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## Mission Statement

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

30 Years 1977-2007

## 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.



Member Agency

# 2006 2007 Annual Report



## A message from the President

If the world were a perfect place and change a stranger to our land then the need for Social Planning Councils would not exist. However, with a more just society the goal and positive change the strategy, Social Planning Councils have for decades been thriving in cities and towns across our country and, for thirty years now, right here in Peterborough. The Peterborough Social Planning Council is based upon the belief that everyone deserves a dignified, safe, and healthy quality of life and that a community comprised of everyone enjoying the opportunity for such lives would be a safer, more prosperous, and more vibrant, community for all. With this ideal informing our minds and invigorating our hearts, members of the PSPC state boldly that social justice is in everyone's interest.

For thirty years the PSPC has tirelessly pursued its vision of a more just society through involving itself in four fundamental areas of activity. First, the PSPC undertakes social research. Through professionally conducting research projects that are brought to the PSPC, the agency separates fact from gossip and what is real from what is sometimes erroneously commonly assumed. It is when armed with non-partisan facts derived from PSPC research, that individuals, groups, and political decision makers are better able to serve the community. Second, the PSPC is involved in public education. Through town hall meetings, focus groups, and assisting in the organization of election debates for all three levels of government, people become better informed. Third, the PSPC is sometimes asked to undertake policy analysis which could include determining how a new federal or provincial program might affect the community or perhaps what type of program would most effectively address a particular social need. Finally, the PSPC plays a role in promoting community development through encouraging and assisting individuals or groups to act in a coordinated fashion. The PSPC office, located downtown and across from the bus terminal, assists in this activity. Further, through its participation on a number of committees the PSPC is able to bring fair and non-political perspectives to disparate concerns and occasionally provide a voice for those who are often only faintly heard; or silent.

In all of these activities the PSPC has for three decades now acted in a determinedly non-partisan fashion secure in the knowledge that only when politics is wrung from issues, and the agency remains above the fray, can it do its job. The PSPC Board and staff have had a busy year and wish to thank the City, County, United Way, and all of the individuals and foundations that have provided the funding that allows the agency to do its valuable work. Perhaps the mountain top of a just society is a summit from which we may never gaze but that should never dissuade a person, or an agency, from the pursuit of that lofty and most honourable peak.

*John Boyko*

### Board of Directors 2006/2007

<b>John Boyko</b> Chair	<b>Charlene Green</b> Secretary
<b>Peter Moore</b> Treasurer	<b>Julie Dotsch</b> Vice-Chair
<b>LeeAnne Cross</b> Member at Large	<b>Donna Geddes</b>
<b>Peter Earle</b>	<b>Stephane Caron</b>
<b>Christine Diaz</b>	<b>Renée Castro</b>
<b>Linda Slavin</b>	<b>Kristian Partington</b> *until Jan/07
<b>Alexandra Greene</b>	<b>Alice Williams</b> *until Oct/06
<b>Ann Douglas</b>	<b>Nora Martyn</b>
	<b>Peter Moore</b>
	<b>Wayne MacFarlane</b>

# 2006-2007 A Year in Review



## Executive Director's Report

We have had an exciting and busy year at the Peterborough Social Planning Council with the completion of six research projects including the Quality of Life Report and United Way Community Profile. We have provided public education related to poverty and social issues affecting citizens and supported community development initiatives focusing on income security, food security, child care, affordable housing, and health. As well we continue to provide support to the Aboriginal Strategy Circle of the Kawartha's and the Community Social Plan particularly in Havelock, Belmont, Methuen and Galway-Cavendish and Harvey.

The completion of the Quality of Life Report for the City and County of Peterborough was important for us to update and build on the work of the Community Social Plan. This report provides a snapshot of how community services relevant to thirteen sectors have changed over time. Our aim is to provide a document that keeps the community up to date on trends and issues affecting citizens and can be used as a planning tool by citizens, municipal government, community based organizations and businesses alike.

It continues to be a pleasure and privilege to work as part of a team with staff, board members, agency volunteers and the community groups. I would like to thank everyone for their support, knowledge, time and commitment to social justice in our community.

I look forward to the year ahead in continuing with our work to provide relevant and useful social research, and creation of a database of information that includes updated statistics for the City of County of Peterborough. As well we will continue to provide information and a facilitative role in supporting coalitions and community groups and act as a catalyst for social change by promoting that "***Social Justice is in Everyone's Interest***".

Brenda Dales

### The Quality of Life Report for the City and County of Peterborough

- Builds on the work of the Community Social Plan
- Provides a snapshot of how things have changed in the 13 sectors identified in that plan as being important to having a high quality of life in this community
- Incorporates information from a variety of community partners, both individuals and agencies who are experts in these sectors
- Includes a balance of quantitative and qualitative data from these experts
- Builds a data base that may be easily updated on a regular basis in order to annually monitor change in our community. The intent of this report is to:
- Develops a signature document around quality of life indicators that will assist the PSPC, the United Way of Peterborough and District and community partners to enhance planning capabilities in our community
- continues to build partnerships with community experts within the 13 sectors of the Community Social Plan
- updates the Quality of Life report on an annual basis on behalf of the community and strive to increase the information and data on county issues
- utilizes the information in the Quality of Life report for planning initiatives for the City and County of Peterborough
- Hosts a series of sectoral Think Tanks to discuss the findings of this report, obtain updates and determine ongoing research needs.





## Our Work



### Social Research

We undertook independent research on social trends, needs and issues relevant to a variety of constituencies in their communities.

- Quality of Life Report, City and County of Peterborough, - January 2007
- Prince of Wales Study – To create an integrated service system model that to maximize capacity for at risk students to be successful at school - January 2007
- Don't Tell Me Ask Me. A Participatory Research Project Aboriginal Needs Assessment Report- June 2006
- Consultation Report on Persons with Disabilities research and Community Resource Guide for the Council for Persons With Disabilities and the Workforce Development Board - April 2006
- United Way Member Agency Community Profile – August, 2006
- Best Start Child Care Needs Assessment - August 2006

### Community Development & Partnerships

We have continued to facilitate and support positive change in partnership with community groups and individuals throughout the past year. We have been partnered with various grassroots groups in the community, such as the Peaceful Communities Steering Committee, Food for Kids Steering Committee, Ontario Disability Support Plan (ODSP), the Oral Health Coalition and the Aboriginal Strategy Circle in the Kawarthas (ASCK).

Our work in research on social trends, needs and issues for the City and County is ongoing. We provide sophisticated policy analysis and research-based proposals to public policy-makers at the local, provincial and federal levels. With our community awareness and education we promote broader and deeper understanding on social development issues which affect certain groups or the general quality of community life. We advance the interests of marginalized sectors of the community by advocating specific policy positions to government and are a focal point for mobilizing those groups most affected by issues into working and problem solving partnerships, information networks and action coalitions.



### Activities/Services for 2007-2008

- Commence work for the next Peterborough Profile (2008) that includes up-to-date demographic data and analysis of community trends in population, housing, education, income, employment and other areas.
- Continue to update the Quality of Life Report
- Provide ongoing up to date information and statistics using our Community Social Data Base that can be used as reference to the municipality and community groups to support their program and service and initiative funding needs.
- Continue to deliver information sessions and provide agencies with data to help them better serve the community
- Undertake independent research on social trends needs and issues relevant to a variety of constituencies in our community on a fee for service basis.
- Complete information and Data registry for Children Services tables in the four counties for the Ministry of Community and Social Services
- Complete a Poverty Cost Study for the City and County of Peterborough
- Continue work with the Community Food Action Committee and ASCK

The Peterborough Social Planning Council  
acknowledges the generous support of

United Way of Peterborough & District

City of Peterborough

County of Peterborough

F.K. Morrow Foundation

**Special thanks to the many contributors  
who anonymously and faithfully support our work  
both financially and as volunteers**



## Personnel

### Staff in 2006/07 fiscal year

**Brenda Dales**  
Executive Director

**Dawn Berry Merriam**  
Research & Policy Analyst

**Yvonne Burton**  
Administration & Communication Coordinator



### Research and Planning Associates

Debra Soule  
Sandy Zimmerman

### Student & Other Volunteers

Trent University Students  
(Soupfest 2006)

&

Tonya Bosch  
Cindy Buott

Gregory Campbell  
Dave Collins

Jamie DeActis  
Marie Dietrich

Beryl Harris  
Marg Hundt

Phelisha Jury  
Corrie King

Holly Kristensen  
Trisha Sutherland

Caroline Smith  
Laura VanDerHerberg

Nina Whitteveen

### Aboriginal Strategy Circle in the Kawarthas (ASCK)

“To strengthen the voice and  
participation of Aboriginal  
Peoples in the Kawarthas”

In 2005, the Urban Aboriginal  
Strategy Circle (UASC) was  
formed with the goal of helping to  
build the capacity of area agen-  
cies dealing with homelessness  
and in the process help strengthen  
the voice of Aboriginal People  
living in the City and County of  
Peterborough. In partnership with  
the Peterborough Social Planning  
Council a needs

assessment was conducted with  
Aboriginal People residing in  
City and County entitled, “Don’t  
Tell Me What I Need, Ask Me”.  
This needs assessment concluded  
that there was lack of food,  
affordable housing and a need for  
a community centre. Other  
Concerns include a variety of  
social issues from culturally  
based education, training, social  
services, recreational programs,  
justice programs, health environ-  
ment, income, food security and  
employment services for the  
growing Aboriginal population in  
the Kawarthas.

### ASCK Goals

- To provide opportunities for  
Aboriginal people to share their  
thoughts, ideas, experience and  
opinions that could effect change  
for the future
- To strengthen and support the  
capacity of current and develop-  
ing Aboriginal organizations  
through partnerships and training
- To facilitate communication  
and provide information-sharing  
among Aboriginal organizations  
and to advise City and County  
service providers on how best to  
support Aboriginal people
- To research, prepare, and  
provide educational information  
on topics related to the issues  
identified with consultation with  
Aboriginal people
- To develop a fund for long-  
term projects and/or needs of  
Aboriginal people