality of life in Edmonton.
- In 1999, ESPC researched & developed the ***"Cost of Healthy Living"***, a guide to basic needs & their costs to Edmonton families. The guide shows that welfare can't cover the basics of a healthy life.

### The 2000s

The beginning of the decade saw the focus remain on people living with low income. In June 2000 a symposium entitled ***Healthy Incomes - Healthy Outcomes*** was held, at which the Council began to focus attention on poverty as a determinant of health.

In keeping with past history, the Council moved to fill a service gap that was identified when the Council conducted research around the legal needs of low-income Edmontonians. A great deal of energy and commitment from community partners resulted in the formation of the ***Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice***, which opened its doors to clients in January of 2002. This pro bono law clinic provides counsel to individuals needing assistance around administrative and civil law issues. In addition to providing legal assistance, the project will ultimately include outreach and education services. This work is being facilitated through the determination and assistance of various community stakeholders.

The ESPC continues to make submissions to government regarding policy and comment in the media around social issues. The Council is also working to strengthen our position by developing new partnerships around examining policy and disseminating information.

The Council continues to do research. Currently the Council houses the Centre of Excellence for Child and Youth Centred Prairie Communities, which focuses particularly on research around services for Aboriginal youth.

ESPC maintains its commitment to supporting the social service sector by coordinating the Tap In project. This project places employees, volunteers and clients of non-profit agencies into surplus training opportunities at various educational institutions at low cost, consistent with our belief that lifelong learning should be an option for everyone.



### **Edmonton LIFE: Local Indicators For Excellence—1997, 1998 & 2002**

A collaborative, ongoing project which monitors health, social, economic and environmental indicators.

### **Tracking the Trends**

A snapshot of major social and trends in Edmonton.

- Updates of the Social Health Index, Major Social & Economic Trends 2002
- Cost of Healthy Living 2000
- Mental Health 1995
- Youth 1994
- Aboriginal People 1993
- Immigrants 1991
- Families with Children 1990
- Youth and Seniors 1989

### **Edmontonfacts**

A quarterly publication which appears as an insert in *Vue Weekly*—April 1999.

- February 2000—Homelessness
- November 1999—Welfare
- July 1999—AISH
- April 1999—Hungry children

In the past, we published *Edmonton Facts* as factsheets:

- *Care for Your Community: Edmonton Social Health Index (1998)*  
The Edmonton Social Health Index includes 15 indicators that measure Edmonton's social health.
- *Poverty Trends in Edmonton: The Race to the Bottom Heats Up! (1998)*
- *Edmonton's Social Infrastructure: How much cutting can it take? (1996)*
- *Human Rights in Edmonton: A Report Card (1992)*
- *Edmonton's Native People: Surviving a Racist Society (1991)*

### **A Review of the Government Sanctioned Coopers-Lybrand Study-State of the Child Welfare Program**

Alberta Family and Social Services (AFSS) commissioned Coopers-Lybrand to conduct a \$90,000 high-level review of the Child Welfare Program. We reviewed the study and found evidence the department is not moving in the right direction.

### **Often Hungry, Sometimes Homeless—September 1999**

The third in a series of food bank studies. The project was a follow-up to the 1998 food bank study, *A Return Look at Two Paycheques Away: Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton* and the 1996 food bank study, *Two Paycheques Away: Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton*.

***The Redesign of Child and Family Services—A Frontline Perspective***—April 1998

We sent over 1,000 surveys to people working with, or concerned with, the well-being of children (and families). We received 240 completed surveys and published the results.

***A Return Look at Two Paycheques Away: Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton***— January 1998

An updated Food Bank study based on over 200 interviews with families using the Edmonton Food Bank.

***Beyond Economic Growth: Building Healthy Alberta Communities***—September 1997

Final report of the Beyond Economic Growth: Building Healthy Alberta Communities conference co-hosted by the Edmonton Social Planning Council and Citizens for Public Justice.

***Two Paycheques Away: Social Policy and Hunger in Edmonton***—December 1996

Report resulting from face-to-face surveys with 816 food bank users. *Two Paycheques Away* looked at: who are food bank recipients; why do they need to use the food bank; why is food bank demand increasing and what role does government policy play in the increasing levels of food bank need?

***The Other Welfare Manual***— November 1994

A Survival Guide to Supports for Independence

***The Other Child Welfare Manual***— January 1994

A Teenager's Guide to Child Welfare in Alberta

***Doing It Right!***— 1993

This easy-to-use publication provides a clear understanding of what a needs assessment is, why one should be done and how to get started. It includes five worksheets and additional references.

***Choosing Quality Childcare: A Guide for Newcomers***— 1993

Booklets and videos in English, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish.

**Mildon, Marsha. *A Wealth of Voices*: 1990**

A history of the Edmonton Social Planning Council.



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***Choosing Quality Childcare: A Guide for Newcomers***— 1993

Booklets and videos in English, Vietnamese, Chinese and Spanish.

**Mildon, Marsha. *A Wealth of Voices*: 1990**

A history of the Edmonton Social Planning Council.

## **Community Consultation**

The Council's focus has always been to identify how we can assist in creating positive change for people who live in Edmonton. The ESPC is at a place it has been before in its 63-year history. The role of the Council has changed with the growth and development of the community. In the winter of 2002 a decision was made to host a series of consultations with community stakeholders to hear input on how we might move forward in the next few years. The consultations will ensure that when the Board develops the ESPC business plan we will do so with a clear understanding of the community's perspective.

We feel it is important for the Council to stay in touch with the changing priorities of the social service sector and the needs of Edmonton's most disadvantaged citizens. The Community Consultation is an effort on our part to refocus our efforts and to determine what is the most effective work we could do to benefit the sector and the citizens of Edmonton. We recognise that we need to be diligent in identifying new partners and in maintaining the existing partnerships that have accomplished so much in the past.

The first of the consultations will be held in May and follow up interviews will be held with selected individuals who were unable to attend. We are approaching the Aboriginal community to seek assistance and guidance in a separate consultation. The focus group and interview feedback will be used to prepare a document that reflects what we heard from all the participants; this information will be circulated to the consultation participants for final clarification. In the fall the ESPC will engage in strategic planning. This work will result in a business plan that will guide us over the next three years.

We are excited to be seeking this feedback and to be actively engaging the community around these issues. Consulting with members, individuals and organizations will improve our knowledge and capacity, highlight areas of concern about social policy in Edmonton and help us set a strategic direction. We believe that this is an opportunity to improve our contribution to the Edmonton community and to grow as an organization.