

Edmonton Social Planning Council

the *f*ACTivist

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Executive Director Update



I am writing this update today on one of the coldest days so far this winter at -25 and I am reminded about those less fortunate who are having to brave the elements on the street. We may have Street Outreach workers engaging with individuals to help access services, drop-in centers to get out of the cold and shelters for sleeping at night and the 24/7 Crisis Diversion Team that can be called upon in times of distress, but the demand for permanent supportive housing continues to outpace the supply and as a result there are still individuals sleeping rough.

ESPC has recently embarked on a very interesting and timely piece of research funded by the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues to engage community leagues and others in a discussion regarding permanent supportive housing which we so desperately need. Through this process our goal is to gain a better understanding of the issue and the pushback that exists (NIMBY) and look to the community and other stakeholders for ways to bridge the divide.

Still on the housing front, we are also working with Homeward Trust on a research project that is looking at portable housing benefits which are supports for those with low and modest incomes to help them obtain affordable housing. There are subsidies provided but again the wait times are considerably long, and in light of changes at the Federal level we believe it is timely to explore ways to improve access.

These are only two of the projects we are currently working on and I encourage you to look at little deeper into this edition of the *fACTivist* to learn more about food security, community economic development and the recent changes to Provincial social benefits.

It's a new year, and new opportunities face ESPC. We hope to hire another summer student early in the spring to help us with our Vital Signs report coming out in the fall, as well as increase our regular staffing by recruiting someone with the skills and expertise to work with not for profit agencies to increase their research capacity.

With some board turn-over since last year, once again we are starting the journey to recruit individuals for nomination to our board. If you are interested in serving on our Board or know of someone who might be looking for an interesting and rewarding experience, please have a look at our website for further details about how to apply.

We are also getting ready to start the search for someone and/or a group for this year's Award of Merit. Each year at our Annual General Meeting we honor a forward-looking and courageous individuals and groups who have not turned away from controversy in an effort to seek social justice for either a defined community group or for the community at a whole. Please consider nominating someone you know for their great work in the community.

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director
Edmonton Social Planning Council

May 23, 2019, 5:30 pm

Food Bank Annex

11508 – 120 Street

Please RSVP by May 17, 2019

EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING



CITY OF EDMONTON:
Ride Transit Pilot
Program Evaluation 2018

ANDERSON DRAPER



What is Food Insecurity?

Sandra Ngo, Research Coordinator, Edmonton Social Planning Council

Many of us are familiar with the World Health Organization (WHO) definition of food security, where “people are considered food secure when they have availability and adequate access at all times to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life” (World Health Organization, 2019). What is often not considered is that WHO and the World Food Programme developed this definition for countries which may be struggling with food access at the national level. In Canada, where we enjoy an ample and diverse food supply supported by stringent food safety policies, this framework is not always the most illuminating. The amount of food in Canada is tricky to measure, but is so abundant that Canadians have become notoriously bad for throwing away food (up to 40% per year in the average household) (CEC, 2017). Closer to home, while there are more than 270 neighborhoods in Edmonton, only about 8 or so experience low accessibility and three are high need (Wang, Qiu, & Swallow, 2014). This hints that the issue lies not in the availability of food, but who has access to it.

In Alberta, 11% of households experience some form of food insecurity, with the number rising to 16.7% for children (Statistics Canada, 2015; PROOF, 2019). Food insecurity occurs when there is an inadequate or insecure lack of access to food, mainly due to financial constraints (PROOF, 2019). A recent study shows that those who suffer from food insecurity have a higher all-cause mortality, even when other factors like age, income, gender, and education are taken into account (Gundersen, Kreider, Pepper, & Tarasuk, 2017). Much of the research has shown that low income is the strongest predictor of food insecurity in Canadian households (Fafard St-Germain & Tarasuk, 2017; Kirkpatrick & Tarasuk, 2008; Tarasuk, 2001), which makes logical sense. If a family can afford to buy the food they need, then they simply won't be food insecure anymore. However, it is not really that easy to address; more than 60% of those experiencing food insecurity earn a wage or salary, while another 28% receive social assistance or seniors' benefits (Dachner & Tarasuk, 2018). We can conclude then, that the current employment or social assistance incomes are not adequate to solve food insecurity.

Households that are food insecure often scramble for meals, make do with low-quality foods, or in the worst situations, go without anything to eat for a day

or more. Food Banks, such as the one in Edmonton, have been doing a tremendous amount of work to help fill this emergency need. While not everyone who is food insecure uses a food bank (Loopstra & Tarasuk, 2012), there are still a considerable amount of people who have exhausted all other options. In 2017, 64,080 unique individuals received a food hamper in Edmonton (Edmonton's Food Bank, 2018). According to the Food Bank's 2018 Client Survey, 87.4% do not have incomes that last them the full month (n = 505). They survive by cutting back on necessities such as food (68% of respondents), utilities (27%), or clothes (22.6%). Many of them are working (20.5% of respondents) or rely on Alberta Works (46.5%), AISH (18.5%), or some other form of government support (66.7%).

Sandra Ngo

Sandra Ngo did her BSc. in Nutrition & Food Science and her MSc. in Agricultural Economics at the University of Alberta. She is currently the Research Coordinator at the Edmonton Social Planning Council

Whether or not one supports or is critical of food banks, it should be acknowledged that they are not unlike a flood barricade; helping to keep the worst of hunger crises at bay while waiting for policymakers, advocates, and academics to address food insecurity's root causes. Edmonton's Food Bank openly recognizes that their programs are a short-term solution (Edmonton's Food Bank, 2018). They have been in operation since 1981 (Edmonton's Food Bank, n.d.), but the number of clients has only gone up in recent years. This is a similar trend seen by food banks across Canada (Food Banks Canada, 2016). While new policy such as the introduction of the national Poverty Reduction Strategy are laudable, they are still only a first step. The potential of a Basic Income Guarantee has been recognized by advocates as one way in which food insecurity - and poverty as a whole - might be addressed (Deschner, 2018; Government of Ontario, 2019; Tarasuk, 2017). What the solution looks like remains unclear, but it must be tied to ending poverty and eliminating drastic income inequality. Front-line organizations such as Edmonton's Food Banks, who work hand-in-hand with struggling families, are critical for this conversation. Their voice, and more importantly the voices of those they serve, need to be included.

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Community Economic Development in Edmonton

Brooks Hanewich, Co-Founder Matchwork

Community Economic Development (CED) may not be the most gripping title for a socially progressive movement, but despite its branding shortcomings CED has been around for a long while and interest in it continues to grow, particularly in Edmonton.

What is CED? While it may go by other names, like local economy or solutions economy, it is perhaps best and most simply defined by the Canadian CED Network (CCEDNet) (ccednet-rcdec.ca/en) as “action by people locally to create economic opportunities that improve social conditions, particularly for those who are most disadvantaged.”¹ CED is action-based, and guided by the principles of supporting people, building enterprises, and strengthening communities.

At a community level, CED could be looked at as a response to current economic trends that tend to take economic control and resources away from the local area. This outside accrual syphons capital elsewhere, leaving little capital to support local economy and those living in neighbourhoods. Look only to the effect of large box retailers on small local businesses as an example. At its root, CED is a response to economic uncertainty and exploitation.

People tend to think of CED as embodied only by social enterprise businesses², but in fact CED actions are taken by a number of people, organizations and groups that sit at intersections between public sector, private sector, and civil society organizations.³ The broad definition of CED encompasses a host of diverse players, from those providing entrepreneurial supports to marginalized populations, to financial institutions and intermediaries providing microfinance or impact investing options. CCEDnet breaks down these distinctions into three CED categories: those that focus on support to individuals, those that focus on enterprises, and those that focus on broader community engagement and systems change.⁴ Within Edmonton, we have a wide range of examples that both fit within and blur the boundaries of these CED categories.

1. CED & Individual Supports: At an individual level, a large number of organizations in Edmonton provide

1 ccednet-rcdec.ca

2 <https://www.centreforsocialenterprise.com/what-is-social-enterprise/>

3 Quarter, Mook, Armstrong (2009)

4 ccednet-rcdec.ca

employment supports, financial empowerment teachings, and job skills training. While these organizations are largely established institutions, they still seek to adapt to emerging community needs. For example, the Edmonton Financial Empowerment Collective, a collaboration of financial empowerment organizations, has created Empower U, a program that seeks to blend financial literacy training with the ability to match savings. This project (www.myunitedway.ca/empoweru/) matches savings at a 1:2 ratio, thereby incentivizing and supporting saving, and facilitating pathways out of poverty.

2. CED & Enterprise Development: From an enterprise lens, Edmonton has a number of notable and impactful initiatives. The Social Enterprise Fund (SEF) provides loan funding to social enterprises, as social enterprise-type businesses often struggle to find capital to start or run their businesses. The SEF (socialenterprisefund.ca) understands the environment where social enterprises exist and is able to support when banks and other financial institutions are not. The SEF is also able to advise clients on potential avenues and markets and facilitate connections to like-minded organizations and companies.

Brooks Hanewich

Brooks is the Co-Founder of Matchworks, a thoughtful app which scales up the ability of employment support agencies to help people with disabilities, veterans, refugees & seniors find meaningful employment.

The Roundhouse at MacEwan University (roundhouse.net) provides co-working space and enterprise supports to socially progressive businesses. They host events and workshops focused on all areas of running social progressive business, such as a workshop on data science for social entrepreneurs/ They also have a marketplace where member companies and organizations can display and sell their wares. They have the ability to incubate and grow the next crop of enterprises with the potential to link these enterprises to existing capital and demand.

3. CED & Systems Change: Perhaps the most exciting changes in CED are happening within communities and have the potential to make huge systems change. The mission of the Edmonton Community Development Company (ECDC) (edmontoncdc.org/) is “to promote the renewal of distressed neighbourhoods through a Community Economic Development approach.” They are seeking to accomplish this not simply by creating housing, capital developments, or social enterprise supports, but by really engaging citizens at a neighbourhood and community level. The ECDC Community Engagement and Mapping Project in the McCauley neighbourhood that is currently underway seeks to give residents access to data about economic development in their neighbourhood so that they may understand and inform policy, investment and development.

⁵It is an exciting time for CED in Edmonton, as infrastructure at the individual, enterprise and community level is becoming more mature, interconnected and coordinated. The above examples are just a few of many diverse CED initiatives happening in the Edmonton region.

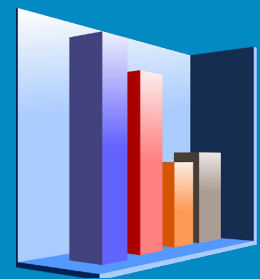
5 <http://edmontoncdc.org/projects/community-engagement-and-mapping/>

LOOKING FOR RESEARCH ASSISTANCE?

The Edmonton Social Planning Council provides FREE research services to social advocacy organizations in Edmonton! Are you seeking publications or statistics in social policy areas such as:

Housing, Transportation, Health, Education, Food Security, Income Security Programs, Urban Issues, Social Services, Women, Disabilities, Poverty, Immigration, Families, Children and Child Care, Seniors, Indigenous Peoples, Labour Force, Crime and Safety ... and more!

If you or your organization needs a hand finding information about local social issues or related topics, feel free to contact our Research Coordinator, Sandra Ngo by phone at 780.423.2031 or by email at sandra@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.



ESPC Updates



Examining Portable Housing Benefits for Low Income Families Securing Appropriate Housing

Ever wonder why there is never seems to be enough suitable housing that people with low and modest incomes can actually afford? Ever wonder why the waits for affordable rental accommodation seem to grow ever longer? Don't you wish we could come up with some practical solutions to fix these problems? Well those of us with the Edmonton Social Planning Council have asked these questions for years and never quite been satisfied with the answers on offer. That's why we applied for a Community-Based Research Project from Homeward Trust Edmonton in the hopes of finding better answers that will work in the Edmonton and Alberta context.

Homeward Trust approved our funding application last year. The ESPC will spend the balance of 2019 searching for these better answers, writing up the results and making recommendations in a research report. Work on a literature review is already underway. Through focus groups and interviews, we will be seeking input from those directly affected (including people on wait lists) and others with valuable knowledge and perspectives.

There is a clear need for more permanent affordable housing for those with complex needs requiring onsite supports. But we also will be exploring other options for individuals and families for whom the main challenge is that their income is not sufficient to pay full market rent in Edmonton and area.

ESPC particularly wants to examine whether portable housing benefits can play a greater role in enhancing affordability. Portability means basing rental assistance on household income, rather than tying subsidies to specific rental units and buildings. Designed correctly, a portable housing benefit could enable tenants to obtain accommodation right away rather than having to wait for always in short supply affordable units to become available. Portability allows renters greater choice with regards to location and building type based on their own needs and preferences.

Making the ESPC research project even timelier, last year, as part of a National Housing Strategy, the federal government is seeking to partner with provinces and territories to develop a portable Canada Housing Benefit. The design of this portable benefit is only just beginning. It is critical that it be correctly applied in the Edmonton context to complement existing programs and approaches.

I am the principal investigator on this Homeward Trust funded research project. If any of our fACTivist readers has valuable information or perspectives to share, I encourage you to email them to me at johnk@edmontonsocialplanning.ca.

Effective Interventions for Isolated Indigenous Seniors: Enhancing Edmonton Knowledge Base

We are pleased to report that we have recently completed this research project started back in May of 2017. The project investigated social isolation among Indigenous seniors in Edmonton. The project goal was to create a more robust analytical understanding of strategies to address social isolation, how outreach workers, other professionals and caregivers could respond to the challenges facing Edmonton and how Indigenous seniors themselves views the issue of social isolation thereby bringing their voices to the community at large.

Many thanks to the City of Edmonton, Age Friendly for providing the financial support for this project. Keep an eye on our website for future announcements regarding the public release of the report as well as access to the full report at www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca

2019 Edmonton Poverty Profile

The ESPC have been researching and producing the Poverty Profile of Edmonton since 2015. We are happy to advise that we are currently working on an update to the 2017 report due to release early in the spring with thanks to EndPovertyEdmonton for the financial support. www.endpovertyedmonton.ca. Once completed, the report will be distributed widely.

Public Engagement and Affordable Housing

Working with the Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues ESPC is embarking on a community engagement project in response to the City of Edmonton Policy C601, The City-Wide Affordable Housing Framework which has established an aspirational target of 16% affordable housing in every neighborhood throughout Edmonton.

The Edmonton Federation of Community Leagues would like to maintain and build support within their individual communities for this aspirational target which we will be doing through engaging community league members as well as housing providers, developers and the City of Edmonton Staff and others in focused discussions, research and data analysis.

Vital Signs/Vital Topics

Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by the Edmonton Community Foundation www.ecfoundation.org in partnership with ESPC to measure how the community is doing. Last year Vital Signs was expanded to include Vital Topics – mini two sided factsheets that focused on individual issues that are timely and important to Edmonton. Again, we will be researching and producing both the Vital Signs and Vital Topics. Our first Vital Topics for 2019 will appear in the ECF Legacy in Action quarterly magazine in February as well on our website.



Save the Date!

The ESPC Annual General Meeting will be
May 23, 2019

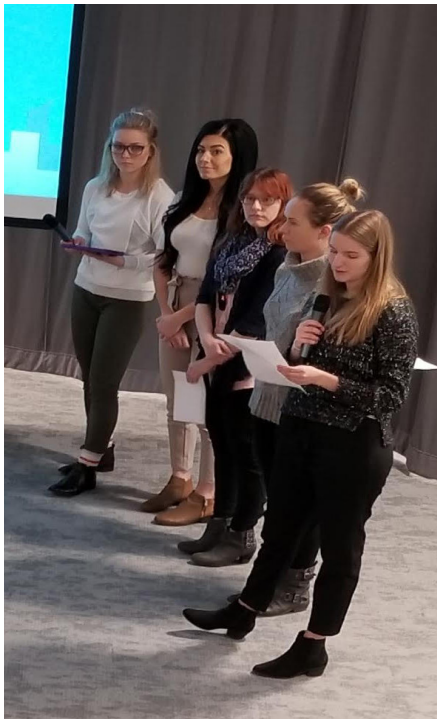
at the Food Bank Annex (11508-120 St.)



ESPC RESEARCH ASSOCIATE RECOGNIZED

Our own John Kolkman was recognized on December 4, 2018 at the Alberta Legislature for his EPSC work by Canadians for Civil Society. We echo the sentiment and congratulate John for his work.

Highlights



Grant MacEwan 4th Year Nursing Students presenting their project

MacEwan Experiential Learning Partnership

The Community Engaged Learning at MacEwan University is a project-based teaching learning strategy that connects classroom theory to challenges experienced in the “real world” by Community Partners. Working with students to evaluate existing interventions and services across Edmonton pertaining to a priority population; ultimately aiming to create innovative and evidence-based communication strategies to promote health equity in priority populations.

ESPC was fortunate to work with a group of 4th year Nursing Students this past fall on a project entitled Mental Health and Homelessness – Addressing the Stigma. The students were required to research and analyze the issue and create a logic model. In addition, they created a short video to educate the general public. Our thanks to the students for taking on a non-direct service provider agency.

Ride Transit Report

ESPC has been speaking out and advocating for a low income transit pass for many years and in the summer of 2017, City Council implemented the program called Ride Transit. [Please visit our website to download](#) the evaluation report prepared by AndersonDraper Consulting Inc.

Bill 26 – Increase in Social Benefit Rates

Poverty is characterized by the lack of income, resources, and assets that are necessary to support economic security and stability, social inclusion, and a decent standard of living. Bill 26: An Act to Combat Poverty and Fight for Albertans with Disabilities was introduced to increase social benefits rates so that individuals with disabilities, or are from low-income families, and seniors are able to live with dignity and provide for themselves and their families. Starting January 1, 2019, the Bill came into effect in increasing financial supports for AISH (Assured Income for the Severely Handicapped), Income Support, and Alberta Seniors Benefits recipients.

To help manage the rising costs of living in the province, benefit rates will go up each year to keep up with inflation, as well. The new legislation will tie AISH, Income Support, and the Seniors Benefit to the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to measure these rates; with the rates depending on household needs and family size. Additionally, increasing savings or asset limits and income exemptions under AISH (including child allowance and supplementary personal benefits) and Income Support will allow Albertans to be able to save more and earn more income without having to worry about the status of their benefits due to clawbacks. These increases are important poverty reduction methods as they allow households to keep money in their pockets and ultimately improve their quality of life.

Read more about the Bill at <https://www.alberta.ca/social-benefit-rate-increases.aspx>.

December 2018 Vital Topic - Senior Women in Edmonton

Vital Topic

SENIOR WOMEN IN EDMONTON

Unless otherwise stated, "Edmonton" refers to Census Metropolitan Area and not solely the City of Edmonton.

Edmonton Vital Signs is an annual check-up conducted by Edmonton Community Foundation, in partnership with Edmonton Social Planning Council, to measure how the community is doing. This year we will also be focusing on individual issues, VITAL TOPICS, that are timely and important to Edmonton. Watch for these in each issue of Legacy in Action, and in the full issue of Vital Signs released in October of 2018.

EDMONTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



VitalSigns.



DEFINITIONS

SENIOR OR "SENIOR CITIZEN" In Canada there is no set age at which a person is considered a senior. Many government benefits begin at 60 or 65 years of age. However, senior discounts often start at 55.

For the purposes of this report, 65+ will denote a **senior**, and an **older adult** will refer to those aged 55 to 64, **octogenarian** will refer to those 80+.

AGEISM is the stereotyping, prejudice, and discrimination against people on the basis of their age.

ELDER ABUSE is any action or inaction by self or others that jeopardizes the health and wellbeing of an older adult.

did you know?

- 55.6% of seniors in Edmonton are women.
- There are more women aged 65+ than there are girls aged 0 to 14 in Canada, but in Edmonton the reverse is true because it has a younger overall demographic.

DEMOGRAPHICS OF SENIORS IN EDMONTON

AS OF 2016
THERE WERE
160 FEMALE
AND **30 MALE**
SENIORS 100 YEARS
OR OLDER IN
EDMONTON

	MALE	FEMALE
TOTAL, ALL AGES	465,890	466,655
55 - 64 YEARS	54,325	59,615
65 - 74 YEARS	29,475	32,375
75 - 84 YEARS	14,785	19,470
85 - 94 YEARS	5,315	9,615
95+ YEARS	305	1095



WHY SENIOR WOMEN?

- They live longer than men and may become isolated, especially if their health deteriorates and they lack support networks.
- They have lower levels of income (experience more poverty).
- They are at greater risk of depression and dementia.
- They are more likely to experience elder abuse.

INCOME

PART-TIME WORK IS MORE COMMON AMONG SENIOR WOMEN.

More seniors are working past the age of 65. In 2015, 53.2% of employed women aged 65 and over were working part-time.

ALBERTANS ARE MORE LIKELY TO WORK FULL-TIME IN LATER LIFE THAN THE REST OF CANADIANS.

MEDIAN INCOME OF SENIOR WOMEN HAS INCREASED, BUT REMAINS LOWER THAN THAT OF SENIOR MEN.

Although the median total income from all sources of women aged 65 and over has followed an upward trend since the mid- 1970s, the median income of senior men is approximately 1.5 times higher than that of senior women.

WHERE SENIORS RESIDE

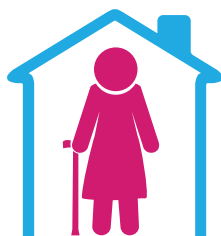
NEIGHBOURHOODS IN EDMONTON WITH THE MOST:

SENIORS (65-79):

1. Oliver 2. Ottewell 3. Twin Brooks

OCTOGENARIANS (80+):

1. Kensington 2. Oliver 3. Downtown



LIVING ARRANGEMENTS

In 2011, 89.9% of women aged 65 and over lived in private households, as did 94.7% of senior men, while the remaining shares (10.1% and 5.3%, respectively) lived in collective households or dwellings.

PHILANTHROPY

Fewer seniors volunteer than do people in any other age category, but for those who do, they contribute more hours per person than any other age group

CHARITABLE DONORS

In 2013, more than half of the top 10% of donors were **55 YEARS OF AGE AND OLDER.**

IN EDMONTON,
50%
OF SENIORS VOLUNTEER.



AGING IN PLACE

Research shows older people who stay independent and age in place live longer. It's also a more cost-effective choice. In 2004, costs for community-based care per person averaged \$8,900/year while residential care costs averaged \$30,000/year.

Sources for these statistics are available at ecfoundation.org

HEALTH & WELLNESS

THE **LIFE EXPECTANCY** OF AN ALBERTAN AT AGE 65 IS **21.3 YEARS** (MALES) AND **24.5 (FEMALES)**.

The leading causes of **DEATH** for Edmonton seniors:

CIRCULATORY DISEASES

- Heart disease (26%)
- Stroke (6%)
- Other circulatory diseases (3%)

35%

CANCER

26%

RESPIRATORY DISEASES

12%



The leading causes of **HOSPITAL VISITS** for Edmonton seniors:

- Injuries from falls are the number-one reason seniors visited the emergency room or were admitted to hospital
- Motor vehicle accidents

STIs IN SENIORS

ACCORDING TO HEALTH CANADA, NATIONAL RATES OF **SEXUALLY TRANSMITTED INFECTIONS** FOR PEOPLE 60+ HAVE INCREASED SIGNIFICANTLY SINCE THE EARLY 2000s.



Between 2001 and 2011, chlamydia cases in people over 60 increased more than 3 times.

Chlamydia and gonorrhea increased more than 2.5 times in women over the age of 60.

IN A RECENT LEGER POLL:

34.9% of Edmontonians feel that seniors in Edmonton often face discrimination.

ENGAGEMENT & SOCIAL ISOLATION

Social isolation happens when a senior's social participation or social contact decreases.

AN ESTIMATED 30 PERCENT OF CANADIAN SENIORS ARE AT RISK OF BECOMING SOCIALLY ISOLATED.

According to a needs assessment of older adults in the City of Edmonton, 32% indicated there were things that make it difficult to pursue social interactions.

18% mentioned poor health or general poor health reasons

17% mentioned disability

11% cited financial reasons

16% cited feelings of isolation as the reason they felt unsafe in their community

3% indicated they do not socialize with anyone over an average week

29% indicated that they would like more acquaintances – given the opportunity



ECF VITAL Work

ASHBOURNE, an inclusive community that assists seniors and adults with mental health concerns to age in-place, received \$40,000 to purchase a minibus with a lift for wheelchairs. This purchase has significantly increased the quality of life for residents. Residents are able to join regular outings, shopping trips, and drives.

DIVERSITY

LGBTQ2 SENIORS often face homophobia and discrimination when trying to access programs and services. Certain spaces may not be especially welcoming or inclusive to them.

ABORIGINAL SENIORS made up 5.1% of Edmonton's Aboriginal population in 2016, and 2.5% of Edmonton's Senior population.

Due to a history of discrimination, the aging experiences of Aboriginal seniors may be quite different from other seniors, and they may require specific programs and services to meet their needs.

IMMIGRANT SENIORS have varying levels of fluency in English, and this will affect their ability to participate in programs. Edmonton's immigrant seniors population is changing.

BEFORE 2001

50% of immigrant seniors came from Europe.

2001-2006 **73%** of immigrant seniors came from Asia and the Middle East.

ELDER ABUSE

In 2015:

ELDER ABUSE UNIT WITH EPS CONCLUDED 48 FILES AND LAID 9 CHARGES.

225 FEMALE SENIOR FAMILY VIOLENCE CASES WERE REPORTED TO THE POLICE.

7%
OF SENIORS SUFFER
SOME FORM OF
ABUSE

WHAT TO DO IF YOU SUSPECT ABUSE

ACKNOWLEDGE – Document evidence of suspected abuse.

BARRIERS – Address concerns of fear of retaliation, withdrawal of caregiver, and family support confidentiality.

URGENCY – Assess immediate risk of physical harm or if basic necessities of life are provided.

EMPOWER – Inform person of the right to live free of abuses and the resources available to support this. Seek help to establish a safety plan.

Sources for these statistics are available at ecfoundation.org

Become a Member

The strength of our voice is dependent upon the support of people and organizations concerned about social issues—people like you. By getting involved with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, you add your voice to our message of positive social development and policy change.

Membership has its benefits:

- To be a part of making Edmonton a community in which all people are full and valued participants.
- To make it possible for us to distribute our material freely and widely.
- To have a say in the direction of the organization.
- To be eligible to serve on the board of directors.
- To stay informed by receiving our newsletters, fact sheets and other publications.

Annual Membership Fees

- Small organizations (budget < \$1M) - **\$50.00**
- Larger organizations (budget > \$1 M) - **\$75.00**
- Individuals - **\$25.00**
- Senior/Limited Income/Students - **\$5.00**
- Associate (non-voting) - **\$15.00**

[To become a member, visit edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

Register and pay for your membership online by clicking on the button in the category you wish to purchase or;

Print out a membership form and mail it to our office, along with a cheque or money order made out to the Edmonton Social Planning Council

*Online payments are processed using PayPal. If you choose to pay online, you will be directed to the PayPal payment page after you fill out and submit your membership form. **PayPal** is a secure and trusted site for paying online using credit card or Interac email money transfer. **You will not be required to sign up for a PayPal account.**

Apply to be a Board member with ESPC

Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2019

If you are passionate about equitable social policy and making a difference in your community, consider joining our team at the Edmonton Social Planning Council as a volunteer member of our Board of Directors!

The Board Recruitment Committee is currently accepting applications from individuals interested in being recommended at our Annual General Meeting in Spring 2019.

The Board of Directors consists of 8 to 12 members from the greater Edmonton community. A variety of backgrounds, skill sets and perspectives are valued. The Board is currently seeking general members as well as a new Board Treasurer with a professional financial background.

The term of office is 2 years and Board members are eligible to serve a maximum of 3 consecutive terms. Board meetings are held monthly (excluding July and August), usually every second Tuesday. Board members also participate in Board committees and are involved in periodic strategic planning sessions.

[To apply, please visit edmontonsocialplanning.ca for an application form and a more detailed description of the expectations and process.](http://edmontonsocialplanning.ca) The deadline for the ESPC to receive applications is **11:59 pm MST on Monday, March 1, 2019.**

For any inquiries regarding this opportunity, do not hesitate to send an e-mail to **info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca** and we will ensure you are connected with one of our current members.

Donations

The ESPC relies on the generosity of individual donors to support our ongoing research and public education.

(Registered Charitable Tax #10728 31 94 RP 0001)

Financial contributions are fully tax deductible and you will receive a registered charitable tax receipt.

Your donation helps us do our work. It keeps our social research current and comprehensive. It allows us to take on bigger projects and make a greater impact in the community. It strengthens our voice—your voice, and the voices of those who lack the opportunity to speak for themselves.

To donate please go to:

<https://edmontonsocialplanning.ca/index.php/support-us>



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