



Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry

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

2025 Annual Report

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Mission Statement

Rooted in God's radical inclusive 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

The end of 2025 marked the 30th anniversary of Peter Gilmer's service as advocate and minister with the Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry (RAPM). The Board is deeply grateful for Peter's long-standing dedication, compassion, and expertise in supporting those experiencing poverty in our community.

During the first part of the year, Colleen Taylor served in a ¾-time Anti-Poverty Support Worker role. Rebecca Granovsky-Larsen and Mandla Mthembu joined RAPM in temporary positions near the end of the year, and we also benefited from the contributions of practicum students Harold Alkema and Kaitlyn Tremblay.

In 2025, RAPM completed the Affirming process and applied to become an Affirming Ministry within The United Church of Canada. Follow us on social media to learn more and hear when we will hold a public celebration of this milestone.

We remain grateful for the ongoing support of Knox-Metropolitan United Church, as well as our other partners, including The United Church of Canada, Living Skies Regional Council, the G. Murray and Edna Forbes Foundation, and our many generous donors. Working toward the end of poverty requires patience and determination, as well as the support of our wider community.

RAPM is always seeking additional volunteers and donors. To learn how you can get involved, please visit www.antipovertyministry.ca.

Respectfully submitted,
Greg Horsman, 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 these areas for 2025.

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

In 2025, RAPM handled a particularly high number of cases related to difficulties covering rent due to a combination of inadequate benefits and rising rents. We continued to handle many cases related to problems with and the inadequacies of the

Saskatchewan Income Support (SIS) program. This included a large number of cases related to the denial of and cut-off of benefits. We also continue to deal with utility cut-off and arrears cases as SIS, unlike previous programs and SAID, does not cover the cost of basic utilities.

RAPM handled an all-time high 2,616 cases in 2025. This represented the third consecutive year we have exceeded 2,500. 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 meet immediate needs such as food, shelter and clothing. We navigate systems and refer people to appropriate services.

Furthermore, RAPM 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 seek to uphold the dignity of those requesting our help. We also maintain strict confidentiality.

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

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 seven anti-poverty services of worship in the past year. We also give 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 groups and events, as well as a cross-section of high school and post-secondary classes.

In 2025, RAPM conducted systematic advocacy workshops for United Church members and ministry personnel and were the guest speaker at the Anglican Diocese of Qu'Appelle Bishop's Discretionary Fund Dinner. We also gave panel presentations at community forums on the importance of harm reduction and the need for anti-poverty legislation.

The RAPM office acts as an anti-poverty resource centre, and we continue to be a media resource on poverty issues having been quoted on over 50 occasions in 2025 through interviews and press events. This included guest appearances on CBC Blue Sky to discuss the need for rent control and ways to end legislated poverty.

RAPM facilitated two practicum placements through the Faculty of Social Work in 2025. We expect to supervise a similar number of placements in 2026. This allows us the opportunity to help train the next generation of social and human justice

workers.

A key educational activity continues to be RAPM's monthly study circles with low-income and disability activists and volunteers. These study circles offer low-income people the opportunity to discuss poverty concerns that impact their lives. While staff may provide resource materials or line up speakers, the topics are decided upon and often led by members of the group. 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.

In 2025, our circles included discussions of concerns with possible expansion of Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) and RAPM's charter challenge of mandatory early withdrawal of CPP for SAID and SIS beneficiaries. We also had a mental health awareness workshop conducted by the Schizophrenia Society.

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 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 collaboration with End Poverty Regina, we held meetings with the Minister and Shadow Ministers for Social Services as well as the Shadow Ministers for Housing and Disabilities. End Poverty Regina held individual meetings with the Mayor of Regina and three members of Regina City Council.

We were part of the Mayor's Roundtable on Homelessness and gave multiple presentations to City Council.

On October 17, the UN Day for the Eradication of Poverty, RAPM held a First Voice Anti-Poverty Forum which brought together people living in poverty to share stories, concerns, and solutions and look at ways of working together moving forward. The event included a Rally to End Legislated Poverty in Victoria Park and was connected to a Unite Against Poverty Demonstration at the Saskatchewan Legislature on the opening day of the fall session.

In January of 2025, RAPM learned that our Charter Challenge to the Court of King's Bench against the Government of Saskatchewan for forcing SAID and SIS beneficiaries to take out their CPP at age 60 was unsuccessful. We have appealed this ruling and expect to have our case before the Saskatchewan Court of Appeal in 2026. Early withdrawal of CPP is of no benefit as it is clawed back dollar for dollar and means less CPP income after the age of 65.

Since 1997, RAPM has identified its anti-poverty proposals through extensive consultation with low-income people and organizations dealing with poverty issues. These proposals have been passed through the 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 the province has committed to under international law.

In 2025, we had a focus on campaigns around bringing in rent control legislation that would cap the amount rent could be increased in a given year, filling vacant Sask Housing units and raising SAID and SIS rates.

RAPM STAFF
<p>Peter Gilmer Ordained Minister Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Master of Theological Studies, Doctorate of Divinity (honoris causa), 37 years advocacy experience, 2005 Saskatchewan Centennial Medal and QEII Platinum Jubilee Medal Recipient.</p>
<p>Colleen Taylor Anti-Poverty Support Worker Bachelor of Arts (Sociology), Bachelor of Social Work, 37 years of experience in advocacy, social justice and human services.</p>

VISION STATEMENT

The Regina Anti Poverty Ministry is an Affirming social justice ministry on the lands of Treaty Two, Four, Six and Ten and the homelands of the Métis. Inspired by God’s radical inclusive love, we commit ourselves to justice, reconciliation and the eradication of poverty.

We value all people and their life experiences. We celebrate diversity and the gifts that people with differing gender identities, sexual orientations, ages, abilities, ethnicities, economic conditions and their intersections bring.

We strive to create respectful and accountable spaces such that we can grow and contribute to systemic change.

We will join with others who share our goals to uplift and strengthen our communities.

Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry	2024 Actuals	2025 Actuals	2026 Budget
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Income			
Allocation of Church Sale Proc	37,252		
Donations			
Canada Helps Donations	8,523	9,822	3,600
Churches & Other Groups	8,564	12,704	9,000
Gift in Kind - Rent	13,000	13,000	13,000
Individual Donations Pledge	15,945	16,730	15,000
Individual Donations - Other	13,871	14,117	6,000
NGOs & Community Orgs	500		0
Total Donations	60,403	66,373	46,600
Fees for Service	120	90	0
Fund Raising	37	99	0
Grants			
Endowment Fund	6,668	6,834	6,800
G. Murray and Edna Forbes Fdn	15,000	15,000	15,000
United Church M&S	35,000	28,000	30,000
Other	965	3,748	0
Total Grants	57,633	53,581	51,800
Interest Income	4,418	2,663	750
Total Income	159,863	122,806	99,150
Expense			
Board of Director's Expenses	1,616	373	200
First Voice Event	0	901	0
Insurance	477	477	500
Office	1,924	1,687	1,500
Payroll Allow/Reimbursement	420	420	720
Payroll Expenses	145,843	141,962	144,055
Rent - Knox Met UC	13,000	13,000	13,000
Telephone & Internet	2,263	2,248	2,175
Total Expense	165,543	161,068	162,150
Net Income/(Loss)	(5,680)	(38,262)	(63,000)