



Executive Director's Message

The last year was one of solid accomplishments for the Human Development Council and I'm optimistic that the next 12 months will be just as productive. Our mission statement is "to coordinate and promote social development in greater Saint John" – our agenda is full.

A new provincial government was sworn in last fall. It has set its sights on "transformational" change and is studying or awaiting the findings of three provincial task forces: self sufficiency, post secondary education and the non-profit sector. The latter, chaired by Claudette Bradshaw, is particularly relevant to our members. In February, the HDC convened a community meeting to discuss the challenges facing the sector and to recommend changes in the way the non-profit sector works with the provincial government. The issues are well known – the decline/absence of predictable, sustainable ("core") funding, the excessive accountability features built into most project funding, the increasing demands placed on the service sector, the low level of pay and benefits and the need for succession planning. We await the release of her report with the hope and guarded expectation that meaningful change will follow.

Locally, the regional economy is gearing up to be an energy "hub". The LNG terminal at Mispic, the Point Lepreau nuclear power plant refurbishment and the proposed Eider Rock oil refinery project in Red Head are evidence of this new focus. A new federal Justice Complex and ongoing Waterfront Development are examples of further economic activity. Improved economic opportunities with good paying jobs are welcomed in Saint John. We need them. Our poverty rate is shamefully high. In 2001, 24.5% of Saint John's residents lived in poverty with incomes below Statistics Canada's Low Income Cutoff. That figure was down slightly from the 27% level in 1996. Next year we will learn what the poverty level was in 2006. It's unlikely to fall below 20% - or one in five of our City's residents.

We've lived through "mega-projects" and economic booms before without a serious dent in the level of poverty. How can we ensure that the rising tides that are supposed to lift all, reach high enough to benefit the entire community? A priority over the short term should be to plan and implement private and public projects with a poverty lens so that our vulnerable residents, concentrated in a handful of neighborhoods, can see an improvement in their incomes. A renewed focus on our neighborhoods is essential - the Canadian Council on Social Development is set to release new research that shows that Saint John now leads the country in the concentration of poverty, surpassing Montreal.

If we do not address inadequate incomes, then the gap between our rich and poor will only widen. And it's wide enough! Last fall the HDC released the first New Brunswick

Child and Family Poverty Report Card. Among the findings was the fact that the top ten percent of families with children in the province earned, on average, more than \$255,000; the lowest ten percent of families with children earned a little more than \$16,000. New Brunswick's top ten percent earned more than the top ten percent of any other province! Income inequality is a growing concern.

Over the last year the HDC concentrated on its four core functions of providing information to connect people to services (covered in Anne Driscoll's report), conducting research on issues of local importance, coordinating the non-profit sector and maintaining a network with local, provincial and national civil society organizations.

Along with the Child and Family Poverty Report Card (our first-ever publication in both official languages), we released Saint John 2006: Taking Stock, a full colour publication highlighting social and economic indicators in 10 core areas. We will build on this initiative this year, in partnership with the Greater Saint John Community Foundation, with the production of Vital Signs using, in part, the research we have conducted as part of UNBSJ's Community University Research Alliance (CURA). We anticipate that this will be an annual effort and part of a strengthened relationship with the Community Foundation. We improved our links to the university, supervising two economics students in the preparation of a research paper on a living wage. We hope to build on their work and, resources permitting, will plan a campaign to tackle income inadequacy in our community through the promotion of a living wage.

Our efforts to coordinate and promote social development included chairing the community's Homelessness Committee, the United Way's non-profit campaign and co-chairing the Urban Core Support Network and Vibrant Community's Research and Evaluation Committee (we also sit on their Coordinating Committee and Leadership Roundtable). We sit on the Board of the Community Loan Fund and continue to offer this effective organization office and administrative support. We sit on the Board of The Resource Centre for Youth. Our activities related to youth are covered by Kathryn Asher's report.

Our networks were strengthened over the year. We attended the first ever meeting of Social Planning Councils from Canada and the United States in Toronto, took the lead in New Brunswick for Campaign 2000, organized a workshop and maintained ongoing contact with the national Make Poverty History campaign and co-chaired the Community Health Promotion Network (Atlantic). The HDC sat on the conference committee and presented to the Canadian Alliance of Community Health Centre Associations in October.

I am pleased with our efforts over the last year. Thanks go to our staff, Anne Driscoll and Kathryn Asher, our Board of Directors, our summer students, volunteers and members.

Randall Hatfield
Executive Director

President's Message

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Staff of the Human Development Council, I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our Annual General Meeting.

The mission statement of the Human Development Council is to coordinate and promote social development in Greater Saint John. It seeks to achieve this by pursuing the following goals:

- Study and identify social needs within the community, and the services that exist to meet those needs;
- Advise and assist in planning and developing new services and improving existing ones;
- Initiate opportunities for joint action in the development, coordination, and delivery of services appropriate to community needs;
- Facilitate local citizens' access to information about community programs and services;
- Maintain the strength and vibrancy of the Human Development Council to ensure that the above goals are achieved.

These goals help us focus our work and I'm pleased to report that over the last year we have made progress in each and every one of them. As the accompanying reports indicate, our finances are solid, our research remains relevant and our information services have expanded. We have good reasons to be optimistic about the coming year.

I have enjoyed my two terms as President, and look forward to working with incoming President Jan Lockett, and new board members.

Finally, I would like to thank our staff, board members and volunteers for their efforts over the last year.

Mary Anne LeBlanc

PRIMARY FUNDERS

City of Saint John
N.B. Dept. of Family & Community Services
United Way of Greater Saint John

OTHER FUNDERS

N.B. Dept of Post Secondary Education, Training & Labour (summer student grants)
Sisters of Charity of the Immaculate Conception Service Canada (summer student grants)
Town of Grand Bay-Westfield

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Saint John Youth Cabinet

It has been a wonderful year on my end, from the Saint John Youth Cabinet's (SJYC) growth to some interesting projects on homelessness and social inclusion among youth.

Over the past year the SJYC has engaged in a number of initiatives, the first of which was Chalk the Walk to celebrate International Youth Week last May, which saw the steps of City Hall, the Market Square Boardwalk, and the City Market's entrance chalked with youth-themed sidewalk art.

Up next was the SJYC's trip to the 2006 Promoting Action Nationally – Creating Advocates Now (PAN-CAN) Youth Conference in Toronto in June. Our delegation raised close to \$5,000 in just over two months to attend this gathering, which was the first of its kind where youth cabinets converged in one city to network, build capacity, share experiences and best practices, and learn from various models of governance. We hope to build on this work by sending a delegation to this year's conference and exploring the possibility of hosting PAN-CAN 2008.

Next on the agenda was an Uptown cleanup and roundtable in July with Saint John Portland MLA and then-Minister of Environment Trevor Holder. During the cleanup we collected 60 lbs of debris along Charlotte Street (from King's Square to Rainbow Park). Later that day the Cabinet and guests from local youth organizations sat down in roundtable format with Mr. Holder to discuss a wide variety of topics.

The SJYC kept busy in August at the Live 8 NB: Rally in the Valley, which was a one-day community event at the Rothesay Commons to raise awareness for the Make Poverty History campaign. Later that month the Cabinet partnered with the TRC to host a free movie in King's Square. In the fall the SJYC took part in the KVHS Health Fair, which promoted a healthy lifestyle and good choices to teens.

To help spread the word about our group we have designed a logo and t-shirt that incorporates the City's Explorer logo, and also launched our website: sjyc.ca.

Saving the best for last, the big news is Common Council has officially recognized the SJYC as Council's youth advisory committee. As part of this process, we have been fortunate to have Mayor Norm McFarlane and Deputy Mayor Michelle Hooton appointed as our liaison councillors.

As a compliment to my work with the SJYC I released an Inclusive Cities Canada policy and practice paper in October - *An ICC Recommendation Comes to Life: The Municipal Youth Cabinet's Role in Inclusion*. The paper presents a snapshot of Saint John and its local youth community, and explores the SJYC's evolution from theory to practice and what this means for improving social inclusion for youth.

I also undertook a count of homeless youth 16 to 24 years of age in Saint John. The count - conducted during the month of February - found 45 young people without a home in the city, which is believed to be an under-

count. Slightly more females than males were counted, and over half were 17 to 19 years of age. These young people sought shelter in a variety of places including: couch surfing, emergency shelter arrangements, transitional housing, places not meant for human habitation, and temporarily staying in a hotel.

I have since turned my attention to a Phase II Community Plan Assessment of Saint John's funding under the National Homelessness Initiative, which will be used to explore which strategies are helping homeless and at-risk individuals in our community.

Kathryn Asher
Youth Cabinet Co-ordinator

Members of the Saint John Youth Cabinet participated in an Uptown Clean-Up. Mayor McFarlane and MLA Trevor Holder are pictured with SJYC members in King's Square.



Community Information Centre - Connecting People to Services

I have been very encouraged by the growth this past year for the Community Information Centre (CIC) - in two ways. The strength of our reputation as the "go-to" provider for up-to-date community information, and in the scope of information housed in our online database, two-thousand records and still expanding. Last fall a milestone was reached when we hit one million page views to our database.

This past year we introduced two easy to remember URLs, or "web addresses" for our Community Services Database, www.SaintJohnInfo.ca and www.NBInfo.ca. They will direct users to the local and provincial versions of the database.

Working in collaboration with other community partners is always a gratifying way to accomplish mutual goals. The Human Development Council has earned a reputation for developing partnerships, and the CIC also adopts this approach as illustrated in the following:

- We continue to work with St. Joseph's Community Health Centre, along with assistance from other partners, to produce the Guide to Senior's Services.

- We partnered with the local Understanding the Early Years Project to boost the content of the Early Childhood Services Database.

- When the N.B. Dept of Wellness Culture and Sport, (Sport, Recreation and Active Living Branch) wanted an online source for sport, recreation and leisure programs and services in the region, the CIC was contracted to develop the Sport & Recreation Database. The web presence - www.sportsrecreationnb.ca - lists clubs, facilities, programs and services in Charlotte, Kings, and St John counties and supports families, youth, individuals, and newcomers who want a one-stop information point that will help them be active, and stay healthy.

- We are embarking on a new type of partnership for HDC. We will be working with the City of Fredericton to develop an online community services database for their residents. I am hopeful this will signal the beginning of a new approach to doing business in New Brunswick - where local capacity is recognized, valued, and utilized outside our home communities.

Anne Driscoll
Information Co-ordinator

Saint John Human Development Council Inc.

Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Surplus

For the year ended December 31, 2006

	2006 (\$)	2005 (\$)
Revenue		
Human Resources Development – N.B.	70,000	40,000
City of Saint John	48,000	27,500
Inclusive Cities project	-	34,170
Saint John Youth Cabinet	28,009	-
United Way of Greater Saint John	22,313	21,000
Children's Health Task Force	12,500	-
CURA	10,000	10,000
Projects	9,971	14,118
Grants – summer students	7,907	-
Memberships and Donations	8,949	9,012
Sale of Publications	1,132	5,782
Interest	1,498	559
Other	6,259	2,384
	<u>226,538</u>	<u>164,525</u>
Expenditures		
Salaries and Benefits	161,971	123,993
Administration	29,497	17,684
Occupancy	8,000	8,000
Publications	1,893	5,714
Conferences	4,759	-
Publication of Nexus	1,409	2,170
Database	3,151	1,178
Equipment	2,545	1,271
Inclusive Cities direct costs	-	1,002
	<u>213,225</u>	<u>161,012</u>
Excess of revenue over expenditure	13,313	3,513
Surplus – Beginning of year	<u>30,386</u>	<u>26,873</u>
Surplus – End of year	<u>43,699</u>	<u>30,386</u>

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
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