

**Annual Report  
2000**



**Edmonton  
Housing  
Trust Fund**

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Letter from the Chairman of Trustees:

March, 2001

I am pleased to present the first Annual Report of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund for the year 2000. To say that the year 2000 was an active year for the Trust Fund would be an understatement!

Beginning the year as a grass roots organization, with the intent to address the gap in affordable housing in Edmonton, to becoming the primary community funding entity for homelessness projects in the City of Edmonton has been an exciting challenge.

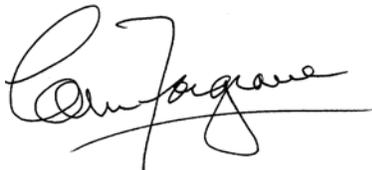
I am pleased to acknowledge the tremendous efforts put forth by the many people involved with the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund over the last year, in particular our Executive Director. Our operation has grown both in scope and in size. The overall goal to implement the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness and its \$49 million dollar budget is no small task.

We have only just begun to make a difference within our community.

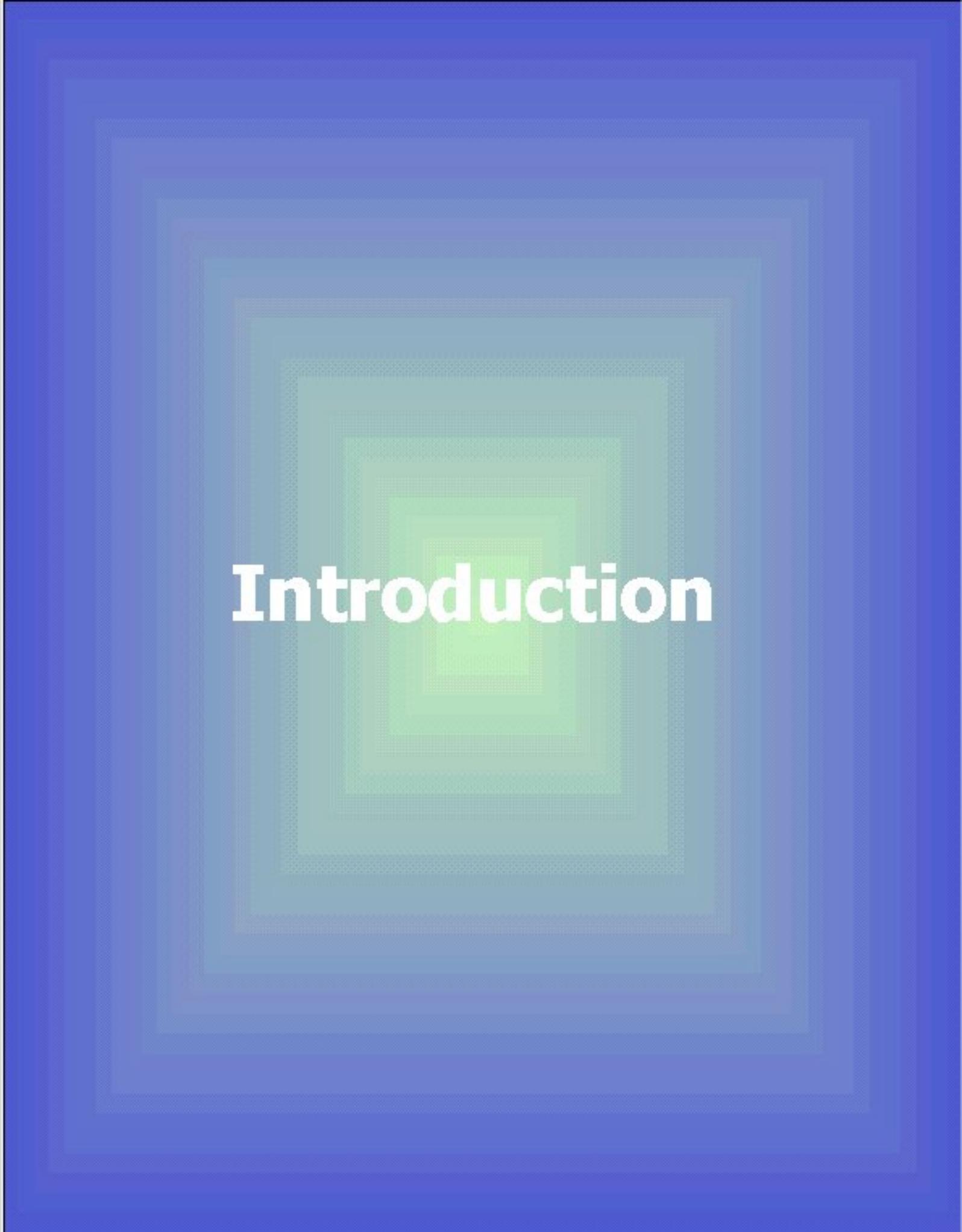
The Trustees look forward to working with the community to address the truly unique needs of the people of Edmonton.

This annual report is a starting point in a long but rewarding journey in meeting the needs of the homeless and hard to house people of Edmonton.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Forgrave". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Tom Forgrave  
Chairman



# Introduction

In 2000, the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund (EHTF) is organized and operated exclusively for non-profit purposes. The Indenture of Trust provides for seven trustees representing the City of Edmonton, the Province of Alberta, the Greater Edmonton Homebuilders Association, and the Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society. There was one paid staff of the EHTF in the position of Executive Director.

The Trustees of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund as of December 31, 2000 were:

Tom Forgrave, Chairman  
*Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society appointee*

Robert (Bob) S. Leitch, Secretary/Treasurer  
*Province of Alberta appointee*

Martha Campiou  
*Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society appointee*

Hazel Christensen  
Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society appointee

Frank Manzara  
Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society appointee

Reza Nasser  
Greater Edmonton Homebuilders Association appointee

J.A. (Jack) Peat  
*City of Edmonton appointee*

Deborah Saidman  
*Executive Director*

### ***MISSION***

*The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund will provide new and innovative sources and mechanisms for financing the acquisition and development of community-based housing for low and moderate-income households in order to facilitate social and economic investment in the Edmonton Community.*



**Context  
for the  
year 2000  
operations**

The year 2000 was an extremely active year for the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund. EHTF started off the year as an organization with a mission to promote the need for more affordable housing within the City of Edmonton. During the year, EHTF became the primary community entity for the implementation of the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness 2000-2003.

The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund was established in late 1999 by the Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society to address the growing concern over the availability of affordable housing sufficient to meet the needs of the City of Edmonton's lower-income and special needs citizens. The EHTF was to work to fill the gaps in the housing supply by enabling non-profit, non-governmental organizations to respond to Edmonton's unique, variable housing needs.

Early in 2000, the Trustees were asked to participate in a community planning 'charette' on homelessness. This initiative of the Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing, funded by the Government of Canada, brought together a wide range of community organizations, governments, aboriginal interest groups, and the private sector to begin the development of a Community Plan to address the needs of the homeless in Edmonton.

Edmonton had been identified by the Government of Canada as one of a handful of communities in the country that would be eligible for funding under the Supporting Communities Partnerships Initiative (SCPI) to address the homelessness issue.

The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing (EJPCOH), a long-standing community based committee with a good cross section representation of government and community undertook the writing of the Community Plan.

Early in the process it was determined that a truly community based approach was the best way to address the needs of the homeless in Edmonton. Thus, the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund was thrust into the forefront of this plan.

The Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness was submitted to the various levels of government in October of 2000, and was approved in November of 2000.

In the Community Plan, the role of the EHTF was clearly outlined as the organization that will be responsible for seeking donations, soliciting project proposals, analyzing submissions and funding projects to address the priorities established by the EJPCOH.



**Initiatives  
completed in  
2000**

As the year 2000 was the first operational year of the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund, a series of operational, procedural and administrative initiatives were undertaken and completed.

Administrative and operational budgets, appointments of financial agents and auditors, and confirmation of funding sources were but a few of the major accomplishments of the EHTF in the first three quarters of 2000.

With the Fund's focus being redirected late in the year, as a result of its identification as the main funding body for homelessness activities in the city, several new priorities were introduced which required EHTF to grow in capacity and size in a short period of time.

Late in November, Human Resources Development Canada seconded a staff person to assist in building the capacity of the EHTF. The primary function of this individual was to assist the Executive Director in developing a communications strategy and establishing the EHTF in a premise suitable to their impending needs. The lease on the EHTF offices located in Suite 1010 of Energy Square (10109 – 106<sup>th</sup> Street) was signed in late December of 2000.

A contract consultant was also brought on board, again with the assistance of Human Resources Development Canada, to assist in the development of practices and procedures that would enable the EHTF to operate as the community funding body for housing projects and services identified in the Community Plan.

With the Community Plan having been approved in November of 2000, one of the first responsibilities of the EHTF was to solicit the community for Expressions of Interest. A public information session was held in mid-December 2000. The community response was overwhelming.

The two-phase process for community proponents to avail themselves of EHTF funds was detailed to the attendees of the information session with a submission deadline of January 31, 2001.

Funding agreements with two of three levels of government (Provincial and City) were signed and funds received. The application process for the Federal contribution was well underway by the end of 2000.

The Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness identified two urgent need activities. One of these activities was the replacement of the Urban Manor emergency shelter for men. The EJPCOH had recommended the funding approval of this activity early in the planning stages. The EHTF confirmed this recommendation and provided the initial payment to the Urban Manor Housing Society initiate the process to build the new Urban Manor.

The second urgent need identified in the Community Plan was the requirement for an emergency Family Shelter. Steps were taken to address this need by developing a network model that built on existing systems and procedures.

The EHTF was able to respond to the emergency situation at the Herb Jamieson Centre by approving funding for new bunk beds to help address the issue of rising numbers of men now accessing this shelter. The number of people using this shelter each night has not been this high since the 1970's.

The staff of the EHTF either remained or became involved in a number of community based organizations during 2000. Some of the major community based committees and boards the EHTF participated in included:

- The Edmonton Joint Planning Committee on Housing
- The Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society
- Inner City Agency Foundation
- Aboriginal Housing Committee
- Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada



**Initiatives  
for  
2001**

The level and pace of activity in the latter part of 2000 will be intensified in 2001 for the Edmonton Housing Trust Fund.

Several major milestones are ahead of the EHTF over the next twelve months.

- Sign the Government of Canada contribution agreement
- Receive and evaluate Expressions of Interest from the community on activities identified in the Edmonton Community Plan on Homelessness
- Work with community groups and the private sector to move as many projects ahead as possible in 2001 to create over 225 new units
- Employ the necessary skilled people to address the workload of the EHTF
- Reconfirm the City of Edmonton funding contribution to the EHTF
- Sign a minimum of 10 funding agreements with community agencies to implement the Community Plan on Homelessness
- Promote awareness and raise the profile of the EHTF within the community
- Develop a fundraising strategy to meet the anticipated shortfall in funding of the Community Plan on Homelessness
- Obtain charitable status for the EHTF
- Relocate the EHTF staff and operations into new office space
- Condense the activities identified in the three year Community Plan on Homelessness into a two year operational window
- Continue the development of administrative, operational, financial, and human resource policies and procedures for the EHTF



# Acknowledgements

The Edmonton Housing Trust Fund would like to acknowledge the support and assistance received in 2000 from a number of groups, agencies, and individuals. Without this support, guidance, and backing. The EHTF would not have been able to achieve all that it did in the past year, nor be situated to move ahead as quickly as it plans to do in 2001.

- Anonymous Donor
- Alberta Real Estate Foundation
- Capital Region Housing
- City of Edmonton
- Communitas
- Edmonton Coalition on Homelessness Society
- Edmonton Community Foundation
- Edmonton Inner City Housing Society
- Handicapped Housing Society of Alberta
- Government of Canada
- *"No Room In the Inn"* fundraising program sponsored by the Edmonton Council of Churches, the Social Justice Commission, and the Quality of Life Commission with proceeds going to the Urban Manor Housing Society
- Province of Alberta