



# **ANNUAL REPORT**

## **2016 - 2017**



**United Way**  
Toronto & York Region

# 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.*

## Social Planning Toronto is a:

Resource for community-based action in support of community-identified issues and priorities through research, policy analysis, public education, and leadership development.

Mobilizer of community leaders, residents, and organizations to improve equity, inclusivity, and 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.

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.





# OUR PROGRAM PRIORITIES

## Community Capacity Building

We work with communities to increase skills, knowledge, and resources and support their efforts to realize their own goals and priorities through our planners, researchers, and communications staff.

## Social Research and Policy Analysis

Our research focuses on issues that meet key community goals, including poverty reduction, housing, community services and decent work. We provide communities and organizations with the facts they need to make positive change.

## Community Education and Advocacy

We facilitate opportunities for city-wide discussion and action on community priorities, 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

Social Planning Toronto uses its community planning, research, and communications capacities to support responses to critical challenges facing Toronto residents, linking partners across the sector in research and action on issues that affect communities.





## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

2017 is an important year for Social Planning Toronto. It is our 60th anniversary and a great time to reflect on our history as well as to look forward to an exciting future.

The Board at Social Planning Toronto works hard to preserve the traditions of this organization. The commitment to solid research, community engagement and evidence-based policy reform has served our community well. Whether it was drawing attention to the transformation of the inner suburbs back in the 1970s, tracking and addressing the growth of child poverty in the 90s, or tackling inequities across our city over the last decade, Social Planning Toronto has always worked closely with communities, drawing on a strong evidence base, to advance the social change agenda.

Our new Strategic Plan has led the way to new governance strategies, new board work plans and new goals for improving the way Social Planning Toronto works in partnership with its staff and stakeholders. Our ongoing commitment to our fiduciary responsibilities has been augmented by a renewed focus on strategic and generative goals. Following a growth agenda, we are creating new ways to focus our work and measure our success and developing new tools to communicate our results.

We have also taken on a social enterprise to augment the capacity of Social Planning Toronto. By bringing in Public Interest, a well-established provider of social research and consulting services, we are adding to our team and our toolkit to deliver services that create a revenue stream while also expanding our capacity to reach marginalized communities across Toronto.

With these new tools, Social Planning Toronto will be even better prepared to meet the needs of the changing city we serve. Our Board continues to grow and change too, with new members that reflect diverse communities in our changing city. The dynamic work of our governance team has brought new ideas and energy to Board meetings and to our planning processes.

It's been an exciting year to be a part of the Social Planning Toronto family, and I am looking forward to the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Jasmin Earle'.

**Jasmin Earle,**  
**President**



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Social Planning Toronto is turning 60! And it's been the kind of year that makes a long-standing organization like this feel

just as energetic and enthusiastic as we did when we were founded, back when Toronto was just heading into the tumultuous 1960s.

It has been an exciting year of growth and change at Social Planning Toronto. New challenges, new partners, new staff and new structures have helped to expand the work of the organization and our impact.

Our research team has taken on issues from child poverty to education and from environmental policy to precarious work, while looking at the intersections between them as well.

We expanded our community outreach work, placing a community planner in North York, opening offices in Lawrence Heights and Thorncliffe Park and anchoring a hub project in central Etobicoke.

We established new partnerships with City Hall, helping City staff redefine their relationships with the non-profit sector and explore new ideas in housing reform.

We've grown our partnership with community-based organizations, taking on the work of hosting the Toronto Nonprofit Network, that brings together partners from across the non-profit sector.

We expanded our structure and capacity by aligning with Public Interest, a social enterprise. This partnership allows us to expand our capacity to provide first-rate research and community engagement that Social Planning Toronto is known for, while establishing a new source of income to support our core work.

We are proud to have been selected as a United Way Anchor Agency and look forward to working with the United Way and our partner agencies to build a network of support across the city.

Our Board continues to draw on leaders that reflect the diversity of the city to inform our work. They have set out a new workplan for this year that reaches past the core functions of ensuring the health and stability of the organization to add increased focus to generative roles that explore growth and development for Social Planning Toronto.

While following new directions, our work stays rooted in the communities we serve and the relationships we foster with partners in the non-profit sector.

It's been a good year for our organization, and I can't say how lucky I feel to be a part of it.

**Sean Meagher,**  
**Executive Director**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SEAN MEAGHER', written over the printed name.



# PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

## Modernizing City-Nonprofit Sector Relationships

Recently, City Council directed City staff, in cooperation with a Community Sector Advisory Table, to develop a 'whole of government' policy direction and policy framework including key actions for guiding and modernizing the City's relationship with the community-based non-profit sector. The "Modernizing City-Nonprofit Sector Relationships" initiative aims to identify opportunities for improving the cross-sectoral ways

of working together to enhance our shared impact.

Over the past year, to achieve these joint goals of the City Staff and the Community Sector Advisory Table, Social Planning Toronto has been working with the Toronto Nonprofit Network to provide the necessary research, coordination, outreach and reporting services to design and implement consultations with the community-based non-profit sector in Toronto.

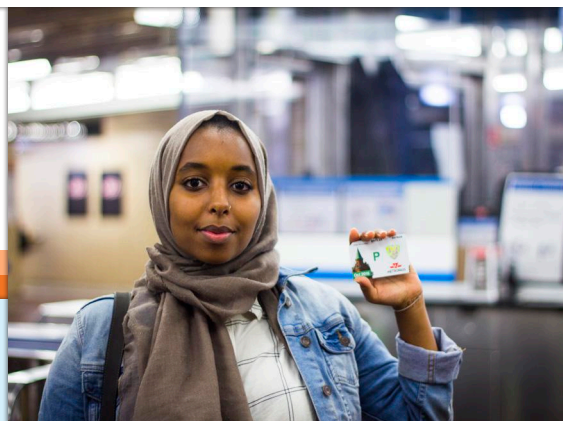
These consultations with non-profit sector representatives are focused on generating a shared vision, principles and practices to guide and strengthen our capacity to work with the City. These will also guide future partnerships between the City and non-profit sector to be civically engaged, coordinated, creative, constructive, inclusive, complementary and most impactful.



## City Budget

Through the City budget process, Toronto City Council makes decisions that deeply impact the quality of life of residents in Toronto. These are arguably the most important decisions that Council makes all year. Community members play a critical role in this process. Social Planning Toronto's workshops informed residents on the budget and how they could get involved in the 2017 city budget process. In partnership with community partners, Social Planning Toronto held five budget forums providing critical analysis on the budget and engaging more than 300 residents.

For eight years, Social Planning Toronto's City Budget Watch has provided up-to-date information and analysis on the City budget process. This work keeps residents and community groups well informed to allow them to meaningfully engage in the budget process - voicing their priorities, sharing their insights and taking action to create a better city for all.



## Commitment2Community

This year, Commitment2Community (C2C) mobilized and engaged a record number of residents in Toronto's budget process. Working with partners across the city, C2C organized nine deputation training sessions and participated in more than 20 budget workshops. Many of the more than 200 residents who deputed at budget committee meetings were trained or mobilized by C2C. On budget day, C2C supporters garnered significant media coverage during a rally outside City Hall then packed Council chambers as more than 4,000 signed postcards were presented to City Council calling for improvements - not cuts - to critical community services like transit, affordable housing, child care and recreation programs. As a result of C2C's broad mobilization, many proposed service cuts were avoided.



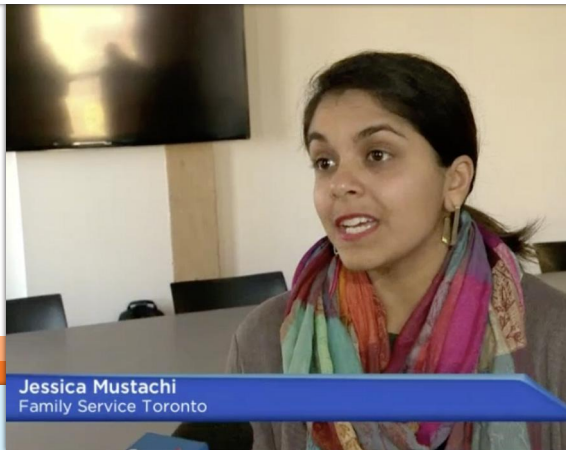


## Divided City: Life in Canada's Child Poverty Capital

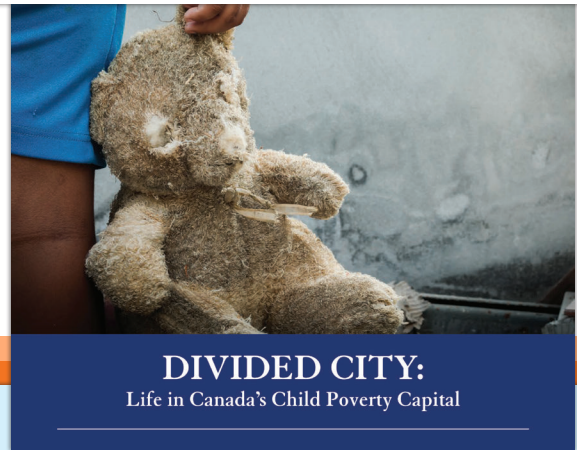
In December 2016, Social Planning Toronto joined with Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Ontario Campaign 2000/Family Service Toronto and Colour of Poverty – Colour of Change to release “Divided City”, a report on child poverty in Toronto. Drawing on the most recent

child poverty data, the research reconfirms Toronto's unenviable title of child poverty capital of Canada - where over one-quarter of children and youth live in poverty, and rates are even higher for racialized, immigrant and Aboriginal communities, as well as, for several

neighbourhoods. The report tells the story of a deeply divided city in terms of living conditions and life opportunities for children and youth. Advocates have used the report to call on City Council to make good on its commitment to poverty reduction in Toronto.



Jessica Mustachi  
Family Service Toronto



**DIVIDED CITY:**  
Life in Canada's Child Poverty Capital



## The Cost of Poverty in Toronto

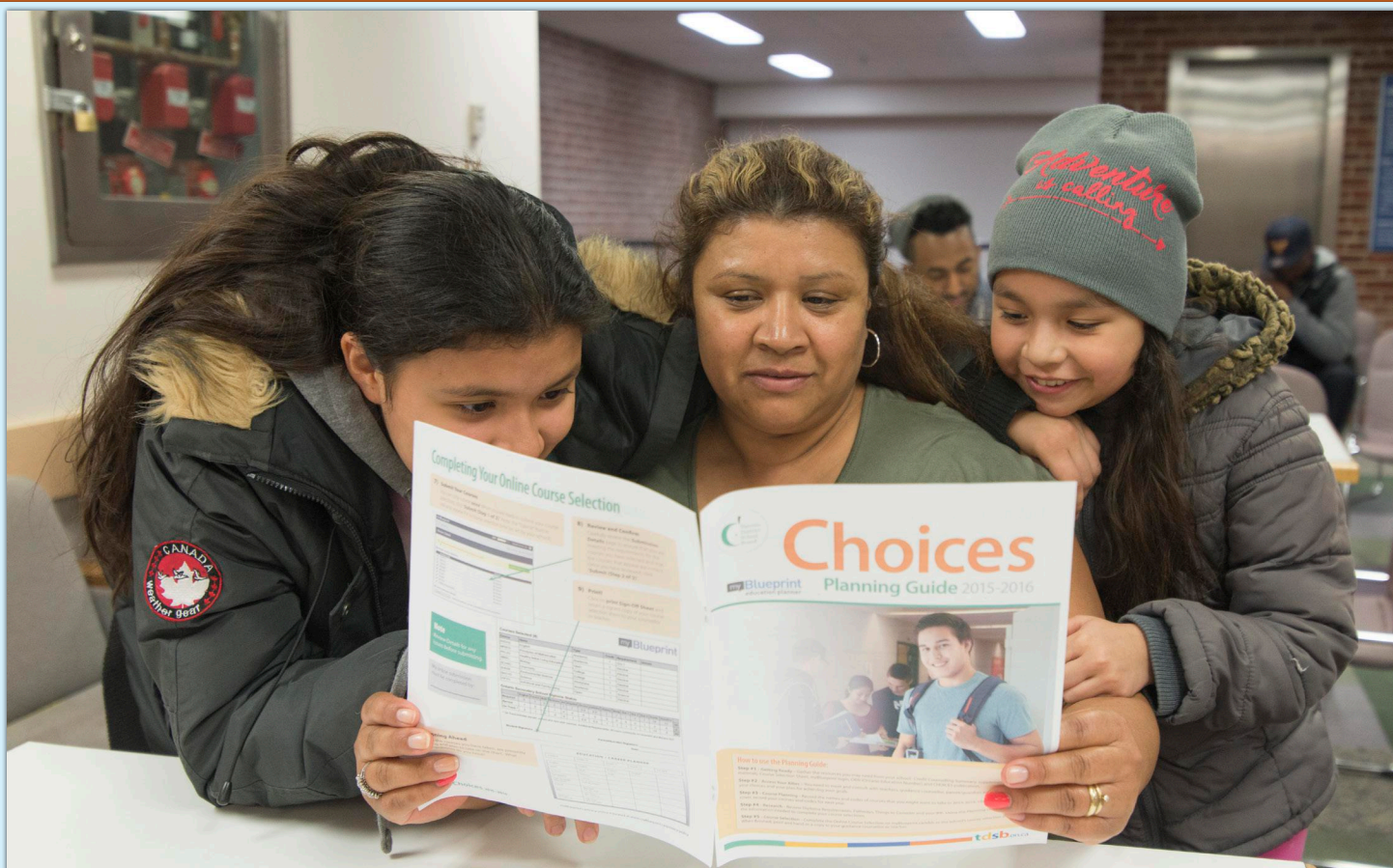
In November 2016, Social Planning Toronto joined with a team of contributors to release “The Cost of Poverty in Toronto”. This report estimates the price of inaction. Regardless of the strategy used to address poverty, it asks, “What does it cost us to allow poverty to persist in Toronto?” It estimates how much more we may be spending in the health care and justice systems simply because poverty exists, and how much we lose in tax revenue, simply because poverty exists.

## Access and Equity in Recreation

Social Planning Toronto continues to focus on improving access to recreation for equity-seeking groups.

This year we released another report on this issue, this time looking at the unique experiences of young women in community spaces. This research report found that City of Toronto youth spaces tend to meet the needs and interests of young men better than young women.

We are working vigorously to mobilize our research into action and ensure that all residents have equitable access to responsive programs and that service providers are given the tools they need to overcome engagement barriers.







## Funding for Low-income Students

For several years, Social Planning Toronto has been urging the Toronto District School Board to spend a greater portion of the Learning Opportunities Grant on the students who generated it in the first place – those from low-income and marginalized families. Chronic provincial underfunding forces the TDSB, and other school boards, to spend these funds on other expenses.

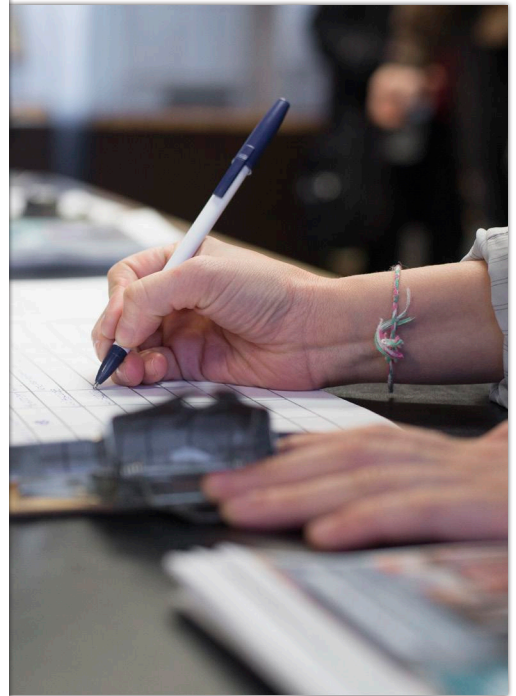
This year we released a report that found about half of the LOG isn't going towards those students. It was well-received, both locally and provincially, with a strong public desire to tackle this issue in school boards throughout the province. Responding to the call, TDSB passed a motion to re-affirm its commitment to equity and improve transparency in financial reporting.





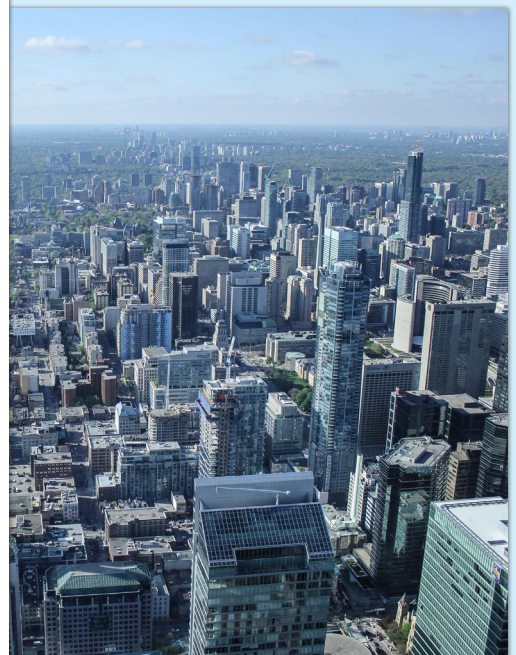
## Action for Neighbourhood Change

The Mount Dennis ANC has had busy year. Its work included supporting the Emmett Growers resident group to successfully operate the only community garden in Mount Dennis. ANC assisted over 30 participants to locally grow healthy food for their families and neighbours. It continues to support the Emmett Garden Steering committee, working to transition from community gardening to communal farming. ANC also partnered with Delta Family Services and Toronto Community Housing to develop and conduct a feasibility study on 'Pop Up Infrastructure' (temp/permanent modular buildings) to meet community spacing needs in local 'priority neighbourhoods' and Neighbourhood Improvement Areas.



## Growth and Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods: The Challenges of Planning for Growth and Density in the Downtown and Inner Suburbs

In February 2017, Social Planning Toronto released "Growth and Change in Toronto's Neighbourhoods", the first in a series on newly released 2016 Census data and the implications for public policy and planning in Toronto. This report provides an overview of changes to the population and dwelling counts in Toronto, a review of the implications of those changes and recommendations on how to accommodate those changes. It tells the story of the changing landscape of Toronto as captured by the census and the implications for our future priorities as a city.





## Community Planning in North York / East York

In September 2016, Social Planning Toronto expanded into North York and East York. A community-based office was established in Thorncliffe Park.

Social Planning Toronto has been supporting the Flemington Thorncliffe Inter Agency Network (FTIAN) with a restructuring process to redevelop its model, and re-ignited the planning of a symposium to be held in the fall of 2017. Social Planning Toronto has also begun supporting the dynamic resident-led network entitled, Friends of Flemington Park. Staff successfully implemented a large-scale budget town hall for North York on December 14, 2016 at the North York Civic Centre. A localized budget town hall was organized in Lawrence Heights and a partnership was built with Councillor Burnside to co-present a town hall in Flemington Park that engaged residents in discussions around the city budget and the community.



## Inclusionary Zoning

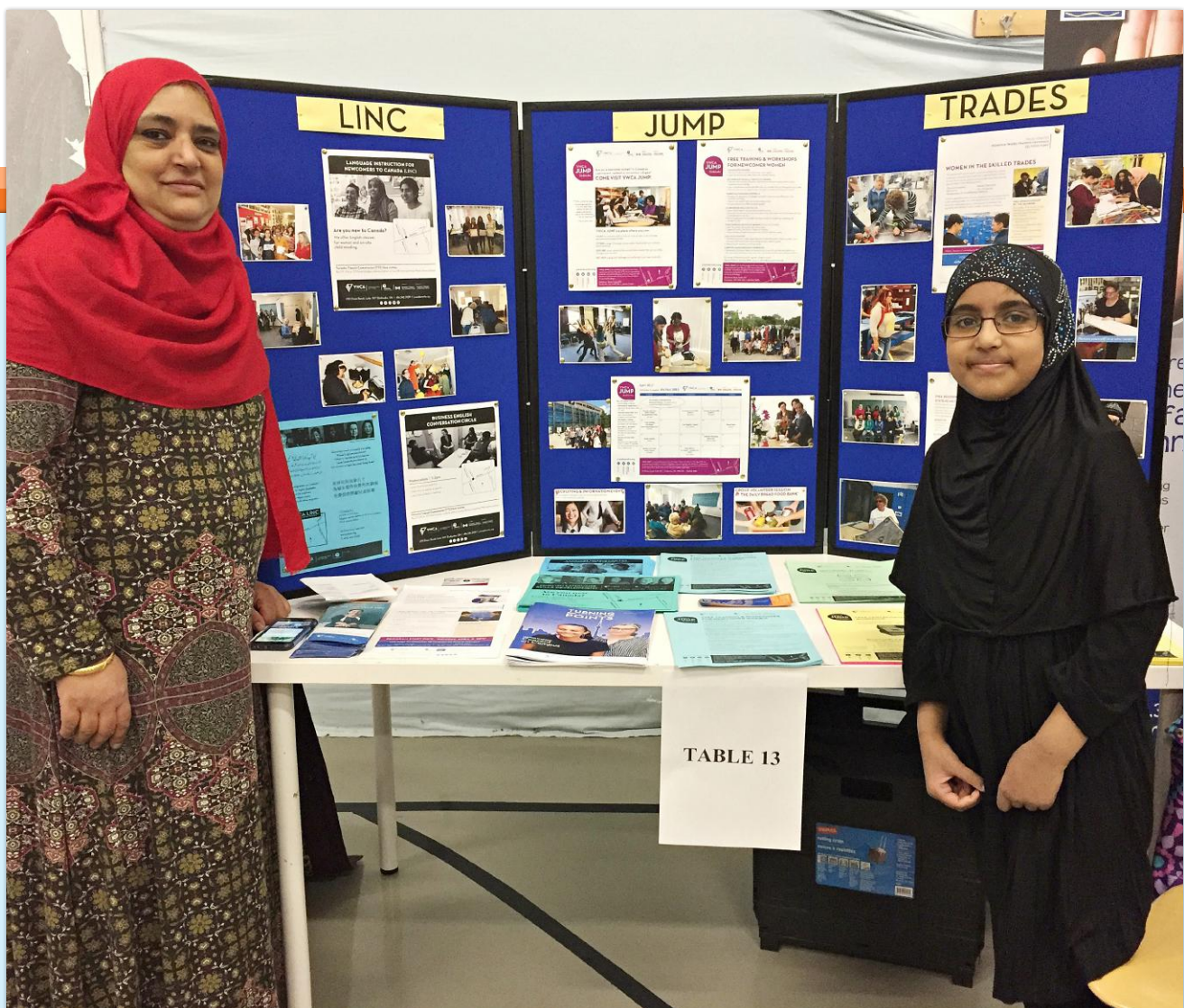
Last year Social Planning Toronto worked hard to get the Government of Ontario to give municipalities inclusionary zoning powers – the right to pass bylaws requiring developers to build affordable housing as part of every new development. Social Planning Toronto gathered housing advocates to form a solid team of experts to guide the development of legislation and ensure the new inclusionary laws were an effective tool for creating new affordable housing. We're happy to say that all of our advice about the inclusionary zoning legislation was adopted, and we are now working to ensure the regulations continue to facilitate good policy.

Photo: Carlos Pacheco (CC BY-SA 2.0)



## Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership

As a partner in the Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership (TWLIP) which works to improve settlement services for newcomers in the Toronto West area, Social Planning Toronto continued to support two Action Groups. The Train-the-Trainer Action Group became the Lead for TWLIP's City-wide Project. TWLIP worked collaboratively with the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), which provided an all-day train-the-trainer session on the OHRC's policy on removing the "Canadian experience" barrier. Thirty-seven settlement staff from the four LIP quadrants took the training. The training, which focuses on the discriminatory nature of employer requirements for "Canadian experience", is now being replicated across Toronto and hundreds of newcomers have been trained. TWLIP is in the process of compiling a final report on the work of the Train-the-Trainer Action Group.







## Central Etobicoke Hub Working Group

Social Planning Toronto continues to work with the CEHWG and is currently leading the hub feasibility study. Building on the preliminary work of the Etobicoke Youth Network, the CEHWG continues to advocate for the creation of a community-based, community-led hub which offers multiple services, programs and gathering space for the community. The CEHWG submitted their preliminary report and is currently in the research phase. The group also completed its visioning report which details the different hub models. The group continues to grow, and since August 2016 it has added multiple community partners while increasing awareness surrounding the need for a hub in the community.

## 1652 Keele Street Community Hub

For most of the year, Social Planning Toronto continued to play the lead coordination role at the 1652 Keele Street Community Hub, as it has done since the hub's inception over a decade ago. In November 2016, the City hired a new, full-time Hub coordinator for 1652 Keele Street. This was an important development in the life of our building and our collaboration, moving our partnership with the City to a new level.

## Community Engagement in Etobicoke

In December 2016, Social Planning Toronto established a new office in Etobicoke at the Arab Community Centre of Toronto. We are working closely with community leaders in Etobicoke to advance community development and address pressing community needs.

# REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITOR ON THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

## To the Members, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

The accompanying summary financial statements, which comprise the summary statement of financial position as at December 31, 2016, and the summary statement of operations for the year then ended, are derived from the audited financial statements of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2016. We expressed an unmodified audit opinion on those financial statements in our report dated April 11, 2017. Those financial statements, and the summary financial statements, do not reflect the effects of events that occurred subsequent to the date of our report on those financial statements. The summary financial statements do not contain all the disclosures required by Canadian generally accepted accounting principles. Reading the summary financial statements, therefore, is not a substitute for reading the audited financial statements of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto.

## Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation of a summary of the audited financial statements in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

## Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the summary financial statements based on our procedures, which were conducted in accordance with Canadian Auditing Standard (CAS) 810, "Engagements to Report on Summary Financial Statements."

## Opinion

In our opinion, the summary financial statements derived from the audited financial statements of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto for the year ended December 31, 2016 are a fair summary of those financial statements, in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

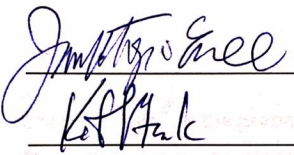
Chartered Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants  
April 11, 2017  
Toronto, Ontario

# SUMMARIZED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2016

	2016	2015
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current assets</b>		
Cash	\$337,085	\$301,620
Short-term investments	11,767	11,644
Accounts receivable	73,167	64,316
Prepaid expenses and deposits	<u>23,640</u>	<u>58,352</u>
	445,659	435,932
<b>Capital assets</b>		
		1,145
Investment in Public Interest	<u>83,000</u>	
	\$528,659	\$437,077
<b>LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$46,159	\$74,406
Deferred project funds	<u>87,913</u>	<u>82,638</u>
	134,072	157,044
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
Unrestricted	<u>394,587</u>	<u>280,033</u>
	<u>\$528,659</u>	<u>\$437,077</u>

Approved on behalf of the Board:

 Jasmin Earle, Director  
 Kate Stark, Director



# STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

			2016	2015
	General Operations	Projects	Total	Total
<b>REVENUE</b>				
United Way	\$623,640	\$130,000	\$753,640	\$738,140
City of Toronto	392,410	52,674	445,084	495,340
Donations and other				
Fundraising	94,296	950	95,246	9,820
Fees for services		73,096	73,096	26,183
Government of Canada		63,497	63,497	44,285
Membership fees	36,059	22,456	58,515	61,100
Foundation grants		47,500	47,500	186,778
Other income	<u>14,845</u>	<u>6,333</u>	<u>21,178</u>	<u>38,529</u>
	<u>1,161,250</u>	<u>396,506</u>	<u>1,557,756</u>	<u>1,600,175</u>
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries and benefits	738,351	268,338	1,006,689	969,491
Building occupancy	142,695	21,481	164,176	162,351
Office and administration	117,623	7,939	125,562	97,839
Program	22,640	42,861	65,501	159,634
Purchased services	12,471	32,703	45,174	41,369
Travel	13,827	3,477	17,304	13,946
Events and fundraising	873	5,189	6,062	20,230
Other	<u>10,270</u>	<u>2,464</u>	<u>12,734</u>	<u>7,740</u>
	<u>1,058,750</u>	<u>384,452</u>	<u>1,443,202</u>	<u>1,472,600</u>
Excess of revenue over expenses from operations	102,500	12,054	114,554	127,575
Charges for administrative support	<u>12,054</u>	<u>-12,054</u>		
<b>EXCESS OF REVENUE OVER EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR</b>				
	<u>\$114,554</u>		<u>\$114,554</u>	<u>\$127,575</u>

# OUR PEOPLE

## Staff:



Sean Meagher  
Executive Director



Mohamed Ismail  
Financial Manager



Maria Serrano  
Director of  
Operations



Israt Ahmed  
Senior Community  
Planner



Mohammad Araf  
Researcher and  
Policy Analyst



Carl Carganilla  
Communications  
Specialist



Richard DeGaetano  
Community Planner\*\*\*



YesheWamebrat  
Desta  
Research and Policy  
Assistant



Cutty Duncan  
Project  
Co-ordinator, ANC –  
Mt. Dennis



Anteneh Gedamu  
Research and Policy  
Assistant\*\*



Yasmin Haq Khan  
Community Planner



Dimetros Jemere  
Community  
Outreach and  
Planning Assistant\*\*



Ravi Joshi  
Communications  
Officer



Susan Kwong  
Community Planner



Mary Micallef  
Program Support



Sharma Queiser  
Researcher and  
Policy Analyst



Ajay Ram  
Community Planner



Talisha Ramsaroop  
Community Planner



Shahina Sayani  
Community Planner



Ryan Tilley  
Program Assistant  
(Membership)



Beth Wilson  
Senior Researcher  
and Policy Analyst

## Board Members:

Jasmin Earle, Chair  
Brigitte Bardeau  
Karen Bell, Member-at-Large  
Jennifer Hollett  
Brian Eng  
Alix Freiler  
Tahira Gonsalves  
Nancy Henderson, Vice-Chair\*  
Dana James  
Tyler Johnson  
Tania Liu, Treasurer\*  
Jason Merai  
Ginelle Skerritt, Secretary  
Kate Stark, Member-at-Large  
Sophia Wang  
John Willis\*

Resigned \*

Contract Completed \*\*

Retired \*\*\*

## Sustaining Organizational Members and Partners:

Laidlaw Foundation  
West Neighbourhood House  
COSTI Immigrant Services  
Parkdale Community Legal Services  
The Neighbourhood Group  
Aisling Discoveries Child and Family Centre  
WoodGreen Community Services  
Yonge Street Mission  
YWCA Toronto  
Toronto Neighbourhood Centres  
VHA Home Healthcare

## Funders:

Atkinson Charitable Foundation  
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada  
City of Toronto  
Laidlaw Foundation  
Ontario Trillium Foundation  
Ontario Ministry of Community and Social  
Services  
United Way Toronto & York Region

## Volunteers, Students and Interns:

David Cross  
Sabrina De Araujo  
Dahab Ibrahim  
Matthew Sapin  
Rachel Padillo  
Eva Quattrini  
Samantha Morrison  
Mashail Imran  
Carl Carganilla  
Tam Goossen  
Rick Eagan  
John Myles  
Bryan Evans



## **MAIN OFFICE**

1001-2 Carlton St.  
Toronto, ON M5B 1J3  
Tel. 416.351.0095  
[info@socialplanningtoronto.org](mailto:info@socialplanningtoronto.org)  
[www.socialplanningtoronto.org](http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org)

## **SATELLITE OFFICES**

1366B Weston Rd.  
York, M6M 4R8  
Tel. 416.242.7031

209-555 Burnhamthorpe Rd.  
Etobicoke M9C 2Y3  
Tel. 416.231.7746 Ext. 222

1 Thorncliffe Pk Dr.  
East York M4H 1H9  
Tel. 416.887.6103