2005 Annual Report

It's About RIGHTS!



Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

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Committed to Community

Our Mission

To provide action oriented leadership in social planning and effecting policy changes.

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg plays a unique role in the community by:

Identifying and defining social planning issues, needs, capacities, and necessary resources in the community;

Developing and promoting policy and program options to policy-makers;

Supporting community groups and the voluntary human service sector;

Raising community awareness of and providing voice to social issues and human service needs, social policy options, and service delivery alternatives;

and

Facilitating communication and collaboration with government, business, labour, the voluntary sector and grassroots communities.

Our Vision

A just, caring, inclusive and responsive society.

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UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Article 1
All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.

Article 3
Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

PRESIDENT'S Report



On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our 86th Annual General Meeting. Once again it has been a very busy year for the board and staff of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg.

Our Mission
"To provide action-oriented leadership in social planning and effecting social policy changes."

The Social Planning Council achieves this mandate through

- Identifying and defining social planning issues, need and resources in the community;
- Developing and promoting policy and program options to policy-makers;
- Supporting community groups and the voluntary human service sector;
- Raising community awareness of social issues and human service needs, social policy options and service delivery alternatives;
- Serving as a link between the three levels of government and community neighbourhoods.

Our mandate is very broad which requires the commitment and dedication of many people to ensure that SPC meets its responsibility to the community. Over the past year the SPC, through it's staff and volunteer committees, has been very active carrying out its mandate.

Some of the accomplishments and the highlights since our last Annual Meeting include the May 2004 Poverty Barometer on Childcare in Manitoba, a regional network forum as part of the Social Inclusion project, the Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee Think Tank which explored the impacts of poverty on children's education, the Child Poverty Report Card and Child Vigil, the Environment Committees 'Exposed for Life' conference on children's health and the environment, the continued technical support to the Housing & Homelessness Proposal Fund Allocation Committee and to the newly funded Food Security Network. The Social Planning Council held an Annual Open House in December and also released it's Spring Poverty Barometer on Food Security in March.

Once again I would like to commend the staff, the Board and it's numerous committees, and especially all of the volunteers who have once again made it possible for the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg to continue to forge ahead in the pursuit of social justice.

Sincerely,

Darlene Hall

Darlene Hall, President

2005

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S Report



This year has been a very significant one in terms of the facilitation of community mechanisms to achieve greater impact on many of the persistent social and economic issues facing Winnipeg. Our continued linking to national processes has gained Winnipeg significant recognition for the strength and vitality of the community generated responses which have been initiated. As a local partner with both Campaign 2000 and the National Children's Alliance we have both hosted locally and sent representatives to national events to ensure the very distinct Winnipeg issues and solutions for our community are given voice. More recently we have become a participant in the international campaign to "Make Poverty History".

After completing the renewed Community Plan for Homelessness and Housing we were provided the opportunity to facilitate the development of a community/government partnership which resulted in a model in which funding is delivered to the community in a way which citizens have a direct voice in their application. The committee has evaluated many project submissions responding to the immediate and transitional needs of our growing homeless population for both shelter and support. The committee began its work with 14 volunteers selected by the community and have supported 17 million new dollars of investment in a variety of physical and program initiatives. As we approach the next generation of the initiative we expect that the persistent issue of affordable housing will be included and the community capacity that has been developed will form a solid base for continued progress. I would like to acknowledge Human Resource and Skills Development Canada for their confidence in us in this important federal program. In addition to the above we began a research project on ways to ensure that the anticipated increase in immigration announced by the province will have the attendant shelter and support arrangements to make new Canadians welcome and successful in our community.

This year we saw the development of the food security initiative in which the Public Health Agency of Canada provided us the opportunity to "invite everyone to the table" around food security. While we have repeatedly flagged this issue within a poverty context we have become aware of the great variety of stakeholders who have a significant contribution in developing both policy and program options. Over the next two years we expect to see significant progress on this front.

As a result of our think tank on summer learning loss a group of volunteers sprung into action and followed up on a solution generated within the forum. Over the winter they met, planned and envisioned programs. Starting with nothing but an idea we have piloted the first Summer Learning Enrichment Program in two locations in the inner city. Take note of this one - it's a winner.

An important rights context is drawn from these new initiatives as well as the ongoing work of our core committees (Poverty Advisory Committee, the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination and the Environment Committee). These efforts emphasize how important it is that we protect our rights through developing not only policies but also developing and supporting mechanisms in which citizens can engage - often through Voluntary Sector organizations - to realize the full value of our just, caring, inclusive and responsive society.

In a very sincere way I would like to thank and acknowledge the many volunteers who serve on the Board of Directors, committees and project advisors for their support and direction virtually on a day to day basis. I know how much the committees and coalitions appreciate, as I do, the highly skilled and committed staff of the Council. We are honoured to serve our community within an organization with such a noble purpose.

Wayne Helgason, Executive Director
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg

POVERTY ADVISORY Committee

I welcome this opportunity to report on the work of the Poverty Advisory Committee in the 2004/05 year. Our dedicated members dealt with a wide variety of issues this past year. Their efforts and expertise has made it possible for the Social Planning Council to respond to pressing issues, promote public awareness of the issue of poverty, and facilitate dialogue in the community around poverty issues. Some of the issues we have addressed include:

- The continued inadequacy of social assistance rates, shelter allowances, and inadequate supports for recipients of Employment and Income Assistance;
- The lack of progress in creating an adequate minimum wage in Manitoba, and the development of a living wage campaign;
- The inadequacy of education and training supports for people living in poverty;
- Redefinition of disability in the Employment and Income Assistance program;
- Panhandling issues;
- The continued rising costs of mass transportation in Winnipeg;
- The availability and costs of housing in the low-income rental market including concerns about the operation of Manitoba Housing and rising utility costs;

We also undertook some exciting new initiatives in 2004, including a new municipal lobbying campaign for the development of an advisory committee at City Hall that would advise Council on poverty related issues. A number of recent policy developments, such as Waverley West and Public Use Facilities Study lend support to the need for comprehensive planning that promotes meaningful participation of affected communities. The committee would: promote the meaningful participation of affected communities in the decision making that affects them; provide guidance to Council on programs, policies, and procedures to ensure that they are responsive to and reflective of community experiences; and recommend initiatives and programs that would reduce poverty in Winnipeg. Other cities, such as Brandon, Ottawa, and Toronto, have similar committees already in place.

The committee also worked on organizing a community meeting with the Minister of Family Services and Housing to discuss social assistance, education and training supports, and housing issues. Early in 2005 the committee developed a Poverty Action Plan, which was shared with the Minister. More of the committee's energy will be directed to the development of a provincial strategy on poverty in the coming year.

I would like to extend my appreciation to the staff and students at the Social Planning Council who support the committee in our ongoing work and make our activities possible. Finally, I express my thanks to the committee members themselves who made this past year a rewarding experience. I look forward to continuing our initiatives in the coming year, which presents new opportunities, such as the Make Poverty History Campaign, to raise awareness of poverty in our communities and improve the circumstances of all Manitobans.

Respectfully submitted,
Harold Dyck, Chairperson
Poverty Advisory Committee



Article 25.

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

CAMPAIGN 2000 CONTINUES
Steering Committee

The Campaign 2000 Continues Committee had another busy year with many accomplishments. As a standing committee to the Board of Directors and the link between National Campaign 2000 and the Manitoba Campaign 2000 Network, Campaign 2000 Continues plays an important role in the Social Planning Council. I am pleased to be able to report on the activities of the committee in 2004 and the opportunities in the year to come.

The committee developed a record four Poverty Barometers in 2004. The May edition, ***Child Care: It Does a Public Good***, focused on universal childcare as a key strategy to reduce child and family poverty in Manitoba. I would like to acknowledge Pat Wege of the Manitoba Child Care Association and Susan Prentice and Molly McCracken of the Child Care Coalition of Manitoba who lent their expertise in developing the Barometer. The Child Care Poverty Barometer was released with Campaign 2000's policy paper, ***Pathways to Progress: Structural Solutions to Address Child Poverty*** on Wednesday May 5th at the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg. SPC hosted the press conference, which featured a panel of speakers who spoke about income security, minimum wages, childcare, and circumstances faced by urban Aboriginal children and families.

The August Poverty Barometer, ***Summer Learning Loss: Some kids miss out on much more than just summer camp***, focused on the phenomena that occurs when children forget what they learned during the academic year over summer holidays. While most children experience some losses in learning over the summer, children who live in poverty experience greater losses than their higher income peers do. This Barometer and a report by the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, ***How do Educational Outcomes Vary by Socio-Economic Status?*** formed the basis for a meeting exploring the impacts of poverty on children's education. The **"Think Tank"** meeting took place on October 13th at the Portuguese Cultural Centre. Nearly one hundred participants identified key issues and areas for action, which were summarized in a final report.

Since the Think Tank, four action groups were formed based on the priorities identified. One of the groups has developed a summer learning enrichment program that will be implemented in the summer of 2005 at two Winnipeg elementary schools. A special acknowledgement must be paid to the Campaign 2000 Continues members Strini Reddy, Karen Botting, Rita Hildahl, and Rhonda Lorch along with SPC staff who did a great job of organizing the event and supporting the follow up work.

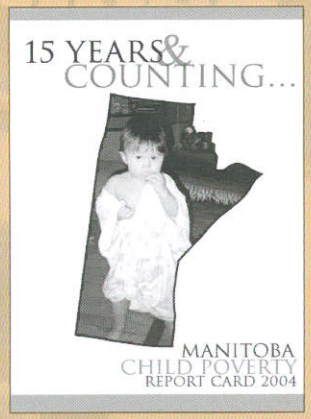
Two Poverty Barometers were dedicated to the issue of food security in 2004/05. ***Food Security: Children's Rights Denied***, focused on the right of children to food security and the policy responses that can assure it. It was released during the National Food Security Assembly held in Winnipeg in October. The second, ***Food Security and Nutrition: Too many families can't afford the food they need to be healthy***, was released on March 11th, 2005 at a joint press conference with the Dietitians of Canada at Victoria Albert School. Over one hundred students from grades five and six listened to a panel discuss issues surrounding food security and nutrition. The panel included Sheelagh Smith of the Health Action Centre and Campaign 2000 Continues, Carol Ellerbeck of Winnipeg Harvest, Cheryl Oliveira of Healthy Start for Mom & Me, Viola Prowse of the Urban Food Security Project, and Audrey Geisbrecht-Seddon with Health Services for the Elderly at the Health Action Centre. A challenge was issued at the press conference, which encouraged Manitobans to experience the struggles many families living in poverty face by attempting to purchase healthy food options for one week on a meager $3.00/day. Participants were encouraged to send a post card to Premier Doer in support of Campaign 2000's recommendations. Over two hundred post cards were issued during the campaign.

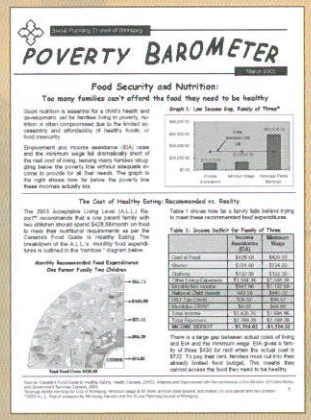
On November 24th, the 2004 Manitoba Child Poverty Report Card, ***Fifteen Years and Counting*** was released. I was pleased to sit on a panel with John Doyle, Sharon Menow, Wayne Helgason, and Florine Andy to explain the findings of the 2004 Report Card, which showed that fifteen years after the 1989 resolution, there is still much work to do. The Report Card called for a comprehensive Social Investment Plan for families.

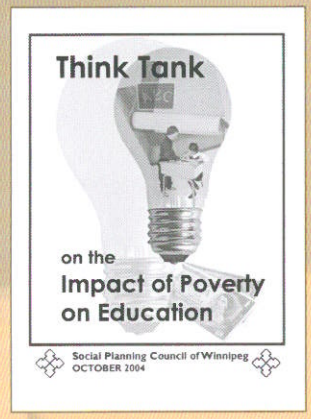
Article 16

(3) The family is the natural and fundamental group unit of society and is entitled to protection by society and the State.

Children







A Child Poverty Vigil was held at the All Saints Church in Winnipeg on November 24th, to mark the fifteenth year anniversary since the 1989 all party resolution in the House of Commons. The program included a candle lighting ceremony, poetry reading, musical performances, messages from the three levels of government, and a presentation to Dr. Lloyd Axworthy. For the three hundred people in attendance, the evening was a truly moving experience.

In 2004, the Social Planning Council signed on to a project of National Campaign 2000 as one of its six provincial partners. Funded by Social Development Canada, Strengthening Cross Canada Linkages on Social Inclusion: Focus on Child and Family Poverty is a two-year project with the goals of consolidating and expanding cross-Canada partnerships working on child and family poverty and enhancing knowledge on social inclusion for vulnerable families in Canada. The project enabled a regional forum to take place on Wednesday June 23rd at the Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg. The forum, facilitated by Strini Reddy, provided the opportunity for current, past, and potential Campaign 2000 Network members from across Manitoba to discuss policy recommendations contained within the Pathways to Progress paper, and to develop local strategies for implementation. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed their time and ideas to the work of Campaign 2000.

Committee membership remains strong although we saw changes in 2004. The committee said good bye to long time members Carolyn Duhamel, April Kalyniuk, Carolyn Ryan, and Judy White, but were pleased to welcome others in their places. I would like to express my sincerest appreciation for the many volunteers who commit their time and energy to the work of the committee. Finally, a special thank you to the staff at the Social Planning Council including Wayne Helgason, Tara Rudy, Sherry McPherson and the social work students assigned to us who make our work possible.

We are well positioned to advance the child and family poverty agenda in 2005 and ensure that the 1989 promise is finally realized. Thank you for continuing to fight for the rights of children and their families.

Mike Owen - Chair, Campaign 2000 Continues Steering Committee

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS Project

Homelessness is a complex problem that affects people in our communities in many different ways. Most of us are aware that homeless individuals spend their days on the street, lining up at soup kitchens and relying on emergency shelters to provide a bed for the night and a place to escape severe weather. Sadly, they encompass all ages.

What is less well known about homelessness is that many people in our communities are at a great risk of becoming homeless. This is issue is largely ignored because those at risk are not visible. They are the individuals and families whose low incomes combined with a of affordable housing, force them to live in sub-standard homes that barely, and quite often do not meet basic health and safety standards. For these people, homelessness is a housing issue.

Current research and resulting statistical data indicates homelessness is increasing dramatically across North America. While the problem may seem daunting, we can end homelessness in Winnipeg. Eliminating homelessness requires action through four broad strategies:

- Providing for the health and safety of those who are already homeless, by ensuring that emergency resources are available,
- Preventing homelessness by strengthening the safety net, especially in services such as mental health, substance abuse treatment, financial support, child welfare, and assistance with exiting the justice system,
- Increasing the stock of permanent affordable housing for those living at the lowest income levels, and
- Developing and sustaining support services, ranging from individual counseling, to education, training, and employment. Those most at risk require timely and accessible services, to assist them in making and sustaining changes in their lives.

Ending homelessness can be accomplished through local action based partnerships involving all levels of government and relevant sectors of the community. Winnipeg communities need to have a greater understanding of homelessness and ownership of the problem needs to be accepted and shared. At the community level, local strategies need to be developed, implemented and sustained.

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg (SPCW) has played a key role in implementing the National Homelessness Initiative (NHI), introduced by the Government of Canada in 1999. The SPCW provided coordination for the development of the first Community Plan on Homelessness and Housing in Winnipeg, the Community Plan Update, and it has developed and supported the Proposal Fund Allocation Committee (PFAC). This committee is partner in a shared delivery model with the Winnipeg Homelessness and Housing Initiative (WHHI).

Over the past year the primary focus and priority of PFAC has been reviewing funding proposals based on the Community Plan Update. Since the beginning of the NHI Phase II, over 50 groups, that provide housing and supportive services have been assisted. The second priority of the PFAC has focused on the development of the next phase of the NHI, due to commence in 2006. This priority is involves a research component with the following goals:

- Improve information and data on homeless people and homelessness issues,
- Increase the application, sharing and exchange of knowledge and best practices,
- Increase recognition of homelessness in policy development and policy options at all levels of government, and
- Increase skills, assets and capacities of groups over-represented in homelessness issues.

PFAC's third priority focuses on dissemination of the information and engagement of all relevant sectors in creating long-term solutions to specifically reduce homelessness in Winnipeg.

Over the past year, many who have been involved with Phase II of the NHI, have worked diligently to ensure the success of the shared delivery model. As with any new initiative, and in Winnipeg's case a new funding model, there has been, a steep learning curve and many valuable lessons have been learned. Although our successes are undoubtedly something to be proud of, this phase has taught us the value and significance of community participation in truly addressing homelessness and housing issues. The work and the knowledge gained over the past year will be an important cornerstone in the efforts to eliminate homelessness in Winnipeg.

Bern Bileski, Project Coordinator

Article 17.

(1) Everyone has the right to own property alone as well as in association with others.

(2) No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his property.

The FOOD Project

Over the last decade, there has developed a growing movement on the subject of food security and the means to ensure wide accessibility to safe, nutritious food within the context of a sustainable economic and social environment rooted in community.

Within this movement the role of community organizations, anti-poverty groups, food producers, health and social policy organizations, consumer organizations and all three levels of government is being examined to determine the role that stakeholders can play in addressing the health, economic, environmental and social aspects of this central issue.

What is Food Security?

Food security is a term that refers to individuals, households or communities being able to acquire appropriate and nutritious food on a regular and reliable basis, and using socially acceptable means. At the 1996 World Food Summit, convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, participants agreed that food security means that *"all people, at all times, have physical and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life."* This definition has been adopted by many government organizations, including many in Canada.

At a basic level, food security is about making healthy food accessible to all, including people on a fixed or limited income.

But, as the definition suggests, it's about much more than that.
~It's about making nutritious and culturally appropriate food accessible, not just any food.
~It's about supporting local, regional, community-scale, and sustainable food production.
~It's about building and revitalizing local communities and economies.
~It's about providing fair wages and decent working conditions for farmers and food system workers.
~It's about promoting social justice and more equitable access to resources.
~It's about empowering diverse people to work together to create positive changes in the food system and in their communities.

Food Security

In Winnipeg, a wide range of stakeholders have been striving to address food security questions from a variety of perspectives ranging from the operation of food banks to the development of food policy. In 2003, a group of these agencies came together with the goal of collaborating on food security issues by focusing on shared objectives and coordinated efforts.

More specifically, participating agencies identified the following themes for future work:

- Sharing of information and resources;
- Public education/awareness and policy development;
- Supporting local actions; and
- Coalition building

Under the direction of a community-based Advisory Committee, with a three-year grant from the Public Health Agency of Canada and sponsored by the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, a new project is currently underway to address the themes outlined above.

Our goal is to support the development of a network with the capacity to respond to food security issues in the city of Winnipeg through identifying local needs, priorities and community objectives for health promotion and community development/community economic development regarding food security.

This last year has been a busy one indeed. We have undertaken an initial scan of food security activities in Winnipeg; produced Thought About Food? the first in a series of occasional papers by the Winnipeg Food Project on the topic of Food Security, Food Policy and Public Participation; organized a speakers' series on a range of issues which reflect on food security; and have completed the manuscript for a book Recipes for Success: A Celebration of Food Security in Canada which will be published in the fall of 2005. Detailed information on the Food Project can be found on our website at www.spcw.mb.ca.

During this developmental phase of the project, the input and guidance provided by the Advisory Committee has been invaluable in providing a wide-range of perspectives and expertise. The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg would like to extend its appreciation to the committee for their dedication and support provided to addressing this most basic of social issues.

Anna Kirbyson, Project Coordinator

ENVIRONMENT Committee

Sustainability

During the past one and a half years the Social Planning Council Environment Committee has been committed to improving children's health and well-being while developing policy recommendations and actions that seek to improve social concerns and the physical environment. The committee has undertaken numerous initiatives over the last year that address the connections between social justice and the environment.

In June 2004, we hosted a three day 'Exposed for Life' conference on children's health and the environment. The conference educated people from a wide variety of sectors including policy makers, members of the medical community, parents, educators, activists and others about the issues in children's environmental health and the special impacts of poverty. It became clear that:

- the multiple risks involved with exposures generally are far greater than originally imagined;
- poverty and environmental justice are the basis for many of the problems; and
- the impact of environmental degradation on children and family members is at base a human rights issue

Outcomes of the conference were:

- Participants remarked that they gained knowledge that would be useful to them in their work;
- Those who were present indicated their commitment to try to bring key messages back into the sector or network in which they work;
- Provincial Minister for Health Living, the Honourable Jim Rondeau, expressed interest in following up on a number of the issues highlighted at the conference;
- Video reproduction of the keynote addresses by Dr. Sandra Steingraber and Jean-Dominique Lévesque-René, now being produced, will assist in bringing the messages and information to more people; and
- A Conference Report was prepared and disseminated

In January 2005 we submitted numerous recommendations to the City of Winnipeg Rapid Transit Task Force and Advisory Council including that improved transit must address both equity issues and environmental challenges by ensuring that fares are affordable for all Winnipeggers, that alternative funding structures are implemented, such as zone based fares and by sharing a portion of the federal gas tax with municipalities, and that hybrid or other reduced emissions vehicles be used.

In February 2005 the committee also presented to the Healthy Kids Healthy Futures All-Party Task Force because we feel that a number of solutions can be embraced in a comprehensive strategy aimed at improving children's health. We have made several recommendations in this presentation including that healthy active lifestyles and adequate, nutritious food are crucial, but other areas including reducing toxic exposures, improving housing quality and mitigating the impacts of climate change must be acted upon simultaneously. These are tasks for numerous departments of government; therefore an interdisciplinary approach must be taken.

In March 2005 the committee organized and facilitated a Roundtable on Healthcare and the Environment which discussed a range of issues amongst 26 participants including how to increase awareness and share knowledge between sectors, how to bring other healthcare practitioners onside, and how to incorporate this knowledge into practice and teaching.

Also in March we met with Minister Oswald, Minister Rondeau, Minister Sale, and a representative from Minister Struthers' office to encourage this government to take decisive actions in areas within its jurisdiction to protect children's environmental health and to discuss follow up initiatives from the 'Exposed for Life' conference, such as banning the cosmetic use of pesticides in Winnipeg.

"If the world's environment is contaminated, so too is the ecosystem of a mother's body. If a mother's body is contaminated, so too is the child who inhabits it."
-Dr. Sandra Steingraber, The Organic Manifesto of a Biologist Mother.

Children are our future;
their environmental well-being will ultimately become the key measure of success of any government policy or initiative and of our society.

Steve Rauh and Kimlee Wong Morrisseau,
Co-Chairs
Environment Committee

Equality

Committee for the THE ELIMINATION OF RACISM & DISCRIMINATION

Since 1991 the goal of the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination has been the eradication of systemic racism, and racial discrimination.

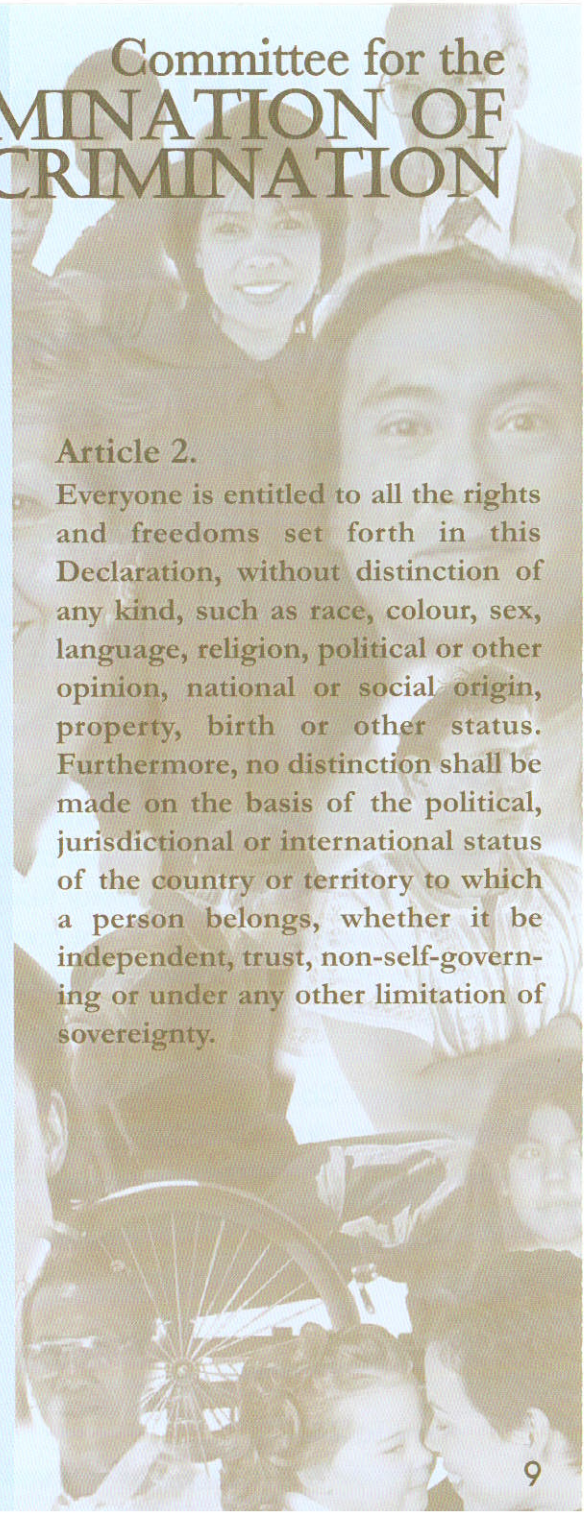
During the past several years the committee has focused on equity in education and training and the development of educational programs, equity in employment policies and practices, accreditation of foreign credentials, equitable access to housing services and human resources, and encouragement of the full participation of Aboriginal people and all ethnocultural communities in all matters which affect their lives.

2004 was a year of revitalization for the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination. During this past year, the committee started a thorough planning phase. Individual interviews were conducted with all members of the committee to get their impressions on the existing forms of discrimination and the future role of the committee in the search for justice, equity and quality of life. These interviews were complemented with an update of previous initiatives and several meetings with the members of the committee. As a result, the committee was able to put together a detailed workplan for the year 2005-2006 and a set of criteria to assist the committee with determining priorities.

Plans for the near future include the publication of SPC's Anti-discrimination policy, and a new research project on housing needs for new immigrants and refugees. The committee will continue working on employment equity, training and promotion; multicultural/anti-bias education; and accreditation of foreign credentials.

We welcome any groups or individuals from the various ethnocultural communities who share our goal to join our committee.

Marty Dolin - Chair, Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination



Article 2.

Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty.

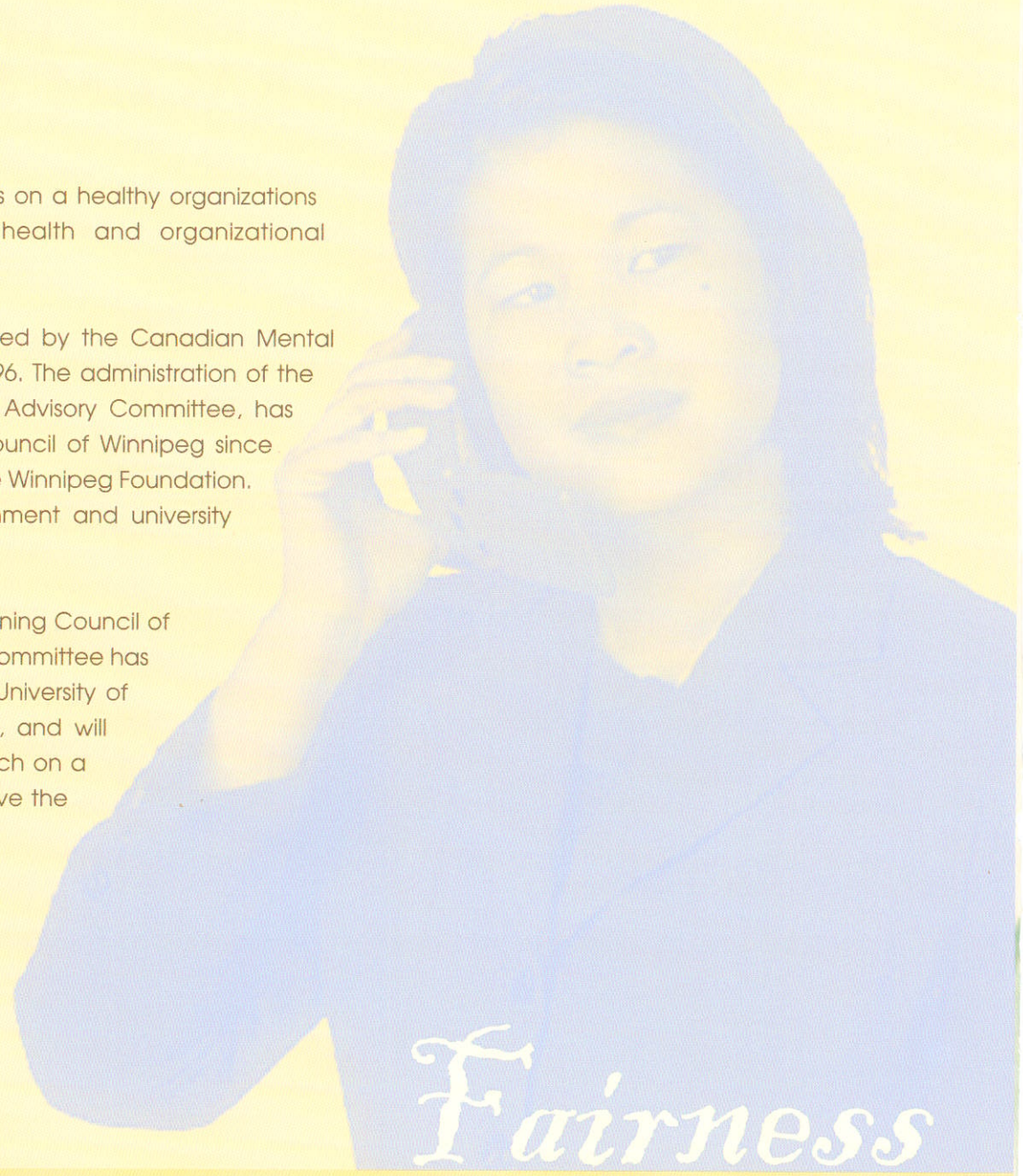
WELLBEING in the WORKPLACE Committee

The Well-Being in the Workplace Committee focuses on a healthy organizations approach to simultaneously improving worker health and organizational productivity.

The Wellbeing in the Workplace Initiative was started by the Canadian Mental Health Association - Manitoba Division(CMHA) in 1996. The administration of the project, including the Wellbeing in the Workplace Advisory Committee, has been under the auspices of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg since 2001. The project receives its primary funding from The Winnipeg Foundation. The Committee represents business, labour, government and university interests.

Reporting to the Board of Directors of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, the Wellbeing in the Workplace Advisory Committee has partnered with the Asper School of Business at the University of Manitoba in developing several research initiatives, and will soon be examining the learnings from its pilot research on a collaborative management-worker process to improve the health of organizations.

Sid Frankel, Co-Chair
Keith Lowe, Co-chair
Wellbeing in the Workplace Committee



Article 24.

Everyone has the right to rest and leisure, including reasonable limitation of working hours and periodic holidays with pay.

MARKETING & MEMBERSHIP Committee

This year's marketing efforts were concentrated on increasing media coverage of Social Planning Council events, publications and of social issues identified by the SPC. Through a timely and targeted release and distribution of its publications the Social Planning Council has been successful in increasing media coverage this year and will continue to foster these networks and to increase public awareness.

Publications like the Poverty Barometer and the annual Child Poverty Report Card are an opportunity to reach out to the public and provide them with resources, tools and information. The option of free downloads of our publications from our website allows us to reach out to new markets and be sure that those who are most in need of our resources have free and easy access to them. Our attendance, participation and support of various activities throughout the year keep us truly "committed to the community." Events like the Annual Open House provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to develop networks, make new contacts and build new capacities.

Membership efforts have been concentrated on reaching out to the Aboriginal community and other ethno-cultural communities in Winnipeg. Our members are invaluable and it is our responsibility to ensure they are truly reflective of our community and our society.

We acknowledge our members, our volunteers and the individuals who participate and promote positive change within our community.

Greg Dandewich, Chair
Marketing & Membership Committee



JUST INCOME Coalition

Equity

Since 2002, the Social Planning Council has been a strong supporter of the Just Income Coalition, a group of faith, community, labour, women's, Aboriginal, and social welfare organizations seeking economic justice for low income citizens. The Coalition represents a diverse partnership of twenty five Winnipeg organizations and affiliates in Thompson and Brandon.

The Just Income Coalition continues to be a strong voice for an improved minimum wage in Manitoba. In April 2004 Coalition members met with the NDP caucus to discuss minimum wage policy in Manitoba. An extensive brief was prepared by Coalition members and presented to Doug Martindale, MLA Burrows, Rob Altemeyer, MLA Wolseley, Cris Aglugub, MLA The Maples, Gerard Jennissen, MLA Flin Flon, Harry Schellenberg, MLA Rossmere, Hon. Christine Melnick, Minister of Family Services and Housing, and Hon. Nancy Allan, Minister of Labour and Immigration.

Support for a fair minimum wage increase in Manitoba is growing. In October 2003, a petition calling for a substantial increase in the minimum wage and indexation was presented to then Acting Minister of Labour and Immigration, Steve Ashton. Over eight thousand Manitobans signed the petition, indicating overwhelming public support. The same month, an interfaith letter was signed by the leaders of Manitoba's faith groups, imploring the government to increase the minimum wage to an acceptable level.

On October 26th, 2004, one year after the petition was presented on the steps of the legislature building, the Just Income Coalition held a press conference to release the results of a public opinion poll and to announce the Coalition's next initiative. The poll, conducted by Probe Research Inc. for the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, showed that nearly two thirds of Manitobans believed the minimum wage of $7.00 per hour was inadequate. According to the results, 64% of Manitobans shared the view that the official minimum wage was too low while only 32% believed it was adequate. The Coalition also announced the launch of the "Manitoba Low Wage Community Inquiry", a community investigation into low wages, for the spring of 2005.

The Coalition and its member organizations delivered a series of briefs to the province's Minimum Wage Coordinator in November in response to their request for public input on Manitoba's 2005 minimum wage level. The Coalition presented their brief to the Minister of Labour and Immigration, which recommended a staged increase of $1.00/year for three years to bring the minimum wage to $10.00/hour by January 2007. They further recommended that once a living minimum wage had been reached, it should be automatically adjusted on an annual basis to ensure it stays in line with increases in the cost of living.

In January 2005, it was announced that the minimum wage would increase again by $.25 on April 1st to $7.25/hour. The Coalition responded to the announcement at a press conference where representatives including Welcome Place, UNPAC, and the Women's Health Clinic expressed their disappointment with the modest level of the increase.

A new Minimum Wage Board, the Coalition's Low Wage Inquiry, and the National Anti-Poverty Organization's new Living Wage Campaign all present new opportunities for achieving the Coalition's objectives in 2005.

Article 23.

(1) Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment.

(2) Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

(3) Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection.

(4) Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

STUDENT Report

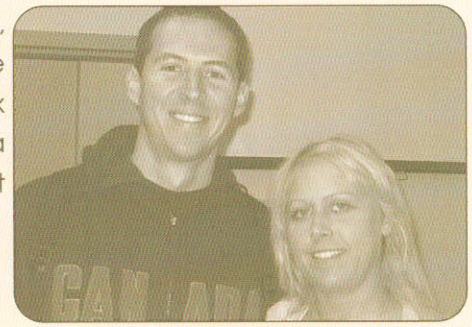
Experience

The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg is one of the only organizations in Winnipeg that offer social work students a policy orientated environment. Students are able to enhance their education and gain insights into the complex and challenging fields of social policy, community and organizational development. Further the SPCW provides chances for students to interact with the three levels of government, non-government organizations and community representatives. With a wide range and depth of opportunities for the development of research skills, committee management and community outreach the SPCW stands out as a unique field placement.

This year the SPCW had the benefit of mentoring two students. Daniel Arango, a pre-masters student and Viktoria Westgate, a BSW student from the Inner City Social Work Program. Both students had the privilege of getting involved with committees such as, the Committee for the Elimination of Racism and Discrimination, and Well Being in the Work Place. Some highlights over the past year included touring the legislative building, planning for the immigrant housing project and attending the 2004 Community Development/Community Economic Development Gathering.

Together Daniel and Viktoria were able to enhance their research skills and gain a better understanding of community based social development and organizational dynamics. Both students would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg and Maureen Kalloo for making their experience welcoming, challenging and exciting.

Daniel Arango,
Viktoria Westgate
Faculty of Social Work
University of Manitoba
Student Placement



Article 26.

(1) Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

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Faculty of Social Work
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Community Coordinator

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Suzanne Gessler
PFAC Support Part-time

Pamela Rempel
PFAC Support Part-time

The Food Project

Anna Kirbyson
Project Coordinator

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
est. 1919
Committed to Community

Student Placements and Summer Employment

Daniel Arango
Faculty of Social Work
Student Placement

Viktoria Westgate
Faculty of Social Work
Student Placement

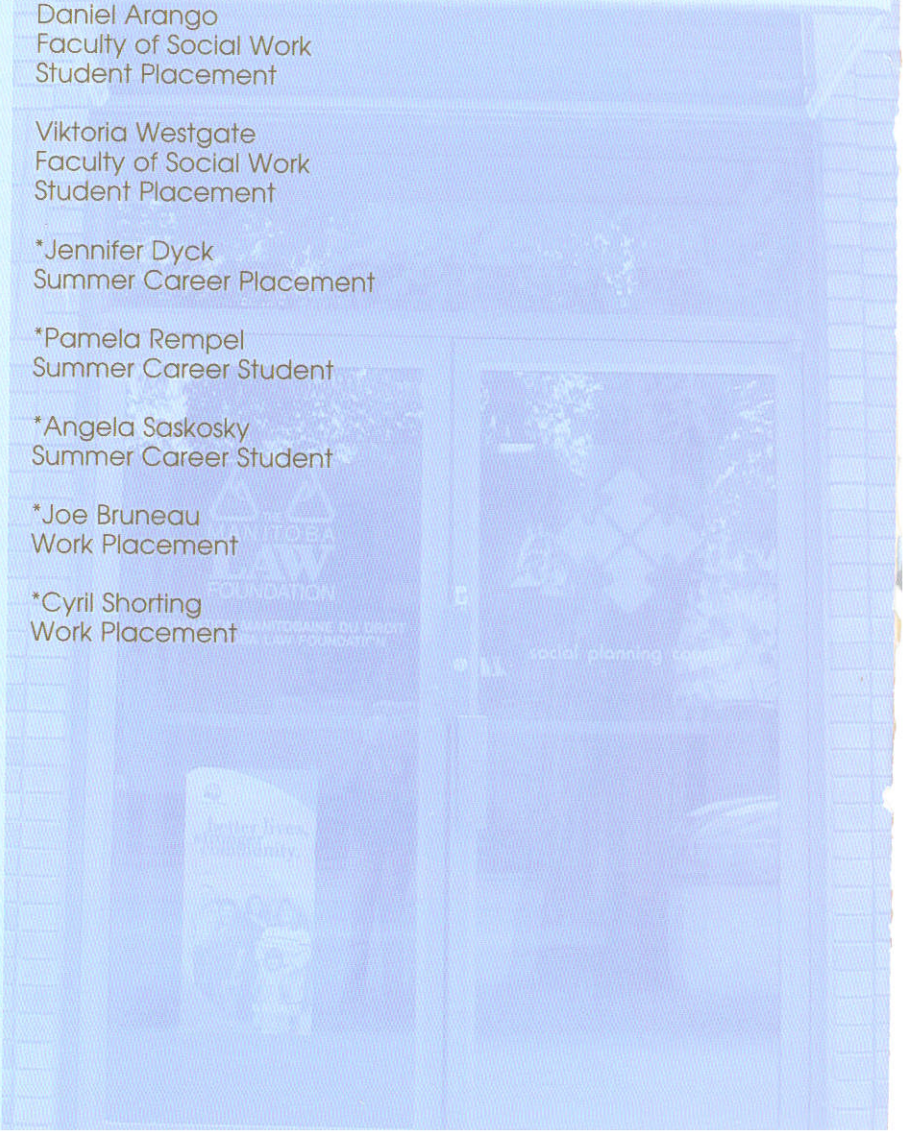
*Jennifer Dyck
Summer Career Placement

*Pamela Rempel
Summer Career Student

*Angela Saskosky
Summer Career Student

*Joe Bruneau
Work Placement

*Cyril Shorting
Work Placement



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Darlene Hall
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*resigned I contract expired

Notes

Notes

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Preamble

Whereas recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world,

Whereas disregard and contempt for human rights have resulted in barbarous acts which have outraged the conscience of mankind, and the advent of a world in which human beings shall enjoy freedom of speech and belief and freedom from fear and want has been proclaimed as the highest aspiration of the common people,

Whereas it is essential, if man is not to be compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law,

Whereas it is essential to promote the development of friendly relations between nations,

Whereas the peoples of the United Nations have in the Charter reaffirmed their faith in fundamental human rights, in the dignity and worth of the human person and in the equal rights of men and women and have determined to promote social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,

Whereas Member States have pledged themselves to achieve, in co-operation with the United Nations, the promotion of universal respect for and observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Whereas a common understanding of these rights and freedoms is of the greatest importance for the full realization of this pledge.

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