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Mission, Vision and Goals of the Edmonton Social Planning Council

- Mission** The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policy.
- Vision** A healthy, just and inclusive community.
- Goals**
- To undertake research into the nature and magnitude of social issues in the community.
 - To increase public awareness and understanding of current social issues and to exercise an independent voice in the community.
 - To encourage greater public participation in the development of social policies and in the implementation of programs.

2004 President's Report

This year the Edmonton Social Planning Council will mark its 65th Annual General Meeting of members committed to building a healthy, just and inclusive community – the same year when Alberta will commemorate its Centennial. It will be a bittersweet celebration for the ESPC, as we realize that for many Edmontonians, poverty is a sort of occupation from which one may not retire. However, we will recognize the progress made, the partnerships forged and the community supports that exist to work with individuals and families who have been excluded from the Alberta Advantage and the rest of the centennial celebrations. We hope that you will stand with us in recognizing these strengths and pay tribute to the organizations that, along with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, have been woven into Edmonton's history and remain today as part of a growing community movement – one that values people and the neighbourhoods in which we live.

Many of Edmonton's community supports institutions began with the support of the Edmonton Social Planning Council: the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice; the John Howard Society; the United Way; Head Start; WIN House; the Society for the Retired and Semi-Retired; Boyle Street Co-Op; the Edmonton Food Bank; and a host of other agencies, community boards and services. We work with these organizations today in the collective pursuit of community inclusion, access to opportunity, and equal justice for all individuals and families for whom poverty has become the number one barrier in Alberta. In this sense, a part of the Council's vision has been shared with each organization that has formed in response to a community need or gap in supports. My hope for the Edmonton Social Planning Council is that we focus on working ourselves out of jobs – and that towards this goal, we look to 2040, when the Council will celebrate its Centennial, and realize its own retirement:

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

Alberta will celebrate its 100th birthday in 2005, when the Edmonton Social Planning Council turns 65-years-old. On its 100th birthday in 2040, the ESPC will forever retire having achieved COMMUNITY INCLUSION through the following commitments:

- *individuals and families who once lived in poverty will be valued as full citizens in all aspects of Alberta society – fully participating in the social, economic and political life of Alberta communities;*
- *Albertans who once lived in poverty will receive the support they require in their quest for a standard of living and quality of life that ensures well-being, comfort and dignity;*
- *Albertans who once lived in poverty will have the rights, freedoms and responsibilities to make choices and determine their own destinies; and,*
- *Albertans who once lived in poverty will be respected partners in the process of crafting and owning the Alberta Advantage.*

Grand visions require great people and 2004 brought an extremely active board of volunteer directors to the table. A true mentor, past Executive Director and long-time friend of the ESPC, Peter Faid, advised me over a year-and-a-half ago that one of the most important responsibilities of a Chair is to ensure the stability and function of an organization so that even as the people of that organization change, "no one absence may cause the ship to sink. We are still coping with change, striving to find good fits and the last year has brought with it challenges and strains and yet this team still achieves and has accomplished a great deal. In witnessing this organizational stability, I am satisfied that the ESPC is stronger today than even three years ago.

In recognition of their efforts, I would like to take an opportunity to include some of the volunteer board members who have contributed to our success in this last year:

John Henderson is a past-Director of the ESPC, a Founding Member of the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice and current Chair of this organization – a

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

former project of the ESPC that realized its independence on January 1, 2005. Through his exhaustive volunteer efforts, John has championed the Council's vision of equal justice in the creation of the ECEJ.

Marcel Labbe is a past-Director whose involvement and creativity in planning allowed for the creation of the Sacred Heart Collective – a co-operative, of sorts, where the ESPC now calls home. This move has been essential as we work to reconnect with community neighbours and partners.

Cindy Olsen and *Normie Carlson* have provided the Council with depth, wisdom and understanding by their diverse experiences with First Nations, Metis and other Aboriginal peoples; their understanding of governance and board development; and empathy for others that both have demonstrated time and again. Their leadership has also brought to us new board members whose backgrounds reflect our value of diversity and grass roots activism.

Mayja Embleton and *Jenny Wong* have worked tirelessly this year to revise and redraft by-laws, objects and policies of the Council. This work of unsung heroes is vital and should be credited for the stability and respect for roles and responsibilities that the ESPC currently experiences. It is easy for some organizations to ignore these functions – but these two have not and the organization is better off for their efforts.

Leonel Roldan-Flores joined the board last year and immediately brought his talents for strategic planning and leadership to the table. His fresh perspectives and infectious enthusiasm have helped turn two years of community consultation into an actionable strategic plan for the ESPC – a guide that has been absent from the Council in recent years but that was so strongly requested at the 63rd AGM.

Marilyn Corbett, Terry Anderson and *Rick Szostak* have committed to learning – and more important, understanding – the complex financial arrangements by which the Council functions. Their efforts have ensured that this board makes informed decisions

PRESIDENTS REPORT continued

based on sound financial planning. Such board education and understanding will prove essential as the ESPC begins to explore means of achieving sustainable funding tomorrow and into the future.

By no means is this an exhaustive list of activities or achievements – but I hope that this snapshot will help to illustrate the passion, commitment and participation that our volunteer board members offer to this organization and the community. For me, it has again been an honour to work with this board, to lead this organization, to effect changes where we are able; and, plan for changes where we previously may have been unable. At 65-years-old, we may not have earned the right to retire but we are not being put out to pasture, either. While reaching towards our vision and in doing so hoping someday to retire the Council, today we are 65-years-young and ripe for the challenge. We have a lot of work to do before 2040. Thank you for the opportunity to work together with you.

Bryan D. Sandilands
Chair

2004 Operational Report In 2004, we took action on the things that members and the community told us the Council should be doing. Through a community consultative process in 2003, people provided the ESPC with both general and very specific direction about what the Council's work should be. An analysis of this direction provided the basis for the development of our strategic direction for the next three years.

During the dialogue with the community, a number of phrases and ideas came up again and again:

- Work collaboratively and collectively
- Continue advocacy role
- Undertake social research
- Identify new, long term funding sources
- Enhance/change ESPC's public profile
- Restrict direct service delivery activities

While the board developed the Council's long term strategic direction, the operational team worked together to transform these phrases and ideas into action. The following are the major activities of the Council staff in 2004:

Working with Community – Community use of Sacred Heart facilities

- Managing / facilitating maximum use of the former school for community use
- ESPC helped over 60 community groups and nearly 5,000 people access school facilities (gym, meeting space, kitchen) in 2004
- Next steps – Review of the Council's management of community use, consider Council's relocation options

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Working with Government – Building the Strategic Alliance on Low-Income Issues

- Started with advocating the adoption of the Market Basket Measure to the Alberta Government Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment; also requested multi-stakeholders review of low income programs and policies
- Defined membership and terms of reference of the Alliance with government
- ESPC co-chairs Alliance with Alberta Human Resources and Employment
- Undertook joint study of earnings exemptions policy for welfare recipients
- Next steps – Quarterly meetings to discuss social policy issues and identify solutions

Inclusive Cities Canada – How inclusive is Edmonton?

- Major Council initiative
- Worked with 4 other cities on national inclusion initiative
- Gathering experiences – over 200 Edmontonians told us how inclusive the city is
- Next steps – Edmonton Report to City Council, building alliances to implement recommendations, realizing vision of multicultural inclusion

Major research initiatives

- Released ESPC Position Paper challenging Alberta government to adopt the MarketBasket Measure; analytical follow up of our previous work, including the Alberta government presentation
- Study of parenting and family support programs study nearing completion
- Frequent recipients at Edmonton Food Bank completed and being reviewed
- Next steps – Release parenting study, redraft Food Bank study

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Spreading the news – Regular ESPC publications

- **FACTivists** (newsletter)
 - Inclusion (March 2004)
 - Civic engagement (August 2004)
- **Info sheets:**
 - Welfare and the cost of living
 - Will unfettered control strengthen Alberta's role in confederation?
 - Survey flawed, Alberta's future requires serious consultation
 - Child and family poverty in Alberta 2004
 - Social policy commentaries on the elections of 2004
- **Other** – Social policy election bulletins on the federal, civic and provincial elections
- **Next steps** – Communications planning and formalization of communications policies and practices

Support of the non-profit sector – Tap-In Project

- Project provided 'surplus training' seats in post-secondary professional development programs to volunteers and staff from non-profit organizations
- Council completed two year pilot project and facilitated transition to management under another agency

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Ongoing Networking and Collaborating with Colleagues

- Campaign 2000 – Creating an Alberta poverty network, Alberta poverty report on child poverty
- Homefest / Edmonton Coalition On Housing and Homelessness – Communications support to local affordable housing initiatives
- Legal Access Coalition – worked to improve the delivery of legal services to low income populations, particularly with respect to the Emergency Protection Order program
- Living Wage Civic Campaign – Part of a growing national campaign
- MenInc – Supported the delivery of effective services to men who are marginalized
- Alberta Healthy Living Network – Supported committee focusing on health disparities

Sharing our knowledge – Public Education

- Presentation on low income in Edmonton at Statistics Canada Demographic Trends conference
- Presentation on low income in Edmonton at City of Edmonton Key Stakeholder Consultation on Edmonton's Quality of Life
- Presentations on various aspects of our work with post-secondary classes
- Development of workshop on the various measures of low income
- Mentoring of students (three social work, one communications) during their practicum placements at the Council

OPERATIONAL REPORT Continued

Going independent – Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice (ECEJ)

- Started as an ESPC project in 2002
- Over one thousand clients served in 2004, up significantly from the 486 in 2002
- 39 lawyers provide 525 volunteer hours in 2004
- 2004 a transition year for ECEJ as it moved toward independent status January 2005
- By year's end, ECEJ has its own Board and has hired its first Executive Director – Lori Shortreed
- ECEJ Staff in 2004:
 - Blaire Charlton – Program Manager
 - Andrew Bachelder – Staff Lawyer
 - Temple Kilfoyle – Administrative Coordinator
 - Shelagh Lumsden – Intake Coordinator
 - Patricia Bencz – Volunteer Coordinator
 - Solmaz Taheri – Legal Assistant
 - Karen MacLean – Outreach Worker

ESPC Staff in 2004

- Nicola Fairbrother – Executive Director
- Philip O'Hara – Research and Policy Analysis Coordinator
- Jill Atkey – Research Assistant
- Dianne Henshaw – Office Coordinator
- John Pater – Communications Coordinator

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
 FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2004

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

Revenue	2004	2004	2003
	Budget	Actual	Actual
United Way	\$ 190,000	\$ 192,005	\$ 196,891
Government of Canada	38,869	65,414	24,380
Casino	35,000	43,266	e
Foundations grants	22,500	17,786	52,288
Rental	-	17,092	3,698
Government of Alberta	12,000	15,000	41,000
Other	17,105	13,873	16,588
Donations	500	3,779	3,835
Memberships	800	1,320	785
Publications	400	567	789
City of Edmonton	-	-	14,957
Amortization of deferred equipment contributions	-	22,148	30,034
Revenue recognized (deferred)	19,864	(17,144)	(15,853)
Total Revenue	337,038	375,106	369,401

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS cont'd

Expenses	2004 Budget	2004 Actual	2003 Actual
Salaries and Benefits	\$ 245,772	\$ 239,942	\$ 208,007
Office	38,835	45,975	28,000
Casino Operating Expenses	-	41,534	-
Building Occupancy	21,390	19,678	27,049
Professional Fees	7,200	8,217	6,411
Consulting and Honouraria	10,500	5,252	28,433
Other	21,101	5,057	3,835
Meetings and Volunteer Apprec.	12,600	4,197	5,537
Transportation	2,000	3,847	4,505
Maintenance	-	2,425	4,243
Insurance	1,740	2,134	2,199
Publications and Resources	1,500	1,852	3,047
Recruitment and Education	4,400	1,341	2,713
Membership and Dues	-	653	590
Bank Charges and Interest	-	531	321
Amortization	-	7,986	15,828
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	367,038	390,621	340,718
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses Before Discontinued Operations	(30,000)	(15,515)	28,683
Discontinued Operations	-	2,796	6
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Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	\$ (30,000)	\$ (12,719)	\$ 28,689
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of December 31, 2004

ASSETS	2004	2003
Current Assets		
Cash	\$ 32,052	\$ 112,561
Investments	123,180	120,000
Accounts Receivable	20,751	65,483
Goods and Services Tax Receivable	2,395	2,892
Prepaid Expenses and Deposits	8,492	17,436
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Total Current Assets	186,870	318,377
Restricted Cash	73,043	282
Equipment	21,996	38,227
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TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 281,909	\$ 356,881
	<hr/>	<hr/>
LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	2004	2003
Current Liabilities		
Accounts Payable and Accrued Liabilities	\$ 13,466	\$ 9,858
Deferred Revenue	72,881	193,250
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	86,347	203,108
Other Liabilities		
Deferred Revenue - Casino	73,043	282
Deferred contributions related to equipment	18,709	36,962
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	91,752	37,244
Net Assets		
Invested in Equipment	21,996	38,227
Unrestricted	81,814	78,302
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	103,810	116,529
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$ 281,909	\$ 356,881
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**EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the Year Ended December 31, 2004**

	Invested in Equipment	Unrestricted	Total
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 38,227	\$ 78,302	\$ 116,529
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses	-	(12,719)	(12,719)
Amortization of Equipment	(7,986)	7,986	-
Purchase of Equipment	7,246	(7,246)	-
Discontinued Operations	(15,491)	15,491	-
Balance, End of Year	\$ 21,996	\$ 81,814	\$ 103,810

For the Year Ended December 31, 2003

	Invested in Equipment	Unrestricted	Total
Balance, Beginning of Year	\$ 70,815	\$ 17,025	\$ 87,840
Excess of Revenue over Expenses	-	28,689	28,689
Amortization of Equipment	(15,828)	15,828	-
Discontinued Operations	(16,760)	16,760	-
Balance, End of Year	\$ 38,227	\$ 78,302	\$ 116,529

These financial statements are an extraction from the audited financial statements. For more detailed information, the complete audited statements are available from the ESPC office.

Summary of Changes and Amendments to the Bylaws of the Edmonton Social Planning Council

- A. Various editorial and grammatical changes were made throughout. These changes were made primarily to keep wording consistent or to fix errors.
- B. Article III.3.1.c The sentence "is not in arrears in membership dues" has been removed because it is redundant.
- C. Article III.3.iii.d The sentence "Associate members shall not have a vote on any Council matters including Annual General and Special Meetings of the Council" was removed because it is redundant.
- D. Article III.7. "Employees shall not be entitled to Membership" has been changed to "Employees shall only be entitled to Associate Membership."
- E. Article V. 1.a. The last part of sections (a) and (c) were combined to create a new section (b) and the following sections were renumbered. The new section (b) reads: "If the number of Board members falls below the minimum number of 10, the remaining Board members are empowered to act as the Board until the vacancies are filled by the Board, or until the next Annual General Meeting. Any vacancy during the year shall be filled by the Board. A Board member filling a vacancy shall serve only until the next Annual General Meeting and such service shall not be considered a term of office."
- F. Article V. 1.1. A new section (l) was added, it reads: "The Chair will not vote at Board Meetings". This was to clarify how meetings are to be run, and reflects current Board practice.

Bylaw changes continued

- G. Article V. 1. (g). The time frame for calling Board meetings was changed from 14 to 7 days. The new wording is, "Special meetings of the Board may be held on call by the Executive Committee, upon seven (7) days written notice or by request of 40% of Board members to the Chair."
- H. Article V. 3. (a). A new paragraph was added to clarify the fact that the Board is a Policy Governance Board:
- I. Article VI All the "Duties" of the Officer's duties were removed and added to the "Executive Committee Article (VII). This reflects how business is conducted in practice.
- J. All of the Articles related to finances, such as "Finances", "Fiscal Year End Audit", "Borrowing Powers, and Signing Authority" have been reordered so that they are grouped together. As a result, all articles after VI have been re-ordered and re-numbered.
- K. Appendices 1 and 2 have been removed.

In accordance with the Societies Act of Alberta, these changes and amendments to the bylaws of the Council will be debated and voted on at the Annual General Meeting of the Edmonton Social Planning Council held on May 17, 2005 at 7:00 p.m.

A complete copy of the proposed revised bylaws is available under separate cover.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES 2005/2006**FIRST TERM CANDIDATES****George Belcourt**

George Belcourt has been helping in the healing of Native communities for the past fifteen years. Being of Metis descent, George has an excellent understanding of the spiritual and cultural ceremonies that have been so important in working with the Hobbema Community Elders to address the grave issues of this community. Today he works at the Pe Sakastew Centre where he offers substance abuse programs, social activities, and overnight Vision Quest ceremonies. George has been involved with the Metis Nation of Alberta, Poundmaker's Lodge, the board of Pathways, and he has served as Vice President, of the Metis Nation Local #84 in Red Deer, Alberta.

Imad Kaddoura

Imad Kaddoura has lived in Edmonton for the past eleven years and is an active member within our city's Muslim community – serving on boards and committees of several non-profit, cultural organizations. Imad has earned an MBA from Webster University in St.Louis, Missouri and currently teaches business marketing and management through Athabasca University and the Yellowhead Tribal College. In addition, Imad has founded and built an international marketing firm as well as being an account executive with the biggest corporate and association magazine publishing company in North America.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Wayde Lever

Wayde Lever welcomes the opportunity to serve on the board of directors of the ESPC. For some time, he has noted the Council's work in assisting such a wide range organizations and social causes. Wayde brings almost ten years of fundraising and board experience to the organization and he presently sits as Chair of the Innovative Housing Society of Canada. Wayde has also held board seats with the Alberta Burn Rehabilitation Society and the Arts Space Housing Co-Op. When not engaged with board responsibilities, he operates his own special events marketing firm that has worked with many non-profit organizations. Wayde is enthusiastic about becoming a part of this team and looks forward to working with its members, board and staff.

Ron MacLellan

For the last four and a half years, Ron MacLellan has worked at the Bissell Centre where he deeply respects that organization's commitment to putting people first. The experience has inspired Ron to continue his work with people in this community. His involvement with "Our Voice" as a writer, distributor and coordinator has revitalized this important street paper and increased the morale of its vendors. Ron is also a musician who performs in coffee houses around our city and he is an avid volunteer for many of Edmonton's music festivals.

SECOND TERM CANDIDATES**Terry Anderson**

Terry Anderson is a Past President of the Riverdale Community League and has been active in the eight 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 enjoys assisting the Edmonton Social Planning Council in meeting its organizational and strategic goals.

Mayja Embleton

Mayja Embleton 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. Mayja has always enjoyed working with communities, and was the first Safety Audit Coordinator for the City of Calgary. She has always been an advocate for fairness and equality, and was pleased to sit on the U of C's Board of Governors for two years, as the Graduate Students' Association President.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued

Cindy Olsen

Cindy Olsen 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. Cindy returned to school in September 2002 and graduated from the Voluntary Sector Management program, with a major in fundraising. She currently is employed by Habitat for Humanity Edmonton.

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 degree in Marketing from the University of Alberta and a Public Relations Diploma from Grant MacEwan College. She has worked in organizations relating to health, literacy and multiculturalism. Having a strong desire to improve the level of well being and livelihood of fellow Edmontonians, she has been enriched with the experience as a Council Board member for the last few years and is looking forward to future Council activities and Board initiatives.

Continuing 1st TERM Members**Normie Carlson**

Although originally from Saddle Lake First Nation, located 150 km. north east of Edmonton, Normie Carlson has lived intermittently in the city of Edmonton since 1967. She has also resided in Jasper, Calgary and Fort McMurray. As a First Nations person, she brings a variety of knowledge and experience to the ESPC board. She has worked in the graphic arts industry, with the federal and provincial governments, in non-profit organizations and most recently as an instructor for Keyano College, where she teaches in the both the City of Edmonton and in St. Albert. Ms. Carlson's education includes a 'Graphic Arts Administration Diploma, Personnel Administration Certificate and a Master of Arts in Leadership and Training. She has recently completed the Aboriginal Leadership, Management and Governance Certificate at the Banff Centre.

Leonel Roldan-Flores

Leonel Roldan-Flores was born and raised in Guatemala City, Guatemala. He has lived in Edmonton since moving to Canada with his family in 1986. Leonel attended Concordia University College of Alberta and graduated with an undergraduate degree in political economy; he went on to obtain a master's degree in political economy with a focus on Latin America from the London School of Economics in London, UK. Currently, he works with the Alberta government in the area of market strategy development and trade policy. His interests are varied, including traveling, reading, painting, and yoga.

BOARD BIOGRAPHIES continued**Rick Szostak**

Rick Szostak is Professor of Economics at the University of Alberta, where he has taught since 1985. He and his wife Anne-Marie have three young children. Rick has authored seven books and over twenty scholarly articles. He has also written several short articles on public policy issues for outlets such as Policy Options and The Education Monitor, as well as guest columns in major Alberta newspapers. He has experience lobbying the provincial government, having served for two years as the President of the Confederation of Alberta Faculty Associations.

Continuing 2nd TERM Members**Bryan Sandilands**

As a researcher for the Clinical Islet Transplant Program and the University of Alberta, Bryan Sandilands is currently investigating quality of life impacts of islet cell transplantation on recipients of the Edmonton Protocol. His other research includes a health-economics analysis of the cost of islet cell transplantation as a treatment for juvenile diabetes. His clinical practice is focused on peer/patient mentoring and an internet-based support program called, "Hoping & Coping Through Transplantation" hosted by www.diabetesstation.com, and he is also currently serving on the board of directors of the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation. Bryan has previously worked for the Alberta Premier's Council on the Status of Persons with Disabilities, the Canadian Mental Health Association and he is a graduate of the Universities of Alberta and Calgary with training in the fields of neuropsychology and social work.

MINUTES of the 2004 Annual General Meeting / May 18, 2004**1. Welcome and
President's Remarks**

Bryan Sandilands, Interim President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council welcomed everyone and delivered brief opening comments. He noted that he had been elected Interim President after Wanda Dennelly resigned in January due to heavy commitments associated with her new job in the private sector. Bryan commented that his initial nervousness had turned into admiration for the organization and appreciation for his fellow Board members, who have become a cohesive, working team, focused on their goals and responsibilities.

2. Approval of Agenda**MOTION: to adopt the agenda.**

Moved: Cindy Olsen
Seconded: Mayja Embleton
CARRIED

**3. Approval of
Minutes of 2003
Annual General Meeting****MOTION: to approve the Minutes of the 2003
Annual General Meeting**

Moved: Mayja Embleton
Seconded: John Henderson
CARRIED

4. President's Report

Bryan Sandilands commented that he has felt honored to serve for the past year with his fellow Board members and he wished to highlight a few of the year's accomplishments, adding to the written comments in the Annual Report. Nine new Board members were recruited in the spring of 2003, bringing a wealth of experience and broad new perspectives to the Council.

Shortly after the new Board had its first meeting, the Council embarked on a series of stakeholder consultations, which was a chance to reconnect with the community and an opportunity to gain information towards a new direction for the Council. The exploration of our 4 core businesses of research, advocacy, public education and collaboration continued for most of the year, as we endeavoured to determine what these efforts mean

MINUTES continued

to our community stakeholders.

Throughout the year, John Henderson took on a major role as the Council continued to support and nurture the Edmonton Centre for Equal Justice.

The Council took advantage of opportunities to provide input and feedback to the provincial government during 2003, meeting with the Ministers of Children's Services and Human Resources and Employment as well as meeting with senior bureaucrats in discussion around the Market Basket Measure and the Income and Employment Supports Act.

With the help of Marcel Labbe, the Council found a new home in 2003. The move into the former Sacred Heart School will afford us the opportunity to build connections with other values-based organizations that also have office space here, and to facilitate community access to recreation and meeting space.

After much soul-searching, the Council decided in 2003 to hold a casino. Mayja Embleton did a wonderful job of coordinating that effort with the assistance of the entire Board and the operational team.

A major piece of work came to fruition this year, with the development of a new Mission and Vision statement. The entire Board and core staff team were involved in that effort, chaired by Normie Carlson.

After recognizing the accomplishments of the Board, and the efforts of individual Board members, Mr. Sandilands then introduced each Board member and asked them to stand.

Bryan's final remarks related to the development of a strategic plan. The Council heard from our funders and members that the creation of a strategic plan was vital to our rebuilding efforts. We held working sessions last spring and into the summer of 2003, but

MINUTES continued

the Board thought it would be presumptuous to go on to develop the strategic plan before the membership had a chance to approve the vision and mission. The plan will be developed as soon as possible after this meeting.

5. Executive Director's Report

Nicola Fairbrother noted that a fairly comprehensive report of the activities of 2003 was provided in the written Annual Report, so it was her intention to offer some comments about the work that will be ongoing in 2004.

The Consultation was an effective mechanism to allow the Council to hear what the community wants and it gave us sufficient direction to allow the Council to be proactive, and not just react to situations. With the information we heard, we hope to be able to engage the community in our efforts in creative activism.

A major project of 2004 will be the Inclusive Cities Project around the concept of social inclusion. Social inclusion is the mechanism that will guide us toward a more civil society, help us improve our community governance model, and engage policy makers in a process to develop a community that allows full participation.

We hope to complete our strategic plan around our four core businesses with a significant focus on public education that will hopefully engage the community again to address issues such as child and family poverty, and economic inclusion.

We will follow up our presentation to the Standing Policy Committee on Learning and Employment with the development of a government/community partnership that will include business people, academics, community groups and other stakeholders. This collaboration will help us to work with the senior bureaucracy of Human Resources and Employment and move toward changes at the policy level.

MINUTES continued

Ms. Fairbrother summed up by saying that the goal of the Council is to provide the community with more and better information and to provide a feeling of community solidarity.

6. Presentation of Financial Statements

Michael Epp, of Hawkings Epp Dumont, reviewed the audited financial statements of the Council, reporting on behalf of the Board to the members, and on behalf of Trevor Dodd, who performed the on-site audit and reported to the Board. Mr. Epp noted that the Council has had a good year from a financial perspective, ending the year with a small surplus of just over \$28,000. This ensures financial viability and the ability to continue programming into the coming year. Assets are primarily in cash and term deposits, allowing the Council to accrue some interest and maintain a healthy financial position. He noted that liabilities consist mostly of deferred revenue, which is not uncommon for nonprofit organizations that have project-based funding.

Mr. Epp presented graphs that depicted the sources of revenue, noting that total revenue was about \$677,000 up slightly from the previous year. He also showed a pictorial representation of expenses by department, commenting that, as you would expect, most of the expenditures were in the Community Development Department, which includes the projects. Salaries formed the largest type of expense, as is typical in an organization of this nature.

Mr. Epp concluded that the Council appears to be in a sound financial position.

Motion: to approve the financial statements.

Moved: Terry Anderson

Seconded: Marcel Labbe

CARRIED

7. Motion to Confirm Auditor

MOTION: to confirm Hawkings Epp Dumont as auditor of the 2004 financial statements.

Moved: Marcel Labbe

Seconded: Mayja Embleton

CARRIED

8. Change to Objects

Normie Carlson presented revised mission and vision statements, noting that they are the result of the work of the entire Board and staff, who endeavoured to write succinct statements that would encompass our work and accurately reflect the results of the community consultations.

MOTION: to accept the Vision and Mission statements as presented:

Vision: A healthy, just and inclusive community.

Mission: The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides leadership to the community and its organizations in addressing social issues and effecting changes to social policy.

Moved: Normie Carlson

Seconded: Donald Langford.

Discussion: Doug Schill began the discussion by congratulating the Board and staff on their good work, and then presented two issues for discussion. First, he wondered if the Council actually addresses social issues, as they are not a direct service. He wondered if the word "identifying" should replace the word "addressing" in the Mission. Secondly Mr. Schill commented that it might be possible to change "provides leadership" to "provides leadership and resources" in recognition of the support that the Council provides to the community.

In the ensuing discussion the point was made that the Council does more than identify social issues, and in fact the community had asked the Council to work to address social issues, as other agencies fear that speaking out will affect their funding.

With respect to the second possible revision, the consensus seemed to be that the roles of providing resources and support are implied in the word "leadership" and that the Council is providing more knowledge and process than actual physical resources.

The vote was called, and the motion CARRIED, with one opposed.

9. Nominating Committee Report

Jenny Wong presented the report of the Nominating Committee. She noted that the addition of nine new members to the Board last year brought together a unique group of individuals that rejuvenated the Board and helped to focus its direction. This year we have 3 first term candidates and 2 second term candidates. The first term candidates were selected by the Nominating Committee for their experience, and for the range of new skills and knowledge that they would bring. One of the first term candidates, Normie Carlson, was added to the Board in January in an interim position to fill a vacancy left by the resignation of an existing Board member. Normie then summarized the backgrounds of the 5 candidates.

10. Approval of Nominations

The following slate is recommended:
First Term Candidates: Normie Carlson, Leonel Roldan-Flores, Rick Szostak.
Second Term Candidates: Marcel Labbe, Bryan Sandilands

MOTION: to approve the slate of nominees as presented.

Moved: Jenny Wong

Seconded: Marilyn Corbett

CARRIED

Ms. Wong then asked if there were any nominations from the floor, as there were still two Board positions

MINUTES continued

that could be filled. Doug Schill nominated Bob McKeon, but Mr. McKeon respectfully declined the nomination, although he appreciated the endorsement. There being no further nominations from the floor, election of Board members was concluded.

11. Recognition of Retiring Board Members

Nicola Fairbrother noted that we had one Board member that retired this year: Wanda Dannelly provided four years of service through difficult times. She was able to take a very hands-on response when the organization was without an Executive Director, and took a very active role in recruiting the new Executive Director. The Board and operational team appreciated her contribution very and were sad to see her leave. Ms. Fairbrother also took this opportunity to thank all of the Board members for their diligence and hard work and support of the operational team.

12. Keynote Address

Nicola Fairbrother announced that the Honorable Thelma Chalifoux was to have presented the keynote address, but unfortunately is ill and unable to be here. Her eldest daughter, Debbie Coulter, presented a message on her behalf.

Ms. Coulter presented a wonderful message that emphasized the need for partnership and collaboration to animate our communities and empower the people in the local community to work together to create an inclusive community. She talked of the vulnerable people in our community and the need to include the disabled, the elderly, new immigrant populations, and others who are marginalized and are searching for ways to participate and contribute to a healthy society. Finally, she thanks ESPC for the work that has been done to empower people and communities, and asked for the blessings of the Creator as we face the many challenges ahead.

Ms. Fairbrother thanked her for coming and presented Ms. Coulter with a ceremonial blanket and tobacco.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, Rick Szostak moved to adjourn.