It has been a year of transition at the SPRC as Don Jaffray retired as Executive Director after 40 years of service. Don's leadership has promoted the important work of the SPRC and has ensured the SPRC is recognized for producing sound research on crucial community issues. Don has been a strong and effective force promoting evidence based responses to those crucial issues. His leadership on social justice issues in Hamilton has led the way for new partnerships, increased collaboration and improved access for vulnerable populations. We are incredibly grateful for his immeasurable contributions over these many years.

The Board would like to acknowledge and thank Patti McNaaney for her hard work and steady leadership as Interim Executive Director during the transition. We are happy and excited to welcome Kim Martin as Executive Director and we look forward to the energy and talent she brings to the SPRC. The Board congratulates and thanks all staff for their successful efforts to achieve a smooth and productive transition and for their continuing valuable work within the vision and values of the SPRC.

In addition to being a year of transition, it has also been a busy year for the SPRC and we’re excited to share some of the key areas where we have created positive impact in the community.

In addition to our ongoing programs and collaborations, we have developed new partnerships designed to increase capacity in the community. This year we built upon our legal education stream with a new project funded by the Law Foundation of Ontario, in which we have partnered with the Immigrants Working Centre and Legal Aid Ontario to initiate the Family Learning Project. This project aims to help new Canadian families adjust to the legal implications of parenting in an Ontario context, particularly in reference to the child welfare system. Legal information sessions form the basis of these programs which are offered to both service providers and immigrant families.

Social justice and social planning and research are about creating opportunities for positive change, enabling all members of society to participate and enjoy the benefits of a healthy community. As you’ll see in this report, the Financial Empowerment Project, which began in our last fiscal year, has created tremendous impact for families and individuals with low to moderate incomes, by helping them access tax benefits that would have otherwise gone unclaimed.

We continue to be grateful for the support of our funders who recognize the important role that social planning research and social justice initiatives play in the context of supporting the development of healthy communities. We would not be able to do this without the support of our many community partners and advocates, who together are doing their part to improve living conditions in Hamilton. And, as we look to forward to the future, we also look forward to engaging with new and existing partners to strengthen our community, build greater capacity and forge strong, relationships that serve to make Hamilton a more inclusive and equitable place for all.
FAREWELL FROM FORMER DIRECTOR DON JAFFRAY

After many years of service to our community with the Social Planning and Research Council, I have retired. However, I remain committed to the values and issues that have been important to the organization, its staff, volunteers and members over these many years. Building a socially just and equitable society takes time and that work must never stop. Civil society does not take shape on its own, it must be built and it will need constant effort to maintain, improve and adjust to always changing pressures in our economy and society.

"I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN A PART OF THE TEAM AT SPRC THAT HAS WORKED AWAY AT SCULPTING AND POLISHING THE ELEMENTS OF OUR COMMUNITY THAT CAN MAKE ITS BENEFITS MORE ACCESSIBLE AND AVAILABLE TO ALL." - DON JAFFRAY

In a community and country as prosperous as ours, no one should be without an adequate income, affordable housing, nutritious food and equal access to opportunities and amenities that support health and well being.

The Social Planning and Research Council has and continues to gather and analyze evidence of the extent to which some people are socially excluded from these opportunities and benefits and then share that evidence with members of our community. We have worked alongside many community organizations, governments and individuals to develop new solutions to problems and reduce barriers where they exist. It is a creative, collaborative and thoughtful process that requires dedication, good will and sometimes risk in challenging the status quo.

In my experience, Hamilton has a great many residents willing to share in the work of making our community a better place for all. It has been my privilege to know them and work along with them in this process of change. We have had some success, never easily gained. I have every confidence that those who continue this work, particularly with the SPRC, will continue to make an important contribution to positive change in our community in the years ahead.

Don Jaffray
Former Executive Director

MISSION, VISION AND VALUES

OUR MISSION: To improve the quality of life for all citizens by engaging in activities that will result in improved social policies and services as well as maximize access for all citizens to the opportunities afforded by society and effective citizen involvement in the continuing consideration of social issues.

OUR VISION: 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. Encourage participation of all individuals in community life and engage members of the community in planning and decision-making.

OUR 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.
Where we are TODAY

Thank you to our Staff and Students

Sarah Adjekum
Saman Al-Rawee - Secretary/Treasurer
Nagham Azzam
Beth Bromberg - Board President
Dom Cocco - Vice President
Marina Fensham

George Hough
Edisa Kozo
Susanne O'Grady
Sony Poulouse
Rose Zhang

Yvonne Maracle - Social Planner
Sara Mayo - Social Planner
Cindy Sue Montana McCormack - Senior Social Planner
Patti McNaney - Associate Executive Director
Glynnis McNeaney - Student
Alison Miller - Community Outreach and Program Administrator
Erika Morton - Social Planner
Zubia Naeem - Administrative Assistant
Deirdre Pike - Senior Social Planner
Yvonne Rauwerda - Finance Assistant
Elizabeth Sayes - Student
Sabrina Sibbald - Social Planner Assistant
Matt Thompson - Community Financial Worker
Nazia Zeb - Community Financial Worker

Ghanwa Afach - Systems Coordinator
Jean-Anne Bauman - Community Development Worker
Shahzi Bokhari - Social Planner Assistant
Victoria Bomberry - Social Planner
Mariko Bown-Kai - Student
Samantha Delaney - Community Development Worker
Caroline Eyk - Financial Administrator
Sarah Hedden - Executive Assistant
Natalie Irwin - Executive Assistant
Mashal Khan - Social Planner Assistant
Bhairavi Kumar - Community Development Worker
Breanne LeMaitre - Community Development Worker
Mary Long - Community Financial Worker
HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH

HAMILTON COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN (CAPC)

For over 25 years, Hamilton CAPC has addressed the healthy development of children newborn to six years in east Hamilton with programs provided through partnerships with eight child and family organizations. Hamilton CAPC also runs a Systems Navigation Program located in the Riverdale neighbourhood that provides supports to over 400 families per year to navigate systems that contribute to the health and well-being of families. Funding for CAPC is provided by the Public Health Agency of Canada.

HAMILTON TASTEBUDS STUDENT NUTRITION COLLABORATIVE

Tastebuds believes all students in Hamilton should have universal access to healthy foods in schools to improve student success, support healthy growth, development, and lifelong eating habits. Our inclusive program engages over 30,000 students per day in enjoying healthy meals and snacks in a welcoming school setting. There are 137 Tastebuds programs in Hamilton that serve over 3,220,000 meals and 1,040,000 snacks to students per year. Tastebuds is committed to collaborating with our partners and student voices to continually work towards sprouting healthy relationships with food.

FAMILY LEARNING PROJECT

The Family Learning Project is a new initiative that began in September of 2018. Funded by The Law Foundation of Ontario Access to Justice Fund and a partnership between the Social Planning & Research Council of Hamilton, Immigrants Working Centre, and Legal Aid Ontario (Hamilton-Kitchener District Office), the project works to support new Canadian families in Hamilton adjust successfully to the legal parenting expectations in Ontario, through the provision of family-centered legal information sessions to families and service providers.

Thank you for giving me food when I am hungry.

Over 34,440 students access Student Nutrition Programs in Hamilton

2018-19 Hamilton Tastebuds supports 137 programs in 111 locations

“The snacks from the Nutrition Program give me energy. The food helps me concentrate. I feel good all day when I eat healthy. When I am rushed in the morning I know I will get food at school.” – Student from St. Marguerite d’Youville Elementary School
REACHING HOME INDIGENOUS STREAM

Canada’s Homelessness Strategy, a 10-year commitment to reducing homelessness across Canada, has been the priority of this current fiscal year, resulting in the successful signing of a new federal Reaching Home Contribution Agreement. The Indigenous Homelessness Stream in Hamilton will “support the delivery of holistic and culturally appropriate responses to the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples living in vulnerable conditions.” During the past year, the SPRC continued in its role as the Community Entity as supported by the Hamilton Aboriginal Community Advisory Board.

WOMEN’S HOUSING PLANNING COLLABORATIVE (WHPC)

The three tables of organizations concerned with system planning for single women experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Hamilton, including the SPRC, has gained national attention as an organizational model for applying a gender lens to homelessness. Voices across the system, from executive directors and front line managers to women with lived experience, are incorporated into mapping an integrated system response so when women experience homelessness in Hamilton, they can access a variety of services they need through several points of entry, thereby ensuring there is “no wrong door.”

STREET YOUTH PLANNING COLLABORATIVE (SYPC)

In November 2018, the City of Hamilton hosted the Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness conference, which attracted approximately 1200 participants. The SPRC Street Involved Youth Social Planner was involved on a subcommittee that was responsible for coordinating the cohort of 60+ participants with Lived Experience of Homelessness who received scholarships to attend the conference. Additionally, the SPRC supported two youth who presented at the conference on the topic of youth homelessness, youth engagement and collaboration. Overall, the participants reported a positive and welcoming experience at the conference.
The Financial Empowerment Project, a three year venture funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, adapts the Financial Empowerment Problem Solving model to increase the financial independence of people who are economically vulnerable in Hamilton. The project is a partnership between SPRC, United Way Halton and Hamilton as well as Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

Beginning in April 2018, Hamilton Tax Help: Financial Empowerment & Problem-solving Program (FEP) has assisted over 1300 people in ensuring that they will receive their much-needed benefits and credits. The program has worked to help 975 adults and 350 children in accessing over $3.6 million in tax-filing related benefits, credits, and refunds.

Tax-filing related benefits are vital to low-income families. For example, our reference family is a single mother with three children. Through tax-filing, our program ensures that this family will receive $17,843 in Canada Child Benefit, $4302 in Ontario Child Benefit, $1695 in Ontario Trillium Benefit (OTB), $1039 in GST/HST Credit and $307 in Climate Action incentive. This additional $24,000 moves the family beyond the limitations of the $12,672 that they receive from Ontario Works.

Financial empowerment also looks at building trusting relationships in order to reduce barriers to assisting people with back-filing previous years returns. Our client advocacy with the Canada Revenue Agency and other systems assist people to get the documents they need in order to receive their benefits. In a city that is becoming more and more expensive, this money can make a difference.

Partnerships are vital to the success of the program. Our 26 partnering and referral agencies have allowed for the FEP program to succeed in working across the city as well as into some of the more rural areas of Dundas, Waterdown, Ancaster, Glanbrook and Stoney Creek-Winona.

The success of this past year indicates that financial empowerment is a much-needed service for the City of Hamilton. Through front line work, advocacy and partnership building, the FEP team hopes to continue to impact the lives of low-income individuals and families in our city.

- Total amount of benefits accessed to date $3,642,328
- Total number of filed participants 1318
- Total number of file returns 1327

**FINANCIAL EMPOWERMENT PROJECT**

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**POVERTY ELIMINATION**
HAMILTON ORGANIZING FOR POVERTY (HOPE)

Since 2005, a collection of people with the lived experience of poverty and allies from a variety of local organizations, have been advocating for changes in policies and practices related to poverty reduction in this community, the province and the country. First named the Income Security Working Group, they later became 25 in 5 after the provincial target for poverty reduction announced in 2008.

HAMILTON ROUNDTABLE FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (HRPR)

Started in 2006 following an SPRC Incomes and Poverty report, the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction continues to lead community conversations with support of community partners like the SPRC when it pertains to poverty reduction strategies municipally, provincially and nationally. The work on drawing attention to the Basic Income, both as it started up and was ultimately cancelled, has put the efforts of the HRPR on the international map as well.

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

TRANSFORMING STORIES; DRIVING CHANGE

TSDC is a research and performance initiative developed by McMaster University School of Social Work and the School of the Arts in partnership with Good Shepherd Centres and SPRC. This project seeks to bring members of the community together to create stories and make theatre about how Hamilton can become a better and more inviting place to live. The latest initiative is Choose Your Destination, a performance by youth connected to Good Shepherd Youth Services that tells the story of four young women from different backgrounds, living in a city much like Hamilton.

2SLGBTQ+ INCLUSION

The SPRC continues to be called upon for 2SLGBTQ+ Positive Space Training throughout Hamilton and Halton, including recent sessions with the Hamilton Public Library and Halton Animal Control. Along with that work, the SPRC assists organizations to increase their capacity to be inclusive and equitable workplaces for 2SLGBTQ+ people through assessments of work environments, policies and practices. Currently that work is being completed with the United Way Halton and Hamilton and Welcome Inn. This year we trained over 100 people from over 12 United Way Halton and Hamilton organizations which was funded by United Way.

PUBLICATIONS AND REPORTS

- Hamilton CAPC Systems Navigation Program
- Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council: New Canadians in Hamilton Factsheets
- Library Use Across Hamilton
- Out Of Control Ontario's Acute Rental Housing Crisis
- SPEAK OUT! Community Consultations on making Hamilton an LGTBQ+ Positive City
OUT OF CONTROL: Ontario's Acute Rental Housing Crisis – Lessons from Hamilton and Quebec City

This report was released in June 2018 and focuses on the increasing evictions and rent surges in Hamilton. Data is presented contrasting Hamilton's rental market with Quebec City, which has the same population size and growth rate, but has had much lower increases in rents, and much higher increases in rental stock. The report focuses on stronger tenant protections in Quebec than Ontario as key to the more affordable more stable housing market in Quebec City. The report led to significant media attention on the issues, including coverage in The Hamilton Spectator and The Toronto Star and interviews on CHML and Radio Canada.

HAMILTON IMMIGRATION PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL: New Canadians in Hamilton Factsheets

The Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council commissioned the SPRC to produce two bulletins on immigration trends in Hamilton. The bulletins showed maps of where immigrants live in Hamilton, and that Hamilton’s proportion of recent immigrants settling in our city is on the decline, a similar trend seen across many Ontario cities. In contrast to Hamilton’s neighboring municipality, Halton, which has seen increasing proportions of recent immigrants, now surpassing the rate of Hamilton.

LIBRARY USE ACROSS HAMILTON: Borrowing and Population Trends for Library Planning

The Hamilton Public Library commissioned the SPRC to do an analysis of their patron data using Census data to help in their planning activities, including the consideration of new branches or relocating existing branches. The report shows that the access and use of library branches varies considerably across the city. An equity analysis shows that branch and online usage varies substantially among neighbourhoods with different levels of income, education and levels of non-English home languages. Neighbourhoods with low income, low levels of education and high levels of households who speak a language other than English has among the lowest levels of library usage.

EVALUATIONS

URBAN CORE - Overdose Prevention Site Evaluation

After a 6-month pilot test hosting an Ontario government sanctioned Overdose Prevention Site, June to November 2018, Urban Core requested an evaluation on the impact of the site on people who accessed its services, service providers and the community at large. Using focus groups and key informant interviews to gather qualitative data along with surveys and onsite quantitative data gathered throughout the project by Urban Core.

REGINA’S PLACE

The purpose of this three year evaluation funded by Ontario’s Poverty Reduction Strategy, is to determine whether the new support program offered at Regina’s Place is more successful in diverting young mothers and their children out of poverty than the previous program at Angela’s Place. In addition to considering Young Parent Resource Centres in the community using a more traditional, shorter-term model of support. Quantitative and qualitative data was used to test results in many areas including education, housing, employment and child welfare involvement.

NYA:WEH (NATIVE YOUTH ADVANCEMENT WITH EDUCATION HAMILTON)

The NYA:WEH program is a ‘stay in school’ initiative, to assist and support First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in elementary and secondary education. NYA:WEH is responsible for empowering Indigenous students toward success, through personal, social, and culturally based educational support. The elementary program, focussed on connecting students to their culture, community and career path, is a newer initiative and is meant to make the segue into high school a little sturdier. An evaluation of this program by SPRC will be released this fall.
### Statement of Operations

**Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton**

**Year ended March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2019</th>
<th>2018</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Revenues</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public and other organizational support</td>
<td>$1,623,200</td>
<td>$2,204,359</td>
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<tr>
<td>Federal government funding</td>
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<td>$1,205,666</td>
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<td>Provincial government funding</td>
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<td>$82,823</td>
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<td>United Way Halton &amp; Hamilton</td>
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<td>$109,451</td>
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<td>City of Hamilton</td>
<td>$109,002</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
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<td>$84,879</td>
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<td>Other</td>
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<td>$24,346</td>
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<tr>
<td>Interest</td>
<td>$4,344</td>
<td>$3,301</td>
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<td>Membership fees</td>
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<td><strong>Total Revenues</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Expenses</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Service contracts</td>
<td>$1,973,430</td>
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<tr>
<td>Salaries and benefits</td>
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<td>$1,292,010</td>
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<td>Rent and insurance</td>
<td>$70,923</td>
<td>$66,262</td>
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<td>Volunteer recognition</td>
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<td>$31,423</td>
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<td>Other administration</td>
<td>$34,170</td>
<td>$74,463</td>
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<td>Supplies</td>
<td>$34,111</td>
<td>$44,925</td>
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<td>Equipment and maintenance contracts</td>
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<td>Professional fees</td>
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<td>Telephone</td>
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<td>Staff development</td>
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<td>Staff transportation</td>
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<td>Public relations</td>
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<td>$8,773</td>
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<td>Postage and shipping</td>
<td>$4,701</td>
<td>$5,725</td>
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<tr>
<td>Organization dues and periodicals</td>
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<td>$5,864</td>
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<td>Amortization</td>
<td>$1,929</td>
<td>$9,463</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses</strong></td>
<td>$3,264,218</td>
<td>$3,873,872</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year</strong></td>
<td>$104,258</td>
<td>($10,191)</td>
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</table>

### Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

**Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton**

**Year ended March 31, 2019, with comparative information for 2018**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Operating Fund</th>
<th>Capital Fund</th>
<th>Stabilization Reserve Fund</th>
<th>2019 Total</th>
<th>2018 Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances, beginning of year</td>
<td>$504</td>
<td>$75,362</td>
<td>$193,000</td>
<td>$268,866</td>
<td>$279,057</td>
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<tr>
<td>Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenses for the year</td>
<td>$106,187</td>
<td>(1,929)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>$104,258</td>
<td>(10,191)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer to Stabilization Reserve Fund</td>
<td>(106,000)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fund balances, end of year</td>
<td>$691</td>
<td>$73,433</td>
<td>$299,000</td>
<td>$373,124</td>
<td>$268,086</td>
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</tbody>
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**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.