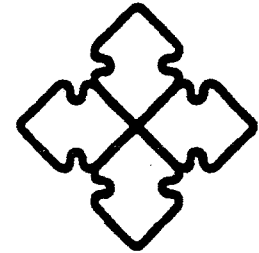


# SPC BULLETIN

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg  
December, 1999

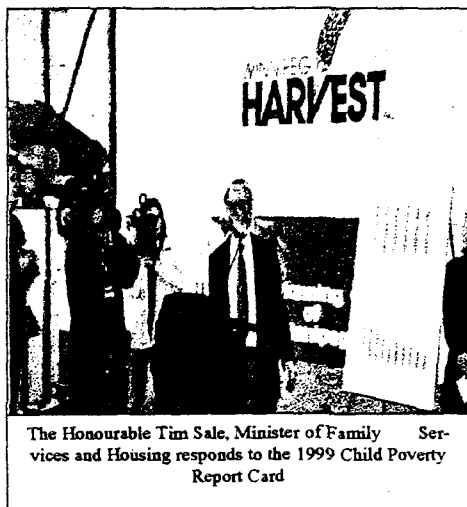


## Manitoba Child Poverty Report Card: *An Agenda For Action*

1999 marks the tenth anniversary of the House of Commons unanimous resolution to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. Yet, 1 in 5 children (1.5 million) continue to live in poverty in this country. In Manitoba alone, the numbers are startling, with 60,000 Manitoba children living at or below the poverty line.

Each year, the Social Planning Council, in partnership with numerous organizations, releases a provincial child poverty report card.

This year, the release took place at Winnipeg Harvest, with a number of community leaders on hand to endorse and support the Social Planning Council's recommendations, including representatives from Labour, Business, Health and the Social Service sectors. Tina Keeper, local Aboriginal actor and mother served as spokesperson, and The Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing responded to the report, immediately following its release.



The Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing responds to the 1999 Child Poverty Report Card

creasing emphasis on the development and implementation of a plan for action to address the issue. ***"We need to ensure that the basic needs of all Manitoba children are met in the short term"*** states SPC Executive Director Wayne Helgason. ***"This year, we are also calling for a long-term agenda for economic and community reform to prevent child poverty from occurring."***

Calling upon governments to join in the fight against child poverty, the report card makes a number of recommendations focused upon building the capacity of Manitoba communities, and in enhancing government's ability to support such capacity building.

Chief among the recommendations are:

- Reviewing the Employment and Income Assistance Program to improve inadequate benefit levels which prevent families from meeting the basic needs of children;

- Ending the claw-back of the National

Child Benefit (NCB) Supplement to social assistance recipients:

- Begin moving the minimum wage to 60% of average Manitoba weekly earnings, and accomplish this by 2003:

- Invest in local communities by establishing an initial \$1 million demonstration fund to foster the development of skills and capacities of residents in low-income communities to positively change their communities;

- Within the next four months, that the Government of Manitoba strike a community action plan and implementation strategy to address the series of problems facing families and children living in poverty.

*We wish to extend a thank you to the efforts of the Campaign 2000 Committee, whose dedication and effort has resulted in this year's report card. Additionally, we wish to thank the Campaign 2000 Network, a coalition of social, health and education agencies/groups, who are continuing the work of maintaining the profile of the report card.*

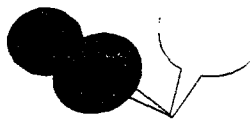
The report is available on the reference section of our website, at:

[www.spcw.mb.ca](http://www.spcw.mb.ca).

Hard copies of the report are available at our office - 412 McDermot Avenue. Call Michelle @ 943-2561 for more information.

The 1999 Report Card places in-

## Updates & Community Events



- The Salvation Army is in need of volunteers to assist in preparing for their **Annual Community Christmas Dinner**,

Wednesday, December 22, 1999 at the Booth Centre (180 Henry Avenue). Call Major John Richardson @ 775-0421 to lend a helping hand!

- The Franco Manitoban Cultural Centre (340 Provencher Blvd) will be hosting a family day at "**Santa's Village**" on December 12, 1999 from 11:30—2:15. Tickets are \$4 each, with crafts, songs, and a concert to enjoy.
- Winnipeg organizations and community groups are encouraged to prepare written briefs to present at the first budget **Community Forum** on Thursday, January 6, 2000 from noon to 9:30 p.m. at the Museum of Man and Nature Auditorium. Five com-

munity workshops will follow during the balance of January. The week of November 29—December 3, every household in Winnipeg will receive a mailed booklet entitled "Achieving Affordable Government." This full document is available on-line at [www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca](http://www.city.winnipeg.mb.ca). The document provides a framework for discussion. For more information on the community consultation process, or to register, call 986-3366.

- December 9 & 10, **The 11th Annual Human Rights Conference**, planned by the Community Legal Education Association, will be held at the Radisson Hotel, 288 Portage Avenue. For more info on workshops and fees, contact Karen Dyck @ 943-2382.



### Silence at Six:

#### *A vigil to lament the broken promise to Canada's children*

On Tuesday, November 23, 1999 from 6:00—7:00 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church, over 200 community members gathered in silent vigil to acknowledge Canada's failure to keep the promise of eliminating child poverty.

The evening included a candle lighting ceremony and prayer by various faith representatives, a period of silence, choir performance by students from Shamrock School, and skits performed by students from R.B Russell

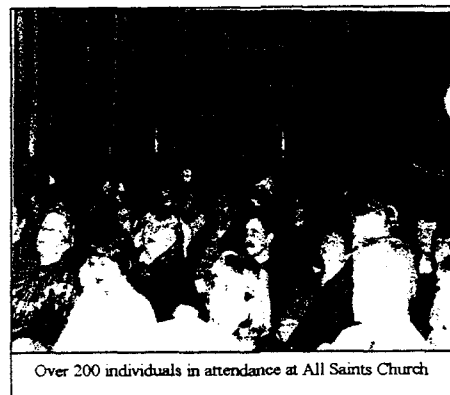
School. In addition, The Honourable Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing and Reverend Stan McKay spoke, encouraging the community to continue to work together in the fight against child poverty.

This event was one of dozens that took place across the country on the eve of the 10th anniversary of the House of Commons unanimous resolution to eliminate child poverty by the year 2000. Orchestrated by local community partners of Campaign 2000, the vigil provided a timely reminder of the fact that in the decade since passed, nearly half a million more children are living in poverty, with 1 in 5 Canadian children remaining poor.

The Social Planning Council is a partner of Campaign 2000, a national coalition promoting the 1989 resolution.



Shamrock School Choir, and flutist Terry Widrick



Over 200 individuals in attendance at All Saints Church



Tim Sale, Minister of Family Services and Housing

## Building a Safer City

On November 24, 1999, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg hosted the first annual **State of the City Address and Luncheon** - delivered to Winnipeg's social service sector.

This important community event took place at the Indian & Metis Friendship Centre, providing the Mayor an opportunity to share his vision of a healthy city to the 250+ individuals in attendance.

In a speech that received numerous ovations, Mayor Murray outlined the need to improve Winnipeg's housing stock in order to create a safer city.

*"The most important commitment that we have to make is to look at housing. We have lost many of our neighbourhoods, house by house, block by block. And the way to rebuild those neighbourhoods, is, house by house, block by block"* Murray stated, in reference to the city's draft housing report.

Looking beyond housing, to re-

building neighbourhoods, the Mayor outlined a housing strategy that includes grants, loans and tax incentives to inner city districts, improved enforcement of health and building code bylaws and volunteer efforts.

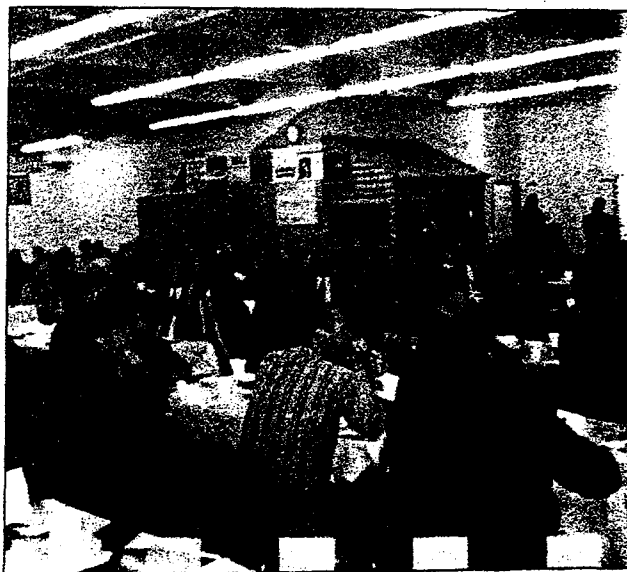
*"Fixing houses is the only thing that will save a neighbourhood and make it safe, so don't*

*count on me to spend money to expand the police force"*.

Murray said.

Committing to spending \$7 million to the plan, Mayor Murray called upon both the provincial and federal governments to each contribute \$14 million.

The Mayor intends to move for-



Over 250 individuals gathered to hear the Mayor's vision of a healthy city.

ward with his plan this spring, even if the province and Ottawa aren't part of the solution.

The Mayoral State of the City Address to Winnipeg's social service sector is set to become an annual event, similar the address given to the Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce each year.

## Health information you can trust

On Thursday, November 25, the **Canadian Health Network (CHN)** was officially launched in Toronto, Montreal and Winnipeg. The CHN is a nationally funded initiative in partnership with Health Canada.

A new and growing internet based network, CHN brings together resources of leading Canadian health organizations and international health information providers. The site aims to assist Canadians to take care of themselves and their families, providing tips on how to improve individual health and well-being.

With the support and contribution of Partner organizations from across the country,

the CHN seeks to establish itself as the premier source for Canadians to access "health info you can trust", connecting Canadians to timely and credible health information, resources and organizations.

Through the CHN, the Canadian public and health intermediaries alike can find excellent resources from health information providers across Canada, including federal, provincial and territorial governments, non-governmental organizations, universities, and community-based organizations.

The CHN will offer a range of health information. While CHN will focus initially on how to lead a healthier life and prevent

disease, other topic areas including self-care and how the health system is performing will be developed in the coming months. The Canadian Health Network aims to profile the "best of" resources by building on the strengths of organizations across the country to create a "network of health information networks".

Wayne Helgason, SPC Executive Director has recently been appointed to the CHN Advisory Committee.

Check out this new and exciting resource at [www.canadian-health-network.ca](http://www.canadian-health-network.ca).

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The Social Planning Council of Winnipeg, established in 1919, is a membership organization in the voluntary sector committed to providing leadership in social planning and effecting social policy change. SPC plays a unique role in the community by:

- Identifying and defining social planning issues, needs and resources in the community;
- Developing and promoting policy and program options to policy makers;
- Supporting community groups and the voluntary human services sector;
- Raising community awareness of social issues and human service needs, social policy options and service delivery alternatives; and
- Bridging government and community systems and structures.

In recognition of the tenth anniversary of the House of Common's unanimous resolution to eradicate child poverty by the year 2000, the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg will be making a small donation equal to the cost of our Annual Christmas Open House to benefit children in the following sites:

**Gilbert Park, Andrews Street Family Centre, Chalmers Neighbourhood Project and West Broadway Neighbourhood Resource Centre.**

## Active Living Project

Recently, the Social Planning Council undertook a project to examine the active living/recreational needs of children, 6-12 years of age.

Funded by Health Promotion and Programs Branch, Health Canada, this project will test a model of neighbourhood/community empowerment, community partnerships and community action in planning for the recreational needs of children.

The project is designed to be a partnership of SPC and three local communities - Gilbert Park, Tyndall Park and the Anderson Street neighbourhoods.

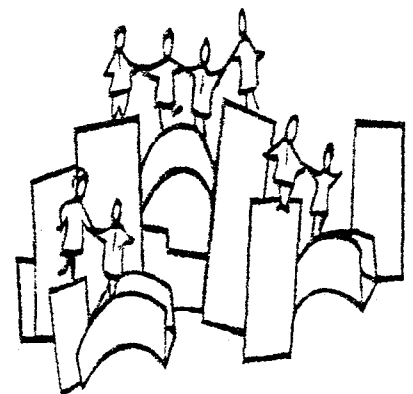
Each of these communities have begun to develop and implement an action plan for children's programming.

Community workers have been hired for both the Gilbert Park and Anderson Street neighbourhoods, with Tyndall Park soon to follow.

Agnes Parenteau (Gilbert Park) and Lucille Cote (Anderson Street) have both begun working in their respective neighbourhoods - meeting community members to determine what services, resources and issues exist, in an effort to involve the greater community in planning for sports and

recreational activities for area children.

For more information, contact Maureen Kalloo at the Social Planning Council, 943-2561.



**We're on the  
Web!**  
[www.spcw.mb.ca](http://www.spcw.mb.ca)