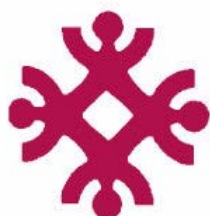


# Annual Report 2007-2008



## Human Development Council

### Executive Director's Message

At our last annual meeting we heard from the proponents of the Eider Rock oil refinery project. We learned that a second refinery would inject 5-7 billion dollars in the economy, create more than 5000 construction jobs at its peak and provide 1000 permanent jobs. Since that time the HDC has participated in the working group of the Benefits Blueprint. The group oversaw the work of consultants who were engaged to anticipate the needs and consequences arising from more than \$19 billion of economic investment in six large energy projects.

The Benefits Blueprint report, containing an expenditure model and 16 business cases, was released in April. It calls for substantial investments in our region to maximize the benefits and mitigate the consequences of this type of development. The consultant's expenditure model predicts a return to governments of over 14 billion over a decade. It argues that government should be the primary funder of the business cases, four of which fall under the heading of community interests.

We anticipate staying involved as the Benefits Blueprint moves into phase two.

HDC continued its participation in the Community University Research Alliance with UNBSJ. An overview of our indicators work was presented at the Community - University Exposition in Victoria earlier this month. Over the last four years, the project has provided us with an annual grant and summer students. This additional capacity, together with a grant from the Saint John Community Foundation, enabled us to produce Saint John's first Vital Signs for the Foundation, a report card of ten key indicators measuring the quality of life in our region. We have been retained by the Foundation to produce Vital Signs 2008. We also published the New Brunswick Child and Family Poverty Report Card for the second year in a row.

We continue to connect people to services in greater Saint John. Over 30,000 Surviving the Streets, a guide for youth at-risk, and 20,000 Seniors' Information Guides were distributed, and our on-line database remains a popular source of community information.

Over the last year we focused on the issue of homelessness. With funding from Service Canada we were able to retain Belinda Allen to research the scope of the problem in our community and to report on the capacity of service providers to meet the need. Her report was released at Saint John's first Homelessness Awareness Day. More than 200 people attended the event which included a service provider's fair and the premiere of a professionally

produced video *The Faces and Voices of Homelessness*. Belinda will be staying with us to establish and coordinate a community steering committee on homelessness. Her report provides an overview of her activities and goals.

It was a good year for the province's non-profit sector. Claudette Bradshaw chaired the province's Community Non-Profit Task Force, touring the province and meeting more than 1000 people. Her report, *Blueprint for Action*, was released in the fall and the province has already embraced one of its primary recommendations, providing multi year funding. A minister, staff and budget have been assigned to a new non-profit portfolio. The HDC was pleased to coordinate Ms. Bradshaw's Saint John tour and to host a community meeting with the new deputy minister in the fall.

We continued our involvement and leadership in a number of Community Based Organizations (CBOs). Along with forming the steering committee on homelessness we chaired the non-profit campaign for the United Way, co-chaired the Urban Core Support Network and Community Health Promotion Network Atlantic and sat on the coordinating committee and leadership roundtable of Vibrant Communities. The HDC was recently asked to sit on the grants committee of the Saint John Community Foundation.

In the year ahead we look forward to our ongoing participation in Vibrant Communities, our region's poverty reduction CBO. Poverty remains one of our community's greatest problems. It limits the possibilities for far too many of our residents.

Statistics Canada released data earlier this month which showed that the poverty rate for Saint John fell from 24.5% in 2001 to 20.8% in 2006. Despite a robust economy more than 1 in 5 residents live on income below the Low Income Cut Off (our unofficial poverty line).

The challenge in the coming year(s) will be to ensure that those living in poverty have an opportunity to participate in the economic growth that is forecast for the region.

As business and government prepare for the economic activity that large energy projects will bring it will be important that the needs and interests of the marginalized and vulnerable are addressed.

Benefits Blueprint recognizes the need for poverty reduction. One of its business cases calls for immediate and massive investments in our poorest neighbourhoods. As we move ahead with the bricks and mortar of these projects, we cannot neglect the social development needs of our community. Your Human Development Council is ready to fulfill its role of coordinating and promoting social development over the next year. Let's hope that government and business will play their part.

*Randall Hatfield, Executive Director*

### President's Message

As I look back over my first year as President of the Human Development Council, I am very excited with the many opportunities that the Council has had to support, strengthen and initiate networks in the non-profit sector "to coordinate and promote social development in Greater Saint John". These initiatives are highlighted in the Executive Director's report.

Our online searchable database also continues to grow and to deliver quality information and referral services. I am delighted, as well, that the recipients of this year's Community Service Award are Rhonda and David Peterson. The Petersons are doing tremendous work in making Saint John a welcoming, inclusive community for newcomers.

As you read these and other articles in this Annual Report, you will find out more about the activities of the Human Development Council during the past year. Each achievement in social development has been the result of conducting research, coordinating services, relationship building and networking with volunteers, agencies, government organizations, working groups, community organizations, the business sector, the educational sector and others in the community. We would welcome your feedback or your assistance as we seek to provide information on and find solutions to the community issues of our day.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff, the board, our volunteers and our funders. Not one of us could accomplish much by ourselves but Together Everyone Accomplishes Much. Thanks for being such an integral part of this wonderful, faithful team. We appreciate you very much. Thank you.

*Jan Lockett*

#### PRIMARY FUNDERS

City of Saint John  
N.B. Dept. of Social Development  
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 / Homelessness project)  
Town of Grand Bay-Westfield

# Homelessness in

In September 2007, Belinda Allen was hired as Research Project Coordinator with the Human Development Council to update the community plan on homelessness and to prepare a report depicting the state of homelessness in Saint John. The report, A Portrait of Homelessness in Greater Saint John, was released on March 10, 2008 in conjunction with Saint John's first Homelessness Awareness Day.

Homelessness Awareness Day began with an information drop, elected officials and volunteers distributed fact sheets on homelessness and awareness ribbons in several high traffic locations in the uptown. A press conference was held which included the release of the report, service provider presentations, and the premiere of The Faces and Voices of Homelessness (an original video created by Hemmings House Pictures portraying the stories of individuals in Saint John who had or were experiencing homelessness).

A Portrait of Homelessness in Greater Saint John drew upon several months of stakeholder



consultations with local services providers along with a review of local and national research on homelessness. It became apparent during the consultation and research process that individuals in Saint John were not aware of the magnitude of the homelessness problem that existed. In the Saint John region, homelessness is not something that citizens observe on a day-to-day basis. Without visual evidence like people sleeping on the streets or in parks, as one might see in bigger cities like Toronto or Vancouver, individuals incorrectly concluded that there was no homelessness at all.

The report provided an overview of available programs and services to assist those who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. It also identified gaps, potential solutions and was able to provide quantifiable data to help the community realize the scope of the problem.

While it is not possible to offer a precise number when looking at how many individuals are homeless or at-risk of homelessness in Saint John, the following information was available:

- There are 151 shelter beds in the community. Shelter operators claim to be at or near capacity most nights;

# Saint John

- In 2007 the HDC undertook a homeless youth survey that revealed 45 youth who were "hidden homeless."

Based on the foregoing information, the report estimated that there are at least 200 homeless individuals in Saint John. This number was not disputed and was believed to be conservative as it does not include adults who are "hidden homeless" or those who are at-risk of homelessness.

The report provided recommendations to all three levels of government, local service providers and organizations, the community, and to individual citizens. While some of these recommendations are left in the hands of those who received the report, several are currently in the process of being acted upon.

The first meeting of the Greater Saint John Steering Committee on Homelessness was held on April 28, 2008. The Steering Committee agreed to work on several projects for the upcoming year, one of which includes a Homelessness Report Card which will provide annual indicators on how the city is moving forward on this file. The Steering Committee will also work towards maintaining awareness around the issue of homelessness and ensuring that the recommendations put forth in A Portrait of Homelessness in Greater Saint John do not just sit on a shelf.

Belinda Allen  
Research Project Co-ordinator

## SAINT JOHN HUMAN DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL INC. Statement of Revenue and Expenditures and Surplus For the year ended December 31, 2007

	2007	2006
	\$	\$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
NB Dept. Of Social Development	80,000	70,000
City of Saint John	48,000	48,000
Saint John Youth Cabinet	-	28,009
United Way of Greater Saint John	24,547	22,313
Greater Saint John Community Foundation	10,000	-
Database Project	10,540	-
Government of Canada-Homelessness Initiative	21,729	-
Prov. of New Brunswick Workforce Expansion	4,800	-
Children's Health Task Force	980	12,500
CURA	10,000	10,000
Projects	-	9,971
Grants – summer students	8,055	7,907
Memberships and Donations	10,831	8,949
Sale of Publications	1,054	1,132
Interest	1,771	1,498
Other	7,152	6,259
	<u>239,459</u>	<u>226,538</u>
<b>EXPENDITURES</b>		
Salaries and Benefits	169,851	161,971
Administration	38,158	29,497
Occupancy	8,000	8,000
Publications	9	1,893
Conferences	-	4,759
Publication of Nexus	-	1,409
Database	2,825	3,151
Equipment	535	2,545
	<u>219,378</u>	<u>213,225</u>
<b>Excess of revenue over expenditure</b>	20,081	13,313
<b>Surplus – Beginning of year</b>	<u>43,699</u>	<u>30,386</u>
<b>Surplus – End of year</b>	<u>63,780</u>	<u>43,699</u>

### HDC STAFF

Randy Hatfield - Executive Director  
 Belinda Allen - Research Coordinator Homelessness Project  
 Jim Appleby - Bookkeeper  
 Anne Driscoll - Information Coordinator  
 Bonnie Guthrie - Administrative Assistant

**SUMMER & PROJECT STAFF**  
 Adrienne Buckland Chris Connolly  
 Robyn Deforest Christine Grotenhuis

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2007-2008

Jan Lockett – President	Mary Anne LeBlanc - Past President
Kurt Peacock – Treasurer	Sue Davis – Secretary
Marlene Abbott*	Leticia Adair*
Peter Asimakos	Joanne Barry*
Peter Buck*	Judy Halassy
Derek Jones*	Jayne Jones
Robert MacKinnon	Cathy Patterson
Randy Pollock	Nay Saade*
Donald Snook	Pierre Vachon*

\*Resigned during the year