

EDMONTON SOCIAL  
PLANNING COUNCIL

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# ANNUAL REPORT



edmonton  
SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL



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The Edmonton Social Planning Council respectfully acknowledges that we are located on Treaty 6 Land, a traditional gathering place for diverse Indigenous Peoples including the Cree, Blackfoot, Métis, Nakota Sioux, Iroquois, Dene, Ojibway/Saulteaux/Anishinaabe, Inuit, and many others whose histories, languages, and cultures continue to influence our vibrant community.

The First People's connection to the land teaches us about our inherent responsibility to protect and respect Mother Earth. With this acknowledgment, we honour the ancestors and children who have been buried here, missing and murdered Indigenous women and men, and the process of ongoing collective healing for all human beings. We are reminded that we are all treaty people and of the responsibility we have to one another.

The Edmonton Social Planning Council recognizes that we are settlers on this land and have a responsibility to contribute to reconciliation as an organization through learning, continuing conversations, and helping amplify Indigenous voices. Indigenous Peoples experiences of poverty, homelessness and food insecurity are directly tied to colonization, we understand the work we do connected to these should reflect their experiences.

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Thank you to the Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) for the research and collaboration with Age Friendly Edmonton on the development of the “Toolkit for Fostering Inclusion in Senior Serving Organizations”. Throughout the project the ESPC was always professional and the resulting toolkit is evidence based and user friendly.

### **Caroline Gee**

Age Friendly Community Connector  
Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council

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I had the pleasure of working alongside the Edmonton Social Planning Council as co-leads on the Vital Signs Project 2022. The topic for the year was Systemic Racism in Edmonton. At the time, The City of Edmonton's Anti-Racism Strategy had just been approved; thus, this topic was timely and relevant. Throughout my collaboration with them, I was impressed with their passion and dedication to this project. They also approached the work with open-mindedness and a willingness to learn, which was essential in tackling such a complex and multi-faceted issue. The Edmonton Social Planning Council has shown great skill in conducting research and analysis and presented its findings clearly and concisely. Last year, working with an advisory committee of diverse Edmontonians, we developed a report that shed light on systemic racism in Edmonton and highlighted areas where we, as a community, can help engage and implement positive change. The work they do demonstrates their commitment to creating a more equitable and just society. It has been an honour to be able to work with them on the Vital Signs Project.

### **Nneka Otogbolu**

Director of Strategic Initiatives and Equity  
Edmonton Community Foundation

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# Who We Are

The Edmonton Social Planning Council (ESPC) is an independent, non-profit, non-partisan social research organization with registered charitable status. Our focus is social research, particularly in the areas of low-income and poverty. ESPC is a source of knowledge and expertise on social issues within our community.

We are dedicated to encouraging the adoption of equitable social policy, supporting the work of other organizations striving to improve the lives of Edmontonians, and educating the public regarding the social issues that impact them daily.

## Our Vision

A community in which all people are full and valued participants.

## Our Mission

Through rigorous research, detailed analysis, and community engagement, we deepen community understanding of social planning issues, influence policy, and spark collaborative actions that lead to positive social change.





# ESPC STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

## OUR GUIDING PRINCIPLES



### SOCIAL EQUALITY AND INCLUSION

We are dedicated to helping our community become more inclusive and equitable.



### INDEPENDENT VOICE

We are an independent and non-partisan organization that does not speak for or represent the views of other organizations, governments, or political parties.



### ACTIONABLE RESEARCH

We do relevant and timely research that helps others identify and implement solutions to social planning issues.



### STRATEGIC COLLABORATION

We collaborate with diverse partners to achieve shared goals without duplicating the work of others.



### SOCIAL AWARENESS

We value accessible information that helps a wide range of audiences understand community challenges and opportunities.



### COMMUNITY CAPACITY

We build knowledge and skills in our community by openly sharing our learning, experience, and expertise with others.

## THE OUTCOMES WE SEEK TO ACHIEVE

### INFORMED COMMUNITY

A community that is knowledgeable about social planning issues, challenges, and potential actions to improve the lives of all.

### ENGAGED COMMUNITY

A community that works together to determine priorities and to organize efforts to achieve common goals.

### CHANGED COMMUNITY

A community that advocates for and benefits from positive social change.

## STRATEGIES WE USE TO ACHIEVE OUR OUTCOMES

**Conduct, aggregate, and disseminate** research to help our community understand current issues, government policies, and systems, and identify potential courses of action.

**Achieve** shared goals and make the best use of resources by leading and participating in collaborative partnerships focused on producing positive, sustainable change.

**Work** with decision-makers and influencers by sharing our comprehensive, evidence-based research in a timely manner so they are able to make informed decisions.

**Share** our expertise to help individuals, organizations, governments, and community groups better achieve their goals.

**Act** as the community's go-to organization for relevant and quality research on social planning issues.

# Chair's Report

On behalf of the Board of Directors, I'm happy to share with you this annual report and the stories and figures of some of the work happening at the Edmonton Social Planning Council. This past year has certainly been a time of reflection and renewal for the Board. The ESPC emerged from the COVID-19 pandemic with optimism and continued to provide our community partners with high-quality research and capacity building services that support their own organizations and social causes.

After updating our bylaws at the 2022 AGM, the Board committees worked towards updating policies and writing new policies to align with the bylaws. Updating the bylaws was an important governance step and the approval of it over the summer means that the Board and organization have a renewed sense of duty with clear roles and responsibilities.

Following the bylaws, the Board went straight to working with an equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) consultant who prepared an audit of our current EDI practices and provided recommendations for moving forward with EDI front and centre in the work of the Board and organization. At a time when the world is coming out of a pandemic and the needs of Edmontonians have been changing, the Board felt investing in this audit and implementing the required changes ensures that we stay up to date, or even in front of, the EDI trends in Edmonton and Alberta. The research outcomes are a direct result of the perspectives involved and the influence of the ESPC's research and capacity building will only improve when EDI perspectives are put at the foreground of the research process. At the Board level, EDI is being integrated into our recruitment and policy development. I want to thank the other Board members, staff, volunteers, and external partners who provided feedback for this audit. Your perspectives have helped develop a roadmap for us to follow on this journey to make changes at many different levels of the organization and write policies to ensure long lasting results. As advocates for vulnerable voices in our communities, involving many voices coming together is crucial for success in this process. Going forward, we are committed to implementing a Board/Staff/Member/Volunteer EDI committee to work through the recommendations and integrate an EDI perspective into as many areas of the organization as possible.

And while our strategic planning momentum was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic, I am motivated to bring this back to the table and prepare a new Strategic Planning document in the fall of 2023. To ensure this guiding document represents the needs of the community, I am hoping we can grow the Board this year, or at the very least find some volunteers, to participate with the strategic planning process. It's been a long time coming getting to this point and after updating the bylaws and the EDI audit, there is a momentum towards strategic planning that cannot be missed. If you are interested in helping us with this, please sign up as a Board member or request to volunteer with the Board.



As a final notable update, the ESPC moved its headquarters to a space with good connections to the community and closer to the provincial government hub. This space is also fully accessible and has space for people to meet and the organization to grow.

Looking back on 2022 (and early 2023), I feel a renewed motivation to ensure the Edmonton Social Planning Council remains a trusted and relevant resource for non-profits in and around the city of Edmonton. On behalf of the Board of Directors, thank you for being part of the ESPC community and continued commitment towards research that supports social change in our communities

**Vanessa Zembal,**  
ESPC Board Chair

# Executive Director's report

It is with great pleasure that we present our 2022 Annual Report, which will provide you with a snapshot of work and accomplishment over what I believe was a most interesting year. Moving into 2022 with a better understanding of COVID-19, our staff returned to the office on a more regular basis. Some even dared to attend in-person meetings in the spirit of figuring out how to work in what we called the "new normal."

Our lunch and learn series, which adapted well during the pandemic to online, continued to bring in great community agency speakers to amplify social issues, disseminate knowledge, and enable the exchange of ideas and discussion. For now, we continue to reach more individuals through the online format, which seems to be an effective way of delivering this program.

Concerning our partnership with the Edmonton Community Foundation in convening conversation and producing our annual Vital Signs report, in 2022, we undertook the important and timely issues of systemic racism in Edmonton. The many hours the staff from both organizations spent engaging with our community advisory stakeholders, researching and analyzing data and producing the Vital Topics and the Vital Signs full report is exemplary. We had many conversations, sometimes uncomfortable, but always open to listening, hearing, understanding, and conveying the truth about how our current systems drive racism in our community.

Thanks to the staff, our online social presence and ESPC profile significantly increased during the year. Our website continued to offer access to our resources and information from interested individuals in Canada, the United States and Europe, with our biggest concentration coming from Edmontonians. The weekly E-blasts continued to connect our email audience to information and events from ESPC and our surrounding community about poverty, seniors, food security, mental health, etc.

In 2022 we created our new quarterly publication Community Matters which combines elements of our legacy publications, The FACTivist and Research Update. We wanted to continue to inform the community about social issues that impact citizens and connect the dots between social issues, evidence, and policy. Through the voice of local agencies, ESPC volunteer writers, and staff members, our new publication uses an intersectional lens to demonstrate how many people are not dealing with one specific issue but a myriad of issues, making it much harder to resolve. Topics in 2022 included gender inequality, community safety, house(less) and mental wellness.

I would be remiss in not mentioning our Social Well-Being Tracker tool. It provides updated data and analysis of many economic and social condition indicators which measure the extent to which a person possesses the physical, social, and personal resources to achieve personal aspirations, satisfy needs, and cope with the environment. These indicators help to identify trends and paint a picture of the overall health of individuals in our community.

I thank our staff for their significant contributions to inform, educate and engage in the many projects and initiatives within ESPC and the wider social service sector. They also worked tirelessly with our students and volunteers to mentor and provide opportunities that will have rippling effects long into the future.

I wish to acknowledge our Board of Directors under Vanessa Zembal's leadership, both for their support and direction and significant contributions, including our review and renewal of our Bylaws and leading our staff in an equity, diversity and inclusion audit of our policies and practices. I look forward to unpacking the recommendations from the EDI Audit and engaging our volunteers, board, and staff in work to become a more inclusive and equitable workplace.

I sincerely thank our volunteers and students who gave their time to write articles and blog posts and help with other activities during the year. Your energy and new ways of looking at social issues helps ensure we remain a relevant source of information and knowledge.

Finally, I extend a thank you to our ESPC members, funders and individuals who provided donations. The meaningful contributions that we make to our community through our work would not be possible without your generous support and belief in what we do. The pandemic certainly impacted how we did our work, but it didn't hold us back from continuing to make Edmonton an inclusive community.

**Susan Morrissey,**  
Executive Director

# Meet our Staff



SUSAN MORRISSEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Susan Morrissey (she/her) has been with ESPC for over 16 years. As Executive Director, Susan works collaboratively with others in Edmonton's non-profit sector toward moving the needle on the bigger social issues facing the community. Recently she was instrumental in establishing the Alberta Living Wage Network, along with colleagues from other parts of Alberta.



CHLOE HEILAND-BOOTH, EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT AND COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Chloe Heiland-Booth (she/her) graduated from the University of Alberta with a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science. After graduation, Chloe worked and volunteered with non-profit organizations gaining a passion and dedication to work in the social sector.



AMANDA LABONTE, RESEARCH SERVICES AND CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATOR

Amanda Labonte (she/her) is a registered social worker who graduated with distinction from the MacEwan Bachelor of Social Work program. She is a systems thinker and is passionate about community practice, social justice and development, and advocating for and with those who are not invited to the table. As a settler she wholeheartedly recognizes she has a role and responsibility to contribute meaningfully to reconciliation, decolonization, anti-racism and anti-oppression. Amanda grew up in a small rural community in Alberta and brings a unique lens to her practice and writing. She is an avid volunteer and regularly gives back to her community in her free time. Amanda believes in lifelong learning and supporting the learning of others.



## BRETT LAMBERT, COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Brett Lambert (he/him) has worked in several communications roles at the University of Alberta and non-profit organizations such as Native Counselling Services of Alberta and Public Interest Alberta. Brett has a diploma in Journalism from Grant MacEwan, and a bachelor of arts and master's degree in Library and Information Studies from the University of Alberta. Brett lives on the south side of Edmonton with his wife, Diana, and two young sons.



## SYDNEY SHELOFF, STRATEGIC RESEARCH COORDINATOR

Sydney Sheloff (she/her) recently graduated from the University of Alberta with a master of arts degree in Sociology. Her research focused on youth inequality and homelessness. Her master's thesis explored what it meant for homeless youth to pursue a successful future in a social, economic, and political landscape that marginalized them and limited their opportunities. In addition, she studied the criminal justice system and the criminalization of impoverished and racialized people. She also studied the unique experiences of Indigenous people in Canada. Sydney is dedicated to investigating social issues through the eyes of those most harshly affected by them. In this position, Sydney is excited to turn her research into action and advocate for social change. In her free time, Sydney enjoys embroidery, baking and trying new recipes, and exploring all the local shops, restaurants, artists, and sites Edmonton has to offer.

## Previous Staff

2022 was filled with a great ESPC team. We had staff join and had to say goodbye to others. We'd like to thank everyone who contributed to our 2022 staff, for their hard work and engagement with our community.

## JENN ROSSITER, RESEARCH SERVICES AND CAPACITY BUILDING COORDINATOR



# Summer & Practicum Students

Alejandra Hasburn

Practicum Student, Concordia University

Jenna Robinson

Summer Student, University of Calgary

Jingyi He

Practicum Student, University of Alberta

Mackenzie Dachuk

Practicum Student, MacEwan University

Mohammed Alghamdy

Board Intern, University of Alberta

Vibhu Kher

Practicum Student, Monash University

## Our Board of Directors

Vanessa Zembal

Board President

Katherine Weaver

Governance Committee Chairperson

Charlotte Bennie

Finance Committee Chairperson

Paula Kirman

Membership Committee Chairperson

William Howe

Board Director

Archana Chaudhary

Board Director

Money Mehta

Board Director (April)

Denise Kirk

Board Director (December)

Sadia Sameeullah

Board Director (September)



ESPC is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors

The volunteer Board of Directors is responsible for the governance of the Edmonton Social Planning Council. The Board is comprised of individuals who are passionate about equitable social policy and making a difference in their community.

All board members are required to be:

- Committed to supporting the ESPC and its mission to address and research social issues, inform public discussion, and influence social policy
- Current members of the Edmonton Social Planning Council in good standing

# Board reports



## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Vanessa Zembal (Chairperson), Katherine Weaver, Paula Kirman, Charlotte Bennie, William Howe, Archana

2022 was a growth and learning year for the Executive Committee and the entire Board. We spent the beginning few months going through the process of selecting an EDI consultant to perform the EDI Audit. This was an important step for the Executive Committee because we had to consider the impacts of this audit on relationships within and outside of ESPC, any further policy development, and financial considerations. Ultimately, we went with a process that involved both Staff and the Board in three workshops and individual interviews with several people involved in the organization. We had many good discussions over the past year regarding strategic planning, the annual Executive Director review and processes involved with this task, and how the committee work can overlap to be more efficient and less of a burden on individual Board Members or committees.

We also took on the Personnel portfolio this year. This involved reviewing the conflict and complaint policy and proposing additional resources, policies, or procedures we can prepare to improve the ESPC workplace. Again, the EDI Audit had a great impact on our thought processes involving how we approach these policies and related discussions. We are working hard to keep the momentum from the EDI Audit and shift into setting up a

committee and working through deliverables, such as policies, recruitment processes and documents, and any related communication. I want to thank the other committee members for contributing to my own understanding of governance and our ongoing commitment to keeping the ESPC relevant for Edmontonians.



## FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chari Bennie (Chairperson), Vanessa Zembal, Money Mehta

Our committee was able to have the first three Quarterly Financial Statements approved for 2022, and the 2023 Draft Budget was approved in late 2022. We have also been reviewing various policies as well as having the Investment and Contract Signing Authority presented to the Board Governance Committee. And, having had our Committee Work Plan approved by the Board, we continue to work through our goals for 2023.

Two members of our Finance Committee also attended the Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations (ECVO) Non-Profit Day in March, which was a great opportunity to learn from and meet various other Board Members from other Non-Profit Organizations in Alberta.

Our 2022 audited financial report will be presented at the AGM by Carla Walker of Peterson Walter LLP and is available to members upon request. Feel free to contact the ESPC office at [info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca](mailto:info@edmontonsocialplanning.ca) if you have any questions or for further information.

As is the case with previous years, we hope our committee's contribution to the organization has been valuable. The committee chair would like to thank Vanessa and Money for contributing their time and helping to secure the financial stability of the ESPC. If you are interested in contributing to help guide the financial decisions and ensure the financial health of the organization in the future, please consider joining our committee by contacting the ESPC office.



## MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Paula Kirman (Chairperson), William Howe

The Membership Committee's main project this year was drafting a Membership Policy that laid out ESPC's various membership options with clarity. The new policy is intended to make official the information that appears on ESPC's website concerning membership. The draft was approved at our April board meeting.

# Committees & Collaborations





# Blog Posts

52

To keep our community informed on current research in the areas of low-income and poverty, we set up a blog section on the ESPC website where our staff and volunteers can monitor recent trends and developments: In 2022, 52 blog posts were written by ESPC staff and volunteers. Below you will find our top 5 read blog posts of the year!

1

Homeless Encampments in Edmonton: An Individualized Symptom of Systemic Homelessness

By: Jordan Clark Marcichiw

2

Why Not Both: Albertans Struggling to Afford Housing and Food

By: Carrie Cyre

3

A Critical Look at Edmonton's Gentrification Problem

By: Jayme Wong

4

Alberta Budget a Missed Opportunity to Improve Lives of Albertans

By: Sydney Sheloff and Brett Lambert

5

A Person Who Is...: An Introduction To Person First Language

By: Moyo Orekogbe

# Publications

ESPC is a source of knowledge and expertise on social issues within our community.

**7** RESEARCH REPORTS

**2** FACT SHEETS

**4** COMMUNITY MATTERS

**3** VITAL TOPICS AND  
VITAL SIGNS

## Media Highlights

Over the course of 2022, the Edmonton Social Planning Council had 15 media interviews and releases



### January

ESPC's 2021 Living Wage reports were referenced in the University of Alberta student newspaper, The Gateway opinion column.



### March

Op-ed published by Sydney and Brett reacting to the 2022 Alberta Budget, was published in the Edmonton Journal.



## September

Sydney was a guest on the Well Endowed Podcast and talked about the bias in data gathering and how it impacts marginalized people.



## October

Susan speaks on the need for more funding for affordable housing, agreeing with Mayor Sohi that housing should be treated like core infrastructure in a published piece in the Edmonton Journal.



## November

Susan spoke to CBC Edmonton on City Council decision not to bring back the municipal census. She indicated that ESPC was disappointed by the decision and how it negatively impacts our work. This story aired on the radio as well as in a website story.

Susan and Brett wrote an op-ed expressing disappointment with City Council not reviving the municipal census and discussed the lost opportunities for Edmonton lacking this census.

Susan speaks on J'Lyn Nye's radio show to discuss the new Living Wage report.



## December

Sydney did interviews for the launch of Vital Signs with CBC Edmonton AM with Mark Connolly, CBC evening news, CTV evening news and Global evening news.

ESPC was featured in the Edmonton Journal, Windspeaker and Radio-Canada's articles on the launch of Vital Signs.

# Lunch & Learns

11

ESPC's Lunch & Learn events are a series of engaging lunchtime talks about social issues and organizations that have an impact in our community. We continued to have our Lunch & Learn events on a virtual platform for 2022, hosting 11 events over the year.

## ● MARCH

AAYI & Understanding YEG Youth Access Guidelines

COVID-19 and the Islamic Community in Edmonton

## ● APRIL

Low Literacy: A Foundational Issue in our Society

## ● MAY

Managing Mental Health for Frontline Staff

## ● JUNE

Supporting Newcomers with Disabilities

## ● JULY

Indigenous Youth

## ● AUGUST

Community Based Models for Safety: Edmonton SafeWalk Program

## ● SEPTEMBER

Youth Response Training: A Guide to Compassionate Interactions

## ● OCTOBER

Community Re-entry of High-Risk Offenders in Canada

## ● NOVEMBER

Edmonton Living Wage Report

Bring the Joy: How we can help others this holiday season

## ● DECEMBER

Enhancing Impact within Alberta's Mental Health & Addictions Care Systems

# Citations

ESPC has a long-standing reputation for having our important work cited in other research reports and journals, both locally and internationally.



## **CLOSING THE ACHIEVEMENT GAP IN THE CLASSROOM THROUGH CULTURALLY RELEVANT PEDAGOGY**

Awilda Hernandez

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## **MEASURING WHAT MATTERS: UNDERSTANDING THE CONTEXT FOR COMMUNITY PROSPERITY METRICS IN CALGARY**

Marshall McCallum and David Finch

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## **ORGANIZING AGAINST POVERTY IN EDMONTON: A CASE STUDY OF ENDPVERTYEDMONTON MOVEMENT ORGANIZATION**

Razak Oduro

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## **BECOMING A HUMAN RIGHTS CITY: LESSONS FROM EDMONTON**

Renee Vaugeois





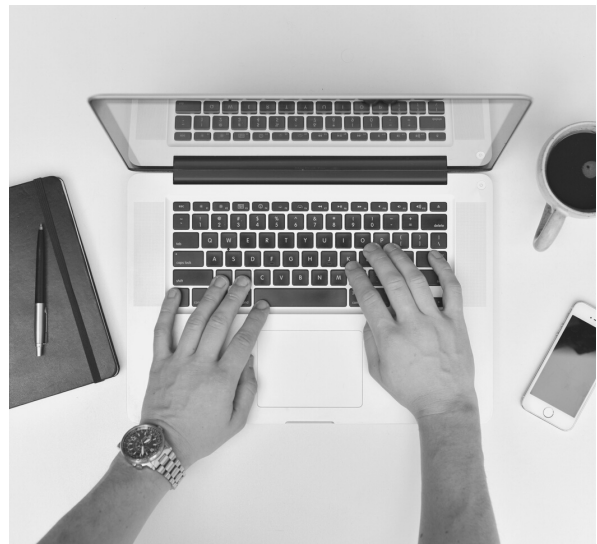
# Volunteers



In 2022, a total of 91 generous volunteers contributed more than 1,366 hours of their time to ESPC. Volunteers contributed by writing Community Matters articles, Community Connected reports, blog posts, supporting staff at online events, and serving on our Board of Directors and its committees.

**"EDMONTON SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL IS A GREAT ORGANIZATION, AND THEY HAVE MANY OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERISM WHERE WE CAN CONTRIBUTE; I'M EXCITED TO WORK WITH THEM MORE IN THE NEAR FUTURE"**

We would like to thank our volunteers for all their contributions in 2022. Your contributions matter and help in shifting conversations. The Edmonton Social Planning Council could not do its work without our volunteers.



# Capacity

# Building efforts

## Presentations and Events

The Future Librarians for Intellectual Freedom  
presentation on poverty and public libraries

Alberta Council for Global Cooperation Annual Conference  
tabling held at the University of Alberta campus

Daughters Day  
tabling at the event held at Edmonton City Hall

Parkland Institute Annual Conference  
tabling held at University of Alberta campus

Aging With Pride YEG  
presentation about ESPC to their community group

NAIT  
student presentation about ESPC, volunteering and blog writing

Vital Signs Launch Event  
produced by ESPC and Edmonton Community Foundation in  
partnership.

# Outreach

When ESPC staff provided research information, consultation, and support to other agencies, organizations and individuals. As well as partnerships ESPC had with other agencies/organizations over 2022.

Alberta Living Wage Network  
Amity House  
BGCBiggs  
Canadian Arab Friendship Association  
Caregivers Alberta  
City of Edmonton  
Edmonton Chamber of Voluntary Organizations  
Edmonton Journal  
Edmonton Local Immigration Partnership  
Edmonton Seniors Coordinating Council  
Islamic Family and Social Services Association  
Jasper Place Wellness Centre  
Kickstand  
MacEwan University  
Michael Janz  
Muttart Foundation  
Public Interest Alberta  
Sexual Assault Centre of Edmonton  
SAGE Seniors Association  
Society of Saint Vincent de Paul  
Statistics Canada  
The Shaama Centre  
University of Alberta  
YWCA



## ESPC Members

We're so pleased to have such a dedicated membership community. By the end of 2022 we had a total of 85 ESPC members. By getting involved with the Edmonton Social Planning Council, another voice is added to our message of positive social development and policy change. To join the ESPC membership program, this can be done through our website, [www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca)

## Endowment Fund

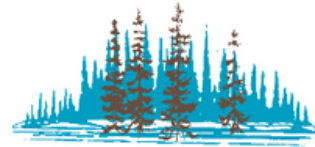
ESPC established an endowment fund in 2017 through the Edmonton Community Foundation ([www.ecfoundation.org](http://www.ecfoundation.org)). Giving to our endowment fund allow donors to provide lifelong gifts and support to our agencies. Contact the Edmonton Community Foundation for further information on how to donate and have a lasting impact for many years to come.

## Donations

Donations help to produce research reports and publications that we make accessible free of charge. Donations allow us to take on bigger projects and make a greater impact in our community. The strength of our voice is dependent upon the support from people and organizations concerned about social issues. By contributing, you add your voice and help those who lack the opportunity to speak for themselves. ESPC is a non-profit organization with registered charity status (Charity Tax#107283194 RR 0001). Donations can be made directly through our website [www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca](http://www.edmontonsocialplanning.ca), or through Canada Helps and Benevity.



# Partners & Supporters



The Muttart Foundation



**United Way**  
Alberta Capital Region



**FCSS**  
Family & Community  
Support Services

**Edmonton**





# 2022

Edmonton Social Planning Council  
2022 Annual General Meeting  
May 31, 2022  
5:30 pm – 7:30pm

# AGM Minutes

## WELCOME AND PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

The meeting was convened at 5:49 p.m. by Peter Schalk, President of the Edmonton Social Planning Council

Peter invited Chloe Heiland-Booth to review the processes for the meeting. Chloe indicated both the meeting and keynote would be recorded. Voting and point-of-order procedures were reviewed. Attendees were reminded to consult the troubleshooting document supplied by email last evening as needed

Peter welcomed everyone and delivered a brief opening statement recognizing we are having this meeting on traditional Treaty 6 land. Peter thanked staff and volunteers for all their work in planning the Annual General Meeting.

Peter introduced the current Board members:

- Bill Howe
- Charlotte Benney
- Denise Kirk
- Katherine Weaver
- Paula Kirman
- Vanessa Zembal

## APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

**MOTION:** Moved by Denise Kirk, seconded by Katherine Weaver, to accept the agenda as presented.

**MOTION:** CARRIED

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 27, 2021

**MOTION:** Moved by Dave Trautman, seconded by Denise Kirk to approve the minutes from the May 17, 2021, AGM as presented.

**MOTION:** CARRIED

## HONOURING MARTIN GARBER-CONRAD

Peter thanked Martin Garber Conrad, Edmonton Community Foundation, Chief Executive Officer and congratulated him on his retirement. Martin has worked closely with ESPC for many years and has made many important contributions. Susan Morrissey also thanked Martin, on behalf of ESPC and personally, for the mentorship he provided both to her and to the community at large.

Martin Garber Conrad acknowledged ESPC has always been close to his heart. He has enjoyed the collegiality and the considerable number of Edmonton Community Foundation/ESPC projects he has partnered in. Despite ups and downs in the organization, the world, and the government, the ECF-ESPC partnership has provided important continuity in the sector.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Peter Schalk acknowledged the important work of past board members over the last year. The Board was very active this year with what was likely its busiest year on record.

A significant milestone has been reached, with amended bylaws, three years in the making, and to be presented for consideration this evening. A robust policy is required for funding, thus the focus on policy, including both financial and human resources policy. Peter thanked the Board for all of the work on both policy and bylaws.

Peter foreshadowed an upcoming Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Audit, with many opportunities and considerations for ESPC certain to come of it.

Peter confirmed the end of his three-year term as President, acknowledging the pleasure it has been to grow and learn, and thanking the committed and hard-working Board for all their contributions, especially over the last year.

## OPERATIONS REPORT

Susan Morrissey, Executive Director, thanked Peter for his wisdom and guidance, and for his knowledge of practical matters.

Susan acknowledged the many ongoing challenges of 2021/2022; she reflected on the departure of several ESPC staff members and on new staff joining the ESPC team; she addressed the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on the community and its individuals, as well as ESPC staff

members. Challenges for staff have included Zoom fatigue and the stop-start nature of return-to-work planning. With a focus on the positive, Susan acknowledged:

- Staff have responded to these challenges exceptionally well, having adopted a home/office hybrid model.
- Virtual presentation has made it much easier for many to attend and participate in Lunch and Learn.
- The Social Well-Being Tracker has had a huge increase in user traffic in 2021

Susan highlighted some of 2021's interesting projects and partnerships. These included Child Poverty in partnership with Public Interest Alberta and the College of Social Workers; a Vital Signs/Vital Topics collaboration with Edmonton Community Foundation; and analyzing client survey data for the Edmonton Food Bank.

Susan then reported on what has been new in 2022 and what is to be expected in the coming months

The first Community Matters publication for 2022 looked at social issues in our community from an intersectional perspective and explored of a multi-lens perspective to identify intersectional issues of those living with low income. This issue was published on the website in March; the second issue is coming soon and will focus on community safety.

Volunteers and students remained engaged this year, involved in research updates, blog posts and special projects. In response to feedback from the volunteer survey, Susan highlighted ESPC plans to become even more

connected to volunteers in 2022. Plans include monthly networking meetings and bringing back in-person volunteer orientation.

Other partnerships under development include employers paying a living wage. Sixty Living Wage Employers have already signed up for the Living Wage Network.

2022 will include continued Lunch and Learns, further website development, and additional capacity building.

The Equity, Diversity and Inclusion audit has commenced with a review of ESPC policy and procedures already underway after the first meeting with consultants this week.

Susan thanked the volunteers, funders, and ESPC members for their continued support of ESPC's work in the sector and the community. She thanked the Board of Directors for their contributions of wisdom and experience in shaping her as an Executive. Susan also thanked ESPV staff who show up despite COVID and the weather, with compassion, to tell a story, and to help people in our community. Susan recognized the people in the community for their personal resiliency and their willingness to help others. Susan is honoured to be part of such a community. Peter Schalk called for questions or comments from the floor in response to the Operations Report. No questions or comments from the floor .

#### PRESENTATION OF THE FINANCIAL REPORT

Vanessa Zembal, Chair of the ESPC Finance and Audit committee invited Carla Walker from Peterson Walker LLP to report on the 2021 financials.

Carla Walker presented the 2021 Audited Financial statements.

MOTION: Moved by Vanessa Zembal, seconded by Dave Trautman to approve the audited 2021 financial statements as presented.

MOTION: CARRIED.

MOTION: Moved by Vanessa Zembal, seconded by Katherine Weaver to appoint Peterson Walker LLP as Auditor for the year 2022.

MOTION: CARRIED.

Vanessa Zembal thanked Carla Walker for her work

#### AD-HOC COMMITTEE ON BOARD RECRUITMENT

Chari Bennie, Chair of the Ad-hoc Committee on Board Recruitment, acknowledged Committee members, Vanessa Zembal, Bill Howe, Paula Kirman. Chari also thanked Peter for his three terms as ESPC President.

Chari discussed Article 6.1 of ESPC's registered by-laws outlining the rules for Board membership, eligibility, and composition.

CALLS for nominations on the floor  
No additional nominations.

Chari Bennie introduced the new nominees to the Board:

- Archana Chaudhary (1st Term- 1st Year Candidate)
- Money Mehta (1st Term- 1st Year Candidate)
- Sadia Sameeuliah (1st Term- 1st Year Candidate)

MOTION: Moved by Chari Bennie, seconded by Dave Trautman to elect the above-mentioned candidate(s) to the

Board of Directors of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for the 2022-2023 year.

MOTION: CARRIED.

Chari Bennie introduced the continuing Board members:

- Chari Bennie 2nd Term – 1st Year of Term candidate)
- Bill Howe (2nd Term – 1st Year of Term candidate)
- Katherine Weaver (2nd Term – 1st Year of Term candidate)
- Vanessa Zembal (3rd Term - 1st Year of Term candidate)

MOTION: Moved by Chari Bennie, seconded by Denise Kirk, to re-elect the above-mentioned candidates to the Board of Directors of the Edmonton Social Planning Council for the year 2022-2023.

MOTION: CARRIED

#### BYLAW APPROVAL

Katherine Weaver, Chair of the Policy and Governance Committee presented for approval the ESPC Bylaw Revision. Katherine notes this review and revision was undertaken as required every three years by the bylaws. Any revisions were undertaken to comply with acknowledged changes in circumstance since articles and sub-articles were written, to comply with the Society's Act, and to align with best practices. These revisions were guided by the Muttart Foundation's publication, 'Drafting and Revising By-laws for Non-profit Organizations in Alberta'. Revisions are meant to improve clarity, remove uncertainty, and ensure the bylaws are as effective as possible.

Katherine discussed the timeline for enactment should the ESPC Bylaw revision receive member approval with this vote. The next steps would include seeking Provincial approval over the summer; this process took approximately two months with the last revision. Following Provincial approval, any needed adjustments should occur in September. This will include updating policies associated with items removed or revised with the revision of the bylaws.

Special Resolution: The existing Bylaws of the Edmonton Social Planning Council are repealed and replaced by the 2022 Bylaws.

MOTION: Moved by Katherine Weaver, seconded by Marjorie Benz to repeal the existing bylaws and replace them with the attached 2020 bylaws.

Peter Schalk invited questions about the proposed bylaws from the floor.

Dave Trautman requested clarification regarding bylaw 3.4.5.

Katherine Weaver replied any member or group of members will be allowed to add a special resolution during the Acceptance of the Agenda at the AGM. No prior notice or Board approval will be required.

Peter Schalk invited any other questions from the floor.

No additional questions.

Vote Called, requiring 75% approval

MOTION: CARRIED.

## OTHER BUSINESS

No further business called upon the floor.

## ADJOURNMENT - (ADJOURNED AT 6:50 P.M.)

MOTION: Moved by Denise Kirk, seconded by Marjorie Benz to adjourn the business portion of the 82nd ESPC Annual General Meeting.

MOTION: CARRIED.

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*We thank our community for your  
continued support in the Edmonton  
Social Planning Council.*





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