



APM 2018 Annual Report

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Anti-Poverty Ministry

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Mission Statement

**Rooted in God's radical love,
expressed through
compassion and action,
the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry
advocates and educates
with and for
those seeking
social and economic justice.**

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

I have been blessed to be a member of the Anti-Poverty Ministry Board since 2015 but have only recently taken over the role of Chair. 2018 saw many changes to both the United Church and our Board structure.

As a result of some of the changes, it has become apparent that many of our traditional funding sources are no longer available. As such, we have recognized a need to re-evaluate the role of the Board in light of our fundraising needs. Our hope is that we can bring some new support partners into our midst to help us carry out the impactful work that we do!

Last year, we asked fundraising consultant, Katie Schultz, to provide our membership with assistance in re-working our Board structure and priorities. We want to ensure we are able to effectively address our upcoming funding challenges. We altered our Board meeting schedule to four meetings per year and created two new committees: Strategic Planning and Finance and Fundraising. These committees are designed to work on specialized tasks during the periods between scheduled Board meetings. These committees, along with the Ministry and Personnel committee, have each drafted Terms of Reference for their unique purposes and set goals and a working plan for 2019.

Our staff members, Peter Gilmer and Bonnie Morton, continue to do a fabulous job of providing advocacy, education and a voice for social justice on behalf those living in poverty in Saskatchewan. To that end, they will continue to work with the Board to

manage the need for these services, while balancing against the increasing numbers of advocacy cases. Many thanks to our 2018 human justice and social work students: Mark Macabeo, James Sinkewicz and Debor Ghosh. They provide valuable assistance in our office. We also employed a part-time administrative assistant for part of 2018 to aid with administrative tasks.

As we continue to work to manage staff workloads, we await further operational changes to the UCC in this region and will adjust accordingly, as best we can.

We greatly appreciate all the the support we receive from the Knox Metropolitan United Church here in Regina, as well as from our other support partners and donors. The Anti-Poverty Ministry is a social justice ministry, unlike any other in our province. Supporters and donors are supporting more than just a charity but are blessed to be part of an ongoing process of making real change for people living in poverty in this province.

If you would like to become part of this work, please visit our website at antipovertyministry.ca, to find out how you can help. If you would like to explore becoming a member of our Board, please contact me or either of our staff members at the APM office.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Berringer, Chair

Staff Report

The work of the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM) is done in three areas: individual advocacy, public education and social justice. Here are some of our activities in each of these areas in 2018.

Individual Advocacy

Individual advocacy involves providing support for low-income individuals and families to ensure that they are receiving those benefits that they are entitled to and that they are being treated fairly by the institutions that they are dealing with. RAPM attempts to mediate conflict between individuals and institutions so that there are mutually agreed upon resolutions, but we do represent clients through the appeal processes which are in place to reduce conflicts.

A majority of our individual advocacy casework involves responding to decisions made by the Income Assistance and Disability Services Division of the Ministry of Social Services. Since the closure of the Welfare Rights Centre in 2011, we are the only community organization with a mandate to provide this service.

Our income security advocacy includes handling income assistance cut-offs and denials, underpayments and overpayments, shelter and utility coverage, as well as special household, medical, travel, dietary and disability needs.

RAPM continued to handle a high number of cases related to difficulties covering rent in 2018. This includes many cases related to cuts to the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement. We also saw an increase

in income assistance cut-offs leaving many without resources.

In total, RAPM handled 2,246 cases in 2018. This was our third highest total ever following the previous two years. It also marked the tenth consecutive year of handling more than 2000 cases. We successfully resolved a significant majority of these cases. This does not mean that persons necessarily received everything that they would have liked but their situation was made better after having made contact with our office.

RAPM is also a food bank referral agency and intervenes on behalf of individuals and families to help them meet immediate needs such as food, shelter and clothing. We help navigate systems and refer people to appropriate services. RAPM also provides pastoral care for persons who are dealing with issues and crises that are not advocacy or charity related. In all our casework, we seek to uphold the dignity of those requesting our help. We also maintain strict confidentiality.

During the past year, the RAPM staff conducted four advocacy training workshops for volunteers, clients, ministry personal, service providers and practicum students. These workshops develop advocacy skills in the community and help us keep up with the demand for this service. We present a recognized certificate to those who take the workshop and provide 30 hours of advocacy services.

Public Education

Public education involves providing educational workshops and producing educational resources on anti-poverty issues. Our public education campaign

is aimed at the provincial public, with a focus on faith-based, community and educational groups and institutions as well interested individuals.

Within the faith community, RAPM conducted 16 anti-poverty services of worship in the past year. We also gave presentations to outreach and social justice committees, youth group and confirmation classes as well as ecumenical and multi-faith groups and gatherings.

In the wider community, RAPM provided many workshops on a range of poverty issues to community and youth groups, women's shelters, labour unions, service providers and a broad cross section of post-secondary classes. Our office acts as an anti-poverty resource center and we remain a media resource on poverty issues. RAPM was quoted on over 40 occasions in 2018 through interviews and press events.

RAPM gave keynote and panel presentations at conferences held by the Canadian Union of Public Employees, Poverty Free Saskatchewan, Saskatchewan Senior's Mechanism and the Queen City Tenant's Association.

RAPM facilitated a social work and two human justice practicum placements in 2018. We expect a similar number of placements in 2019. We also had a work placement through the Neil Squire Society and seven through the John Howard Society Fine Option Program.

In 2018, RAPM completed and distributed its low-income anthology. The anthology of 20 stories allowed RAPM clients to tell their stories in an anonymous way. It is being used to

sensitize church members, decision makers and the general public on the struggles faced by low-income people. It also shows the resilience of the people seeking our support and many victories over significant barriers.

A key public education activity continues to be RAPM's monthly study circles with low-income volunteers and activists. These study circles offer individuals the opportunity to discuss poverty concerns that affect their lives. While our staff may provide resource materials or line up speakers, the topics are decided upon and often led by the group. In 2018 our circles included discussions of an Act to Eliminate Poverty in Saskatchewan, homelessness and the Justice for our Stolen Children Camp. These study circles influence RAPM's public policy and tactical direction. They are also a meaningful way for low-income people to connect with and empower each other.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice work involves anti-poverty activism and lobbying as well as community consensus building around key issues. It also includes joint projects and campaigns with community partners.

RAPM frequently makes presentations to politicians and other government representatives. We know that there are many powerful interests which carry considerable influence in policy-making circles. The concerns of low-income people and the issues of the anti-poverty movement must also be heard by decision makers.

RAPM chairs End Poverty Regina, which is a network of organizations and

individuals concerned about poverty issues. End Poverty Regina provides a forum for information sharing and has been active in campaigns against cuts to the Rental Supplement and for increases to wage and asset exemptions for persons on income assistance programs.

RAPM is active in the Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC), which has been working with the Government of Saskatchewan on the development of the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) program. At present, we are represented on the DISC Benefits Committee which is looking at adequacy issues for SAID.

RAPM is also part of Poverty Free Saskatchewan who hosted a 'Lets End Poverty' Conference for the UN Day for the Elimination of Poverty. The conference was attended by over a hundred people from around the province who discussed future directions for anti-poverty work.

Over the past 21 years, RAPM has identified key anti-poverty proposals through extensive consultations with low-income people and community groups that deal with poverty issues. These proposals have included adequate income security benefits, a living wage, quality and affordable housing and childcare, equity initiatives and fair taxation. We also continue to promote the proposal of an Act to Eliminate Poverty in Saskatchewan which would ensure basic social and economic rights committed to under international law.

Each year, our Ministry has developed and presented anti-poverty proposals through the courts of The United

Church of Canada. We also play a leadership role in developing and presenting The United Church Brief to the Government of Saskatchewan and the Provincial Opposition.

RAPM networks with many organizations at the local, provincial and national levels. Locally, this includes involvement at all levels of the church as well as in community organizations. Bonnie Morton was the President of Saskatchewan Conference of The United Church of Canada in 2018. At the national level Bonnie just finished serving on the board of the former Court Challenges Program where she chaired the Equality Advisory Committee and Poverty Sub-Committees. Bonnie is also on the Community and Social Ministries Working Group of The United Church and the board of Canada Without Poverty.

RAPM STAFF

Peter Gilmer

Designated Lay Minister

Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Master of Theological Studies, Human Rights Summer College, 31 years advocacy experience, 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Recipient.

rapm@sasktel.net

Bonnie Morton

Designated Lay Minister

Bachelor of Human Justice, Certificate in Dispute Resolution and Mediation, 33 years advocacy experience, 1991 Keith Couse Award, 1999 YWCA Woman of Distinction, 2001 Helen Prize Winner, and 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial Medal Recipient, 2012 Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal.

bonnie.morton@gmail.com

Anti-Poverty Ministry	2018 Actuals	2018 Budget	2019 Budget
Income			
Allocation of Church Sales	142,849		
Donations			
Churches & Other Groups	51,759	56,000	9,200
Gift in Kind - Rent	12,600	12,600	12,600
Individual Donations Pledge	12,340		14,400
Individual Donations - Other	8,130	24,000	9,000
NGOs & Community Orgs	304		300
Total Donations	85,133	92,600	45,500
Endowment Fund	3,756	3,700	6,000
Fees for Service	585	600	270
Fund Raising	195	3,600	1,000
Grants			
Foundations	750	10,000	0
G.Murray and Edna Forbes Fdtn	15,000	10,000	15,000
Saskatchewan Conf	5,500	5,500	0
United Church M&S	23,050	23,050	30,650
Wascana Presbytery	70,000	30,000	0
Total Grants	114,300	78,550	45,650
Interest Income	1,012	900	1,200
Transfer from Reserves	0	0	75,000
Total Income	347,830	179,950	174,620
Expense			
Board of Director's Expenses	298		200
Fund Raising Expenses	97		140
Insurance	371	350	375
Ministry & Personnel	295	400	250
Office	1,521	1,200	1,560
Payroll Allow/Reimbursement	1,246	3,440	2,640
Payroll Expenses	142,968	150,366	154,634
Rent - Knox Met UC	12,600	12,600	12,600
Telephone & Internet	2,213	2,052	2,221
Total Expense	161,609	170,408	174,620
Net Income	186,221	9,542	0