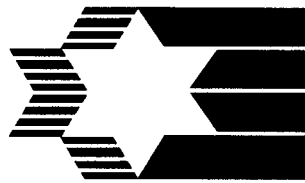


ANNUAL REPORT 2002
Planning Council



JEWISH
FEDERATION
OF GREATER
VANCOUVER

January 2003

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JEWISH FEDERATION OF GREATER VANCOUVER PLANNING COUNCIL REPORT 2002

If a person resides in a town thirty days, they become responsible for contributing to the soup kitchen; three months to the charity box; six months, to the clothing fund; nine months, to the burial fund; and twelve months, for contributing to the town walls.

Talmud, Bava Batra 8a

1. INTRODUCTION

As the umbrella community agency, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver has a Planning and Community Development Portfolio with a Planning Council composed of the chairs of the Federation's committees that focus on seniors, housing, special needs, poverty, education and demographics. Additional members serve in an advisory capacity to provide links to other parts of the organization including the Allocations Planning Committee, the Kehila Society of Richmond, the Federation's Board of Directors and the Jewish Community Foundation's Distribution Committee.

Since 1998, the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Planning and Community Development Portfolio has prepared an annual report reflecting its work. This serves two purposes:

- to provide direction to the Federation's governing bodies including the Allocations Planning Committee on emerging community priorities and
- to share with the community a short summary of our activities in 2002

The overall framework for our work is guided by the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's mission:

“The Federation is committed to building a strong, vibrant and enduring Jewish community in the Lower Mainland, in Israel and throughout the world by nurturing those values, practices and traditions which sustain and enrich Judaism and the Jewish people.”

The Federation serves the Greater Vancouver Jewish community by working in partnership with community members and other agencies to:

- Identify and plan for community needs
- Enhance mutual cooperation
- Raise funds through the Combined Jewish Appeal and allocate funds through the Allocations Planning Committee for programs and services locally, nationally, in Israel and worldwide
- Develop and sustain leadership
- encourage involvement in Jewish communal life.

Since the overall role of the Planning Council is to address both the short and long-term needs of the Jewish Community of Greater Vancouver, and to provide an overview of the community's priorities, we continuously seek input about a broad range of community issues from constituent agencies and our community partners. The Planning Council is a consortium of councils and committees within the Planning and Community Development Portfolio and consists of the:

- Allocations Planning Committee
- Yad B'Yad—Coalition on Poverty
- Non-Profit Housing Society
- Advocates for People with Special Needs Committee
- Jewish Education Council
- Kehila Society of Richmond
- Census Consultative Committee
- Seniors Advisory Council

The key principles that guide the Planning Council are:

- Inclusiveness within the Jewish community;
- Collaboration with Federation's community partners in responding to and meeting the community's present and emerging needs;
- Strengthening of Jewish identity, continuity and participation in Jewish communal life; and
- *Tikkun olam* for all parts of our Jewish community in Greater Vancouver

2. KEY COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver's Planning Council recognizes the following areas as priorities for our community to address in the next year. These areas have emerged as priorities in consultations with the lay and professional leadership of many community organizations as well as with the leadership and committees of the Federation. They merit attention by the Allocations Planning Committee and the community-at-large. These priorities are divided into two sections:

1) Key priorities relating to populations within the Jewish community:

- Implement solutions for affordable housing for specific populations, in particular seniors and others living on limited incomes.
- Identify and implement programs which can make our community more accessible to people living on limited incomes using the key priorities for alleviating poverty in the Jewish community outlined in the Coalition's "Purple Paper" released in March 2002 as guidelines.
- Explore ways to make Jewish day and supplementary school education more accessible, attractive and responsive to the needs of Jewish families.

- Continue to foster connections with and between outlying communities in the Lower Mainland by supporting programs beneficial to their growth for example: the Community Program for Youth (A consortium of the Burquest, North Shore and Richmond Jewish Communities with the Jewish Community Centre).
- Address the needs of the aging population in our community by creating a Council on Aging which can promote the creation of a “continuum of care.”
- Determine what types of community initiatives can have the greatest impact in the area of special needs, a clear assessment of the needs of these populations, in particular of children with special needs, is essential.
- Create more opportunities for youth and teens to be involved Jewishly by supporting the Jewish Community Centre’s lead role in our community’s participation in the nation wide Partnering Communities Program of the Jewish Educational Service of North America (JESNA) and the Institute for Informal Jewish Education of Brandeis University (IJE).

2) Key priorities relating to community “capacity building” processes:

- Continue to educate our community and its leadership on both the extent and impact of Jewish poverty and the resources required in order to alleviate it.
- Continue to foster partnerships and coalitions which can lead to programs and projects between donors, target populations and community organizations aimed at meeting community needs more effectively.
- Continue to promote greater accountability for funds raised through Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA) and to show donors how their contributions make a difference.
- Support the Allocations Planning Committee “Partners in Assessment” project of outcomes of select programs funded through the Combined Jewish Appeal (CJA).
- Support the grassroots efforts of different groups to collaborate with community agencies to organize and conduct programs for various age groups such as the development of a network for single members of our community.
- Track our community’s changing demographics and its implications for community development and planning and share it with community leadership as critical data from the 2001 Census becomes available during the year.
- Strengthen the link between community planning, allocations and the CJA.

3. **ALLOCATIONS PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Dr. Fred Mikelberg, Vice-President and Chair

With the background of growing local community needs and limited resources to allocate to them, the Allocations Planning Committee (APC) reviewed, ranked and recommended funding levels for programs which represent most of the basic services provided in our Jewish community. Over 40 requests for allocations to programs were submitted by 16 local constituent agencies. The committee recommended funding for 10 new programs.

Highlights:

- This was the second round of allocations using a two-year funding cycle; and the fifth year of funding specific programs which meet community needs.

- In addition to the \$1,893,969 allocated to programs in Level I funding, the Allocations Planning Committee allocated an additional \$200,000 to local programs through Level II funding.
- The “Partners in Assessment” process has now been set in motion after the current allocations cycle.
- The allocations process benefited from the identification of community needs as presented in the 2001 Planning Council Report.
- In partnership with the community’s day schools, the Allocations Planning Committee has initiated a review of its present allocations formula, the different levels of available provincial government funding, and school tuition fees.

Our community's responses to the priorities outlined in the 2001 Planning Council Report are reflected in the allocations from both the Allocations Planning Committee (Allocations to programs for Fiscal Year 2002-2003) and the Jewish Community Foundation of Greater Vancouver (Grants to agencies and programs during the year 2002) to the following areas of need:

Poverty	\$207,460.00
Students and Young Adults	\$112,000.00
Adults and families with special needs	\$171,900.00
Adolescents and teens	\$254,360.00
Children’s programs	\$76,250.00
Seniors programs	\$146,153.00
Community building	\$306,578.00
Programs for outlying areas	\$76,500.00

4. YAD B'YAD – THE COALITION ON POVERTY

Lani Levine, Chair

Government cuts and unstable economic conditions have had a deep impact on an already difficult situation for members of our community living on limited incomes. Many people have lost jobs and sources of employment have not been forthcoming. New caps on provincial benefits will create an even larger gap between haves and have-nots. The Coalition on Poverty has worked hard to explain the implications of these changes by bringing them to the attention of our community– but there still remains a great deal of denial about the existence of poverty in the Jewish community.

Highlights:

- Release of the “Purple Paper” in March 2002. This report informs the Jewish community of the current situation and makes recommendations for dealing with poverty.
- Poverty Forum Two in June 2002 attended by 110 community members.
- Expansion of Community Kitchens from two to five.
- Collaboration with the Non-Profit Housing Society’s initiative on affordable housing February 2002.
- Outreach and research pilot project summer 2002.

- Launch of Mapping and Mobilization initiative to survey people living on limited incomes regarding barriers to inclusion in the Jewish community December 2002.
- Launch of the “Share Our Treasures” program to facilitate matching of Jewish Family Service Agency clients with local synagogues to help provide for their family spiritual and Jewish education needs in June 2002.
- Creation and distribution of a brochure with information on services available in the Jewish community to people living on limited incomes.
- Presentations of Yad B’Yad’s work to audiences across Canada by Coalition leadership as a way of influencing other communities across Canada to address poverty.
- Grants secured to allow the Coalition to hire a part-time coordinator for outreach and liaison and a seven month contract for the mapping and mobilization project coordinator.

The work of the Coalition has involved members from many different corners of our community, offering them real opportunities to make our community more inclusive and to alleviate the situation for those members who are poor.

5. **NON-PROFIT HOUSING SOCIETY**

Jerry Kushner, Chair

Major cuts in Provincial Government in British Columbia support have made support for affordable housing projects opportunities almost non-existent. As a result, the Non Profit Housing Society has focused on pursuing public – private partnerships which could lead to a community housing project. Much energy has been invested in strengthening community partnerships and cultivating an interdisciplinary board.

Highlights:

- Release of “Pathways to Affordable Housing” -- a study on the status of housing needs in Jewish Community of Greater Vancouver prepared by housing consultant, Leslie Stern.
- Creation of task forces to study feasibility of two potential housing projects with a focus on the need for seniors’ housing.
- Regular meetings and updates of the Society Board of Directors.
- Active involvement of professional and lay leadership of Jewish Family Service Agency, Louis Brier Home and Hospital, B’nai Birth Building Society and B’nai B’rith Manor, and the Kehila Society of Richmond.
- Consultations and fostering of working relations with Terra Housing Consultants, private developers and property owners, BC Housing, and the City of Vancouver’s Planning Department.

6. **ADVOCATES FOR PEOPLE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS**

Rita Dilek, Chair

Significant changes in government policies relating to people with disabilities have resulted in more limited levels of support. Community agencies have begun to discuss

accommodating members of our community with special needs, but we still have a lot to learn in order to be truly accessible.

Highlights:

- Printed and distributed brochure to encourage individuals to connect with the Jewish community.
- Printed and distributed an accessibility checklist designed to guide Jewish organizations in making their events more accessible to people with special needs.
- Community programs for special needs received regular funding for the first time through Federation's allocations process - the Bagel Club, a weekly Jewish Community Centre program for adults, and a part-time Special Needs Coordinator working for the Jewish Family Service Agency to operate a project for volunteers.
- Conducted review of two existing programs for children with special needs in Jewish supplementary schools (Temple Sholom and Beth Israel).
- Monitoring of community projects with impact on the area of special needs.
- Advocating for the provision of sign language interpretation at major community events and helping to cover the costs of the signers.

7. JEWISH EDUCATION COUNCIL

Marilyn Berger, Chair

Highlights:

- Professional Development Day for Jewish Educators featuring Norman Kunz.
- Production of a School Resource Guide listing all the Jewish schools in the Lower Mainland.
- Production of the first Greater Vancouver Catalogue of Jewish Learning to serve as a community resource.
- Chicken Soup for the Mind Learning Seminars, Year Four, attended by over 1,000 people during the year.
- Another series of the popular Philosopher's Café adult education program for our community.

8. KEHILA SOCIETY OF RICHMOND

Stacey Kettleman and Toby Rubin, Co-Presidents

Sixteen percent of Greater Vancouver's Jewish community lives in Richmond. The Kehila Society of Richmond has been the community agent that has brought together many partners and projects. The Society moved into a new phase of development in 2002 with a two-year allocation from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver. This has enabled the Kehila Society to continue with its mission:

1. To facilitate outreach and additional Judaic programming for Richmond residents, using existing facilities.
2. To support and encourage the existing programs and their organizations in Richmond as requested.

3. To work in a team manner to enhance the quality of Jewish life in Richmond.

Highlights:

- Collaboration with Richmond Jewish Day School and the Richmond synagogues to deliver services with Jewish Family Service Agency and the Jewish Community Centre.
- Held second winter children's camp at Beth Tikvah operated by the Jewish Community Centre
- Increased participation in the Combined Jewish Appeal Campaign in Richmond.
- Launch of the Richmond Jewish Community Preschool.
- Activities for teens and seniors in Richmond.
- Circulation of "Keshet" – Kehila's Richmond Jewish community newsletter.

9. **CENSUS CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE**

Jean Gerber and Alberta Levitan, Co-Chairs

The Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver formed a consultative committee to work on analyzing data from the 2001 census on the Jewish community of British Columbia. Working with Charles Shahr, National Research Officer for United Israel Appeal Federations Canada, we will issue several in-depth reports on the demographics of our community based on the analysis of the 2001 census by the end of 2003.

Highlights:

- Release of the 2001 Census Data to provide comparative data to 1991 and 1996.
- Preparations for the National Census research that UIA Federations Canada is coordinating.
- Accompanied the National Research Officer for two days as he visited the Lower Mainland and learned first hand about our region's unique population and geography.
- To ensure that the census information required for planning was understood and that community expectations of the national census study were clear, two presentations about the Census were made to the Council of Presidents, consultations were held with professionals from various community agencies in groups and as individuals, and visits were conducted to outlying communities.

10. **SENIORS ADVISORY COUNCIL**

Serge Haber, Chair

For the past ten years this Council has been funded primarily through revenues from gaming. Due to the loss of gaming revenue, the Senior's Advisory Council will be restructured.

Members of the Council participated in the "Continuum of Care" discussions and planning led by professionals from community agencies. These discussions addressed the development and delivery of a community-wide continuum of services for Jewish seniors. This process will lead to

new levels of collaboration between seniors and all other seniors' service agencies in planning for a culturally appropriate and integrated continuum of care.

Highlights:

- Outreach efforts to the general seniors groups such as 411 Seniors and the Council of Senior Citizens Organization of BC.
- Co-sponsored a community-wide Fall Forum on Representation Agreements with Oakridge Seniors Centre which attracted 40 people.
- Spring Forum on current research in gerontology attended by over 120 people.
- Continued its advocacy work on behalf of seniors, including participating in a province-wide rally in Victoria to protests cuts to healthcare.
- Continued to publish *Senior Line* newsletter.

11. CONCLUDING SECTION

Additional information on the work of the Planning Council and our various committees including a copy of this report and those listed below can be downloaded from the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver web site at www.jfgv.com.

Report of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Allocations Planning Committee, August 2002.

Stern, Leslie, *Pathways to Affordable Housing*, a report prepared for the Non-Profit Housing Society of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver, May 2002.

The Purple Paper: A Report from Yad B'Yad, the Coalition on Poverty in the Jewish Community, a report which outlines the steps necessary to address poverty in the Jewish community of Greater Vancouver March 2002.

Goldberg, Michael, *A Report on Poverty in the Jewish Community of Greater Vancouver*, a report prepared for the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver and Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region January 2001.

THANKS TO ALL THE PARTICIPANTS

During 2002 numerous people in the Greater Vancouver Jewish community participated in the work of the Federation's Planning and Community Development Portfolio. Our thanks to you all. Special thanks to the Federation staff who have worked with the various Committees, offering their professional guidance and wisdom to build partnerships throughout the community— David Berson, Mark Gurvis, Judy Weinstein, Jennie Virtue, Shelley Karrel, Wendy Finlayson, and Cory Bretz. Thanks also to Lynne Fader, administrator of the Kehila Society in Richmond. To all the Committee chairs and our dedicated volunteers, we express our sincere thanks for furthering the dialogue on these important community-wide issues. A special

thanks to the many special donors whose stepped forward and with their acts of leadership supported many new initiatives and priorities which the Planning Council put forth.

Members of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Planning Council 2002:

- Dr. Fred Mikelberg, Chair, Allocations Planning Committee, Vice-President Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver.
- Lani Levine, Chair, Yad B'Yad, Coalition on Poverty and Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Board Member
- Jerry Kushner, Chair, Non-Profit Housing Society and Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Board Member
- Rita Dilek, Chair, Advocates for People with Special Needs Committee
- Serge Haber, Chair, Seniors Advisory Council
- Marilyn Berger, Chair, Jewish Education Council
- Jean Gerber, Co-Chair of the Census Consultative Committee
- Alberta Levitan, Co-chair of Census Consultative Committee; Advisor to the Planning Council
- Dr. Allan Posthuma, Advisor to the Planning Council, and Member, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Board
- Stacey Kettleman, and Toby Rubin, Co-Presidents, Kehila Society of Richmond Stacey is a Member of the Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver Board
- Brenda Karp, Chair, Distributions Committee, Jewish Community Foundation
- Judy Oberlander, Chair of the Planning Council and Vice-President, Planning and Community Development, Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver

Staff Liaison: David Berson, Director of Planning and Community Development,
Jewish Federation of Greater Vancouver

Thank you to our community partners:

- Association of Jewish Communal Professionals of Greater Vancouver
- B'nai B'rith Building Society
- B'nai B'rith Lions Gate Lodge
- BC Non Profit Housing Association
- bcjewishsingles
- Beth Hamidrash Congregation
- Beth Tikvah Congregation
- Burquest Jewish Community Association
- Camp Miriam
- Canadian Jewish Congress, Pacific Region

- Congregation Beth Israel
- Congregation Har-el/ North Shore Hebrew School
- Congregation Schara Tzedek
- Council of Presidents
- Eitz Chaim Congregation
- Gaa'vah BC
- Hadassah-Wizo Council of Vancouver
- Hebrew Assistance Association of Vancouver
- Jewish Community Centre of Greater Vancouver
- Jewish Family Service Agency
- Jewish Women International
- Kehila Society of Richmond
- L'Chaim Adult Daycare Centre
- Louis Brier Home and Hospital
- Lubavitch BC
- Most Bridge Russian Seniors
- Na'amat Canada
- National Council of Jewish Women
- Ohel Ya'acov Community Kollel
- Peretz Centre for Secular Jewish Culture
- Rabbinical Association of Vancouver
- Richmond Jewish Day School
- Shalom BC
- Social Planning & Research Council of BC
- Temple Sholom
- Terra Housing Consultants
- Vancouver Hebrew Academy
- Vancouver Jewish Film Festival
- Vancouver Talmud Torah Schools
- Yaffa Housing Society