



SOCIAL PLANNING TORONTO

2 Carlton St., Suite 1001

Toronto, ON M5B 1J3

Tel. 416.351.0095

Fx. 416.351.0107

info@socialplanningtoronto.org

www.socialplanningtoronto.org

COMMUNITY OFFICES

YORK/WEST TORONTO

1652 Keele St.

Toronto, ON M6M 3W3

Tel. 416.652.9772

ETOBICOKE

The Shaver Homestead

450 The West Mall, Suite 205

Etobicoke ON M9C 1E9

Tel. 416.231.5499

ANC — MOUNT DENNIS

1336B Weston Rd.

Toronto, ON M6M 4R8

Tel. 416.242.7031



ANNUAL REPORT 2012-2013



Since 1957, Social Planning Toronto has promoted equitable, effective, and inclusive policies to improve life for all residents of Toronto. SPT does research, policy analysis, community planning, and capacity building. We work with agencies across Toronto's community service sector.

OUR PROGRAM PRIORITIES

Community Capacity Building

We increase skills, knowledge, and resource development in local communities through our planners, researchers, and communications staff.

Social Research and Policy Analysis

Our research focuses on three key areas:

- Income Security and Labour Markets
- Public Education and Human Development
- Community Infrastructure, Public Finance and Resource Allocation

We provide communities and organizations with the facts they need to make positive change.

Community Education and Advocacy

We provide opportunities for city-wide education, and support local educational activities, particularly for the most marginalized and vulnerable communities. Making information accessible helps create a foundation of understanding on which communities can act for positive social change.

Building Partnerships

SPT uses its community planning, research, and communications capacities to support responses to critical challenges facing Toronto residents.

OUR MISSION

“Social Planning Toronto is committed to building a civic society: one in which diversity, equity, social and economic justice, interdependence and active civic participation are central to all aspects of our lives - in our families, neighbourhoods, voluntary and recreational activities, and in our politics.”

OUR ROLE

Social Planning Toronto is a

- **Convenor** of social research, often with other non-profit and academic organizations, and a convenor of collaboration with service providers and residents in local communities.
- **Mobilizer** of community leaders, residents, and organizations to improve equity, inclusivity, and the quality of life in the city.
- **Advocate** with policy makers, agencies, and institutional leaders for improved facilities, social and economic conditions, access to jobs, and services.
- **Resource** for community-based action in support of community-identified issues and priorities through research, policy analysis, public education, and leadership development.

Social Planning Toronto—Linking Research with Community Action



SPT BOARD MEMBERS

- Jan Armstrong**
Karen Bell – Chair, Governance Committee and Interim Chair, Access and Equity Committee
Mikhael Bornstein – Chair, Advancement Committee
Michael Creek – Vice-President
Joe Cressy
Miriam DiGiuseppe – President; Chair, Executive Committee
Jasmine Earle— Chair, Access and Equity Committee
Brian Eng
Charles Finlay
Nancy Henderson – Secretary
O’Neil Edwards
Tam Goossen – Member-at-Large, Executive Committee
Sheldon Mahabir – Chair, Access and Equity Committee
Anshula Ohri – Treasurer and Chair, Finance Committee
Fana Seife – Member-at-Large, Executive Committee

SPT STAFF

- Israt Ahmed**, Community Planner
Carol Boate, Research and Policy Analysis Intern
John Campey, Executive Director
Richard DeGaetano, Community Planner
Cutty Duncan, Project Co-ordinator, ANC – Mt. Dennis
Krittika Ghosh, Commitment to Community Organizer
Yasmin Haq, Community Planner
Margaret Hau, Program Support
Mohamed Ismail, Financial Manager
Lesley Johnston, Researcher
Mary Micallef, Program Support
Sharma Queiser, Research and Policy Analysis Intern
Maria Serrano, Director of Operations
Navjeet Sidhu, Researcher
Besrat Solomon, Bookkeeper
Ryan Tilley, Program Support (Membership)
Winston Tinglin, Director of Community Engagement
Jeremy Tudor Price, Communications Officer
Beth Wilson, Senior Researcher

VOLUNTEERS, STUDENTS, INTERNS

- Bonnie Bartlett
 Mario Calla
 Taneacha Campbell
 Alina Chatterjee
 David Clandfield
 Chris Connolly
 David Cross
 Andrew Deacon
 Celia Denov
 Diane Dyson
 Rick Eagan
 Lisa Ferguson
 Luin Goldring
 Rosalind Gunn
 Jefferson Guzman
 Margaret Hancock
 Rob Howarth
 Yunis Kariuki
 Hanifa Kassam
 Courtney Kohnen
 Alexandra Johne
 Natalie Langlois
 Isabel Luciano
 Sumita Majumder
 Veronica McLeod
 Krishan Mehta
 Mary El Milosh
 Hileema Mitchell
 John Myles
 Wairimu Njoroge
 Deborah Quiggin
 Emma Reel
 Sheena R. Sethi
 Cheryl Teelucksingh
 Linda Torney
 Holly Venables
 Vani Visva
 Armine Yalnizyan
 Ava Williams

SPT FUNDERS

- United Way Toronto**
City of Toronto
Ontario Trillium Foundation
Atkinson Charitable Foundation
Metcalf Foundation
Toronto Community Foundation
Service Canada
Children’s Aid Society of Toronto
Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social Services



The 2013 Frances Lankin Community Service Award Reception

Social Planning Toronto established this award to acknowledge a significant, sustained contribution to the non-profit community services sector in Toronto. The 2013 award was presented to Rob Howarth, and posthumously to Colin Hughes and Charlotte Maher, at a reception on April 18, attended by the Hon. Michael Coteau, Ontario Minister of Citizenship and Immigration, and over 100 leaders from the community sector in Toronto.



Happily Ever After? ‘Shotgun Weddings’, ‘Arranged Marriages’ and ‘Friends with Benefits’: Evolving Relationships in the Community Services Sector—the 2013 Social Planning Toronto Symposium

On February 26th and 27th, 2013 over 100 participants attended Social Planning Toronto’s annual symposium. This year’s symposium entitled *Happily Ever After? ‘Shotgun Weddings’, ‘Arranged Marriages’ and ‘Friends with Benefits’: Evolving Relationships in the Community Services Sector* was produced in partnership with Toronto Neighbourhood Centres, the City-Wide Agency Network, and the Mowat Centre and supported by United Way Toronto.

The symposium brought together community and academic researchers, community advocates, and leaders from across the community services sector to engage in critical discussions on the implications of mergers, consolidations, rationalizations, and integration throughout the sector, and, most importantly, on tools and strategies to respond to them. The Symposium featured a wide range of distinguished speakers and provided opportunities for participants to reflect on and discuss what they were hearing throughout the event during facilitated “Table Talk” sessions.

The ‘wedding’ theme was carried through the event to the end—a dinner and reception that featured guest speaker Ryerson University Principal Sheldon Levy, and ‘wedding crasher’ —surprise guest Premier Kathleen Wynne — cutting the cake.

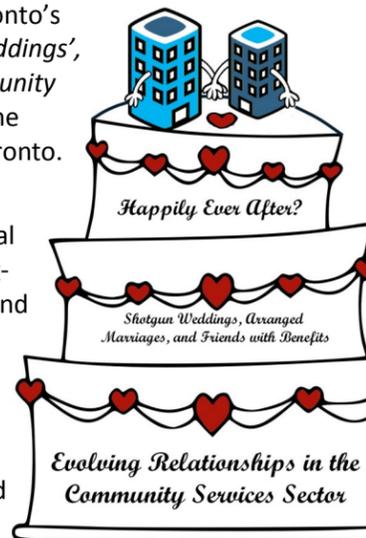


TABLE OF CONTENTS

President’s Report1

Executive Director’s Report.....2

Program Highlights.....3

Auditor’s Report.....9

Statement of Financial Position.....10

Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets.....10

Event Highlights.....11

SPT Board Members.....12

SPT Staff.....12

SPT Students/Interns/Volunteers.....12

SPT Funders.....12





Over the past year, the work of Social Planning Toronto has taken place against a backdrop of growing social and economic inequality, of diminishing public resources, and an increasing polarization between the powerful and the powerless. In that context, our role has become more sharply defined, and SPT has significantly raised its profile as an effective, evidence-based advocate for progressive public policy.

The work of Social Planning Toronto “links research with community action,” and that combination is apparent in the key areas of our work. Last June, SPT released a series of “Poverty Profiles” for each of the 44 wards in the City, and followed that up with continued support for the Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto (APT). We built on that initiative with a partnership with other Social Planning Councils to produce “Riding Poverty Profiles” for over fifty provincial ridings right across the GTA and Hamilton – using them as a foundation for advocacy on a range of poverty-related issues such as social assistance reform, the minimum wage, and our current “Triple Threat to Equity” campaign focused on poverty-related education funding shortfalls.

SPT continues to build vibrant partnerships – our leadership on the “Commitment2Community” campaign mobilized a wide range of community organizations and residents to engage in the 2013 City budget process – resulting in significant victories for communities across Toronto. SPT continues to work with valued partners such as Toronto Neighbourhood Centres and the City-Wide Agency Network, as well as diverse coalitions and networks from Scarborough to York to Etobicoke to provide support and leadership on critical issues of access and equity across the city.

Social Planning Toronto provides a space where diverse interests can come together for safe, respectful dialogue on challenging and often contentious issues. The diverse, engaged attendance at our research roundtable, research and policy forums, and most recently our Symposium on the issue of mergers, amalgamations, and rationalizations in the sector, speaks to the valuable role that SPT plays as a respected convener on difficult issues – a role that is as important as our growing reputation as a vocal, effective advocate for the interests of the community sector in Toronto, and the often vulnerable individuals and communities served by that sector.

This work would not be possible without a dedicated, creative staff team, and a committed, supportive Board and governance structure. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the very significant contribution made by two retiring staff members – Margaret Hau, who provided dedicated, skilled program support to SPT for over 24 years, and Winston Tinglin, whose experience, thoughtfulness, and leadership as Director of Community Engagement for the past eight years has been an invaluable asset to the work of the Council. Additionally, we will miss the significant contribution that Tam Goossen has made at the Board level – nine years as a Board member, a past Board Chair, and leader on a number of key SPT initiatives. Also, we will miss Sheldon Mahabir and Fana Seife, who brought energy and enthusiasm to their roles as Board members.

With growing levels of community engagement in response to the challenges facing our city, Social Planning Toronto is poised to continue to play an important leadership role for social and economic justice in Toronto. Thank you to everyone who has supported - and continues to support – our important work.

Miriam DiGiuseppe

President, SPT Board of Directors

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2012

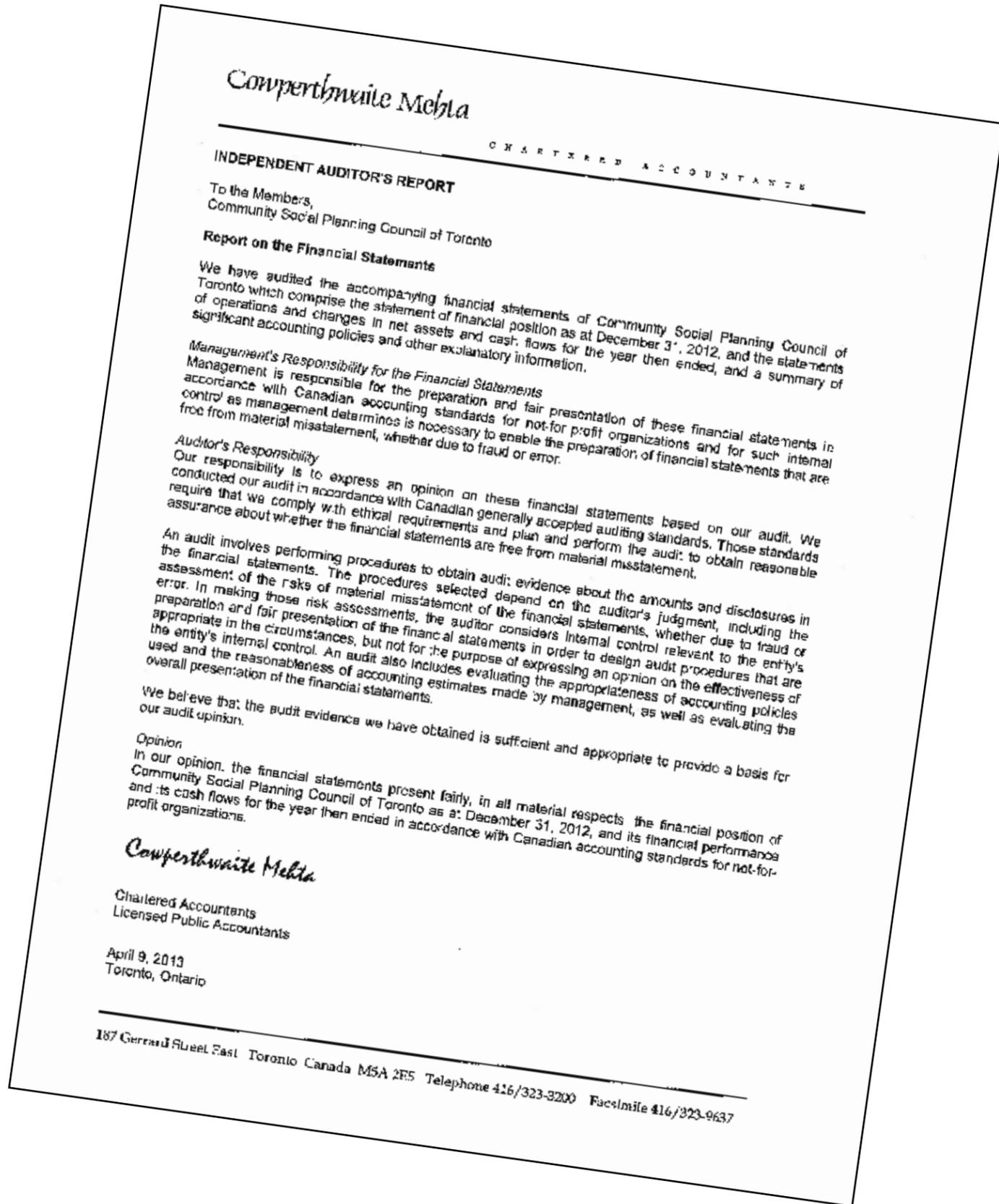
	2012	2011
ASSETS		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 72,488	\$ 137,275
Sales and property taxes recoverable	46,645	48,136
Grants receivable	22,794	66,028
Other amounts receivable	23,167	10,335
Prepaid expenses and deposits	20,781	20,961
	185,875	272,735
Capital assets (note 4)	1,728	10,867
Trust funds administered for others, net (note 5)	13,410	66,452
	<u>\$ 201,013</u>	<u>\$ 350,055</u>
LIABILITIES		
Current liabilities		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 39,913	\$ 90,267
Deferred project funds (note 7)	44,886	85,183
	84,799	175,450
Trust funds administered for others, net (note 5)	13,410	89,462
	98,189	241,802
Net assets		
Unrestricted	102,825	108,153
	<u>\$ 201,013</u>	<u>\$ 350,055</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

_____, Director

_____, Director

	2012		2011	
	General Operations	Projects	Total	Total
REVENUE				
United Way grant	\$ 620,308	\$ 143,776	\$ 764,084	\$ 726,302
City of Toronto	353,835	30,239	384,074	553,795
Foundation grants	-	185,348	185,348	208,237
Government of Canada	-	120,869	120,869	126,497
Fees for services	12,733	61,066	73,799	36,817
Donations and other fundraising	15,233	35,494	50,727	54,884
Membership fees (note 8)	20,770	23,695	44,465	34,720
Other income (note 10)	13,740	-	13,740	8,968
	<u>1,036,619</u>	<u>601,007</u>	<u>1,637,626</u>	<u>1,750,282</u>
EXPENSES				
Salaries and benefits	743,653	347,568	1,091,211	1,112,799
Building occupancy	144,007	20,098	164,105	152,137
Program	20,489	131,171	151,660	281,380
Office and administration (note 4)	102,688	13,380	116,068	111,453
Purchased services	10,668	65,557	76,225	80,970
Travel	13,494	4,087	17,581	16,261
Events and fundraising	4,233	6,566	10,799	3,406
Professional fees	6,608	-	6,608	5,508
Insurance	6,208	-	6,208	7,250
Staff development	3,480	-	3,480	4,070
Other	8,629	300	8,929	-
	<u>1,084,228</u>	<u>578,726</u>	<u>1,662,954</u>	<u>1,755,232</u>
Deficiency of revenue over expenses from operations	(27,609)	22,281	(5,328)	(4,952)
Charges for administrative support	22,281	-	22,281	-
DEFICIENCY OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR	<u>(5,328)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>(5,328)</u>	<u>(4,952)</u>
Net assets, beginning of year	108,153	-	108,153	113,105
NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR	<u>\$ 102,825</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 102,825</u>	<u>\$ 108,153</u>



This summer, I will mark my tenth anniversary as Executive Director of Social Planning Toronto – a milestone I approach with very mixed emotions. A lot can – and did – happen in a decade. Some things are very different, and others are very much the same.

Over the past ten years, Social Planning Toronto has nurtured an extensive network of partnerships and relationships that have renewed our role as a vital part of Toronto's community infrastructure. Our role as a convener, as a resource, as a respectful partner, and as a leader has enabled SPT to be effective in influencing public policy for the better in a number of areas. We have become a respected advocate for the community sector in Toronto, impacting on a wide range of public policy decisions at the City of Toronto. Those relationships extend beyond our city, and through our active membership in the Social Planning Network of Ontario have given us a strong voice at provincial tables as well. Occasionally, as with the "Save the Census" campaign, our influence is national.

SPT has also continued a tradition of thoughtful, evidence-based, influential research that dates back to the 1970's and beyond. Our model of linking research with community action has informed real progress on issues as diverse as homelessness, education, community space, settlement, and poverty – we have built a strong, effective research team whose work does not sit on the shelf – it works hard to accomplish real change in the lives of real people.

We have worked through the damage caused by amalgamation, funding cuts, and dramatic downsizing to build a team of community planners, researchers, and program support who work hard to ensure that all of Toronto's diverse communities have a real voice in the decisions that affect them. We have an influence that goes well beyond what would reasonably be expected from our size and resources – this is an organization that "punches above its weight".

None of this would be possible without a skilled, dedicated staff team – I want to acknowledge the enormous contribution that Margaret Hau and Winston Tinglin, in particular, made in their time with SPT – or the committed guidance and leadership of our Board of Directors. We have had strong support from our key funding partners – United Way Toronto, the City of Toronto, Ontario Trillium Foundation and Atkinson Foundation. We also acknowledge the support of our organizational and individual members, and groups like Toronto Neighbourhood Centres and the City-Wide Agency Network that have partnered with us on many projects. We are also fortunate to have so many individuals who have supported our work as volunteers, guest speakers at SPT events, or by sharing their skills and expertise with us.

While much has changed, some critical things have stayed the same. SPT continues to link research with community action, supporting community voices to speak out boldly and effectively on issues of economic and social justice. The lives of many Toronto residents are better for our work – but there is much more than a decade of work that remains to be done.

John Campey
Executive Director

Working with the City Ombudsman

Social Planning Toronto has worked with the City Ombudsman on two levels this year — SPT hosted a series of “Member Forums” in Scarborough, Etobicoke, York, and downtown, which provided community organizations with an opportunity to find out more about the work of this important City institution.

At a local level, SPT was involved in bringing the Ombudsman’s office to bear on a problem with City facilities and community-based service provider organizations that culminated in a report by the Ombudsman to City Council on the City’s administration of its **Below Market Rent policy**, resulting in significant changes in the City’s practices in this area.

SPT Community Planner Yasmin Haq played the key role in making sure that this matter was resolved in a way that benefitted not only the local organizations involved, but that resulted in systemic change.



Embracing Hope, Building Community

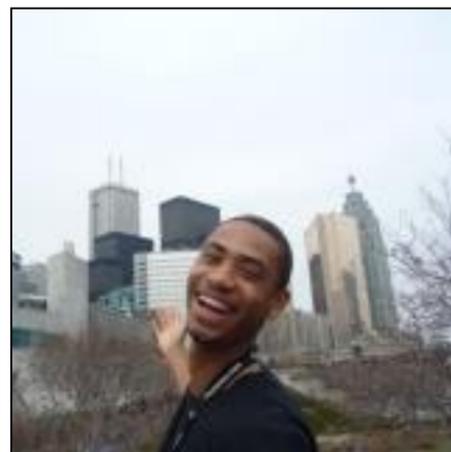
SPT, the Urban Alliance on Race Relations, and over 40 community and labour organizations came together to respond to a series of tragic shootings involving youth in the summer of 2012. The group undertook a number of initiatives, including publishing an “opinion” piece in the Toronto Star, calling for long over due investment in community services for youth.

From those meetings, SPT’s York office, in collaboration with a coalition of agencies serving York South-Weston organized a community forum on Safety, Violence Prevention and Community Development to discuss violent incidents across the City and in the area. About 100 people represented the full diversity of the community. They ranged from newcomers to long standing residents, staff from small ethno-specific organizations to managers from large institutions including the City of Toronto, young teenagers to grandparents, police and politicians. People spoke passionately about the recent violent incidents, the root causes of violence, and other issues that the community is facing.

Transit Planning and Investment in Scarborough

Our Scarborough planner played a crucial convening role in public policy dialogue in response to the public outcry for transit investment in Scarborough in 2012. Forums and events led by Social Planning Toronto raised awareness of the transit needs and options in Scarborough in areas such as Malvern, Birchmount Bluffs and University of Toronto Scarborough campus.

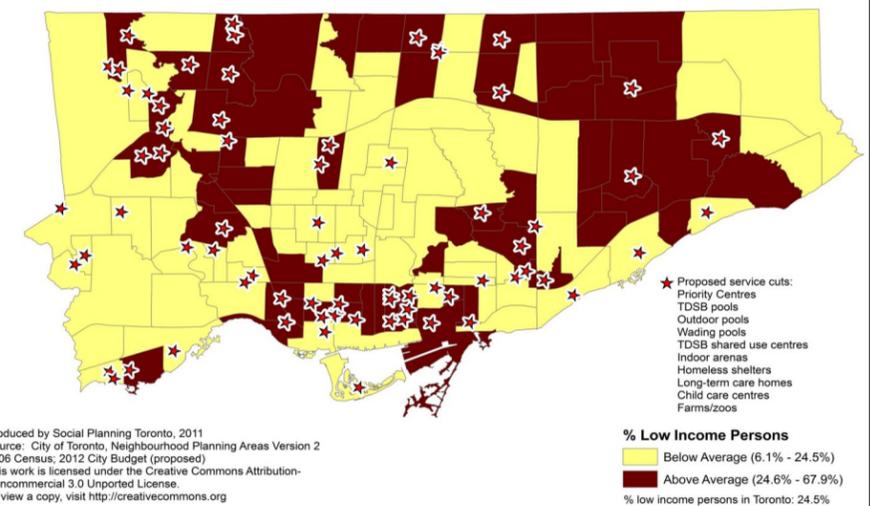
Our Scarborough planner, Israt Ahmed, was invited to sit on the City’s Expert Panel to recommend a transit option for the Sheppard East line in Scarborough for the Big Move initiative of MetroLinx. In this capacity, Social Planning Toronto was able to emphasize economic equity for marginalized population as an important factor in transportation planning.



A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words — a Map, Sometimes Many More!

This map, plotting proposed service cuts against Toronto’s low income neighbourhoods, played an important role in making the case that the cuts would have a disproportionate impact on the city’s most vulnerable residents. Produced by SPT Senior Researcher, Beth Wilson, this map demonstrated how mapping technology has changed the face of evidence-based research, and brought large amounts of data into the public realm in a way that is easily understood and analyzed.

Mapping the Cuts:
Location of Proposed Service Cuts in the City of Toronto's 2012 Budget by Neighbourhood Low Income Status



Community Planning Board— Working Towards a Scarborough Pilot Project

SPT is leading the establishment of a community planning board in east Scarborough to help remove planning barriers and promote participatory city building. SPT was able to connect with urban planners, designers, architects, service providers and politicians to explore the concept.

The concept of a community planning board has received warm welcome in its exploratory phase. The local councillor has proposed this entity be launched as a City pilot project and requested the organizers to develop their own goals for working with the City planning department. This will promote participatory and barrier-free planning at the neighbourhood level, and an improved tower renewal process with new social, economic and environmental opportunities.

Growing Inequality and Income Gap in Scarborough

Social Planning Toronto continues to address the growing income gap and inequalities in Scarborough that impact on its marginalized population. SPT organized forums for frontline workers and wider community groups to explore the impact of new immigration laws that took effect in December 2012.

SPT brought together experts from different areas to analyze the loss of jobs and other labour market trends that are contributing to the economic and social marginalization of many groups in Scarborough. These events offered participants an opportunity to explore the downward trends and learn about some of the public policy solutions from both experiential and expert perspectives.



TogetherToronto.ca

Social Planning Toronto has established a new tool for civic engagement in Toronto. The TogetherToronto.ca website has the capacity to direct petition emails to city councillors from their constituents, enabling Toronto residents to easily voice their concerns on a variety of issues directly to their elected representatives. This tool is available to our community partners. Over the past year it has been a useful mechanism for civic engagement on issues such as the Hardship Fund, emergency shelter beds, and the opposition to a casino in Toronto.

Through this site, over 25,000 messages have been sent directly to local Councillors across the city.



Toronto Community Development Institute

Social Planning Toronto took the initiative to recruit educators, social justice activists, and community social service providers to reorganize the Toronto Community Development Institute (TCDI). We are developing partnerships with George Brown College (Community Worker Program's Summer Institute), the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education's Anti-Poverty Community Organizing and Learning (APCOL) Project's fall conference, and local community worker/activist networks to develop a customized learning series.

Organizing in Etobicoke

The Community Planner for Etobicoke played a key role in initiating and organizing a number of public education events around the Toronto City Budget, including speaking at community meetings of seniors in north Etobicoke.

The Etobicoke Youth Network, co-chaired by Richard DeGaetano, SPT Community Planner in Etobicoke, continued working on creating a Scarborough Storefront-like hub of services and programs for youth and their families in central Etobicoke. The Network also initiated an outreach and recruitment campaign for racialized youth in low-income neighbourhoods, and developed a series of certification training opportunities for central Etobicoke youth.



'Lost in the Shuffle' Resource Manual and Training Guide

SPT Researchers Lesley Johnston, Raluca Fletcher, and Sharma Quieser, along with Neelam Ratansi from our partners Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre, completed *Lost in the Shuffle: In Support of Children in Transition*. This new resource aims to build a greater understanding of the barriers children living in shelters face in their attempts to be successful in school and provides strategies for school and shelter staff to assist children. The manual helps school and shelter staff to better understand students and their families who are struggling with multiple transitions, gives staff tools to build children's emotional resilience and reduce the emotional impacts they experience, and shares promising practices from the community.

Getting the Conversation Started: SPT Research and Policy Forums

SPT Research and Policy Forums provide a variety of opportunities for discussion of emerging community issues and new policy and research directions. They also serve as a vehicle for dissemination of new and relevant research work—produced by Social Planning Toronto ourselves, or our community and academic partners. This year's forum topics included:

- ◆ *Austerity or Ideology? Discussing the Impacts of Recent Federal and Provincial Cuts to Research;*
- ◆ *Toronto's Urban Aboriginal Community: Highlights and Discussion from the Toronto Aboriginal Research Project;*
- ◆ *In School, Out of School-time;*
- ◆ *A Triple Threat to Equity: Changing Priorities for Toronto Schools;*
- ◆ *It All Begins with Space: Who has it, How to Get it;*
- ◆ *The Ontario Non-Profit Corporations Act: Where it's at, Where it's Going.*

ANC Mount Dennis

Action for Neighbourhood Change — Mount Dennis has had a busy year supporting residents' work in resident led initiatives that improve the conditions of their neighbourhood. One ANC focus has been supporting the West Won Festival. West Won Fest is a resident led community festival that celebrates local community success, connects residents to service providers, provides a marketplace for local vendors/entrepreneurs and creates a space where residents can build new social connections and friendships. Over 1,000 residents attended our 2012 West Won Fest.

Another ANC focus has been on helping residents address local economic development issues. The West End Local Economic Development (WELED) is a resident led initiative developed in partnership with residents, the Anti-Poverty Community Organizing Learning (APCOL) project, and University of Toronto Geography Department (Dr. Katharine Rankin) that aims to explore local economic development issues through community based research and to develop appropriate community responses.

In 2012 WELED completed a major report on local small businesses and gentrification, and developed new community spaces in partnership with St. Albans Boys and Girls Club and TDSB. Continuing to work with the York Youth Coalition and supporting local planning tables such as the Neighbourhood Action Partnership and Integrated Local Labour Market planning are other areas where ANC-Mount Dennis continues to support residents as they work towards neighbourhood improvement.

City Budget Watch: Reporting and Engagement

Some of the most important decisions that Toronto City Council makes happen during the annual City budget process. Approximately \$14 billion is allocated annually to programs, services and capital projects. In recent years, we have seen the essential role that community plays in stopping harmful cuts, safeguarding cherished programs and supporting new investment to build a more livable and equitable city.

Each year, Social Planning Toronto Senior Researcher, Beth Wilson, monitors the process, and reports step-by-step on the issues, debates and decision-making in our City Budget Watch blog. This analysis, coupled with our extensive community engagement work, helps inform residents and facilitates vital public involvement in the budget process. To support this work, we also host an annual forum with a broad range of community and labour representatives that provide critical analysis on the budget.



Responding to Community Need: Research and Engagement

SPT researchers provide leadership and support to a variety of coalitions, committees and campaigns, as well as responding to emerging community issues. Over the past year, groups and initiatives supported include: Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto; Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage; Housing Action Now; Middle Childhood Matters Coalition; Migrant Workers Alliance for Change; Solidarity City Network; SPACE Coalition; Toronto District School Board Community Use of Schools Advisory Committee; and TDSB Inner City Advisory Committee. SPT also engaged in a research and advocacy initiative in response to Toronto's emergency shelter crisis.

Action Against Poverty Ward and Riding Profiles and ‘Destitution Day’

Social Planning Toronto and the Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto released 44 “Action on Poverty” ward profiles at a community event on June 7, 2012. June 7 was designated as “Destitution Day” – the day of the year on which an individual, living at the poverty line in Toronto, and receiving Ontario Works, would run out of money for the year.

This initiative, led by SPT Research Intern Carol Boate, brought together statistics on poverty that paint the picture of who’s affected, coupled with stories of local action challenging poverty and responding to it.

On October 26, 2012, Social Planning Toronto, the Alliance for a Poverty-free Toronto, and SPT’s sister social planning councils (York Region, Durham, Peel, Halton, and Hamilton) released “Action on Poverty” riding profiles with stats and stories for each of the ridings in the Greater Toronto Area and Hamilton.

The following day, October 27, was designated “Destitution Day” for single parent families – the day of the year on which a single parent recipient of Ontario Works with one child, living at the poverty line in Toronto, would run out of money over the course of the year.

Together these profiles paint a picture of widespread poverty in southern Ontario, highlight innovative and creative action at the local level, and build support for systemic action on poverty eradication.



Commitment2Community Campaign

Social Planning Toronto, in partnership with a wide range of partners from community sector agencies and networks, with support from labour and resident organizations, organized a spirited response to proposals in the 2013 city budget process. Through a range of workshops, events, and ongoing communication, the C2C campaign was able to mobilize hundreds of Toronto residents in support of community services.

This activity resulted in a number of wins in the 2013 budget, including a \$1.4 million increase to the Community Partnership and Investment Program (CPIP), suspension of the City’s new garbage fees for non-profits and charities (valued at \$650,000 for 2013), permanent restoration of the Hardship Fund (\$1 million targeted for last-resort medical supports for low-income residents, particularly seniors), and significant new funding (\$1.5 million) for student nutrition programs. The C2C Ward Coordinators, supported by campaign co-ordinator Krittika Ghosh, played a critical role in this successful campaign.



**“Working Hard But Ending Up Nowhere”
Photos and Stories from Weston-Mt. Dennis**

Social Planning Toronto is an active partner on Poverty and Employment Precarity in Southern Ontario (PEPSO), a United Way Toronto/McMaster University-led research project. As part of the PEPSO project, SPT Researcher Navjeet Sidhu and Ryerson University Professor Grace-Edward Galabuzi are leading a 3-year research initiative on the impact of precarious employment on neighbourhoods and vulnerable populations.

During the Spring and Summer of 2012, the research team launched the first leg of the initiative using photovoice, a research method used to engage individuals and communities who are frequently left out of important policy discussions and decision-making processes.

In Toronto, Weston-Mt. Dennis and Downtown East End residents were recruited as community photographers to explore the local impact of precarity through photos and personal stories. On February 27, the team launched its photovoice exhibit, “Working Hard But Ending Up Nowhere” bringing together residents and researchers for an examination of the issues and solutions to precarity.

