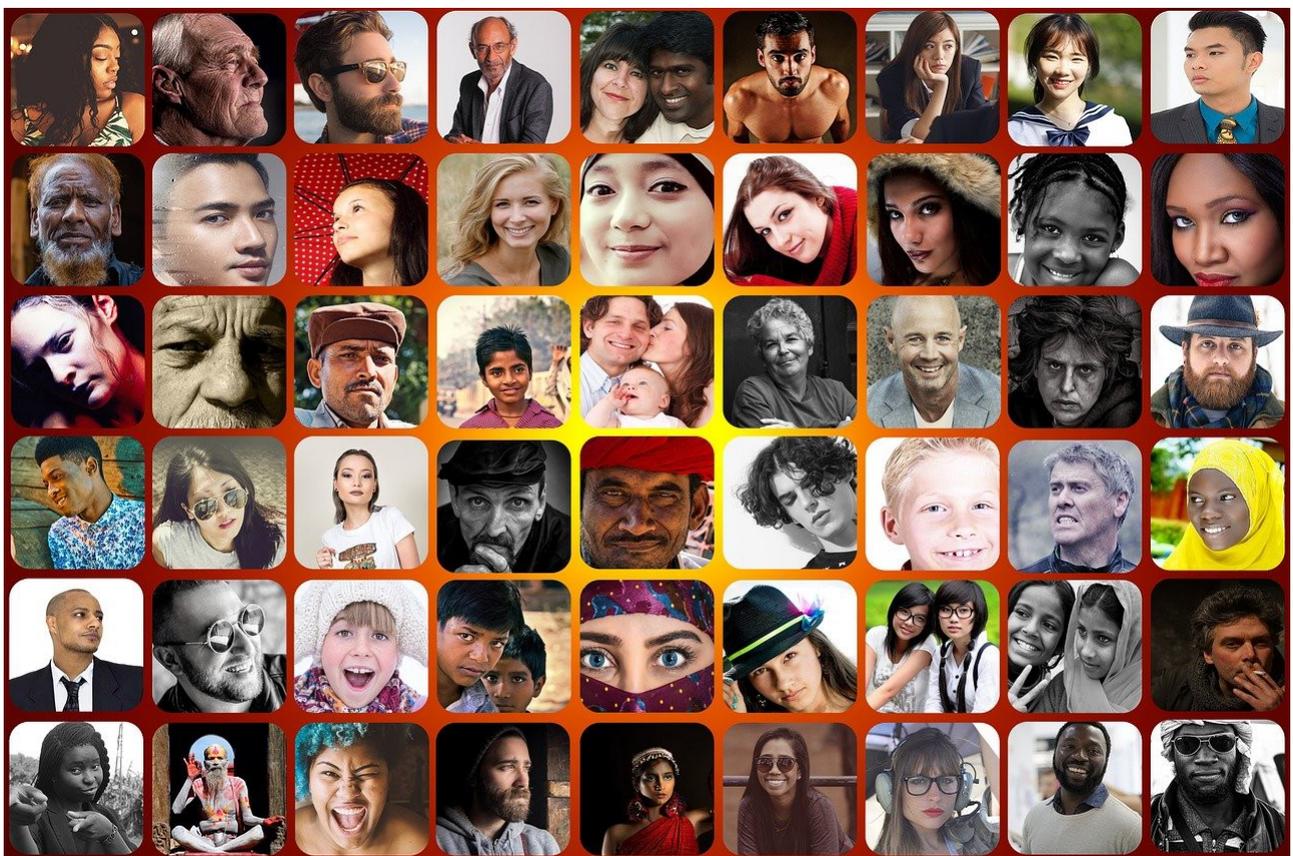

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton 2020 Annual Report



A Message from the SPRC Board President



At last year's Annual General Meeting we were thinking about transition. Don Jaffray had just retired as Executive Director after 40 years of leadership, and the Board had just completed the monumental task of selecting our new

Executive Director, Kim Martin. I've used the word "monumental" because selecting the right new leader—with the right qualities to lead our outstanding staff in their vital work, for and with the community—required deep thought about the values of the SPRC and the future direction and contribution we hoped to make. We knew that creativity and resilience would be important qualities, but we had no idea, in the pre-COVID-19 world, of the crisis to come, and the enormous challenges on the horizon for everyone, but especially for the most vulnerable members of our community and of communities all around the world.

At this unprecedented time, when physical distancing is essential to protect all of our health, those living in poverty are being disproportionately impacted. The priorities of the SPRC, being equity and inclusion, healthy development of children and youth, housing and homelessness, and poverty reduction and elimination have become even more significant challenges for our community at this time, as unemployment has risen dramatically, people are isolated from their usual support systems, and daycares, schools, colleges and universities are closed.

The Cost of a School Day report released by the SPRC in August 2019 describes and makes recommendations to address inequity in our so-called "free" education system. The expenses described in the report, that young people and families living in poverty cannot afford, include field trips, school supplies, uniforms, running shoes for gym class, laundered clothes, hygiene supplies and books. Now, during the pandemic, the issues are magnified as on-line learning requires internet and a computer, parental support, a quiet place to work, freedom from other responsibilities such as care of younger siblings and other family members, not to mention good nutrition at a time when so many people find themselves without work or enough money to address their and their children's needs.

Recent SPRC reports speak to the serious housing crisis that existed before the pandemic. What will happen to those who now cannot pay their mortgages or rent? What will be the impact on those who were already living in poverty or already homeless? With physical distancing, how can services be delivered to assist children and youth, students, seniors, others who are isolated, and those living in poverty? And what services are most needed? With all of these issues and unknowns, I believe that the work of the Social Planning and Research Council is now more important than ever.

As I complete my term as president of the board and reflect on the past nine years spent as a board member, I am grateful for the opportunity and experience I have had. I have been very impressed by the work of the SPRC and of the commitment and vision of the SPRC to improve the quality of life and inclusion of everyone in Hamilton, especially those who are most vulnerable. Although there will be unexpected and magnified challenges in the new COVID-19 reality, I have every confidence in our board, executive director and excellent staff going forward. We are a crucial and respected resource and support to the community, and I know that we will continue to

be an important leader in promoting social justice and in producing vital research and reports about the needs of our community in support of effective, evidence based social planning.

I wish you energy, vision and imagination in your continuing support of the vital work of the SPRC as we seek to advocate, understand and support the most vulnerable in our community. I have enjoyed working with all of you and I wish you safety and health for you and your families in these ever-changing and challenging times.

Beth Bromberg

A Message from the Executive Director



This fiscal year of 2019/2020 will forever be remembered as the year of the Covid-19 pandemic. With much of the world on lockdown, businesses closed and unprecedented unemployment levels, this is the greatest crisis in our collective memory. No one could have predicted the impact this would have on virtually every aspect of life as we know it.

The Covid-19 global pandemic has illustrated that not only are there gaps in our social safety net, there are, in fact, deep chasms that leave marginalized communities excessively vulnerable and unprotected in times of crisis. The pandemic has also shown us how quickly governments can mobilize to advance social policy and creative solutions to provide relief.

One of the important milestones in SPRC history this year was concluding our role as the Community Entity for the Reaching Home Indigenous Project. We congratulate the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leaders (CHIL) which assumed this role on April 1, 2020. We are grateful to have been part of such a dynamic program which, through the leadership of Senior Social Planner, Cindy Sue McCormack, and Indigenous community partners, has served as a model throughout the province and the nation.

Every aspect of our work has changed dramatically as a result of Covid -19. Our staff are all working remotely and continue to provide support and serve the community. I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to our staff and volunteers who have worked with us over this past year. Our team has risen to the challenge, exploring new ways to provide service despite the city shut-down and it has resulted in new innovations for our programs.

We have shifted our research priorities to examine data with respect to Covid-19, particularly in relation to poverty, homelessness and equity. SPRC will continue to provide the research needed to help our community move forward towards recovery, ensuring that as a city we move forward in recovery together.

Kim Martin

OUR RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Cost of the School Day: Report from the Hamilton Community of Practice for the Knowledge Network of Student Wellbeing.

The report reveals some of the upfront and unseen expenses faced by students and illuminates the disparities that exist within a free education.

Hamilton's Rental Landscape: Understanding the rental housing crisis and the solutions to end it

Rising Rents and Evictions in Hamilton and Beyond

- [Rents and affordability in Hamilton and Ontario](#)
- [Rents in Hamilton's neighbourhoods](#)
- [Rising eviction rates threatening tenants and affordable housing](#)

Trends in Hamilton's rental stock

- [Growth in Hamilton's Renter Households](#)
- [Rental quality concerns](#)
- [Primary private rental stock in Hamilton](#)
- [Not-for-profit housing](#)

Don't Stop Now! Progress in Poverty Reduction: Analysis from Hamilton and Ontario, 1996-2016

This four-page report highlights the declining poverty rate in Hamilton, from 21.9% in 1996 to 16.6% 2016, mirroring a provincial trend. The report points to policies and economic changes that have contributed to poverty reduction and makes the case that poverty reduction works and we can't stop now. The report also points to the areas that need more attention so we can move towards poverty elimination.

POVERTY ELIMINATION

Despite decreased poverty rates over the past two decades, nearly 88,000 residents live in poverty in Hamilton. What is changing in our current environment, is the increased numbers of the employed who, despite their employment, find themselves often unable to meet basic needs of housing and food.

The **Financial Empowerment Project** assists individuals and families living on a low income by providing free tax filing, which provides access to government benefits and tax refunds. In addition to tax filing, this program provides financial literacy and educational workshops that build capacity in the community. This program is currently funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation. SPRC has partnered with The United Way of Halton Hamilton, City of Hamilton and the Roundtable for Poverty Reduction.

\$6,500,000.00 Recovered for 2022 low income tax filers through tax filing and application for tax benefits they were entitled to, but hadn't accessed.

615 People engaged through 29 community workshops

EQUITY AND INCLUSION

Racialized, Indigenous and new immigrants are disproportionately over represented in the child welfare system. The **Family Learning Project** supports newcomer families across Hamilton by providing access to information about their legal rights and responsibilities as parents in Ontario. It also serves to educate service providers on the systemic barriers and implicit bias that contributes to this over representation. This program is funded by The Law Foundation of Ontario Access to Justice Fund. It is a partnership between the Social Planning & Research Council (SPRC), Immigrants Working Centre (IWC), and Legal Aid Ontario, Hamilton-Kitchener District Office (LAO).

174 Newcomer individuals participated in legal information workshops

130 Service Providers attended legal information workshops

32 Legal information educational tools were produced and are available to the public

Newcomers who attended workshops were 43% more confident understanding roles and responsibilities of Children's Aid Societies in Ontario

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Housing security is a fundamental need and housing insecurity is one of the most pressing issues facing our community and communities across Canada. **Tools for Tenant Rights** program utilizes popular education to increase the knowledge and capacity of tenants to better understand their tenant rights. The program offers free legal education workshops and is funded by the Ontario Legal Foundation. SPRC facilitates workshops in partnership with the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic and Good Shepherd, Core Collaborative Learning.

238 Tenants Engaged

16 Tenant workshops

15 New Tenant Resources Published

5 Legal Information for Everyone (LIFE) podcasts co-produced with the Family Learning Project

SPRC serves as a systems planner and coordinator at collaborative housing and homelessness tables in the community. We continued our role providing support to the **Women's Housing Planning Collaborative** and the **Street Youth Housing Collaborative**. In March 2020 we joined the community in celebrating the transition of the

Reaching Home Indigenous Project from SPRC to the Coalition of Hamilton Indigenous Leaders (CHIL) which will carry on this important work into the future.

HEALTHY DEVELOPMENT OF CHILDREN

The **Community Action Program for Children** provides services and system navigation to families with children six years and under in east Hamilton.

1200+ Families served

20 Program locations provide service through 8 agency partnerships

13 Child and Family Programs in east Hamilton

The **Tastebuds Student Nutrition Program** is a universal school-based student nutrition program which offers school-based meals and snacks to children throughout the city.

25,000+ Students served per day during the school year

1,000+ Volunteers prepare the meals and snacks

130 Active programs in Hamilton

Some of our Community Partnerships Include:

Catholic Children's Aid Society Quality Assurance Committee
Challenge 2025 Steering Committee
Challenge 2025 Community Connection/Life Stabilization Action Team
Hamilton Council on Aging
Hamilton Immigration Partnership Council
Hamilton Organizing for Poverty
Hamilton Roundtable of Poverty Reduction
Mayor's Diversity and Inclusion Roundtable
No Hate In the Hammer
Residential Care Facilities Tenant Coalition
Street Youth Planning Collaborative
Transforming Stories, Driving Change Leadership Table
Women's Housing Planning Collaborative

Social Planning and Research Council of Hamilton

Statement of Operations

Year ended March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	2020	2019
Revenues		
Public and other organizational support	\$ 1,405,749	\$ 1,623,206
Federal government funding	1,321,413	1,182,326
Provincial government funding	252,395	244,857
City of Hamilton	131,838	109,002
United Way Halton & Hamilton	106,126	109,751
Fundraising	38,793	74,262
Other	25,532	18,347
Interest	5,864	4,344
Membership fees	1,831	2,381
	<u>3,289,541</u>	<u>3,368,476</u>
Expenses		
Service contracts	1,921,905	1,973,430
Salaries and benefits	1,109,837	1,006,559
Rent and insurance	75,031	70,923
Volunteer recognition	64,612	43,465
Supplies	33,053	34,111
Other administration	28,668	34,176
Professional fees	23,510	20,251
Equipment and maintenance contracts	21,844	23,344
Telephone	16,750	15,701
Staff transportation	11,913	11,028
Organization dues and periodicals	6,152	4,263
Staff development	4,983	12,511
Postage and shipping	4,913	4,701
Public relations	3,893	7,826
Amortization	1,929	1,929
	<u>3,328,993</u>	<u>3,264,218</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses before the under	-39,452	104,258
Recovered funding	<u>-60,014</u>	<u>-</u>
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses for the year	<u>\$ (99,466)</u>	<u>\$ 104,258</u>

Statement of Changes in Fund Balances

Year ended March 31, 2020, with comparative information for 2019

	Operating Fund	Capital Fund	Stabilization Reserve Fund	2020 Total
Fund balances, beginning of year	\$ 691	\$ 73,433	\$ 299,000	\$ 373,124
(Deficiency) excess of revenues over expenses for the year	(97,537)	(1,929)	-	(99,466)
Transfers to Operating Fund	97,411	(36,411)	(61,000)	-
Fund balances, end of year	<u>\$ 565</u>	<u>\$ 35,093</u>	<u>\$ 238,000</u>	<u>\$ 273,658</u>

Our Funders

Breakfast Club of Canada
City of Hamilton, City Enrichment Fund
Citizen Action Group
Hamilton Catholic Children's Aid Society
Home Depot Canada Foundation The
Hamilton Community Foundation Law
Foundation of Ontario
Ministry of Children Community and Social Services- Haldimand-Norfolk REACH
Ontario Trillium Foundation Public
Health Agency of Canada United Way
Halton Hamilton

Board Members

Beth Bromberg (President); Dom Cocco (Vice President)
Saman Al-Rawee (Sec/Treasurer) Sarah Adjekum*
Naghm Azzam* Marina Fensham George Hough Dave Nanderam Sony
Poulose* Zac Spicer Edisa Kozo Cairine Wilson Pat Wright
Rose Zhang

**Resigned in 2019/2020*

Staff Members

Ghana Afach, Systems Coordinator
Victoria Bomberry, Indigenous Social Planner Janae Court, Community Development
Worker Caroline Eyk, Financial Administrator
Natalie Irwin, Executive Assistant
Bhairavii Kumar, Community Development Worker Breanne LeMaitre, Community
Development Worker Mary Long (UWHH); Community Financial Worker Tristan MacLaurin,
Indigenous Social Planner Yvonne Maracle, Social Planner
Sara Mayo, Social Planner
Cindy Sue McCormack, Senior Social Planner Patti McNaney, Associate Executive
Director Merima Mendzlic, Social Planner Assistant Alison Miller , Community Outreach
and Program Administration
Yvonne Rauwerda, Finance Assistant Sabrina Sibbald, Social Planner Assistant
Matt Thompson, Community Financial Worker Alana Westervelt, Social Planner

Placement Students:

Brittany Georgeson
Ariel Gardner
Emily Ranta
Hannah Barrie

