



Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

The Existence of Poverty is Shameful - To be Poor is Not

2022 Annual Report

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Regina 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 privileged to chair the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry for the last five years. 2022 has been a year of blessings. Through the dedication of our staff, RAPM has been able to continue serving low-income clients with the same quality and effectiveness as always and for that we are very grateful. Though caseloads have increased, staff have worked very hard to continue their social justice and education focus. The work they do is invaluable.

Peter Gilmer continues to offer his expertise in a full-time role on our staff. Colleen Taylor has now been with us for over a year, working in a part-time role. These two are the backbone of this ministry. We are also pleased to report that Peter Gilmer received a QEII Platinum Jubilee Medal for his over 25 years of advocacy work. This past year, we were also blessed by the assistance of our practicum students: Kiana Young, Meadow Wells-Goudie and Kylene Gronick.

RAPM is unique. When it comes to social justice, we believe in the call to action. We provide more than just charitable support to people experiencing poverty; we seek to provide them with hope. We believe that change is possible and this fuels our determination to call for change to legislation and policies that keep people in poverty.

As always, we greatly appreciate all the support we receive from Knox-Metropolitan United Church here in Regina, as well as from our other support partners, The United Church of Canada, the Living Skies Region, the G.

Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation and our monthly givers, whom I like to call our RAPM heroes, without whom we would not be able to provide these services. We have also been very grateful to all of those who chose to donate their \$500 "Moe Money" rebates to our ministry! Working towards the end of poverty requires patience and determination but it also requires the support of our community.

We are always looking for more RAPM heroes. 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 RAPM 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 for 2022.

Individual Advocacy

Individual advocacy involves providing support for low-income people and households to ensure that they are receiving those benefits that they are eligible for and that they are being treated fairly by the institutions that they are engaging with. RAPM attempts to mediate conflict between individuals and institutions so that there are mutually agreed upon resolutions, but

we do represent people through the appeal processes which are in place to resolve conflicts.

Most of our casework involves responding to decisions made by provincial income security programs due to the loss of other welfare rights services around the province.

Our income security advocacy includes handling income assistance cut-offs and denials, shelter and utility coverage, underpayments and overpayments, as well as income and asset verification and exemption cases. We help people with the eligibility assessment process for the Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability (SAID) as well as accessing special needs.

In 2022, RAPM handled a high number of cases related to problems with and inadequacies of the Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program. This included a large number of cases regarding utility arrears and cut-offs along with rental arrears and evictions. We also helped many people who had been unable to access SIS benefits.

2022 marked the first year that RAPM handled over 2500 cases with a total of 2520. We successfully resolved a significant majority of these cases. This does not mean that persons necessarily received everything that they would have liked but that their situation was made better after having made contact with our office.

RAPM also acts as a referral agency and intervenes to help people meet immediate needs such as food, shelter and clothing. We navigate systems and refer people to appropriate services.

RAPM also provides pastoral care for persons who are dealing with issues or crises that are not advocacy or charity related. In all of our casework we follow

a client driven process and seek to uphold the dignity of those requesting our help. We also maintain strict confidentiality.

During the past year, the RAPM staff conducted advocacy training workshops for volunteers, clients, 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 then provide 30 hours of advocacy service.

Public Education

RAPM's public education work 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 as interested individuals.

Within the faith community, RAPM conducted ten anti-poverty services of worship in the past year. We also gave presentations to congregational, ecumenical, and multi-faith groups and gatherings.

In the wider community, RAPM provided many workshops and presentations on a range of poverty issues to community and labour groups, women's shelters and a broad cross section of high school and post-secondary classes.

RAPM facilitated two practicum placements through the Faculty of Social Work in 2022. We also supervised a work internship through the Faculty of Arts.

A key educational activity continues to be RAPM's monthly study circles with low-income volunteers and activists. These study circles offer low-income people the opportunity to discuss poverty concerns that impact their lives and they have run continuously for 27 years. While our staff may provide resource materials or line up speakers, the topics are decided upon and often led by members of the group. In 2022 our circles included discussions about RAPM's Low-Income Anthology, Refugee Rights and the Papal Apology. These study circles influence RAPM's 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 lobbying and activism 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. In the past year, RAPM has met with the Minister of Social Services and senior officials of Sask Housing. We also met with the Opposition Caucus and Critic for Social Services. We gave a presentation to the National Advisory Council on Poverty and multiple presentations to Regina City Council. RAPM took part in press conferences at the Legislative Assembly

for SIS and SAID Issues Days.

RAPM chairs End Poverty Regina and is on the Steering Committee of Poverty Free Saskatchewan. These are networks of organizations and individuals working on poverty issues. In the past year, RAPM organized with many groups supporting the motion to End Homelessness Through a Housing First Permanent Supportive Housing Model which was before Regina City Council. We were also active through our networks to call for major changes to the SIS program.

RAPM continues to be active with the Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC) which worked with the Government of Saskatchewan on the development of the SAID program. We are working with DISC on greater adequacy measures for SAID benefits and exemptions.

Since 1997, RAPM has identified key anti-poverty proposals through extensive consultation with low-income people and community groups dealing with poverty issues. Those proposals have been passed through courts of the United Church of Canada. They fall under the categories of adequate income security benefits, a living wage, quality and affordable housing and childcare, equity initiatives and fair taxation. We continue to promote these proposals along with our call for an Act to End Poverty in Saskatchewan which would ensure basic social and economic rights committed to under international law. We have also been promoting the United Church of Canada's call for a Guaranteed Liveable Income for all Canadians.

RAPM STAFF

Peter Gilmer

Designated Lay Minister

Bachelor of Arts (Sociology),
Master of Theological Studies,
Doctorate of Divinity (honoris causa),
34 years advocacy experience,
2005 Saskatchewan Centennial
Medal and QEII Platinum Jubilee
Medal Recipient.

Colleen Taylor

Anti-Poverty Support Worker

Bachelor of Arts (Sociology),
Bachelor of Social Work

**Regina Anti-Poverty
Ministry**

**2021
Actuals** **2022
Actuals** **2023
Budget**

Income			
Donations			
Canada Helps Donations	5,020	10,960	4,400
Churches & Other Groups	8,865	9,619	8,000
Gift in Kind - Rent	13,000	13,000	13,000
Individual Donations Pledge	17,155	16,980	16,800
Individual Donations - Other	30,325	27,081	9,700
NGOs & Community Orgs	5,000	2,000	4,000
Total Donations	79,365	79,640	55,900
Fees for Service	420	222	300
Fund Raising	1,130	194	-
Grants			
Endowment Fund	6,859	7,065	6,000
G. Murray and Edna Forbes Fdn	12,500	15,000	15,000
United Church M&S	30,000	32,500	32,500
Other	-	500	-
Total Grants	49,359	55,065	53,500
COVID-19 Subsidy	31,176	-	-
Interest Income	741	2,041	1,200
Total Income	162,191	137,162	110,900
Expense			
Board of Director's Expenses	605	405	200
Fund Raising Expenses	646	-	-
Insurance	477	477	500
Office	1,831	1,486	1,500
Payroll Allow/Reimbursement	888	420	420
Payroll Expenses	164,299	117,726	135,000
Rent - Knox Met UC	13,000	13,000	13,000
Telephone & Internet	2,247	2,305	2,280
Total Expense	183,993	135,819	152,900
Net Income/(Loss)	(21,802)	1,343	(42,000)