

# SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG est. 1919



*Raising* Community Awareness  
for 89 Years!

2007/08 Annual Report

412 McDermot Avenue Winnipeg MB, R3A 0A9  
[www.spcw.mb.ca](http://www.spcw.mb.ca)

**Just**

**Responsive**

**Caring**

Action Oriented

*Leadership*

# **RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

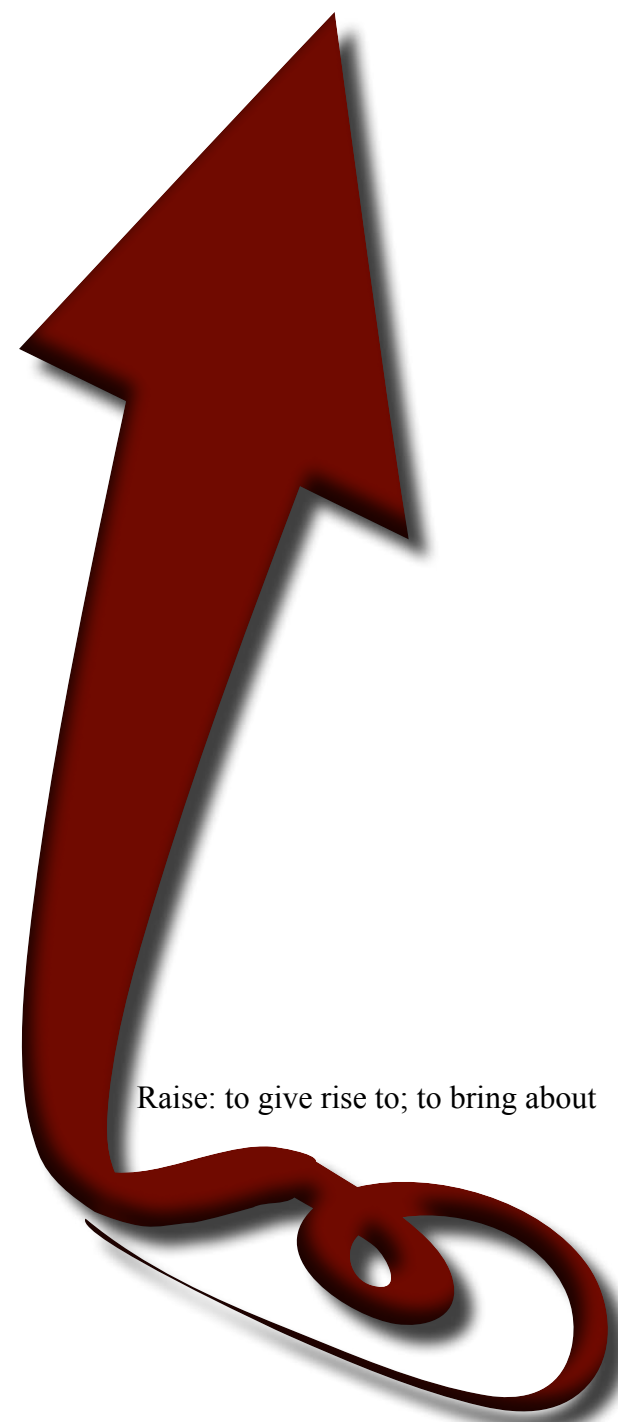
Resources

Grass roots

**DEVELOPING**

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Raise: to give rise to; to bring about



# Presidents Report

It was an honor to be asked to serve as President of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPC) this past year. Even before arriving in Winnipeg, I had a sense of appreciation for the important work being done at the SPC. The agency has an accomplished history that I am happy to have been a part of.

The work at SPC would not be possible without a group of passionate people to contribute to each project and event. I extend much thanks to Wayne Helgason, the staff, and the Board members who served throughout the year. I would like to express great appreciation to the Committee Chairs for their ideas and enthusiasm towards SPC's various projects, efforts, and endeavours. Indeed, 2007 would not have been such a great success without everyone's hard work.

This past year saw tremendous effort put into the Raise the Rates campaign which underscored the need for an immediate increase in Employment and Income Assistance rates, as well as a comprehensive poverty reduction plan to take our province into a future of social inclusion for all citizens.

The Social Planning Council has been instrumental in forging ahead with many projects that fulfill our commitment to our new strategic plan. Raise the Rates addresses Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion; the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System addresses Community Capacity Building; Falling Fortunes addressed Developing Awareness and Engagement; while the Charities File addressed Supporting the Voluntary Sector.

I would like to thank the United Way for their strong support. Our current three year funding arrangement provides a stable base on which to continue working towards our strategic priorities. The strategic priorities direct our efforts and align us well with the United Way's priority of poverty reduction.

A person's economic status, more so than most other factors, determines the way one lives and whether one has choices and opportunities for engagement in society. Poverty excludes, and experiencing homelessness places a person at the very margin of society. It is encouraging that both poverty and homelessness may be receiving more attention today by media and policy makers. It is





an important time for our research, education, and advocacy efforts in order to influence policy and see meaningful changes to policies that can create a more inclusive community here in Winnipeg and across the province.

I look forward to an exciting new year of action and progress in 2008.

Brian Bechtel, Board of Directors, Chair

## CSI Site Synopsis

Having worked in the CSI program in 2006, returning in 2007 was doubly exciting; I was already anticipating the same sort of experience I had encountered the year before. Each school provides different opportunities – I was pleased to discover I would be working in one of the newest additions to CSI, Sister MacNamara. This school has a high rate of enrollment of new Canadians, many from African and Middle-Eastern countries such as Afghanistan. Despite some minor language and cultural barriers that we work together to surmount, all the students come to have fun, as well as to learn.

Some may find it odd that students would come with energy for learning, but this was in fact the case. As the program went on, students

were always interested in new activities that were planned. We all love to have fun, and these students are no exception. Making learning fun is not necessarily a challenging task when working within a team comprised mainly of future educators. We created activities that addressed both literacy and numeracy and incorporated the idea of “play”. These activities were also multidisciplinary, wherein a lesson successfully integrated math *and* athletics, or English *and* art.

Perhaps the greatest testament to the success at Sister MacNamara was that attendance remained high—often 90% or higher—throughout the course of the program. Students knew this was a safe fun place where they would be able to meet new friends and learn together. Those last days were sad, because we knew that the program was ending

for another summer. We came away with a sense of fulfilled purpose. Students and instructors left the program knowing they had learned something valuable to their future successes; students progressed in areas of reading and math, and instructors practiced their skills and learned something about the finer intricacies—the “art”—of teaching. With the CSI program, everybody wins.

Devin King  
CSI Program Assistant

# Executive Director's Report

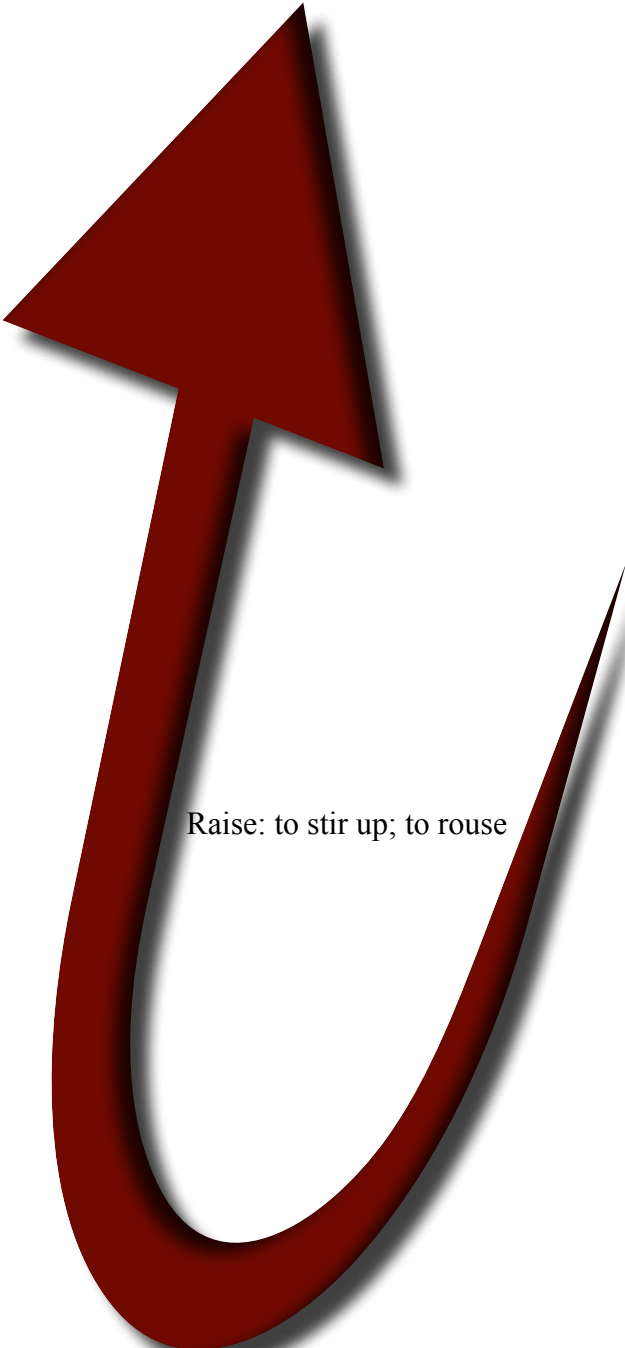
This year marks another year of significant activity for the Social Planning Council (SPC). With the help of the membership and staff, 2007 has seen us successfully address many of the priorities set out in our Strategic Plan.

One of those strategic priorities—Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion—generated the hugely successful Raise the Rates campaign. Through Raise the Rates, we have pursued an aggressive educational campaign that not only outlined many of the issues and consequences of high levels of poverty but has used an army of volunteers and collateral organizations to draw attention to poverty in Manitoba.

The SPC continues to show leadership in calling for change and provides realistic solutions to the issues at hand. The fact that over 10,000 individuals and over 40 organizations endorsed the Raise the Rates campaign is strong evidence that we are successfully engaging the community and helping to raise awareness and build community capacity.

We continue to enjoy a constructive relationship with our main funder—the United Way of Winnipeg—who has become an even stronger partner in the battle against poverty by being the catalyst for the Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council (WPRC), in which significant community, business, and government leadership has been assembled. The active participation of the members of the WPRC and its carefully considered approach is not only a testament to the community's level of concern about poverty but is also reason for optimism.

The Federal and Provincial Governments are also strong supporters of our various activities. With their support we have participated in community capacity building efforts that have resulted in various reports and projects which we have produced hand-in-hand with various grass roots communities. An excellent example of this is their support of the CSI: Summer Learning Enrichment Program. In 2007, 240 children from 4 inner-city schools benefited from the 5 week program. In 2008 enrollment is expected to increase to 360 children at 6 sites. The amazing results of CSI are now becoming more and more evident.



Raise: to stir up; to rouse



Contributing Artist: Logan Puhach, Age 6

Our involvement with national movements continues to be a stable feature of SPC's active portfolio. As a local partner with Campaign 2000, the external working group of the Homeless Partnering Initiative, and the Canadian Council of Social Development's community social data strategy we ensure Winnipeg's unique circumstances are given full consideration on the national scene. We are also beginning to examine the unique features of a quickly growing Inuit community in Winnipeg and how we may ensure their special circumstances are considered.

As 2008 will close our 89<sup>th</sup> year of operation, we are reminded that next year's Annual General Meeting will be a celebration of 90 years of service to Winnipeg. The Board of Directors have anticipated this and set aside resources to make this a very special event and we welcome your ideas and participation.

In closing, I would like to recognize the tremendous commitment demonstrated by this year's Board of Directors, whose efforts go beyond the normal responsibility of policy governance. They have logged countless hours on committees and given active leadership which, when combined with staff support, make it possible for the Social Planning Council to take on the many challenges our communities are faced with.

Wayne Helgason, Executive Director

## Urban Inuit Project

The Urban Inuit Project began as a discussion between the Social Planning Council and the Federal Office of the Interlocutor to initiate a 12 week study to examine the adjustment of the Inuit to the urban environment of Winnipeg.

As a result of these discussions a collaborative method of engagement to explore local concerns and suggestions through consultations with urban Inuit was constructed. Preparation for this study included a literature review, holding informal consultations with Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada and Inuit

Tapiriit Kanatami, the formation of working groups, and the production of a community survey.

Based on the survey results, an interim report was prepared delivering recommendations intended to set the stage for future community and economic development. Among the many recommendations put forth by the report was the suggestion that, meetings between the 3 levels of government be held to discuss housing for students and new arrivals and the development of an Inuit cultural centre in Winnipeg.

The report also suggests exploring the feasibility of hosting a National Inuit conference in Winnipeg in 2008 and continuing to support and fund the development of Inuit community leadership in Winnipeg.

The study revealed that the Inuit have their own unique culture and traditions that are dissimilar from First Nations but noted that there are benefits to improved connections with Aboriginal organizations.





Raise: to grow or breed, to care for

# Campaign 2000 Continues Report

It has been a challenging year for the Campaign 2000 Continues Committee. Taking over as chair from Mike Owen has been somewhat daunting. Mike has done so much in his many years of chairing this committee; it is hard to imagine filling his shoes. I have been tremendously lucky to have such a wonderful and dedicated group of people to work with. Special thanks must go to Mike Owen, Sid Frankel, and Tara Rudy, who have been unfailingly generous with their time and expertise.

Over the past year, the members of the Campaign 2000 Continues Committee have spent time reviewing our priorities and strategies, and we are hopeful that these efforts will pay dividends down the road.

In May, 2007, we held a consultation with members of the Campaign 2000 Network to get feedback from the Network regarding our work to date and advice about directions for the future. The event was well-attended, and a number of useful points came out of the discussion. In particular, we were reminded of the importance of having a clear and focused media strategy—our research and policy advice are wasted if they do not reach their intended audience. We were also advised to develop strategic alliances with other sectors including business, labour, and education. We made a recommendation to the Board of Directors that the Social Planning Council should hire a communications specialist to ensure that our message was getting out. Partly in response to our request, Rob Marriott was hired in January, and we are already benefiting from his expertise. Although we would like ultimately to form alliances with a number of other sectors, given our limited resources, we decided to focus our efforts on two to begin with, and struck sub-committees to work on developing alliances with the business and education sectors. These sub-committees are continuing to meet.

We released our *2007 Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card* in November, 2007, to coincide with the release of the *National Poverty Report Card*. Of particular interest was the fact that in Manitoba, most low income children live in families with one or more working parents. The Report Card emphasized the need for a poverty reduction plan, and analyzed the progress made (or not made) by all 3 levels of government towards implementing the recommendations from the 2006 Report Card.



Unfortunately, we were not able to issue our usual number of publications this year. A *Poverty Barometer* on the situation of immigrants and refugees has been in the works for some time, and we expect to release it in August. We are already planning further Poverty Barometers for release in the coming year.

Recently the Falling Fortunes subcommittee reached the end of its two year project focusing on young families living in poverty. They made a presentation about their work to our committee, and we agreed to try to carry on some of their tasks, including bringing attention to the situation of families with young children living in poverty, and maintaining some of the contacts that the Falling Fortunes project made. Some of the members of the Falling Fortunes Project have now joined our committee, and we are delighted to have them.

We recently took time to consider our target audience to make sure that we know who we want to get our message across to. This, along with our feedback from the Campaign 2000 Network, will help to shape our future efforts. With a renewed sense of purpose, we are looking forward to the coming year and the work waiting to be done.

Myfanwy Bowman, Chair

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## Falling Fortunes

In March of 2008, Falling Fortunes reached the end of its two year project focusing on families with young children living in poverty. Through various workshops, focus groups, meetings, and presentations. Multi-sectoral linkages and partnerships were established, knowledge was shared, and consciousness was raised among the participants, general public, and policy makers about the solutions to child and family poverty.

A media workshop with parents took place in January 2008 at the North End Women's

Centre. Former journalist and Winnipeg City Councillor and current Winnipeg Harvest Public Education Coordinator Donald Benham led the workshop, a panel of local media representatives also participated. The workshop was held to further enable parents with young children to enhance their skills in media relations and to tell their own stories about key social issues, such as advocating for a living wage and a stronger social safety net.

The Steering Committee of the project continued its outreach efforts to the business community. They met with individual business people and larger organizations that

represent Manitoba's business community.

The Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee will be carrying on the work of the Falling Fortunes project and will continue to bring attention to the situation of families with young children living in poverty, maintaining the contacts made over the course of the project. Several members of the Falling Fortunes project Steering Committee have joined the Campaign 2000 Continues Committee.



# Poverty Advisory Committee Report

In 2007 the Poverty Advisory Committee focused its energy on two main activities: the Raise the Rates Campaign and our attempt to build support and awareness among city councilors of the role the city can play in addressing urban poverty.

In a successful campaign full of positive outcomes the following stand out in my mind as noteworthy. The Raise the Rates campaign petition collected over 10,000 names and over 40 endorsers, demonstrating broad-based support for the five key petition points.

The campaign would not have been as successful without a number of key partners in the battle to raise the rates. The Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Manitoba Association of School Trustees, Manitoba Chambers of Commerce, and Brandon Poverty Committee, among others, played a pivotal role in raising awareness and getting our message out.

With the help and support of our allies we were able to officially launch the campaign in September, organize a rally at the Manitoba Legislature in October, and mount a successful press conference in March. During that time we met with the Honourable Ministers Greg Selinger, and Gord Mackintosh and with Winnipeg City Councilors Dan Vandal, Russ Wyatt, Gord Steeves, Justin Swandel, Harvey Smith, Jenny Gerbasi, and, standing in for Mayor Sam Katz, Brian Gray.

The end result of the campaign has been a growing awareness, in the media and among policy makers, of the difficulty of living on stagnant Employment Assistance (EIA) rates. A positive indication of the Raise the Rates campaign's impact is that the 2008 Provincial budget included measures to increase the basic earning exemption to \$200 of net monthly earnings, and recipients are able to keep 30 per cent of net monthly earnings in excess of \$200. Additionally, shelter rates for non-disabled single adults on EIA are increasing \$14 per month, single adults and childless couples will receive an additional \$35 per month, and rooming house rates will increase by \$49 and they will now be eligible for the Manitoba Shelter Benefit.

The success of the campaign can, in large part, be attributed to the impact of the Social Marketing campaign we have been engaged in. The fact that our statistics and figures are being found in other news stories is an indication that our message is being heard. However, there is much work left to do.

Raise: to increase in amount





The Social Marketing strategy employed by the Raise the Rates campaign has taken on a challenging issue: building public support for an increase in EIA benefits. Not an easy sell, but when reasonable people hear about how incomes and shelter rates have not kept pace with inflationary pressure they are willing to set aside easy stereotypes and myths about welfare reliance.

The success we have achieved has been gained through cooperation with partners and allies and through an ideology of inclusion. The Poverty Advisory Committee is populated by over thirty people from diverse backgrounds—including Directors of Organizations and individuals on EIA. Every member of our committee and each and every campaign partner brought fresh insight and good ideas to the table.

I want to thank, first and foremost, committee members and partnering organizations. The Raise the Rates campaign would not have been as successful as it was without your dedication and drive. I would also like to thank the staff at the Social Planning Council for their hard work and support, you have all added to this years success.

Marianne Cerilli , Chair

## HIFIS

The Homeless Individuals Families Information System (HIFIS) initiative remains a strong component in helping communities create a greater understanding of the homeless population. A key component of the initiative is the HIFIS software, which allows shelters and other service providers to record client-level information to manage their operations. This software, training and user support is available free to shelters, transitional housing providers, and service providers. The Community Coordinator makes connections with shelters/service providers in order to

form partnerships and implement the HIFIS software.

The HIFIS Community Coordinator is funded through the Homelessness Partnering Secretariat under the department of Human Resources Social Development Canada. The role of the Community Coordinator is vital to the initiative given that they act as liaisons between the Government of Canada and the communities sharing data and information on the shelter's needs. Coordinators help to create a smooth transition and ease of use for new and existing HIFIS users. They help to facilitate local and national reporting and work towards collaborating with a broad range

of community stakeholders to secure long term sustainability of HIFIS.

In the past year five shelters began using HIFIS. All five shelters have signed data sharing protocols which will enable the sharing of information on a local and national level. This piece is imperative in developing a homelessness report card for Winnipeg, a goal for next year. It has been a great pleasure to be the community coordinator for Winnipeg and it is extremely exciting to see what the upcoming year holds for HIFIS.

Viktoria Westgate  
HIFIS Community Coordinator



Raise: to advance in rank or position

# Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination Report

The increasing diversity of our communities presents both great opportunities and challenges. Decreased birth rates and an aging population mean that the future prosperity of Manitoba depends on newcomers—immigrants and refugees—and Aboriginal peoples, who will be primarily responsible for future labour force growth. There is still much work that needs to be done to ensure that these populations have the opportunity to contribute socially and economically.

The committee currently has two projects under development which are meant to raise awareness and increase knowledge of different cultural practices and beliefs. These projects will address the negative attitudes and stereotypes that reinforce many of the barriers that prevent inclusion.

A semi-annual publication entitled *Our Communities: Our Cultures* will highlight two cultures per issue: one from an Aboriginal community and one from another ethno cultural community. Development will be done via a participatory process with community members contributing knowledge regarding their own culture. The publication will highlight similarities as well as unique characteristics across different cultures and profile community members that have made contributions to their communities

The committee is also putting together a *Cultural Literacy Development Toolkit*, to be utilized by members of ethno cultural communities holding cultural awareness workshops. The toolkit will function as a how-to manual that will increase the capacity of communities to provide educational workshops that focus on their own cultural history and practices.

Over the past year the primary focus of the committee has been immigration. Currently, The Government of Manitoba recruits more than 10,000 newcomers to Manitoba every year. By 2016 the target will reach 20,000. This increase is both positive and necessary, but the committee is concerned that the level of investment into settlement and integration programs and services has not kept pace with the increase. Lack of information and appropriate and affordable housing, recognition of foreign credentials and work experience, and inadequate social supports are some of



the barriers that newcomers continue to face.

The committee is interested in contributing to a community network that can work together to enhance a dialogue with governmental representatives around settlement and integration strategies. Along with representatives from organizations that work with newcomers the committee recently met with the Honourable Ministers of Labour and Immigration, Finance, and Competitiveness Training and Trade to discuss programs and services for newcomers and barriers to inclusion. The committee also met with the Director of Settlement and Labour Market Services Ms. Ximena Munoz who presented on Manitoba's Settlement Strategy.

The committee will continue to examine the Government of Manitoba's Settlement Strategy to see where gaps may exist and to identify our potential role in addressing these gaps with community partners. The committee is currently planning a community meeting in the fall of 2008 to discuss the issues facing newcomers and to prioritize actions.

I would like to express my appreciation for the efforts of Viktoria Westgate who resigned as staff resource to the committee after four years of dedicated service. Viktoria's dedication and support to the work undertaken by the committee will be missed.

Tayeb Meridji, Chair

## 2007 Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPC), in partnership with National Campaign 2000, released the 2007 Manitoba Child and Family Poverty Report Card on Monday November 26 at the Manitoba Legislative Building. Once again the release of the report was met with keen interest by the media and policy makers.

A Probe Research poll used in the report indicated that 49 per cent of Winnipeggers believed the NDP Government was not doing enough to address poverty and that 81 per cent

of Winnipeggers believe it is important to help children living in poverty.

The details of the reports findings were presented by Grand Chief Morris Shannacappo of the Southern Chiefs Organization, Bruce Alexander of the Manitoba Association of School Trustees, and Dr. Sid Frankel, Vice President of the SPC. Following the release of the report a Child Poverty Vigil was held.

The report showed that Manitoba had not made any noticeable gains in reducing child poverty since the 1989 all-party resolution in the House of Commons. At the time of the report there were 51,000 children living in

poverty in Manitoba, a provincial poverty rate of 20.1 per cent.

The report made it clear that poverty is a complex problem that has no quick fix solutions. The key to poverty reduction is having a comprehensive provincial plan with extensive community and stakeholder input with targets, timelines, monitoring, and budgetary measures.

The release of the report card was met with intense interest from the media. Outlets covering the event included CBC, CKY, Global TV, CBC Radio, Winnipeg Free Press, Winnipeg Sun, CBC Manitoba website, and CJOB.



# Environment Committee Report

2007 has been year of transition. We have seen the focus of our work, the *Children's Health and Environment Project*, grow into a Partnership model supported by new funding. And there are a number of highlights I would like to address.

Firstly, *Taking Action! Children's Health and the Environment Film and Workshop* was a great success. In September 2007, the members of the Environment Committee, along with the other four founding organizations of the *Children's Health and Environment Project*—Manitoba Eco Network, Chemical Sensitivities Manitoba, Kinic, and the Campaign for Pesticide Reduction—offered a public film screening and workshop titled, “*Taking Action! Children's Health and the Environment*” with Dr. Dorothy Goldin Rosenberg from Toronto. The workshop offered the following day was tailored to educating health care professionals and child care workers on environmental health risks and strategies to mitigate these threats on both a personal and political level. A report from the workshop was distributed to all participants, and their contacts were kept for information on our partnership development. We also contributed to a local carbon offset measure through the Spence Neighbourhood Association for our presenter's travel from Toronto.

Secondly, the Children's Health and Environment Partnership has grown into its second phase. The Environment Committee completed the *Children's Health and Environment Project* under our prior grant with the Winnipeg Foundation, in early 2008. We would like to thank Kimlee Wong, our coordinator, for all her work organizing public education presentations and email communications on issues affecting children's health.

We have been successful in receiving funding for the next phase of work, as the *Children's Health and Environment Partnership* received confirmation of a generous grant for \$33,000 from the Winnipeg Foundation, submitted through the Manitoba Eco Network. We have hired Kristle Calisto-Tavares, as the secretariat to coordinate this new venture. This funding will also be used to create a brand and website for the initiative to be launched this fall.

A second funding proposal to supplement this position was made to the Manitoba Community Services Council, which will be decided at their June 17, 2008 board meeting.

Raise: to put forward; to present for public consideration



And finally, the Environment Committee will be recruiting new members to embark on work connecting lower-income Manitobans with energy conservation programs offered by Manitoba Hydro.

I look forward to chairing the Environment Committee into the upcoming year.

Kate Dykman, Chair

## Raise the Rates

The primary goal of the Raise the Rates campaign is to raise public awareness about the need for an increase to Employment and Income Assistance (EIA) rates and the necessity of change to punitive policies that make it hard for people to get ahead.

The Raise the Rates campaign has been focused on the short term changes that can be made to EIA and the need for a structure to examine and recommend longer term changes.

2007 has been a busy year for the Raise the Rates campaign. In March and April the original petition and recommendations were produced and circulated to the public and on September 21, 2007 the campaign was officially launched.

A rally was held at the Manitoba Legislative Building on October 17, 2007 where various groups spoke to the urgent need to reform the EIA system—Grand Chief Ron Evans of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, Kelly Holmes of Resource Assistance for Youth, Marty Dolin of Welcome Place, Liz Sarin of UNIFEM, Bill Gillis of the Conference of Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, United Church of Canada, John Silver of Community Financial Counseling Services, and Social Planning Council's own Marianne Cerilli.

On November 26, 2007 Raise the Rates representatives and community partners met with the Honourable Greg Selinger, Minister of Finance, and the Honourable Gord Mackintosh, Minister of Family Services and Housing, to discuss the main recommendations of the campaign. A well

attended follow up meeting with the Honourable Gord Mackintosh was held on February 21, 2007.

The Social Planning Council and partners hosted a press conference at the Manitoba Legislative Building on March 27, 2008, prior to the Provincial Budget, calling on the Province to address two of the campaign's five points in the 2008 fiscal year.

The Raise the Rates campaign has been very successful in building awareness and support for an increase in social assistance and shelter rates. There are over 10,000 signatories to the petition and over forty organizations have officially endorsed the campaign.

2007 has seen media and policy makers take note of the growing tide of support for the campaign.

# Auditor's Report

*Summarized Financial Statements of*

## **SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG**

*March 31, 2008*

### **AUDITORS' REPORT ON SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

To the Members  
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

The accompanying summarized statement of financial position and statement of operations and unrestricted net assets are derived from the complete financial statements of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg as at March 31, 2008 and for the year then ended on which we expressed an opinion without reservation in our report dated June 10, 2008. The fair summarization of the complete financial statements is the responsibility of management. Our responsibility, in accordance with the applicable Assurance Guideline of The Canadian Institute of Chartered Accountants, is to report on the summarized financial statements.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements fairly summarize, in all material respects, the related complete financial statements in accordance with the criteria described in the Guideline referred to above.

These summarized financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes. For more information on the entity's financial position, results of operations and cash flows, reference should be made to the related complete financial statements.

Chartered Accountants

Winnipeg, Manitoba  
June 10, 2008  
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# Financial Report

## SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF WINNIPEG

### Summarized Financial Statements

Year Ended March 31, 2008

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION			STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS		
	March 31			March 31	
	2008	2007		2008	2007
<b>ASSETS</b>					
<b>CURRENT</b>			<b>REVENUE</b>		
Cash	\$ 225,019	\$ 158,205	Special Projects revenue	\$ 371,962	\$ 438,593
Short-term deposit	66,930	65,432	United Way of Winnipeg	301,300	274,800
Accounts receivable	124,619	27,649	Affiliation fees	2,146	2,243
Prepaid expenses	3,205	2,292	Other	13,192	6,124
	<u>\$ 419,773</u>	<u>\$ 253,578</u>		<u>688,600</u>	<u>721,760</u>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>			<b>EXPENSES</b>		
<b>CURRENT</b>			Special Projects expense	314,608	374,365
Accounts payable			Salaries and wages	234,215	241,158
and accrued liabilities	\$ 22,372	\$ 53,321	Office and maintenance	54,835	64,934
Deferred Special			Administration	45,806	41,979
Projects revenue	253,868	125,220		<u>649,464</u>	<u>722,436</u>
	<u>276,240</u>	<u>178,541</u>			
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>			<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE</b>		
REVENUE STABILIZATION	\$ 60,000	\$ 33,000	OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR		
TECHNOLOGY	15,000	5,000	BEFORE UNDERNOTED	39,136	(676)
RESEARCH	16,000	16,000	PROPERTY TAX - Recovery	29,360	-
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	52,533	21,037	<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE</b>		
	<u>143,533</u>	<u>75,037</u>	OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	68,496	(676)
	<u>\$ 419,773</u>	<u>\$ 253,578</u>	<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS,</b>		
			BEGINNING OF YEAR	21,037	21,713
			<b>FUND TRANSFERS:</b>		
			Revenue Stabilization Fund	(27,000)	-
			Technology Fund	(10,000)	-
			<b>UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS,</b>		
			END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 52,533</u>	<u>\$ 21,037</u>

APPROVED BY THE BOARD

*B. Bault* ..... President

*Rachel Chait* ..... Treasurer

A complete set of financial statements and Auditors' Report may be obtained from the Council.



Raise: to increase in amount



# Student's Report

My field placement at the Social Planning Council (SPC) was one that was filled with learning, challenges, excitement, and new relationships. As a social work student interested in policy, the SPC was the perfect fit to enhance my knowledge and experience in this area. I was given the opportunity to meet many of the learning objectives that I initially set out to accomplish, such as, to broaden my writing skills, enhance my skill in effective committee facilitation, gain a greater knowledge of government structures, and learn about regional and national policy efforts.

My time at the SPC started off as a memorable one. In my second week, I was given the invaluable opportunity of representing the SPC at the national Campaign 2000 conference in Toronto. This trip gave me the chance to see the work of SPC in a broader context and network with other national policy organizations.

As the year went on, the bulk of my field placement was dedicated to working on the Raise the Rates campaign with the Poverty Advisory Committee. I enjoyed working with this group and thank them for allowing me to be a part of this important campaign. Some of the activities that come to mind are when I helped to organize the October 17, 2007 rally, attended meetings with the Minister of Family Services and Housing and the Minister of Finance, wrote articles for various newspapers, collected petition signatures and letters of endorsement, wrote fact sheets, and organized the March 2008 press conference. It is exciting that this campaign generated the community support that it did, ultimately resulting in an increase to the provincial social assistance rates. The power of a community of persistent voices cannot be underestimated. It also didn't hurt to have the Manitoba Chambers of Commerce behind us!

The people that I encountered during my 8 months at SPC impacted me greatly. A big thank you goes to the staff - Wayne, Audrey, Donna, Rob, Joel, and Kate. You all helped to make the office a welcoming place where I felt like a part of the team. Thank you also to Marianne, who fielded many phone calls from me after Tara left! Marianne shared her years of experience and knowledge, helping guide me towards an understanding of what it means to effectively advocate for structural change. I would like to offer special thanks to Tara, who provided me with guidance and learning in our three months together at SPC, who continued to support me as my off-site field instructor after she was finished her time at SPC.

Raise: to give vigor to; to animate



Overall, SPC was a great fit for me, as it enhanced my learning, gave me the chance to network with others in the community, and provided me with the opportunity to be a part of a campaign that worked towards making Manitoba a just, caring, inclusive, and responsive society.

Jessica Klassen, Social Work Student

## Meeting Strategic Priorities

### Poverty Reduction and Social Inclusion:

- The SPC continued its involvement in the Poverty Symposium
- Raise the Rates campaign circulated a petition and lobbied policy makers regarding raising Employment and Income Assistance rates
- The Falling Fortunes report

### Supporting the Voluntary Sector:

- Community Plan Assessment of the homeless strategy was submitted
- Continued participation in Voluntary and Non-profit Sector Organization of Manitoba Inc.

### Organizational Development:

- HIFIS data will increase capacity to monitor situation

### Developing Awareness and Engagement:

- Raise the Rates launch, rally, petition, press conference
- Falling Fortunes report
- 2007 Child and Family Poverty Report Card and vigil
- Presentations on children's health and environmental issues

### Community Capacity Building:

- CSI: Summer Learning Enrichment Program
- Homeless Individuals and Families Information System
- Belonged to Child Care Coalition of Manitoba
- Raise the Rates linkages with supporting organizations
- Urban Inuit Project
- Participation in Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council



Raise: to build or erect

# Social Planning Council Staff, Board, and Committee Chairs

## Core Staff

Wayne Helgason  
Executive Director

Tara Rudy  
Policy Analyst\*

Lisa Bedner  
Policy Analyst

Donna Downie  
Office Manager

Rob Marriott  
Communications Coordinator

Audrey Wheeler  
Administrative Assistant

## Contract Staff

Joel Masniuk  
Jason Neufeld\*  
Viktoria Westgate  
Kathy Bent\*  
Kate Bloy  
Mary Graham\*

## Student Placement

Jessica Klassen  
Faculty of Social Work

## Committee Chairs

Brian Bechtel  
Executive Committee

Tayeb Meridji  
Committee for the Elimination of Racism and  
Discrimination

Marianne Cerilli  
Poverty Advisory Committee

Myfanwy Bowman  
Campaign 2000 Continues

Kate Dykman  
Environment Committee

David Lowe  
Personnel Committee

# Social Planning Council Staff, Board, and Committee Chairs

## Executive Committee

Brian Bechtel  
President

Sid Frankel  
Vice-President

Mike Owen  
Vice-President

Rachel Charette  
Treasurer

Mairanne Cerilli  
Member at Large

Tayeb Meridji  
Member at Large

Anita Moore  
Past President

## Board of Directors

Brian Bechtel

Myfanwy Bowman

Marianne Cerilli

Rachel Charette

Kate Dykman

Sid Frankel

Sandy Gessler

Dick Henley

David Lowe

Kelvin Lynxleg

Courtney Marchant

Patrick LeBlanc\*

## Board of Directors

Jack Marquardson

Tim McIsaac

Tayeb Meridji

Glenn Michalchuk

Anita Moore

Linda Orr

Mike Owen

Darlene Prince

Darla Rettie

Shahina Siddiqui

Ram Tiwari

Dennis Spence\*

\* Resigned



Interested in joining one of  
our committees as a  
volunteer?

Contact us at 204-943-2561  
or at [info@spcw.mb.ca](mailto:info@spcw.mb.ca)



**Policy Options**

Facilitating Communication

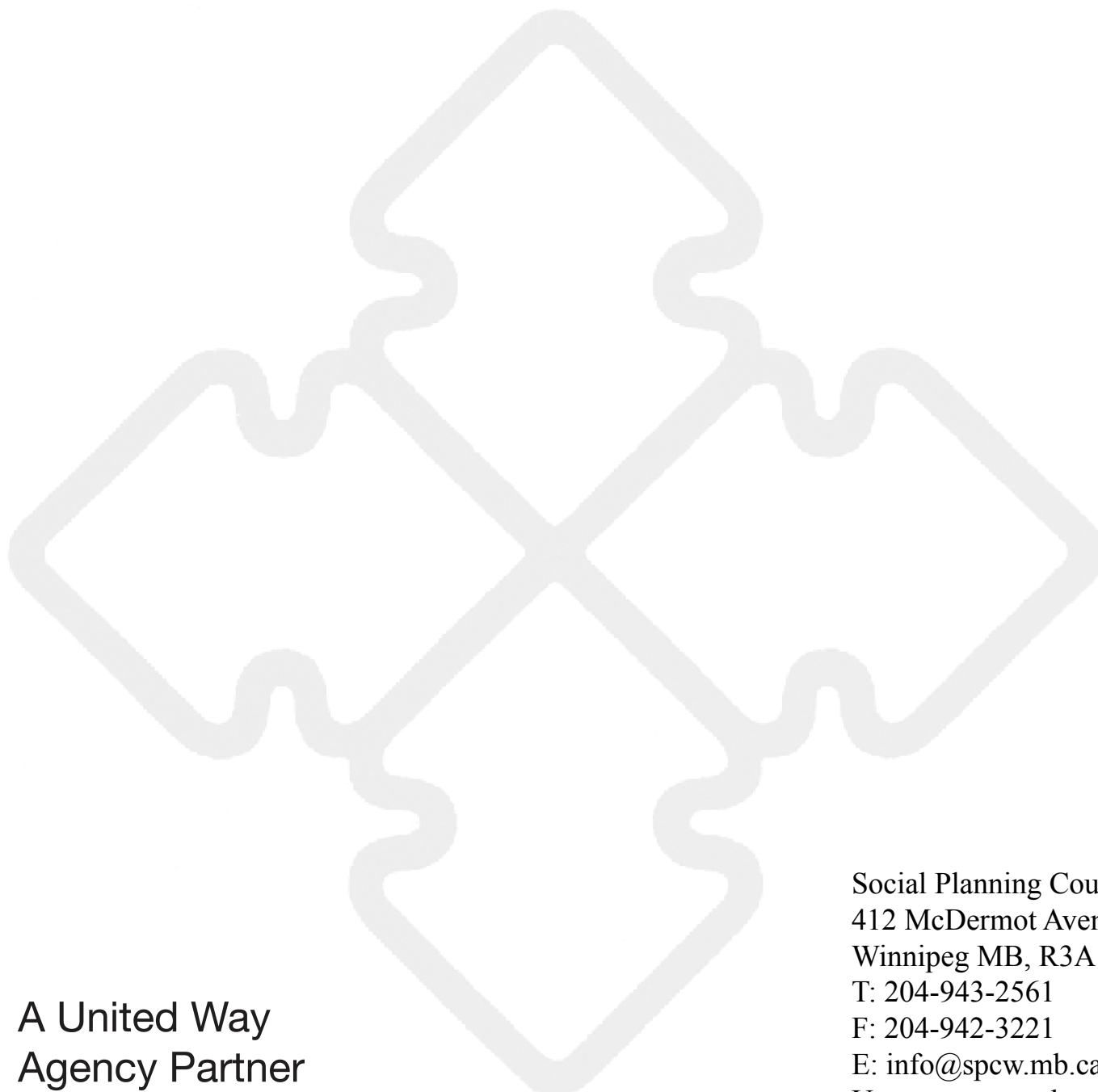
COMMUNITY

# **RAISING COMMUNITY AWARENESS**

Collaboration

**AFFECTING POLICY CHANGES**

***Resources***



A United Way  
Agency Partner

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