

2001-2002

Annual Report

Joint Report

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.

From the President and Executive Director

The past year was surely one of the busiest in the PSPC's history. We find considerable satisfaction in a number of significant accomplishments and in the sheer output of reports and recommendations that will have long-term impact on our community. Our research, community development and public education efforts on homelessness, housing insecurity, childcare and children's services, violence and many other areas are contributing to positive social change and a stronger community.

The year brought many changes in staffing, with a new Executive Director, Research & Policy Analyst and five new project employees. We increased our research and planning capacity (with 6 associates becoming affiliated with us), realized an improved financial position, and a strengthening of our relationships with local governments and many community organizations.

The downloading of many social services and the increasing impoverishment of people living on social assistance and low-wage jobs has perhaps made the need for a social planning council more critical in recent years than at any time in the past. Our work continues to be motivated by our commitment to social justice for all - a commitment that we need all sectors of our community to reach for and demand.

Any and all of our achievements are realized with the support of many individuals and organizations. We sincerely thank our members, donors, committed volunteers and employees and we thank our funders - the United Way, the City and County of Peterborough, The Ontario Trillium Foundation and Human Resources Development Canada.

We look forward to the coming year that promises a return to greater civility and a more inclusive, cohesive community.

Frances Adams
Executive Director

Gillian Sandeman
President



PSPC Goals and Accomplishments

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.

This year we saw the completion of a childcare report entitled "Measuring Satisfaction with Licensed Child Care Services in Peterborough City and County."

The research for the Peaceful Communities Project included a written and telephone survey and several focus groups of local community members. All were designed to learn more about attitudes concerning issues of violence and violence prevention in the city and county.

The PSPC staffed the development and initial implementation of the Community Plan to Address Homelessness and Housing Insecurity which has involved considerable research. We prepared two reports on the development of a minimal barrier shelter and a background report on "Energy Assistance for Low Income Households in Peterborough City and County", both for the Affordable Housing Action Committee (AHAC). a project that

Also, on behalf of AHAC, we sponsored a consultative process that gathered a range of expert advice on the development of new affordable housing.

Extensive work was completed for the Early Years Steering Committee, including compilation and mapping of an inventory of services and consultations with parents all of which culminated in the Three Year Action Plan for Children 0-6.

We continued to support the information needs of the United Way, by monitoring emerging issues in the community and completing a report on Trends in Voluntarism in the County and City that involved research with 50 non-profit groups.

We hosted and organized a consultation with small non-profit organizations on behalf of the National Voluntary Sector Initiative.

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.

Great strides were made with the National Child Benefit proposal we developed with Community Counselling and Resource Centre at the close of the year, when it was unanimously approved at all levels of government. Peterborough, can take pride in being one of the first municipalities in Ontario to return much needed money back to families who desperately need it.

Our staff continued to chair and support the Social Policy Initiatives Committee which advises the Mayor & Warden on a range of critical social policies.

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.

Phase I of the Municipal Social Plan wrapped up in February with the presentation of the Social Plan to County and City Councils. This first phase of the process included ten Town Hall meetings throughout the County and six Round Tables where community member identified local gaps and assets and reached a consensus on the Plan's objectives and action strategies. Phase II is currently underway.

The PSPC supported the founding and development of the Lakefield & District Affordable Housing Group and helped to initiate a new Children and Youth Action Council for the City and County.

We also continued to support the development of the Affordable Housing Action Committee and its work on the Community Plan to address Homelessness & Housing Insecurity.

Community Partnership

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

Significant Partners in 2000-2001 included:

- United Way of Peterborough & District
- PCCHU
- KPRDSB
- YWCA
- Social Planning Network of Ontario
- City of Peterborough
- County of Peterborough
- AHAC
- Trent University
- Trent Centre for Community-Based Education

Resource Development

Goal statement MISSING

Our connection with master gardeners and the gardening community was an exciting addition to our fundraising efforts last year and we continued to offer the discount Garden Card this year. We held a promotional event for the Garden Card, bringing in the renowned Frank Kershaw, who spoke on "Wildflower Wonders for Your Garden".

Public Education

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

As part of our strategic directions we were able to increase our public education efforts this year. The PSPC completed a background paper for the Municipal Social Plan project and with it a presentation on Women and Homelessness and Housing Insecurity at Trent University as part of the conference.

We sponsored public events on poverty including a workshop and presentation by Jean Swanson, author of "Poor Bashing" and a talk on measuring and abolishing poverty by Andrew Jackson of the Canadian Council on Social Development.

We were pleased to expand our contacts, to release 3 newsletters and to write regular letters to the editor and to have ongoing media contact on numerous issues. Presentations were made to Lady Eaton College, The Unitarian Church, The Employer Coalition for Child Care, Selwyn Women's Institute and many more groups.

2001-2002 Board of Directors

Gillian Sandeman President
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Beryl Harris
Peg Town
Kathy Neill
Brenda O'Toole
Jennifer MacIsaac
Gord Clements
Barb Beck
Cathy Forgie

Publications

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

**Study of Trends in Vol-
untarism, 2001**

**Out of Harm's Way: A
Minimal Barrier Shelter
for Peterborough, 2001**

**Trends in Voluntarism,
Peterborough City and
County, 2001**

**Municipal Social Plan,
2001**

**Measuring Satisfaction
with Licensed Childcare
Services, 2002**

**Early Years Action Plan,
2002**

staff

Casey Ready
Executive Director (until Aug 2001)

Frances Adams
Executive Director (present)

Anne Sloggett
Office Manager

Tracey Gainforth
Fundraising, Communications &
Administrative Assistant

Naida Harris-Morgan
Research & Communications Assistant

Margaret McCutcheon
Research & Policy Analyst

Jan Dupuis
Community Development Officer

Diane Gallagher
Community Development Associate

Pauline Matthews
Research Coordinator

Jorge Pineda
Research Coordinator

Jody Jessup
Research Assistant (Summer Student)

Research & Planning Associates

Greg Conchelos

Barbara Hawthorne

Dawn Berry Merriam

Leni Rautiainen

Janice Wuerch

Sandy Zimmerman

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