Poverty reduction has been a long-standing priority for SPRC Hamilton and has figured prominently in our strategic plans and our daily work over many years. With the 2016 census data now available, the results are in and we can see that our efforts have had a positive impact!

The census data released in late 2016 reports on the population living on a low income. The rate in Hamilton has dropped from a staggering 21.9% in 1996 to a current rate of 16.6% (LICO – BT). This change in the poverty rate means that 28,000 fewer people are living in poverty today than might have been the case without our ambitious and collaborative work.

There have been times when many questioned whether or not poverty reduction is an achievable or even reasonable target for us to have. Over the past twenty years, there have even been a few days where we might have wondered ourselves if this is possible. Well the evidence confirms that the poverty rate is something that we can change. This is not an easy task. It has to be a community choice and even a country’s choice.

Our role as a social planning council in this change is to gather evidence of the extent of poverty and the negative effects it can have on the health of our population including children, seniors, parents and others and share that information with residents in the community. We engage with many in this work including other service providers, donors, employers, elected officials and residents inviting them to join in the effort to make a change. By informing people of concerning issues like poverty and then working together to improve conditions, we are able to make changes that benefit us all.

This has been happening with poverty reduction efforts. We share the credit for making this change with many others. And we don’t stop here. More can be done to improve the health and well-being of our communities. We know there is more work to do in creating affordable housing, increasing food security and promoting good health in safe and secure neighbourhoods. We know too that poverty rates can be further reduced and the depth of poverty conditions still need to improve.

We are proud to be a part of the innovation taking place, proud of working along with other service providers to experiment, evaluate and develop new ways of meeting the needs of our local population. Our community is rich in the skills, assets and resources needed to go further. Some of those innovations for us include delivering improved nutrition programs to more students, working to reduce homelessness particularly for Aboriginal, women and youth at risk and supporting low-income residents in securing access to all of the benefits and resources that our community currently has to offer.

The challenge for us all in the years ahead is to find ways to work together, be creative and devise new and better solutions. We at the Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton, look forward to joining with all members of our community in the work we can do to meet the challenges ahead and continue progress toward making Hamilton the best place to raise a child and age successfully.
Over the course of the past year the SPRC has conducted research resulting in the following publications:

- **Hamilton Social Landscape Bulletins**
  - Poverty Among Hamilton’s Taxfilers
  - Persistence of Poverty in the Hamilton CMA
  - Census Quick Facts: Visible Minorities in Hamilton

- Intergenerational Trauma and Aboriginal Homelessness

- Young Parent Program Review

- South Mountain Community Engagement Initiative Evaluation
  Second Survey Results

- Neighbour 2 Neighbour Community Garden Consultation Report

- How’s the Weather Now? Women’s Homelessness in Hamilton

- Dundas Asset Mapping: Community Profile and Community Services and Programming for Older Adults and Youth

- Hamilton For All Factsheets
  - Languages Spoken at Home
  - Immigrants’ Languages and Places of Birth
  - Visible Minorities

*All of the above reports are available for download on our website: [sprc.hamilton.on.ca/publications](http://sprc.hamilton.on.ca/publications)
The [Dis]placement Project funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario provided free, community-based training on housing law to service providers and community leaders supporting new Canadians. The training focused on legal education around tenant displacement due to gentrification. The participants were community leaders and service providers who support new Canadians in the Beasley and Riverdale neighbourhoods. The training consisted of a series of five sessions that ran from February to July 2017.

The [Dis]placement Project was a partnership between SPRC, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and Good Shepherd Core Collaborative Learning and engaged an advisory table of members from various sectors. In addition to the training, the project produced a short film that was shown at the Core Collaborative Learning Homelessness Film Festival in June 2017. The film entitled “Displacement, Hamilton” is available to view on YouTube.

The Law Foundation of Ontario has chosen to write a success story about the [Dis]placement Project to be highlighted in their annual report and used to promote their research on the benefits of training trusted intermediaries. The story will include interviews with project participants and outline the success of the project in providing increased access to legal information for tenants facing displacement.
TASTEBUDS, HAMILTON’S STUDENT NUTRITION COLLABORATIVE

Tastebuds, Hamilton’s Student Nutrition Collaborative, had another successful year providing students with universal access to nutritious food during their school day. Tastebuds provides over 165 nutrition programs that run in 121 locations and serve over 30,000 students per day. The program is supported by funding from the Ministry of Children and Youth Services as well as generous community donations. Its success is also reliant on the over 1,200 volunteers who donate their time to purchase, prepare and serve food directly within the schools.

One of the goals of the Tastebuds program is to establish nutrition programs in more schools across Hamilton in order to provide a greater number of students with access to nutritious food during the school day. This year, Tastebuds established three new programs including a snack program at Bikeology, a HWDSB Systems Alternative Education bike program. Students attend the program to earn credits in Technology (Bicycle Repair), Business and English and volunteer hours at local bicycle shops.

Through a partnership with Good Shepherd Centres, Tastebuds has established a new food hub location inside the Venture Centre Marketplace. With generous support from Good Shepherd, food from the Venture Centre is distributed to schools throughout the city. In particular, volunteers from Prince of Wales Elementary School stop by each week to pick out fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grain products. These donations help to alleviate the budget concerns for the school that runs a snack program for 700 students and breakfast for 125 each day.

FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT

The Financial Empowerment project, a 3 year project funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, adapts the Financial Empowerment Problem Solving (FEPS) model to increase the financial independence of people who are economically vulnerable in Hamilton. The project is a partnership between SPRC, United Way Halton & Hamilton and Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction. The project employs two Community Financial Workers who build the financial capacity of community members through tax filing support, advocacy and education.

The Financial Empowerment project has engaged in an outreach strategy that includes a partnership table of over 30 community partners from a wide range of sectors. In addition, the Community Financial Workers have connected with Hamilton MPs, MPPs and City Councillors in order to introduce the project and garner support moving forward. This cross-sector collaborative approach will be utilized to build capacity at three levels: individual participants; programs and services; and policy and systems.

In April 2018, the project began to hold free tax clinics at the Hamilton and District Labour Council as well as other community locations. Tax filing support ensures that individuals and families will receive the benefits they are entitled to including the Child Tax Benefit, the Working Income Tax Benefit, Seniors Grant, GST/HST rebate and the Ontario Trillium Benefit. Within April and May 2018, the project connected tax clinic participants with over $400,700 in available benefits.
THE STREET YOUTH PLANNING COLLABORATIVE (SYPC)

Youth Voice Matters! A highlight of the past year has included the engagement of youth in making change on youth housing and homelessness issues. The SYPC was delighted to be invited to participate at a national conference in Ottawa on the topic of youth engagement. The SYPC was asked to attend the Coming Up Together Youth Homelessness Conference to participate on a panel to discuss meaningful youth engagement. The presentation drew on the SYPC’s experience of working with a committee called the SYPC Youth Leaders Committee (YLC) which consists of youth with lived experience of homelessness. The YLC shares their expertise on youth homelessness by informing on issues and concerns impacting youth and identifying solutions. The SYPC was asked to join the 200 plus conference attendees as they have been recognized as a success story on how to include youth voices on the matters that impact their lives.

In addition to the conference, a representative from the YLC was invited to speak at the Provincial and Federal Homelessness Symposium in Toronto. The youth representative was invited to a breakfast with Ontario’s Minister of Housing followed by participation on a youth panel. The youth were asked to discuss solutions to youth housing and homelessness issues to an audience of municipal service managers and staff. An outcome of this meeting included changes to policy on school attendance for 16 and 17 year olds who access Ontario Works.

ABORIGINAL HOMELESSNESS PARTNERING STRATEGY (HPS)

In Hamilton, the SPRC serves as the HPS Aboriginal Community Entity and is supported by the Hamilton Aboriginal Community Advisory Board to deliver this federal community-based program to prevent and reduce homelessness by providing direct support and funding to the Hamilton Aboriginal community.

As part of the Government of Canada’s 2016 Budget, there was an announcement of additional investment over a two year time frame (2016 – 2018) to enhance services to address homelessness through the HPS. In 2017, the Federal Budget announced an investment of $11.2 billion over 11 years to support the implementation of a National Housing Strategy that included the longest-term commitment to addressing homelessness, identifying $2.1 billion over 11 years to extend and expand the HPS.

This additional funding allowed the SPRC to increase staffing and support to the Housing & Homelessness priority area that included the hiring of a Social Planner Assistant. The SPRC Housing & Homelessness team was instrumental in the implementation of this increased investment and facilitated the process for increases to existing Aboriginal homelessness programs and the provision of a new program to support culturally relevant responses to address homelessness in the youth sector.

The HPS Aboriginal increased investment in Hamilton has contributed to the City of Hamilton’s 10 Year Housing & Homelessness Action Plan Update. The ability to: have Aboriginal participation at consultation tables (i.e. Provincial Housing – Inclusionary Zoning, National Housing Strategy – Aboriginal Input, National Homelessness Working Groups); participate as a partner in the City of Hamilton’s Point-in-Time Connection (homelessness enumeration exercise); assist sister communities in their exploration of mainstream and Aboriginal relationship building and/or Aboriginal Homelessness Programming (sharing best practices); have local Aboriginal presentations at such events as the HPS Ontario Regional Forum; or to participate in local homelessness system changes promoting an Integrated Service Delivery model are just a few examples of the positive results of increased HPS Aboriginal funding to Hamilton.

As we continue on this journey of long-term increased investment of HPS funding in Hamilton, the SPRC continues to support local Aboriginal autonomy and decision making that is reflective of the spirit of reconciliation and certainly demonstrates the SPRC’s commitment to creating community change!
## Financial Statements

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

Schedule of Revenues and Expenses - Operating Fund

Year ended March 31, 2018, with comparative information for 2017

### Revenues

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<th>Core Operations</th>
<th>Funded Projects</th>
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### Expenses

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(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses for the year

|                      | 1,232           | 717             | 717         |                 |                 |            |

Transfer to Stabilization Reserve Fund

|                      | -               | -               | (10,000)    |                 |                 |            |

Fund balance at end of the year

|                      | $504           | $504           | $1,232      | $504           | $1,232         |            |

Note: The information given in this Annual Report is an extract from the audited financial statements. The complete audited financial statements, including all notes to the financial statements, are available on request.

### Funders

- Breakfast Club of Canada
- Breakfast for Learning
- City of Hamilton
- De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
- First Ontario Credit Union
- Good Shepherd Centres
- Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
- Hamilton Catholic Children’s Aid Society
- Hamilton Community Foundation
- Hamilton Council on Aging
- Hamilton Family Health Team
- Hamilton Public Library
- Home Depot Canada Foundation
- McMaster University
- Ministry of Children and Youth Services
- Mission Services
- Niwas Head Start Preschool
- Ontario Trillium Foundation
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Service Canada
- St. Leonard’s Society of Hamilton
- United Way of Halton & Hamilton
- YWCA Hamilton
STAFF AND PLACEMENT

STUDENTS

SENIOR STAFF
Don Jaffray, Executive Director
Patti McNaney, Associate Executive Director
Cindy Sue McCormack, Senior Social Planner
Deirdre Pike, Senior Social Planner
Renee Wetselaar, Senior Social Planner

PROJECT STAFF

Hamilton Community Action Program for Children
Ghanwa Afach, Systems Support Worker
Alison Miller, Community Outreach and Program Administration

Tastebuds, Hamilton’s Student Nutrition Collaborative
Jean-Anne Bauman, Community Development Worker
Samantha Delaney, Community Development Worker
Bhairavi Kumar, Community Development Worker
Grace Evans, Community Development Worker*
Suzanne Giovannetti, Centralized Food Purchasing Coordinator*

Financial Empowerment Project
Mary Long, Community Financial Worker
Matt Thompson, Community Financial Worker

South Mountain Community Engagement
Greg Tedesco, Social Planner Assistant*

Neighbourhood Action Strategy
Sunil Angrish, Community Developer*
Brandon Braithwaite, Community Developer*
Judy Kloosterman, Community Developer*
Laura Ryan, Community Developer*
Nazia Zeb, Community Developer*
Hanan Ali, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Sophie Geffros, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Labika Ghani, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Victoria Kaulback, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Mashal Khan, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Tegbir Sidhu, Summer Community Development Assistant*
Helen Zeng, Summer Community Development Assistant*

PLANNER STAFF

Sara Mayo, Social Planner - GIS
Erika Morton, Social Planner - Street-Involved Youth
Victoria Bomberry, Social Planner Assistant
Shahzi Bokhari, Social Planner Assistant
Savannah Hope, Social Planner Assistant*
Cassandra Roach, Social Planner Assistant*

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Sarah Hedden, Executive Assistant
Yvonne Rauwerda, Finance Assistant

PLACEMENT STUDENTS

Kathryn Anderson, University of Windsor
Amna Baig, McMaster University
Geena Gentilotti, McMaster University
Breanne LeMaitre, Ryerson University
Alison Mackenzie, University of Victoria
Virginia McCarthy, McMaster University
Jacqueline Nash, Ryerson University
Morgan Parnell, McMaster University
Tahirah Seta, McMaster University
Shawna Small, York University
Helena Van Huizen, McMaster University
Alexandra Wright, McMaster University

*Resigned or completed project during the year

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton
350 King Street East, Suite 104
Hamilton, ON L8N 3Y3
TEL: (905) 522-1148 FAX: (905) 522-9124
sprc.hamilton.on.ca

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