2008 - 2009 ANNUAL REPORT
MISSION STATEMENT
To improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities, this will result in:

• improved social policies and services
• maximized access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society
• effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues

VISION STATEMENT
To create a community that provides a socially, physically, and economically supportive environment and supports public participation and community integration to preserve and enhance the health and well being of our population.

VALUES
The SPRC commits to ethical practice that will:

• improve community conditions in a way that respects the rights of individuals
• ensure that programs and priorities are developed through processes that ensure an opportunity for input from community members
• endeavor to work for the empowerment of disenfranchised community members and ensure that resources and conditions necessary to well being are available to all
• programs and policies of the SPRC will anticipate and respect diverse values, beliefs and cultures in the community
• create sustainable, equitable, respectful and supportive environments that will enhance the physical and social environment

REPORT of the PRESIDENT and EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
This past year will long be remembered as the end of an era of economic prosperity and the beginning of a recession in Hamilton, Canada and much of the western world. It was the year in which a global economic crisis took hold. International financial markets faltered, manufacturing industries stalled as did patterns of consumer spending. The local economy, particularly the manufacturing sector in Hamilton, has suffered and speculation about how deep and how long this economic decline will continue remains a current topic of debate. The Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, like other voluntary sector organizations, has and continues to collaborate with others in the community to maintain our investment in a number of vital and innovative projects, while at the same time, balance these against the need to formulate strategies that respond to dramatic changes in the social well being of our community.

Our work to advocate for more affordable housing in Hamilton has produced good results. Hamilton is ready to move quickly and maximize every opportunity to make new investments in affordable housing. We are having success in our partnership with the Aboriginal community to deliver housing and crisis support services as needed to the urban Aboriginal population in Hamilton. We have continued to explore service and support needs for street-involved youth and aid in development of new resources for the successful engagement of street youth in community life.

We have expanded dramatically the number of student nourishment programs operating in schools and community centers across the city through the Hamilton Partners in Nutrition project. Our Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) partnerships have been expanded to include three new partners to that system: Wesley Urban Ministries (WUM), babyshowers and the East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club of Hamilton. Their participation in CAPC will dramatically enhance our capacity to provide support and engagement opportunities to families in east Hamilton.

Our research and community development services have added support to a great many partner initiatives that contribute to the health and well being of the community. These include support to groups working to address poverty and discrimination based on racism and sexual orientation. It needs to be said that our evolving relationship with the United Way of Burlington and Greater Hamilton has enabled us not only to be supported in this work but also integrate their resources and our capacity for service for the benefit of many marginalized, oppressed and disadvantaged members of our community.

Our success over the past year, as ever, is due primarily to the skill, ability and dedication of our volunteers, staff, students and Board members. They have all continued to work exceedingly well together to make a positive change in our community. During the year the transition of long standing staff members from the CATCH program and the Family Home Visitors program to WUM was completed. We are confident that this transition will enhance the value of these services to the community and we are grateful to WUM for working cooperatively through this change and with integrity.

The year ahead promises to be as challenging as any we have faced in more than a decade, but the SPRC remains well equipped to effectively support our community response to the changing economic and social conditions.
2008-09 HIGHLIGHTS

An updated Incomes and Poverty in Hamilton report was released. The report details the distribution of incomes in the City of Hamilton and the level of poverty based on the most commonly reported measure—Statistics Canada’s Low Income Cut-Off (LICO). The report describes changes in average incomes for families, charts the growing income gap in Hamilton, estimates the number of residents living in poverty, notes the crisis in poverty for lone parent families, maps the distribution of low income inadequacy of Ontario Works benefit rates.

Six Community Profiles describing the major communities of Hamilton were published. These Community Profiles were developed to aid in understanding the unique social characteristics important to, yet distinct about, each community within the City of Hamilton. This series of reports looks at a number of demographic variables across each community within the City of Hamilton. The information provided can be used by community members to identify actions that might be taken to respond to changing conditions and to continue to improve community life.

The SPRC worked with the Street Youth Planning Collaborative in developing a community plan to reduce street involvement among youth leaving the child welfare system.

CAPC Hamilton’s Annual Summerfest was held in August 2008 at the Dominic Agostino Riverdale Community Centre. CAPC Hamilton partnered with the Hamilton Police Service, the City of Hamilton Recreation Department and Lightway Church to organize this event which was attended by an estimated 800 community members. Summerfest brings the community together and highlights the services available to community members.

The SPRC partnered with the Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition, Hamilton Regional Indian Centre, Urban Native Homes, Native Women’s Centre, and the Aboriginal Health Access Centre to deliver the Aboriginal Homelessness Partnership Initiative which continued to produce results for Aboriginal people who are homeless. Assertive outreach services, access to basic needs including emergency food and prescription medications, and access to traditional healing opportunities were all increased in 2008/09.

Bridging the Digital Divide was funded by the Hamilton Community Foundation’s Tackling Poverty Together Fund, and increased access to computers and technology in low-income neighbourhoods. The SPRC worked with small businesses, community volunteers, and the Hamilton Police Service in order to find computers that could be refurbished and donated to neighbourhood hubs. There were over 120 computers donated to neighbourhood hubs and families in need.

The SPRC, with funding from the Canada Summer Jobs Initiative employed students to work for as program assistants to aid in the delivery of CATCH youth programs. A student also worked with CAPC preparing a resource manual for those working in Riverdale and other culturally diverse communities.

Funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services that is administered regionally by Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H enabled SPRC to establish and support Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton. Over 2.1 million nutritious meals/snacks were served to over 25,000 students. Over 800,000 meals were served (Breakfast, Early Morning Meal and Lunch) providing three food groups. Over 1.3 million snacks were served providing two food groups. Over 2000 volunteers have been contributing to the overall operation of all Student Nutrition Programs. As of June 2009 there will be over 120 Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton.

The Shovel Ready: Affordable Housing Opportunities Across Ontario conference successfully convened in October 2008. Nearly 100 people attended the conference hosted by the SPRC, The Affordable Housing Flagship, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the City of Hamilton.

The SPRC supported the Photovoice Hamilton -Youth Project which hosted a special exhibit in November 2008 at the Westside Concert Theatre, with funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation. This project engaged 38 young people who shared their perspectives through truly compelling photographs.

The Hamilton Social Enterprise Network, a partnership between the SPRC and Today’s Family Early Learning and Childcare, and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, successfully fostered the formation of a community network. The Network provides information and support to new groups and individuals in Hamilton interested in creating or expanding social enterprise initiatives.

The SPRC, through a grant from KAIROS: Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiatives, supported the Hamilton Working Group Poverty Reduction Strategy. Actions included the printing and distribution of postcards created to signal support for an effective and continuing poverty reduction strategy in Ontario.

The SPRC has been assisting the Jobs Prosperity Collaborative. The SPRC is co-leading the Quality of Life working group, which is developing strategies for maximizing high standards for arts, culture, heritage, ecology and health and wellness for the local population.

The SPRC has been providing leadership to the local grassroots movement supporting the 25 in 5 Network that had been seeking to have the government set a comprehensive target for poverty reduction of 25% in 5 years. In December 2008, Deb Matthews, the Minister responsible for Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy, released a plan for reducing poverty in the Province over the next few years reflecting those targets.

The SPRC is a founding partner of the Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative which has brought together a wide array of local social service providers, educators, healthcare professionals and committed individuals. This group is focused on implementing the substantial recommendations of the SPRC to address needs of the LGBTQ community in Hamilton.

The SPRC, in partnership with The Well Hamilton, provided Positive Space training to all staff at the HWDSB Education Centre. The completion of this training signals the HWDSB’s commitment to making all schools safe spaces for LGBTQ people.
SOCIAL PLANNING AND RESEARCH COUNCIL OF HAMILTON
(Incorporated without share capital under the laws of Ontario)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES AND ACCUMULATED NET ASSETS
OPERATING FUND

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Year Ended March 31, 2009</th>
<th>Year Ended March 31, 2008</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>REVENUE</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support from public</td>
<td>$231,054</td>
<td>$226,777</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support from governments</td>
<td>38,765</td>
<td>37,636</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Operating revenue</td>
<td>225,626</td>
<td>231,887</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total revenue</strong></td>
<td>495,445</td>
<td>496,300</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| **EXPENSES**         |                           |                           |
| Salaries and consultant fees | 327,526          | 311,609                   |
| Employment health and retirement benefits | 64,396         | 65,092                    |
| Professional fees    | 3,603                    | 3,105                     |
| Service contracts    | -                        | -                         |
| **Supplier**         | 13,203                   | 7,829                     |
| **Telephone**        | 9,775                    | 10,040                    |
| **Postage and shipping** | 6,778              | 10,155                    |
| **Rent and insurance** | 31,830              | 34,394                    |
| **Public relations** | 749                      | 5,480                     |
| **Staff transportation** | 2,433               | 1,668                     |
| **Conferences**      | 1,763                    | 3,471                     |
| **Volunteer recognition** | 3,402              | 2,599                     |
| Organization dues and periodicals | 3,686          | 1,962                     |
| **Equipment and maintenance contracts** | 13,231            | 18,820                    |
| **Other administration** | 1,876        | 4,400                     |
| **Total expenses**   | 484,251                  | 480,624                   |

| **Excess of revenue over expenses for the year** | 11,194          | 15,676                    |
| **Accumulated net assets at beginning of the year** | 231            | 55                        |
| **Transfer to Stabilization Reserve Fund** | (10,500)       | (15,500)                  |
| **Accumulated net assets at end of the year**     | $925           | $231                      |

NOTE: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the financial statements. The complete financial statements, including all related notes to the financial statements, are available on request.
2008/2009 SPRC PRIORITIES & ACTIONS

FAMILY AND CHILD WELFARE
• Assessment of Child Care Services in the Dundas Community
• Baby’s Best Start
• Best Start Network
• Catholic Children Aid’s Society Anti Racist Organizational Change Initiative
• Childcare Micro-Enterprise Project
• Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)
  • After School Academic Support Program
  • babysowers
  • CHATville
  • Chill Hill Open Access Center
  • Community Access to Child Health (CATCH)
• Hamilton Public Library
• Healthy Babies Health Children
• Home Management Workers
• Skills Through Activity and Recreation Hamilton (S.T.A.R.)
• Today’s Family Early Learning and Child Care
• Correctional Services Consortium – Needs Assessment
• Family Home Visitors (Parents Helping Parents Program)
• Hamilton Chinese Community Services Centre
• Kids and Community – A Parent Readiness Project
• Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club
• Stoney Creek Wraparound Project
• Under the Willows Program Evaluation

HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING
• Aboriginal Homelessness Partnering Strategy
• Addressing the Needs of Street-Involved & Homeless Youth Project
• Affordable Housing Flagship Initiative
• Food, Shelter and Housing Advisory Committee
• Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC)
• McQuesten Planning Team
• Ontario Youth Against Violence: Hamilton Project (OYAV)
• Photovoice Hamilton
• Solutions for Housing Action Committee (SHAC)
• Hamilton Tenant Education Project
• Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG)

EQUITY AND DIVERSITY
• Community Coalition Against Racism
• Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion Project Evaluation
• Hamilton Positive Space Collaborative
• Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Student Equity Inventory
• Indo Canadian Networking Council – South Asian Seniors Survey

IMPACTS OF POVERTY
• 25 in 5 Hamilton
• Bridging the Digital Divide
• Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits
• Growing School Nutrition Programs
• Hamilton Centre for Civic Inclusion
• Hamilton Health Care Providers Against Poverty
• Hamilton Partners in Nutrition (HPIN)
• Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR)
• Hamilton Social Enterprise Network
• Income Security Working Group (ISWG)
• Incomes and Poverty Report in Hamilton
• Living Wage and Fair Employment Coalition
• ROCK – Raising Our Children’s Kids
• Seniors and Poverty Working Group
• Skills Development Flagship Initiative
• Temp Workers’ Rights Group
• Youth Mentorship and Skills Development Initiative

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND NEW ISSUES
• Communications and Telephone Competency for Careers Program – St. Joseph’s Immigrant Women’s Centre
• Community Economic Development & Micro-Enterprise Project
• Community Mapping Service
• Community Profiles
• Community Social Data Strategy
• Human Services Planning Table
• Jobs Prosperity Collaborative & Quality of Life Project
• Social Planning Network of Ontario

PROGRAM STAFF: Mark Fraser, MSW, Senior Social Planner
Deirdre Pike, Social Planner
Jeff Wingard, MSW, Senior Social Planner

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN PROJECT STAFF: Alison Miller, Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

PARENTS HELPING FAMILIES
VISITORS:
• Tammy McDonald, Senior Planner – CAPC Program
• Munawar Begum* | Leakhena Chea* | Raimonda Gorishiti* | Ruth Hazell* | Badra Jayaratne* | Mai Phan*

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CHILD HEALTH (CATCH):
• Judy Klooesterman, Program Coordinator* | Jadranka Petrovic, Program Assistant*

DIRECTORS
Termin Term 2008
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham
Isaac Rashid

DIRECTORS
Termin Term 2009
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham
Isaac Rashid

OFFICERS
Mark Abradjian, President
Dale Brown, Vice-President
Isaac Rashid, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Meyer, Immediate Past President

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Mary Meyer, Chairperson
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham

STRAteGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Jeff Neven, Chairperson*
Warren Korel*
Kim Nolan

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: Community Action Program for Children Riverdale
CAPC Council
Huda Adotalleb
Souad Ailouti
Evelyn Book
M.J. Dann*
Shani Doherty
Raimonda Gorishiti*
Wendy Gould*
Hana Hasan
Khitam Hassan
Frieda Kim
Tammy McDonald
Alison Miller
Samia Qadim, SPRC Board Liaison

STAFF
Don Jaffray, M.A., Executive Director

PROGRAM STAFF:
Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Christina Walters, Executive Assistant
Deirdre Dixon, Administrative Assistant

OFFICERS
Mark Abradjian, President
Isaac Rashid, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Meyer, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham
Isaac Rashid

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Mary Meyer, Chairperson
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham

STRAteGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Jeff Neven, Chairperson*
Warren Korel*
Kim Nolan

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: Community Action Program for Children Riverdale
CAPC Council
Huda Adotalleb
Souad Ailouti
Evelyn Book
M.J. Dann*
Shani Doherty
Raimonda Gorishiti*
Wendy Gould*
Hana Hasan
Khitam Hassan
Frieda Kim
Tammy McDonald
Alison Miller
Samia Qadim, SPRC Board Liaison

STAFF
Don Jaffray, M.A., Executive Director

PROGRAM STAFF:
Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Christina Walters, Executive Assistant
Deirdre Dixon, Administrative Assistant

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN PROJECT STAFF: Alison Miller, Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

PARENTS HELPING FAMILIES
VISITORS:
• Tammy McDonald, Senior Planner – CAPC Program
• Munawar Begum* | Leakhena Chea* | Raimonda Gorishiti* | Ruth Hazell* | Badra Jayaratne* | Mai Phan*

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CHILD HEALTH (CATCH):
• Judy Klooesterman, Program Coordinator* | Jadranka Petrovic, Program Assistant*

OFFICERS
Mark Abradjian, President
Dale Brown, Vice-President
Isaac Rashid, Secretary/Treasurer
Mary Meyer, Immediate Past President

DIRECTORS
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham
Isaac Rashid

NOMINATING COMMITTEE
Mary Meyer, Chairperson
Mark Abradjian
Victor Abraham

STRAteGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE
Jeff Neven, Chairperson*
Warren Korel*
Kim Nolan

ADVISORY COMMITTEES: Community Action Program for Children Riverdale
CAPC Council
Huda Adotalleb
Souad Ailouti
Evelyn Book
M.J. Dann*
Shani Doherty
Raimonda Gorishiti*
Wendy Gould*
Hana Hasan
Khitam Hassan
Frieda Kim
Tammy McDonald
Alison Miller
Samia Qadim, SPRC Board Liaison

STAFF
Don Jaffray, M.A., Executive Director

PROGRAM STAFF:
Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Christina Walters, Executive Assistant
Deirdre Dixon, Administrative Assistant

COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN PROJECT STAFF: Alison Miller, Community Outreach/Volunteer Coordinator

PARENTS HELPING FAMILIES
VISITORS:
• Tammy McDonald, Senior Planner – CAPC Program
• Munawar Begum* | Leakhena Chea* | Raimonda Gorishiti* | Ruth Hazell* | Badra Jayaratne* | Mai Phan*

COMMUNITY ACCESS TO CHILD HEALTH (CATCH):
• Judy Klooesterman, Program Coordinator* | Jadranka Petrovic, Program Assistant*
The Social Planning and Research Council would like to thank its major funders for their continued support of the work of the council.

We greatly appreciate the support of the Public Health Agency of Canada, Service Canada, Hamilton Community Foundation, Ontario Trillium Foundation, Department of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada, the Freeman Foundation, Haldimand-Norfolk R.E.A.C.H., Community Development Halton, McMaster University, and the South Pole for Kids Expedition team.

During the past twelve months, we have enjoyed the opportunity of working with the following voluntary sector groups and agencies:

- Aboriginal Health Centre
- City of Hamilton
- Community Centre for Media Arts (CCMA)
- Aboriginal Labour Force Development Circle
- Community Consultation Committee on Social Housing
- Affordable Housing Flagship of Hamilton
- Elizabeth Fry Society of Hamilton Branch (The)
- Big Brothers Big Sisters of Hamilton and Burlington
- Hamilton Chamber of Commerce
- Breakfast for Learning
- Hamilton Chinese Community Services
- Campaign for Adequate Welfare and Disability Benefits (CAWDB)
- Hamilton Council on Aging
- Canadian Council on Social Development
- Hamilton Executive Directors’ Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC)
- Canadian Mental Health Association
- Hamilton Housing Corporation
- Catholic Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton
- Hamilton Independent Living Program
- Children’s Aid Society of Hamilton
- Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant Local Health Integration Network (LHIN)
- Hamilton Public Library – Red Hill Branch
- Hamilton Regional Indian Centre
- Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction (HRPR)
- Hamilton Training Advisory Board
- Hamilton’s Centre for Civic Inclusion
- Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
- Housing Help Centre
- Income Security Working Group
- Intercultural Community Centre
- Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys and Girls Club
- Jobs Prosperity Collaborative
- McQuesten Legal and Community Services
- McMaster University – Faculty of Health Sciences
- McMaster University – Faculty of Social Sciences
- Mission Services
- Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology
- Native Women’s Centre
- Rotary Club of Hamilton
- Settlement and Integration Services Organization (SISO)
- St. Joseph Immigrant Women’s Centre
- Street Youth Planning Collaborative
- Street Involved Youth Network
- Today’s Family
- Early Learning & Child Care
- Volunteer Hamilton
- Wesley Urban Ministries
- Woman Abuse Working Group (WAWG)
- YMCA
- Youth Employment Network
- YWCA

A special thanks goes to the friends of the SPRC for their contributions. We would like to thank and acknowledge the committed volunteers who have made CAPC so successful.

The Community Action Program for Children (CAPC) continues to be successful largely as a result of the important work done through our partners in this project. These partners include: the Public Health Services and the Community Services Department of the City of Hamilton, S.T.A.R. Hamilton, the CATCH Committee, St. Joseph’s Centre for Ambulatory Health Services, Today’s Family, babyshowers, Wesley Urban Ministries, Hamilton East Kiwanis Boys & Girls Club and the Hamilton Public Library. We would also like to thank and acknowledge the committed volunteers who have made CAPC so successful.

The support and involvement of education institutions in the community work of SPRC continues to be a success. We would like to acknowledge Hill Park Secondary School, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Mohawk College, and McMaster University School of Social Work for their contributions.