

Social Planning Toronto

Annual Report 2014-2015





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Social Planning Toronto

Downtown Office

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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





THE ONTARIO
TRILLIUM
FOUNDATION





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, neighbouhoods, voluntary and recreational activities, and in our politics.

Our Role

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Social Planning Toronto is:

- 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 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.

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
- 2. Public Education and Human Development
- 3. 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.





President's Message

Each year, with renewed energy, SPT pushes forward with various community campaigns, research initiatives, capacity-building projects and other activities. But this past year, we took on an additional challenge we embarked on a process of organizational review and renewal. And while the process is not yet complete - we'll be working towards some other important milestones in the coming year - we are very pleased with what has been accomplished so far and feel much strengthened by the effort. We look forward with excitement and eager anticipation to the next stages in this renewal process.

For the Board, high points along the way have been the extensive work done to update and strengthen our governance policies, re-focus and enhance our strategic planning processes and develop an evaluation framework that speaks in a more direct way to the unique work that social planning councils such as SPT do. Equally valuable were conversations we've

had over the year with a number of SPT members and other stakeholders. These have been very helpful in pinpointing important questions and opportunities for SPT to consider as we move into the future. We plan to expand these conversations as we launch a more extensive consultation process in the fall of 2015.

It is also important to note progress made by staff and community partners in advancing SPT's vision of 'a livable and affordable city' in several important areas. For example, our efforts have helped to build community support for poverty reduction, and through the Commitment to Community campaign we have ensured that vital community services and programs are supported in the city's annual budget. A big part of the story is the power of collaboration and the invaluable contributions that community partners and SPT's own members make to our success. We are particularly pleased to see the growth in our membership over the past year.

Without question our biggest challenge was the loss of our Executive Director John Campey, who provided dynamic leadership to our organization over the past 11 years. John made enormous contributions to SPT over this period and his presence will be missed. We are happy to know, however, that the community services sector will still have the benefit of his services in his new role as Executive Director of the

Ralph Thornton Centre. The search for John's successor is almost complete and we anticipate making an announcement soon. In the meantime, we are delighted that Winston Tinglin, SPT's former Director of Community Engagement, has returned to serve as Interim Executive Director.

At SPT we are fortunate to have a dedicated. creative staff team and a skillful, committed and supportive Board and governance structure. In particular, I would like to acknowledge the outstanding contribution made by Mike Creek during his 6 years as a Board member, a past Board Vice-President, and a leader on a number of Board committees and key SPT initiatives. We will also miss the contribution made by two valued former staff members, Leslie Johnston and Navjeet Sidhu and wish them all the very best in their future.

Altogether, it's been a year of many accomplishments, one in which we confronted several challenges and got a great deal done. The coming year will doubtless bring new challenges, but also exciting prospects: in essence, the start of a new journey. We invite you to join us.

Miriam DiGiuseppe

President Board of Directors

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Executive Director's Report

It's a pleasure to provide this report on developments over the past year. Overall, 2014 saw significant gains in key areas in which Social Planning Toronto (SPT) had been working for some time.

For example, SPT's continuing call for action to address growing poverty in the city highlighted the need for a wellcoordinated, city-wide strategy to deal with underlying issues and open up real paths out of poverty. City Council's unanimous vote in April 2014, supporting the development of such a strategy, was a big step forward. The work undertaken since then has clearly underscored the seriousness of that commitment. Another example is the Commitment to Community (C2C) campaign. Efforts of this collaboration - involving a cross-section of agencies and community groups across the city - led to measurable gains for community services in the city's budget allocations.

Of note were increased investments in community grants, student nutrition and recreation programs for youth.

Considerable progress was made in other areas as well. With voters going to the polls for provincial and municipal elections, SPT led the way on voter education and civic engagement: 38 fact sheets on topics identified by community partners as issues of high interest to residents were researched and distributed widely, some in 16 nonofficial languages. Through the SPT-led Toronto Civic Literacy Collaborative, 20 train-the-trainer workshops were held across the city. Trainers then followed up by leading educational sessions in their own communities. In North Etobicoke, the **Northwest Transit Action** coalition, with SPT's support, has been actively working to increase access to public transit for communities in Toronto's somewhat isolated northwest. SPT's Action for Neighbourhood Change - Mount Dennis, through the Irving Tissue Project, worked to support local economic development by connecting local youth with well-paying, secure employment.

Most of these efforts were anchored by Toronto focused background data, research, and policy analysis carried out by SPT's research team. SPT's research often sheds light on aspects of major issues not otherwise covered in larger provincewide or national studies.



For example, The Hidden Epidemic: A Report on Child and Family Poverty in *Toronto* provided the first comprehensive report on child poverty in Toronto since 2008. Another report, The Economy and Resilience of Newcomers: Exploring Newcomer Entrepreneurship, offered new insights on newcomer self-employment in Toronto and its links with employment precarity. A third 2014 report revealed that large employers, in contrast to expectations, are five times more likely to pay minimum wages than small employers. The year also saw the launch of a new research partnership to study youth access to recreational and community space.

A recap of the year's activities would be incomplete without noting Community Services Day (October 6) at City Hall, hosted by the Commitment to Community campaign. Over 150 people participated in this event at which SPT's report Building Community: The City of Toronto's Investment in Nonprofit Community Services in Toronto report was released. The York Youth Coalition, coordinated by SPT, gained momentum in 2014 and continues to serve its community well.

So, yes, there is much good news to report on the year we have left behind. But that year also had its challenges. We lost two members of our research team - Navjeet Sidhu and Lesley Johnston - have moved on in new directions. We thank them sincerely for their contributions and

wish them the best in their new career pursuits. We were pleased to welcome on board two new researchers, Mohammad Araf and Annie Peng, who have been fully engaged since their arrival and have become an integral part of the SPT family.

By year's end, we said goodbye to John Campey, **SPT's Executive Director** for the past 11 years. We'll not only miss John's committed leadership on several important social issues, but also his inimitable and rather infectious sense of humour, that often lightens even the most awkward moments. We wish you well in your new role as Executive Director of the Ralph Thornton Centre, John, and are happy to know you're just a stone's throw away and still available to the community sector.

Winston H. Tinglin

Interim Executive Director



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Program Highlights: Research

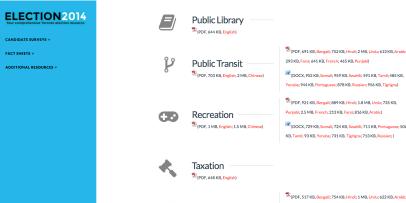
Voter Education

2014 was a big year for elections with voters going to the polls for provincial, municipal and school board elections! SPT created 38 election fact sheets to help inform voters about crucial issues affecting our communities. With the amazing contribution of community partners, the fact sheets were translated into over a dozen languages. SPT election resources are widely used for public education and election training sessions. SPT also conducted a survey of candidates in the Toronto **City Council and Toronto District School Board to** let voters know where their candidates stand on important community issues. Over 170 candidates took part. Election fact sheets and both long-form and summarized candidate responses were made available online on SPT's one-stop Toronto election resource hub, http://election2014.ca.

Community Services Day

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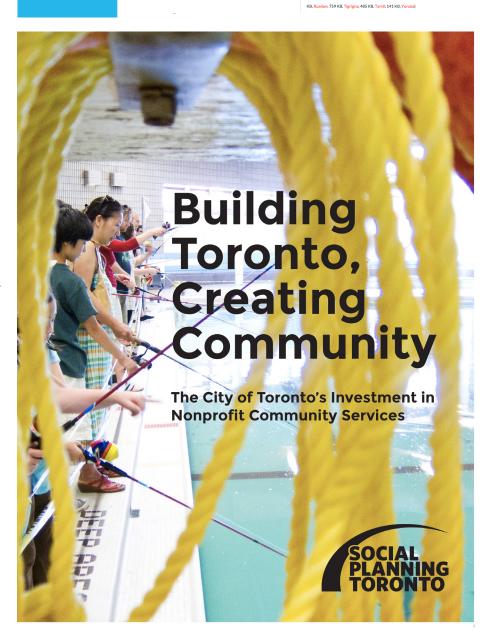
On October 6, SPT and the Commitment 2 Community Campaign hosted Community Services Day at City Hall a day proclaimed by Mayor Ford in honour of the sector's vital contributions.



Seniors

[PDF, 415 KB, English; 390 KB, Chine

(DOCX 780 KB Somali: 782 KB Swahili: 762 KB Portuguese: 749



05



Just over 150 people took part in the event which included the release of SPT's report, Building Toronto, Creating Community: The City of Toronto's Investment in Nonprofit Community Services in Toronto. The report highlights the transformative work of community organizations across Toronto and the essential role of the City of Toronto as a partner in, contributor to and funder of Toronto's nonprofit community services.

Toronto's Hidden Epidemic

SPT, Children's Aid Society of Toronto, Family Service Toronto, Colour of Poverty - Colour of Change, and the Alliance for a Poverty-Free Toronto released the first comprehensive report on child and family poverty in Toronto since 2008. The Hidden Epidemic: A Report on Child and Family Poverty in Toronto brought public and political attention to the disturbing reality of child poverty in Toronto which affects 29% of Toronto's children with even higher rates for Aboriginal and racialized children.

Triple Threat to Equity Campaign

SPT plays a lead role in the Triple Threat to Equity Campaign which aims to safeguard and improve education funding to support programs for marginalized students and English as a Second Language students at the **Toronto District School** Board. We also advocate for greater transparency in financial reporting at the TDSB to ensure that provincial funds intended to address equity issues are used accordingly. Responding to the call, TDSB passed a motion in 2014 to allocate more of the ESL and Learning **Opportunities Grant funds** to ESL and Model Schools for Inner Cities initiative. It also committed to improve transparency in financial reporting.

Self-Employed Newcomers: Resilience and Precarity

SPT and Newcomer Women's Services Toronto released The Economy and Resilience of Newcomers: **Exploring Newcomer** Entrepreneurship, a community-based research study on newcomer selfemployment in Toronto. The report highlights previously unpublished Statistics Canada data and results from a series of qualitative in-depth interviews with self-employed newcomers. service providers, cultural business associations and financial institutions. The report shows the growing level of precarity as selfemployment becomes the new social safety net.





Exploring Newcomer Entrepreneurship





TWCA Toronto Women's City Alliance Making Equality Matter.

Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage

SPT, working with community members and partners, provides research and organizing support for the Campaign to Raise the Minimum Wage. SPT's 2014 research revealed that large employers are five times more likely to pay minimum wage than small ones. **Thousands of Ontarians** across the province raised their voices calling for the Province to "melt the freeze" on the minimum wage, resulting in an increase to \$11 an hour and importantly, new legislation to index the rate to inflation. SPT is glad to add its support to the new campaign calling for "\$15 and Fairness"!

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City Budget Watch and SPT Budget Forums

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SPT's City Budget Watch provides insight, analysis and updates on the City of Toronto's annual budget process. Through its budget process, Toronto City Council makes critical decisions that affect the lives of Toronto residents - funding to vital community services, student nutrition, recreation, housing and homelessness, public transit, public libraries and much more. Budget Watch -

sent to subscribers via email and posted on the SPT website - helps community members make sense of the City's complicated budget process, engage in the process and voice their concerns and priorities for Toronto. SPT hosted three City budget forums in downtown Toronto, Scarborough and York bringing together community, sector experts, and political leaders to inform and engage residents in this important process.

Program Highlights: Community Engagement and Partnership Initiatives

Toronto Civic Literacy Collaborative

This collaborative facilitated voter education and engagement in the 2014 election. SPT and partners -**Toronto Neighbourhood** Centres, and the Alternative Planning Groups's Hispanic **Development Council, African Canadian Social** Development Council. **Chinese Canadian National** Council (Toronto Division), **Council for Agencies Serving** South Asians, and Toronto **Aboriginal Social Service** Council - provided 20 train-the-trainer workshops, created 38 fact sheets on key municipal issues and other resources to facilitate voter participation. Partners also produced creative videos and organized Democracy Festivals to celebrate first time voting in the community.

Resident Engagement: Commitment 2 Community (C2C)

C2C had a busy year, especially with work pertaining to the 2014 city budget. Its efforts brought positive results: an inflationary adjustment in PIP grants, and increased investments in childcare, student nutrition, and recreation programs. C2C also facilitated greater civic engagement by residents through 12 training sessions on community and municipal budget issues, and through information sessions and fact sheets shared widely with community groups. C2C also hosted five budget town halls: these enabled many more people to participate actively in the city's budget process.

Creating Local Employment Opportunities

Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) - Mount Denis, with the United Way's support, partnered with Yorktown Family Services, George Brown College, and the City of Toronto to develop an innovative program connecting youth aged 19-29 with good paying, secure, local employment. Irving Tissue, a local manufacturer, was the first employer to join the program, where youth receive skills upgrading and specialized training to become eligible for internships at Irving Tissue, following which they would be employed by the

company. Ten youth are currently participating in the pilot project. With more local jobs for youth in Weston-Mount Dennis as more employers join the program, the availability of local employment will improve the community as a whole.

Tackling Poverty: Alliance for a PovertyFree Toronto (APT)

In 2014, significant strides were made to move forward APT's goal to eliminate poverty in Toronto. The big result of advocacy work was City Council's motion to develop a poverty reduction strategy for the city. APT was also successful in getting all mayoral candidates in the 2014 municipal elections to pledge their commitment to developing a poverty reduction strategy if elected. APT also partnered with Children's Aid Society (CAS) Toronto and SPT in the publication of a new child poverty report in the fall. This effort highlighted the need for action to address poverty in Toronto.

Fostering Youth Leadership: York Youth Coalition (YYC)

YYC made significant strides in 2014, community building with residents, youth, and youth/community workers, aided by a Trillium Foundation grant. YYC's ongoing training sessions helped to empower residents to speak out and advocate on matters important to their communities, to play leadership

roles, and work with others to create stronger and healthier neighbourhoods.

Toronto Community Development Institute (TCDI)

With SPT providing coordination support, TCDI held two well-attended public forums: Art Becomes Change and Youth Becomes Change. TCDI also provided organizational support to George Brown College's annual Tommy Douglas Institute, where it mounted a Democracy Wall interactive display. Customized training sessions were developed and delivered to the Women for Change board of directors and to community assistants at Neill-Wycik. TCDI plans to continue its focus on infield learning and knowledge sharing.

Planning for Improved Settlement Services

As a member of The **Toronto West Local Immigration Partnership** (TWLIP), SPT contributes to the ongoing planning and coordination of settlement services for newcomers to the city. As well, SPT worked with community partners on two new projects in 2014. One focused on promoting newcomer civic participation through workshops for residents on the roles of municipal and provincial governments. The second project involved working to develop curriculum and informational resources on the Ontario Human Rights

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Commission's (OHRC)
new policy, declaring it
discriminatory to ask
newcomers for 'Canadian
Experience' as a requirement
for employment. These
resources will be
widely distributed.

Transit Action in Toronto's Northwest

Northwest Transit Action is a new coalition formed, with SPT's assistance, to improve and expand transit service on the Finch line and other lines in the Northwest. The coalition has been very busy producing information materials, developing workshops, organizing speaking engagements, and coordinating public forums to educate residents on transit issues that influence them. They have also been engaging local politicians and other leaders on the benefits of good public transit, building support for early action.



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Independent Auditor's Report

To the Members, Community Social Planning Council of Toronto

Report on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto which comprise the statement of financial position as at December 31, 2014, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements. whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Community Social Planning Council of Toronto as at December 31, 2014, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for- profit organizations.*

Cowperthwaite Mehta

Chartered Accountants Licensed Public Accountants April 14, 2015

* Note: The Statement of Financial Position and the Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets on the following pages were provided by Cowperthwaite Mehta as parts of their Independent Auditor's Report of Social Planning Toronto. We have copied the text exactly, word-forword, and matched it to our report design.

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Statement of Financial Position

As At	Decem	ber 31	, 2014
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•	2014	2013
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash	\$ 168,519	\$ 45,766
Short-term investments (note 3)	11,370	11,370
Sales and property taxes recoverable	28,132	37,830
Grants receivable	37,226	52,531
Other amounts receivable	13,047	11,722
Prepaid expenses and	<u>33,594</u>	<u>34,129</u>
deposits	291,888	193,348
Capital Assets (note 4)	2,290	864
Trust funds administered	<u>42,651</u>	26,800
for others, net (note 5)	\$ 336,829	\$ 221,012

Liabilities

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Current liabilities Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 68,878	\$ 52,908
Deferred project funds (note 6)	<u>72,842</u> 141,720	32,859 85,767
Trust funds administered for	42,651	26,800
others, net (note 5) Net assets	184,371	<u>112,567</u>
Unrestricted	\$ 152,458 <u>336,829</u>	\$ 108,445 221,012

Approved on behalf of the Board: Miriam DiGiuseppe, Director Anshula Ohri, Director

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Statement of Operations and Changes in Net Assets

For the Year Ended December 31, 2014

				20	014	2	013
Revenue	General Operations	S	Projects		Total		Total
United Way grant City of Toronto Foundation grants Membership fees Fees for services Government of Canada Donations and fundraising Event registrations Other income Expenses	\$ 623,640 376,110 0 44,569 0 0 13,157 0 13,683 1,071,159	\$	100,300 77,284 176,494 20,411 56,644 42,439 2,532 4,845 2,824 483,773	\$	723,940 453,394 176,494 64,980 56,644 42,439 15,689 4,845 16,507 1,554,932	\$	758,415 413,415 190,727 47,065 15,322 65,645 46,365 21,225 13,650 1,571,829
Salaries and benefits Program Building occupancy Office,administration (note 4) Events and fundraising Purchased services Travel Insurance Professional fees Staff development Other	749,776 29,917 140,108 81,316 0 13,977 11,809 6,556 7,047 1,621 8,226 1,050,393		245,621 160,979 18,765 13,663 16,634 2,619 1,978 0 0 0 267 460,526		995,397 190,896 158,873 94,979 16,634 13,596 13,787 6,556 7,047 1,621 8,553 1,510,919		1,027,190 168,986 161,454 99,914 38,748 32,107 15,020 6,490 5,821 3,386 7,093 1,566,209
Excess of revenue over expenses from operations	20,766		23,247		44,013		5,620
Charges from administrative support	23,247		(23,247)		<u>0</u>		<u>o</u>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses for the Year	44,013		0		44,013		5,620
Net assets, beginning of year	108,445		<u>0</u>		108,445		102,825
Net Assets, End of Year	\$ <u>152,458</u>	\$	<u>0</u>	\$	<u>152,458</u>	\$	108,445

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Board Members

Jan Armstrong*

Member-at-Large, **Executive Committee**

Brigitte Bardeau Karen Bell

> Chair, Governance Committee

Alina Chatterjee* Michael Creek

Member-at-Large

Miriam DiGiuseppe

President

Jasmin Earle

Chair, Access and **Equity Committee**

Brian Eng Charles Finlay

Vice President

Alix Freiler

Chair. Research **Advisory Committee**

Tahira Gonsalves Viji Hariharan **Nancy Henderson** Anshula Ohri

Treasurer

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Sara Shahsiah **Ginelle Skerritt**

Secretary

Staff

Israt Ahmed

Senior Community Planner

John Campey*

Executive Director

Richard DeGaetano

Community Planner

Cutty Duncan

Project Coordinator. ANC - Mt. Dennis

Yasmin Haq

Community Planner

Mohamed Ismail

Financial Manager

Lesley Johnston*

Researcher

Sarah Matsushita*

Communications Officer

Mary Micallef

Program Support

Araf Mohammad

Researcher

Annie Peng

Researcher

Rebecca Phinnemore

Community Outreach and Planning Assistant

Sabrina Scott

Communications Officer

Maria Serrano

Director of Operations

Navjeet Sidhu*

Researcher

Besrat Solomon

Bookkeeper

Ryan Tilley

Program Assistant (Membership)

Winston Tinglin

Interim Executive Director

Tolga Tolun

Communications Specialist

Shadya Yasin

York Youth Coalition

Coordinator

Ramsen Yousif

Researcher & Policy **Analyst Assistant**

Beth Wilson

Senior Researcher

Volunteers, Students. and Interns

Nadlyn Bonsu Giovanna Campana **David Cross**

Vicky Zhao Dong Rick Eagen

Bryan Evans

Claire Gatto

Tam Goosen

Danielle Jamieson

Isabel Luciano

Skylar Maharaj

Imogen Mercer **Sinead Petrasek**

Susele Rodriguez

Erin Shaw Jennifer Turner **Raven Williams** Armine Yalnizyan

Sustaining **Organizational Members and Partners**

A.C.C.E.S.

Central Neighborhood

House

East Metro Youth Services

Fred Victor Centre

Intl. Brotherhood of

Electrical Workers LU 353

St. Christopher House

St. Stephen's Community

House

Toronto Neighbourhood

Centres

Warden Woods Community

Centre

VHA Home Healthcare

Funders

Atkinson Charitable

Foundation

Citizenship and Immigration

Canada

City of Toronto

Metcalf Foundation

Ontario Trillium Foundation

Ontario Ministry of

Community and

Social Services

United Way Toronto

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^{*}Resigned/deceased

