



Social Planning Council
of Winnipeg

September 29, 2010

Press Release – For Immediate Release

Social Planning Council of Winnipeg Announces the Retirement of Executive Director

Wayne Helgason, the Executive Director of the Social Planning Council of Winnipeg has announced his retirement, effective January 3, 2011 to the SPCW Board of Directors.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my tenure at SPCW, but it is time for me to move on to a new chapter in my life," Helgason, the recent grandfather of two said. "I'm looking forward to placing a greater emphasis on family, and exploring personal interests."

Helgason has held the position of Executive Director for 16 years; bringing the organization into national prominence, following a difficult period in the mid-90's for all Social Planning Councils in the country. Under Helgason 's stewardship SPCW focused on key areas of poverty, children-at-risk and other at risk populations, employment and training economic development, employment equity, racism and discrimination, human rights, innovation in education and Aboriginal self-determination.

As Executive Director, Helgason oversees the day-to-day functions of SPCW, as well as laying out its strategic and operational future. He remains Chair of the Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) managing the development of comprehensive research programs aimed at better integrating lobbying efforts across all of Canada.

"I want to thank Wayne for his many contributions over the past 16 years and his participation in building a thriving organization," said SPCW Board President Sandy Gessler. "Wayne has done an incredible job at SPCW and leaves behind a very capable team. His dedication and commitment, coupled with his leadership, enthusiasm and expertise have made him a major contributor to the effort to improve the lives of Manitobans through advocacy and overseeing SPCW deliver critically-important perspectives to the public," said Gessler, "It has been an honor and privilege to serve with an individual of his extraordinary skill and integrity."

Wayne Helgason's involvements include:

Centre for Aboriginal Human Resource Development - Vice Chair (1996 to 2005); Chair 2005 - present;

Southern Authority Network of Care – Board of Directors 2008 – present

Volunteer Canada – Board of Directors – 2005 - present

Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council – 2007 – present

Aboriginal Council of Winnipeg – Vice-President (2006-present);

National Association of Friendship Centres - President (Three Terms, 1993 - 1999);

Canadian Health Network (CHN) - Advisory Board of Directors (1999 to 2003);

Canadian Science Centre for Human and Animal Health (Virology Lab) - Community Liaison Committee - (1999 to present);

Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg - Charter Chair Person & Current Board Member (1989 to present);

Aboriginal Health and Wellness Centre (Winnipeg) - founding Board member and principal negotiator (1993);

Aboriginal Advisory Committee to the Canadian Military

North American Indigenous Games - Host Committee Board of Directors (2001 - 2002).

United Way of Canada - Board of Directors 2001 - 2007; Vice Chair Prairie Region (Appointed March 2002);

Canadian Council on Social Development (CCSD) - Chair Elect (2006); Elected May 2002 - present;

Volunteer Canada - Board of Directors - Elected 2005

Canada West Foundation - Aboriginal Labour Force Advisory Committee (2003) and Building the New West Committee;

Joint Accord Table - Voluntary Sector Initiative - (2001 to 2002);

Manitoba Hydro - External Building Committee (2003);

Centre for Integrated Learning - Faculty member with John McKnight, Jack Pearpoint and Marsha Forrest - Toronto, Ontario;

Social Justice Research Award 2000 - Recipient, for the Social Planning Council publication entitled: *"The Manitoba 1999 Child Poverty Report Card, an Agenda for Action,"* sponsored by The University of Manitoba and the Jesuit Centre for Catholic Studies (March 2000);

Queen's Jubilee Award - Nominated by Volunteer Canada (2003);

In addition, to lecturing locally on such varied topics as children at risk, poverty, employment and training, Aboriginal self-government, human rights and social security reform, Helgason has been a contract lecturer at the University of Toronto - Faculty of Preventative Medicine, Banff School of Management and the Canadian Centre for Management Development in Ottawa.

Helgason is also a writing contributor to:

The Canadian Institute for Child Health "Health of Canada's Children" - poverty chapter;
The Canadian Housing and Renewal Corporation, spring 2003 Report
The Canadian Council on Social Development's "Progress of Canada's Children" (1998, 1999);
Urban Aboriginal Governance in Canada - co-produced with the Law Commission of Canada (1997).

Helgason is a graduate of Carleton University (1973) and has participated in a certificate program at Harvard University on negotiation, focused specifically on Aboriginal community and economic development.

For Further Information, contact

Rhonda Powers
Communications Coordinator
Social Planning Council of Winnipeg
300-207 Donald Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 1M5
(204) 943-2561
(204)299-5574
rpowers@spcw.mb.ca