



# ANNUAL REPORT

2019/2020



## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Thanks to the critical support of our core funders, organizational members, and supporters, the Social Planning Toronto team has led several important city-building initiatives over the past 15 months that have contributed to building a more progressive city. Here are just *some* highlights:

**City budget advocacy:** We released a foundational report that assessed the current state of the city after a decade of austerity and made the case for new revenue tools. Then, we organized an open letter to the City — signed by 76 leading organizations — calling for an end to austerity budgets. Our work was heavily referenced in the media, partner advocacy efforts, resident deputations, and in our own budget town hall and deputation training sessions. SPT's city budget leadership for over a decade contributed to a watershed moment in the 2020 city budget: Mayor Tory and City Council finally agreed to increase property taxes to invest in affordable housing and transit, and began to take positive steps toward the vacant homes tax and a commercial parking levy.

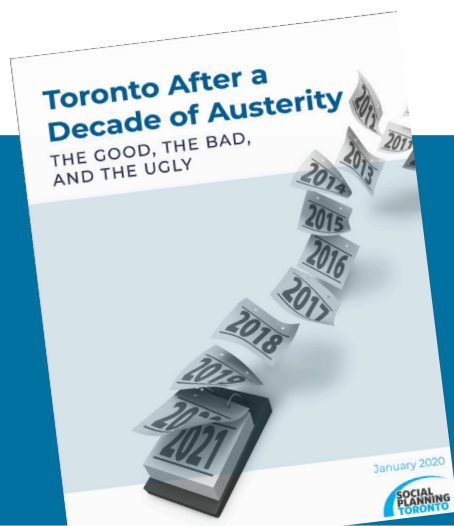
**Affordable housing:** SPT supported 555 residents — in Flemingdon Park, Thorncliffe Park, Scarborough, and Jane/Finch — in having their voices heard in the consultation process that informed the development of the HousingTO 2020–2030 Action Plan, supported the affordable housing advocacy efforts of several neighbourhood-level coalitions, and released a timely report on National Housing Day in which we urged caution in the implementation of the Canada Housing Benefit in 2020 based on the U.S. experience.

**Grassroots capacity-building:** We helped hundreds of residents strengthen their communities through a host of trainings and development workshops for recipients of Neighbourhood Grants (a City of Toronto program).

**Civic engagement advocacy:** SPT convened sector partners to put forward a joint submission and deputations to the City's Special Committee on Governance to ensure that Council, while now effectively cut in half, is held accountable on transparency, inclusiveness, and good democratic process.

**Sector resilience:** In partnership with Toronto Neighbourhood Centres, we supported 40 local nonprofits serving some of our most marginalized residents in meeting the newly revised eligibility requirements for continued City of Toronto funding.

**Sector recognition:** On behalf of the Toronto Nonprofit Network (TNN), we launched Toronto's inaugural "Not-for-Profit Recognition Day" (proclaimed by Mayor Tory on October 2, 2019) — with participation from over 300 nonprofit organizations — and built a diverse and expanded TNN Steering Committee.





## Then came the COVID-19 pandemic.

Like everyone else, it took us a bit of time to adjust to this new reality. We closed the office and adapted to working from home. Then we jumped in full strength: lending a helping hand to several of our partner organizations, producing accessible websites sharing COVID-19 information, supporting the City and United Way of Greater Toronto as a key member of the hugely successful Community Coordination Plan, leading a sector-wide submission to the City by 55 nonprofit agencies and advocacy groups across Toronto proposing recovery and rebuild solutions, partnering with the City to consult with 1,457 residents from underserved communities to ensure that community voices are a key part of the road to recovery, and releasing a major report on senior poverty in Toronto at a time when our seniors are facing even greater risks to their lives and well-being.

The confluence of the pandemic, increasing climate change devastation, and racial injustice has led to extremely inequitable degrees of suffering and halted progress on some issues, but it has also accelerated our collective appetite for change.

Progress on new revenue tools for the City has stalled, but the shift away from austerity and toward investment has begun. The governance review that we called for didn't materialize, but the City has made tremendous progress in the past six months in engaging and serving residents that are the most underserved and systemically marginalized. We didn't get to build on last year's Not-for-Profit Recognition Day campaign, but the true value of our sector is finally starting to be understood. And SPT's long-standing work to address poverty and inequity in Toronto is now understood, and embraced by, more and more people in our beloved city.

As my time with Social Planning Toronto comes to an end, I'd like to thank the staff, partners, funders, and Board members who have worked tirelessly to build a better city. Thanks to you, I am even more convinced now that a better city *is* possible.

With gratitude and respect,



**Devika Shah**  
Executive Director, Social Planning Toronto



## CHAIR'S MESSAGE

As I complete my term as Chair of the Social Planning Toronto Board, I am reflecting on the highs and lows of the journey, and all the parts in between. What remains clear is that through it all, SPT has never stopped fighting for a city where everyone can live with dignity, security, and hope.

Now, as a result of the global pandemic, we and our partners have been joined by many more voices in tackling inequity and poverty — issues that have been elevated within our public discourse in recent months. SPT is one of those special organizations that can translate these aspirations into pragmatic solutions. As the whole world faces an increasingly turbulent and uncertain future, I have never been more convinced that an organization like Social Planning Toronto has an absolutely crucial role to play in shaping the city that we need to become.

I am proud of how much the SPT team has accomplished since the last AGM. I encourage you to follow us on social media and subscribe to our email updates, as that is the best way to engage with us in real time.

I would like to thank Devika Shah for her strong leadership of Social Planning Toronto and welcome Caryl Arundel, our incoming Interim Executive Director. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of our staff, who remained flexible and willing to adapt to new work demands as SPT navigated the turbulence of the pandemic and worked to add value to our sector's efforts to maintain services.

Another big thank you goes out to our sector partners and our funders, who have stood with SPT as we have worked through a few years of leadership transitions. Many of you have offered us guidance and feedback on how we could do better. I am also delighted to be passing the torch to a renewed Board of Directors, who collectively represent a breadth of city-building expertise and activism. I am confident that with Caryl and the Board's steady hand at the wheel, SPT is in extremely capable hands.

It has been an honour to serve you. Though I am stepping down from my role as Chair, SPT and the work we do has always been, and will remain, near and dear to me.

Sincerely yours,



**Jasmin Earle**  
Chair, Social Planning Toronto



THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS:



## WHO IS SPT?

### OUR BOARD

Jasmin Earle, Chair  
 Dan Abrahams, Vice-Chair  
 Daniel Fridmar, Vice-Chair  
 Don Altman, Treasurer  
 Brigitte Bardeau  
 Amanda Bland\*  
 Joseph Bornstein\*  
 Diana Campbell\*

Natasha Crowcroft\*  
 Celia Denov  
 Alix Freiler  
 Yonis Hassan\*  
 Dana James\*  
 Alex Kocherga\*  
 Rev. John Mastendrea  
 Arabind Nanda\*

Jasmine Ramze Rezaee\*  
 Tracey Rees\*  
 Hana Saab  
 Kate Stark\*, Member-at-Large  
 Shannon Wiens  
 John Willis

\* former Board member

### OUR MANAGEMENT & STAFF

#### MANAGEMENT TEAM

Executive Director: Devika Shah  
 Director of Operations: Maria Serrano  
 Financial Manager: Mohamed Ismail  
 Financial Manager: Khalid Asad\*

#### STAFF TEAM

Program Support: Mary Micallef  
 Membership Coordinator: Ryan Tilley  
 Communications Coordinator: Lisa Ferguson

#### Research & Policy

Senior Researcher & Policy Analyst: Beth Wilson  
 Researchers & Policy Analysts: Sharma Queiser,  
 Angelica de Jesus-Bretschneider  
 Research & Policy Assistant: Leah Nicholson\*

#### Community Planning

Senior Community Planners: Israt Ahmed,  
 Shahina Sayani  
 Community Planners: Yasmin Haq Khan (retired),  
 Saroja Ponnambalam, Neemarie Alam\*

#### Neighbourhood Grants

Ambassadors: Sarah Ali,  
 Priya Hawkins

#### Placement Students

Ayan Jama\*, Kirstyn Motyliwski\*,  
 Leah Nicholson\*, Riju Samuel\*,  
 Keisha St. Louis-McBurnie\*,  
 Rebecca Tom\*, Lisa Yang

#### Volunteer

David Cross

\* former team member



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# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS\*

COMMUNITY SOCIAL PLANNING COUNCIL OF TORONTO

## STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

AS AT DECEMBER 31, 2019

	2019	2018
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 505,579	\$328,926
Accounts receivable	29,020	30,137
Grants receivable	3,678	93,970
Prepaid expenses and deposits	18,142	23,767
	<b>556,419</b>	<b>476,800</b>
<b>TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>40,735</b>
	<b>\$ 562,486</b>	<b>\$517,535</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	\$ 15,863	\$45,036
Deferred project funds	75,906	45,463
	<b>91,769</b>	<b>90,499</b>
<b>TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED FOR OTHERS</b>	<b>6,067</b>	<b>40,735</b>
	<b>97,836</b>	<b>131,234</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		
<b>UNRESTRICTED</b>	<b>464,650</b>	<b>386,301</b>
	<b>\$562,486</b>	<b>\$517,535</b>

**\* NOTE:**

These statements have been extracted from the full set of audited financial statements (available upon request).

**Hogg, Shain & Scheck PC**

*Authorized to practice public accounting by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario*

Toronto, Ontario

May 12, 2020

## STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS & CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

### YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2019

	General Operations	Projects	2019	2018
<b>REVENUES</b>				
City of Toronto	\$418,595	\$445,514	<b>\$864,109</b>	\$678,322
United Way	632,995	25,000	<b>657,995</b>	730,659
Government of Canada	-	54,334	<b>54,334</b>	84,402
Membership fees	44,176	7,584	<b>51,760</b>	48,100
Fees for services	-	45,357	<b>45,357</b>	23,065
Other income	34,753	-	<b>34,753</b>	17,327
Foundation grants	-	22,000	<b>22,000</b>	198,319
Donations & other fundraising	21,587	226	<b>21,813</b>	30,269
	1,152,106	600,015	<b>1,752,121</b>	1,810,463
<b>EXPENSES</b>				
Salaries & benefits	740,877	380,191	<b>1,121,068</b>	1,114,827
Building occupancy	161,392	8,178	<b>169,570</b>	177,568
Purchased services	37,508	58,370	<b>95,878</b>	253,099
Program supplies	24,697	52,548	<b>77,245</b>	95,768
Office & administration	71,929	10,929	<b>82,858</b>	80,389
Provision for bad debts	43,541	-	<b>43,541</b>	30,754
Professional fees	26,461	-	<b>26,461</b>	41,502
Travel	12,596	9,971	<b>22,567</b>	19,250
Other	10,022	1,262	<b>11,284</b>	15,125
	1,129,023	521,449	<b>1,650,472</b>	1,828,282
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS</b>	23,083	78,566	<b>101,649</b>	(17,819)
<b>OTHER INCOME (EXPENSES)</b>				
Charges for administrative support	78,566	(78,566)	-	-
Loss on equity investment	(23,300)	-	<b>(23,300)</b>	(61,150)
	55,266	(78,566)	<b>(23,300)</b>	(61,150)
<b>EXCESS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES</b>	78,349	-	<b>78,349</b>	(78,969)
<b>NET ASSETS – BEGINNING OF YEAR</b>	386,301	-	<b>386,301</b>	465,270
<b>NET ASSETS – END OF YEAR</b>	\$464,650	-	<b>\$464,650</b>	\$386,301

Approved on behalf of the Board:

  
Jasmin Earle, Chair

  
Don Altman, Treasurer

## 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.

Learn how SPT is advancing our mission at [www.socialplanningtoronto.org](http://www.socialplanningtoronto.org)



## 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.

**A mobilizer** of community leaders, residents, and organizations to improve equity, inclusivity, and quality of life in the city.

**An advocate** with policy makers, agencies, and institutional leaders for improved facilities, social and economic conditions, and access to jobs and services.

**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.



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