



2002-2003

# Annual Report

## Joint Report

### From the President and Executive Director

### Our Mission

Through research, community development, and public education, the Peterborough Social Planning Council works to build a strong community

### Our Vision

The vision of the PSPC is to be an organization that facilitates active, broad based citizen participation in shaping healthy communities in Peterborough city and county; acts as a catalyst for positive, sustainable social change; and promotes understanding that social justice is in everyone's interest.

A few short years ago the PSPC purposefully made a decision to scale up, to increase our capacity, our outputs and, hopefully, the impact of our work. We believe we have been successful and that the past year has been one of our finest. At the same time, it has been very, very challenging, as we pushed the limits of our current capacity. We have realized a tremendous range and depth of work, with the commitment of our Board and staff, volunteers and partner organizations.

We have successfully increased our core revenues and thank the United Way, the City and County, the Trillium Foundation, National Crime Prevention Centre, HRDC, the Affordable Housing Action Committee, our members, donors and in-kind contributors. We could not do it without you.

2002 was our 25th anniversary year, a notable milestone, which we celebrated in style. We look forward to continuing to play a vital role in Peterborough City and County for the next 25 years.

Frances Adams  
Executive Director

Gillian Sandeman  
President

### 2002-2003 Board of Directors

Gillian Sandeman — President  
Susan Hubay — Vice President  
Barbara Cameron—Treasurer

Jenny Carter  
Joan Connolly  
LeeAnne Cross  
Ken Doherty

Linda Driscoll  
Peter Earle  
Jamie Emerson  
Donna Geddes

Nora Martyn  
Bev McLeod  
Deborah Parnis  
Roma Rees



# PSPC Goals and Accomplishments

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## Social Research

*PSPC conducts social research and supports the social research of other groups when that research is honest in its design, implementation and in the analysis of data.*

One of the most exciting developments this year is the Community Social Data Strategy, a joint initiative of Statistics Canada and the Canadian Council on Social Development. PSPC is acting as lead partner for the City-County consortium. The Strategy will give us access to a broad range of social and economic data, and will allow us to provide a richer, more detailed portrait of trends in local communities. We look forward to collaborating with our partners to enrich our shared capacity for identifying and responding to local needs.

Last fall, we released the Report on Violence Prevention Research with our partners in the Peaceful Communities project. This was a unique project that gathered extensive local data on attitudes toward and experiences of violence.

PSPC was pleased to host a Donner Fellow from the University of Toronto Law School during the summer of 2002. Jennifer Martin completed a review of Living Wage campaigns in the United States, making a strong case for municipal intervention to increase economic security locally.

As part of our ongoing commitment to serve the County, we designed and supervised a Trent Centre for Community Based Education project investigating best practices for developing affordable housing in the County.

PSPC participated in the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition's Community-Based Social Audit.

Fifty people living in poverty spoke of their experiences at a series of community hearings. As part of the Social Audit process, PSPC completed a City-County Briefing Paper that reviewed conditions for local citizens living on low incomes.

PSPC is the first social planning council in Ontario to develop a policy on Research Policy & Ethics. This document sets out the agency's commitment to integrity, ethics and intellectual freedom in its social research, and outlines the procedures PSPC researchers will follow to ensure our research meets these standards.

We increased the range of research completed on a fee for service basis for community partners. PSPC was contracted by the Peterborough County City Health Unit to complete data analysis and report results from two breastfeeding surveys conducted in 2000/01. We have also begun to conduct research on behalf of a group of agencies serving people with developmental disabilities. This project will present case studies that illustrate current systemic challenges to the provision of quality services for people with developmental disabilities.

In addition our staff have responded to hundreds of requests from community members for local, provincial and national data on a wide range of social and economic trends. PSPC is proud to serve as a resource to the broader community.

## Social Policy Analysis

*PSPC will analyse social policy, to assist groups and individuals to advocate for progressive social policies with all levels of government, in a non-partisan way.*

PSPC continued to monitor and analyze the effects of social assistance policies on individuals, families, and the community. Our analysis of the lifetime bans for welfare fraud led to a City Council resolution opposing the ban on the basis that it represents an unduly harsh punishment.

Our analysis of provincial policies around electricity led to action by the Advocacy Centre for Tenants Ontario (ACTO) that closed a loophole in the government's moratorium legislation, preventing disconnections of low-income households in the period before the moratorium took effect.

This year the agency submitted a response to the draft regulations released by the Canada Customs and Revenue Agency regarding Charities & Advocacy. PSPC also completed an evaluation of the experience of the Early Years Challenge Fund Steering Committee.

The Board of the PSPC endorsed the Romanow report, reaffirming our support for universal medical care for all Canadians.

PSPC continued to chair and provide staff support to the Social Policy Initiatives Committee. SPI has provided advice to the Mayor and Warden on social policies including the lifetime ban for social assistance fraud, Ontario Disability Support Program benefit amounts, and energy assistance for low-income households.

## Community Development

*PSPC does community development work to enable us to ground our public education, social research and social policy analysis in the needs and issues of the community.*

PSPC has played a key role in several major projects over the past year including implementation of the Community Plan for Homelessness and Housing Insecurity and phase two of the Municipal Social Plan. We have staffed and managed these two projects for, respectively, the Affordable Housing Action Committee and the Municipal Social Plan Steering Committee. We have also partnered with the YWCA, Community Counselling and Resource Centre and Axiom News Services in a dynamic web-site facilitating peace-building in our community. ([www.peacefulcommunities.ca](http://www.peacefulcommunities.ca))

We have supported the development of the Peterborough ODSP Action Group, the Children and Youth Action Committee (CAYAC), the Social Audit Coalition that conducted hearings on poverty for the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition, and the Lakefield & District Affordable Housing Group.

## Community Partnership

*PSPC will build and support partnerships among groups and individuals to create a healthier community.*

PSPC has a long history of collaborative work and the past year was no exception. We have managed three major projects in partnership with broad-based community committees—The Affordable Housing Action Committee, Municipal Social Plan Steering Committee, and the Peaceful Communities Steering Group. We have led the development of a new Community Social Data Consortium that includes organizations we have not had extensive partnerships with in recent years such as the Workforce Development Board, and Employment Planning & Counselling Peterborough.

We proposed and realized a unique and effective partnership with City-County Social Services and Community Counselling & Resource Centre on the reinvestment of National Child Benefit funds to families in receipt of Ontario Works (see report on our web-site). \$270,000 was disbursed to local families.



## Resource Development

*The PSPC undertakes resource development activities to raise awareness in the community about its role and vision, to increase membership and involvement in the PSPC, and to create a solid financial base.*

Our Garden card continues to be a successful on-going fundraiser for us. Our association with the Peterborough Horticultural Society was very helpful for us in regards to our success at this year's garden show. We continued to work on different ways to increase our membership and financial and in-kind contributions.

## Public Education

*PSPC takes an educational role in the community through objective information dissemination and promotion of strategies for social change.*

Highlights of our work in this area include a hugely successful Peaceful Communities Forum, attended by over 230 people last fall; presentations to all eight township councils last spring; a redesign and expansion of our web-site, ensuring greater access to the numerous reports we have issued in recent years; and the development of a new template for our newsletters and publications. We were involved in numerous community forums and gave talks on a range of issues to community organizations.

## Volunteers & Committee Members

Brenda Smith-Chant  
Brenda Pander-Scott  
Fleming Data Research Team

### Student Volunteers

Eric Barker  
Marisa Barnhart  
Jeff Hedderson  
Jennifer Martin  
Heather Milne  
Trevor Rodie  
Applied Social Research Students  
at Trent Sociology Department

Melanie Allen  
Clifford Ballantyne  
Barb Beck  
Gord Clements  
Cathy Forgie  
Beryl Harris  
Jennifer MacIsaac  
Dawn Berry-Merriam  
Kathy Neill  
Brenda O'Toole  
Peg Town  
Marge Woods

## staff

**Frances Adams**  
Executive Director

**Anne Sloggett**  
Office Manager

**Tracey Gainforth**  
Fundraising, Communications &  
Administrative Assistant

**Margaret McCutcheon**  
Research & Policy Analyst

**Naida Harris-Morgan**  
Research & Communications Assistant

**Jan Dupuis and Diane Gallagher**  
Community Development Officer  
and Associate, Community Plan to  
Address Homelessness & Housing  
Insecurity

**Pauline Matthews (until July 2002)**  
Research Coordinator,  
Peaceful Communities

**Leni Rautiainen and Heidi Schaeffer**  
Facilitators, Peaceful Communities

**Marshall Elliott**  
Facilitator, Municipal Social Plan

**Mary Lynch-Taylor (June—October)**  
Facilitator, Municipal Social Plan

**Research & Planning Associates:** Greg Conchelos, Barbara Hawthorne,  
Dawn Berry -Merriam, Leni Rautiainen, Janice Wuerch, Sandy Zimmerman

### **Peterborough Social Planning Council**

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Website: [www.pspc.on.ca](http://www.pspc.on.ca)

## Publications

*If you are interested in  
obtaining copies of  
these or other reports  
please contact us or  
visit our website.*

**Interfaith Social Assis-  
tance Reform Coalition  
Community -Based  
Social Audit Peterbor-  
ough City & County  
Briefing Paper**

**Energy Assistance Plan  
for Low Income House-  
holds in Peterborough  
City & County**

**Report on Violence Pre-  
vention Research**

**Report on the Early  
Years Challenge Fund  
Steering Committee**

**First Annual Report on  
the Community Plan to  
Address Homelessness  
& Housing Insecurity in  
Peterborough City &  
County**

**2002 National Child  
Benefit Reinvestment  
Initiative Final Report**

Member Agency

