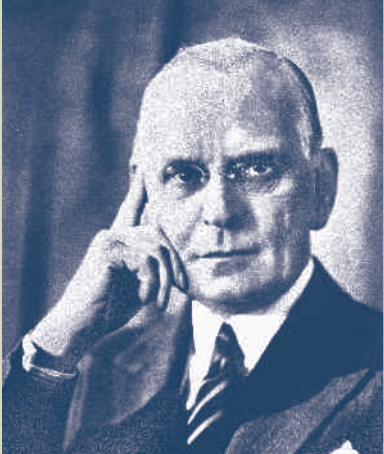


# VOICES FOR CHANGE



THE ATKINSON  
LEGACY IN ACTION

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The Atkinson  
Charitable Foundation

ANNUAL  
REPORT





# A Message from the President and Executive Director

## VOICES FOR CHANGE

“It’s been a long hard fight, and it’s nowhere near over,” writes Pat Capponi in the feature essay of the Foundation’s 2007 Annual Report. Certainly, our vision for social and economic justice continues to be challenged by persistent poverty and hopelessness on the part of too many, by the shortage of fair opportunities for everyone, and the need for all children to have the very best start in life.

But in 2007 we also saw tangible signs that gave us hope that change is indeed possible . . . and that the voices, research, and projects of our many partners can contribute to making better futures a reality for so many who are disadvantaged through no fault of their own.

It was a year when Ontario joined with a few other provinces to make a commitment to a Poverty Reduction Strategy – a commitment long pursued by our partners, which opened the door of possibilities for real change around income security, worker’s rights, affordable housing and quality early learning and child care. We are gratified that so many of our partners played, and continue to play, key roles in developing ideas that hold promise for genuine progress in reducing poverty. In this regard, the Foundation plays multiple roles of funder, convenor, and broker.

In 2007, the hard and smart work and determination of our partners in the early years bore fruit, as Charles was tasked by Premier McGuinty to advise him on the best way to implement the Premier’s vision for full-day learning for four- and five-year-olds.

It was a year when immigrant-rights activist Uzma Shakir was awarded an Atkinson Economic Justice Fellowship, and joined other ACF “fellows” Roy Romanow and Cathy Crowe’s spirited efforts for social and economic change.

Under the leadership of Mr. Romanow, Founding Chair of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW) Board, significant progress has been made this year in developing a robust set of inter-related categories or domains, that together, will measure and report on progress towards wellbeing or away from it in areas that really matter to Canadians and their quality of life. It is a project at a very exciting time in development and with a promising future.

It was also a year when the Foundation reinforced its commitment to giving “voice” to the voiceless. Pat Capponi reminds us in her essay that change and inclusion go hand in hand. That those who have too often been left at the margins and sidelines, must become an integral part of the journey towards a better world. Voices from the Street and ACORN, for example, represent our interest in ensuring that the marginalized have seats at the tables where change is possible.

In our efforts to be a more effective partner, we instituted an Inclusion Task Force to help us become stronger allies, more effective funders, and a more inclusive partner for change. It has been a very rewarding and powerful process and we are very thankful to our Task Force members, under the leadership of our board colleague Grace-Edward Galabuzi, for their generosity and willingness to work with the Foundation to deepen our understanding about exclusion and broaden our network of partners. We expect that their report to our board in 2008 will provide a significant blueprint for our ongoing development as a foundation.

We remain deeply grateful to our many partners, to a remarkable board of trustees, and to a dedicated staff, all working to advance social and economic justice in the tradition of our founder, Joseph E. Atkinson.



PETER A. ARMSTRONG  
President and  
Board Chair



CHARLES E. PASCAL  
Executive Director and  
Board Secretary

Peter A. Armstrong, President and Chair of the Board  
& Charles E. Pascal, Executive Director



# Voices of Experience, Voices for Change

By Pat Capponi



Pat Capponi in action during a Voices From the Street workshop

It's been a long hard fight, and it's nowhere near over. The struggle to be heard, to count, to be at the table where decisions affecting us are made has met with some significant success and some significant resistance.

For those of us who've left the margins and sidelines and chosen to grapple with the systems that are set up in our name and for our good, it's been instructive and liberating and, at times, maddening. We've had to learn new languages, the language of boardrooms, fiscal statements, policy papers, the insider speak crammed with codes and abbreviated everythings that leave one gasping for clarity and simplification. We might as well come from different countries, at times, we are so far apart experientially, economically, and in the upbringing and education we've received.

Those of us who've survived challenges like poverty, mental illness, addictions, homelessness, abuse, isolation and despair, who've had close encounters with those systems set up for us, and in those encounters found little comfort and less assistance,

“ Those of us who've survived challenges want change, want to impact services and bring relief to our peers. ”

want change, want to impact those services and bring relief to our peers.

We return to our neighbourhoods, those mean streets daily, we see the decimation in our communities, the meaningless deaths, we see the pallor of faces, the slumping of spirits, the hunger in dull eyes. We see and feel the exhaustion of single mothers, the dread for their children's future, children who are surrounded by lures of easy money, instant status in some makeshift gang. We live lives without a net, without security, without hope.

And of those across the table from us? It's hard to tell, sometimes. No one lives a life entirely free of challenges or tragedies, but in the main, very few come from anything approximating our world. There's



Dawnmarie,  
Mike, Fionna  
and Dwight:  
Voices From the  
Street

“ In Canada we aspire to fairness, we want opportunity for all, and we see the differences between the haves and have-nots as shameful. ”

none of that strain that shows on the faces of the poor, none of the anxiety, none of the missing teeth or yellowed fingers, none of the ill-effects of poverty diets and punishing fears.

Most exude levels of confidence and well-being that, in a Darwinian world, would be enough to send us scuttling back to the streets and alleyways of the city: clearly the fittest have survived and prospered.

Fortunately, in most circles, this narrow view of life is unacceptable. In Canada we aspire to fairness, we want opportunity for all, and we see the differences between the haves and have-nots as shameful. Of course, some think it is our shame – brought about by

moral failure and personal faults, but the enlightened at least understand that the causes of poverty are as numerous and varied as the causes of the vastly more popular issue of global warming.

Initially, being at the table, being at these meetings is akin to swimming outside the goldfish bowl, aware of the breath of sharks and other predators on our necks, while looking in, amazed at the safety and security of those glassed in, how protected they seem to be from shifting currents and Tsunami's, anchored around board tables, in endless conversation and polite debate. It is culture shock of the first order.

Poverty erodes from the inside out. This erosion



never stops. It is how we lose our sense of self as people with agency, people with the ability to affect our environment, to make necessary change, to move forward. It is so hard to see value in yourself when you're constantly at the receiving end of services which have a charitable tinge to them, where all the clients look distressed and down at the heels, where there's a sense—rarely spoken—of collective shame.

Living a life as a recipient, client, user, patient or member means never having enough to move forward, it means having to explain yourself, your failures, your needs,



“ The idea that there were no nurses, no psychiatrists, that it was just us crazy folks in the room was intoxicating. ”

every time another file is opened on you. It means never seeing yourself or your experiences reflected in the workers around you. It means losing your uniqueness, your identity to a large label that obscures you. Labels are the only things that are around in abundance.

Looking at the interface between client and worker, between the poor and the middle class, is instructive. As one member of Voices put it, “it doesn't matter how much I shower, or how clean my clothes are, I always feel like I have cooties when I sit across from my worker.”

On the one side of the desk, a person who's been a victim of sexual assault beginning early in her life, who's turned to drugs and alcohol to cut the pain, who's lived by her wits for decades, who's diabetic and suffers from high blood pressure and liver damage. She cuts herself, to augment the few tattoos she's been able to afford. She's drowning in despair, though the distrust and caution she's learned means it won't show.

On the other side, more often than not, sit people who may be well-meaning, but who have no clue about the impact of our life experiences on us, who faced few challenges in their own lives, who see us

through the filter of their middle class upbringing and their academic learning, and lack the sense of urgency or empathy that could impact our lives positively.

The former has to contend with societal judgements like: pariah, misfit, drug addict, welfare mother, homeless, user. The latter with societal congratulations for her selflessness, for her courage, for her kindness.

How could that imbalance, that distancing, not have a negative effect? Many have endured decades of professional and para-professional interventions and programs that instead of lifting us up have hollowed us out, left us unable to move.



Our new awareness started with ex-mental patients, back in the eighties.

Funded by the Ministry of Health, I travelled the province, and met with groups of the newly de-institutionalized in places like Thunder Bay, North Bay, Dryden, Peterborough, St. Catharine's, Kitchener-Waterloo. We'd meet in a regional hotel for three days. Fifteen men and women who'd been



Cheryl, Emily  
and Glenn:  
Voices From the  
Street



“ Poverty erodes from the inside out. This erosion never stops, it’s how we lose our sense of self as people with agency, to make necessary change, to move forward. ”



locked up most of their adult lives and burdened with diagnosis and medications they could hardly pronounce.

The idea that there were no nurses, no psychiatrists, that it was just us crazy folks in the room was intoxicating. There was never a temper tantrum, no acting out, no ‘crazy babbling’. In each group, everyone started by answering three questions in seven minutes.

What was my experience of the mental health system, good and bad?

What did I want to be or dream of being before I was diagnosed?

What skills/abilities/talents could I bring to a provincial movement?

I used to call it magic, what happened then. Because it happened every time. Given the expectation that they would each participate to whatever extent they could, given the respect and expectation that we were all adults and would behave as such, people would sit a little straighter, struggle to

rise above the debilitating effects of anti-psychotic medications, and pay rapt attention to one another’s presentations.

It wasn’t magic, of course, it was a combination of being given permission, often for the first time in their lives, encouraged to speak of loss, of difference, of their own feelings about what had happened to them, and hearing others speak with the same force and intellect. Bonds were created instantly, eyes sparkled that had before been dulled, and things were said that hadn’t ever been said. We got to see each other as survivors, fighters for change, organizers, we got to see possibilities where before there was only the sameness of days.

We’d been judged on the basis of our label and our surroundings. No one, including ourselves, could see beyond the poverty that defined our lives, the isolation, the terrible housing, the medications, the institutional behaviours we’d resort to when despair left no other options. We weren’t seen as possessing insight, intelligence, never mind ability.



We had to fight a decades-long fight to liberate ourselves from the professional caregivers of all stripes who couldn't see our potential, our individual differences within broad and damning categories like Schizophrenia or manic depression; caregivers who advised against risk-taking like seeking work, or entering relationships.

How was our struggle seen? It wasn't met with joy or heralded as a wonderful new development. We met with anger, pique, ridicule, resistance, and fear. After all, with some exceptions, we hadn't studied in university, hadn't passed exams and been accepted into professional associations. The system of hospitals and community mental health agencies in the main resisted our empowerment every step of the way, and those who received the most benefit from the way things had always been, in terms of status and salary and office sizes and titles, resisted the most.

But we had powerful allies: the government was on our side. We had positions on boards of agencies, on mental health reform committees, we were funded in various capacities and that funding enabled some of us to rise out of poverty, allowed us to shuck off the debilitating effects of constant anxiety, hunger, fear, and get our voices strong and powerful right across the province. We did it ourselves, and the mental health system is better for it today.

There are PhD's out there who've done their thesis on the survivor movement. At least one asked, rhetorically, "where did all these talented people come from? They're out there making documentaries, starring in plays, running businesses, writing books." The answer is, of course, we were here all along, but we were invisible to the providers who couldn't see past our circumstances, our poverty, our labels, and their narrow lens of speciality. A few weeks ago, I was struck by how far we've come. I'd been invited to Hamilton to meet with survivors: there were ninety in the room, none drooling or shuffling, none without spirit and feistiness, all anxious to move forward in their fight for full citizenship, full rights.



Now we've taken what we learned from those early leadership forums and broadened our focus and our

membership. The questions we ask at the beginning have changed, now it is: the first time I went hungry, or the first time I couldn't pay my rent or the first time I found myself out on the street. Again, people who've felt ashamed to be part of this amorphous group called the poor hear each other, speak to one another and begin to engage. Begin to understand that beyond their personal responsibility for what might be bad decisions and outcomes, there are systemic failures that are costing our society dearly in terms of talents lost, contributions left unmade, dreams unfulfilled.

The last decades have shown us that the class divisions are so pronounced and entrenched, our lack of understanding and empathy so egregious, our systems so appalling indifferent to the practical everyday needs of survival, that they themselves are a huge part of the problem – they are the barriers, the obstacles to people being enabled to move beyond the reach of poverty.

Inclusion for us means, invited or not, we must be at the table where planning and programs and policies are made. It means we must be an active part of any further studies of the poor, helping to create the questions, create the services. It means that, in the words of John Stapleton, both the grass bottoms and the grass tops must be brought together to create rational and workable pathways out of poverty.

It means by virtue of our hard-scrabble existence, our survival, we are qualified to work with one another, to help each other rebuild ourselves from the inside out. It means toppling some mini-empires that have been built on our backs, it means simplifying systems, it means identifying what works and why. It means having respect for our abilities, our knowledge, our histories, our expertise.

Inclusion for us means a real dynamic eclectic partnership moving us all forward. And it starts with me, it starts with you. ■

Pat Capponi is a person intimately familiar with poverty, mental illness, and the struggle for empowerment. She has authored numerous books and has been very active in community groups, including as a facilitator of the Voices From the Street Speaker's Bureau.



# Atkinson's Legacy in Action: Projects Funded in 2007

## Early Learning and Child Care: Helping the dream come alive

The Foundation supports a number of projects that promote the benefits of early learning and child care towards a vision of a pan Canadian system that can benefit all families. The Foundation and its partners were hard at work in 2007 tilling the ground for the next phase of growth for early learning and child care.

**Toronto First Duty** continued to evolve as a living example of what the future of early learning and child care could look like across Canada. In partnership with the City of Toronto and the Toronto District School Board, the focus in 2007 was centered on the Bruce/WoodGreen Early Learning Centre. The Centre continued its work to combine and integrate the three pillars of early learning and care – regulated child care, kindergarten and parenting supports – into a single, affordable, accessible service (\$252,000).



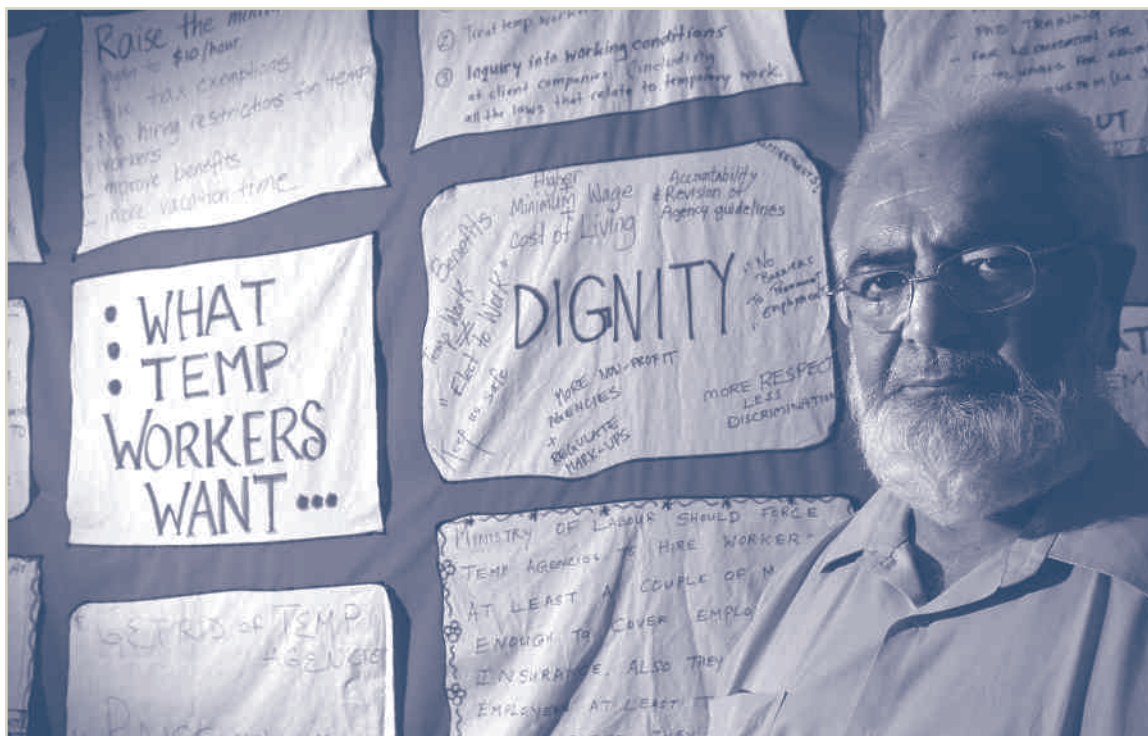
**The Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at OISE/UT** to provide research and evaluation support for Toronto First Duty (\$20,000).

**The Atkinson Centre for Society and Child Development at OISE/UT** to support the continued partnership between the Atkinson Centre at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education at the University of Toronto and the School of Early Childhood at George Brown College to collaborate and aid in postsecondary education programs that support the early childhood development profession (\$83,470).

**Better Child Care Education Foundation** for the project entitled *Raising Our Voices* to enhance communications and public education capacity and research on issues of early learning and child care (\$75,000).

**Better Child Care Education Foundation** for communications and public education support regarding Toronto First Duty (\$31,558).

**University of Guelph** to enable the Childcare Resource and Research Unit to continue to undertake evidence-based research that contributes to Canada's early learning and child care aspirations (\$60,000).



## Economic Justice

The Foundation supports a number of research and public education activities that contribute to improved income security policies and poverty reduction objectives.

**Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives** to expand the capacity of rabble.ca, an online progressive news site (\$10,000).

**Centre for Equality Rights and Accommodation** for a research project entitled *Show and Tell: Exposing Housing Discrimination in Toronto* (\$46,450).

**ACORN Institute of Canada** to work with local communities to transform conditions that adversely affect residents in economically depressed neighbourhoods (\$50,000).

**People for Education** to foster a diverse constituency with the capacity to promote positive change in the public education system (\$79,769).

**Gerstein Crisis Centre** in partnership with Voices From the Street to educate and inform the public about poverty issues and establish links with other agencies, institutions and community groups working on public policy (\$80,500).

**Phoenix Community Works Foundation** for the Medicare Research and National Education Program, in partnership with Canadian Doctors for Medicare (\$70,000).

**McMaster University** to research the quality of care in private for-profit and private not-for-profit nursing homes (\$50,700).

**Raising the Roof/YouthWorks** to support and promote programs and approaches that best serve homeless and at-risk youth across Canada (\$20,000).



**Tikinagan Child and Family Services** to support the North South Partnership for Children, Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win; an initiative developed in recognition of the desperate needs of children, youth and families in remote First Nation communities in Ontario (\$50,000).

**National Youth in Care Network** a one-time development grant of \$44,000 to support Andrée Cazabon's production and promotion of the current film project, "Six Within."

**Mennonite Central Committee** in partnership with the Interfaith Social Assistance Reform Coalition to raise the capacity of multi-faith communities to work towards social justice (\$45,000).

**Co-operative Housing Federation of Toronto** to expand the capacity of Atkinson Co-op residents to implement community-directed initiatives that improve community wellbeing (\$40,000).

**Ontario Council of Agencies Serving Immigrants** for the Colour of Poverty project, a public education strategy that addresses the racialization of poverty in Ontario (\$62,389).

**Community Social Planning Council** to highlight the significance of community social service work and the importance of investing in community based agencies (\$10,000).

**Democracy Education Network** to support a partnership with Democracy Watch to engage citizens in the areas of democratic reforms, corporate responsibility and accountability issues (\$7,500).

**Canadian Working Group on HIV and Rehabilitation** for the Episodic Disabilities project, to undertake research regarding labour force participation of people with episodic disabilities (\$11,000).



## SPECIAL INITIATIVES

### **The Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Award**

Established in 1998, this award provides an annual gift of \$50,000 - the largest of its kind in Canada - to a charitable organization that has implemented an activity that significantly improves the life prospects of children at risk. It is dedicated to the memory of Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh, daughter of Joseph E. Atkinson, and president of the Foundation until her death in 1994. The award is co-sponsored by the four Hindmarsh families and the Foundation. **The Pathways to Education Program** was honored as the 2007 recipient in recognition of its tremendous success in helping young people in the Regent Park neighborhood achieve their full potential and in replicating this successful program in other communities.



*Shequita Thompson, Pathways to Education Graduate & Nancy Hindmarsh, RAH Award Selection Committee Chair.*

### **Here and Now Grants**

In 2007, the Foundation provided "Here and Now: Feed the Needy" grants of \$25,000 each to Ontario faith- and spiritual-based charities in recognition of their work to clothe, feed, and house the disadvantaged. The recipients in 2007

were: Na-Me-Res, Toronto; Welcome Inn, Hamilton; St. Vincent de Paul's, Kingston; and The Gathering Place, North Bay.

### **Making Our investments Count for Social Justice**

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation supports a range of projects and activities that further its mission to promote social and economic justice. But where do the financial resources to sponsor those projects come from? ACF has adopted a mission-based investment policy as a way to pursue its goals not only through program work, but also through how the Foundation invests its assets. The ACF is currently engaging with companies in its portfolio whose core business appears to rely on contingent work or precarious employment. We want to reinforce with these companies the values that underpin ACF's economic justice grantmaking.

### **Fighting Words: The Social Crusades of Joseph E. Atkinson**

*Fighting Words* is a documentary that examines the life and times of Joseph E. Atkinson, the *Star's* legendary publisher. It tells the story of a great newspaper in the making and charts the City of Toronto's progress towards a more civil society. The Foundation has supported a cluster of initiatives geared to the dissemination of this documentary, including extensive use as a teaching resource in Ontario high schools.

To order a free DVD of the film visit the Foundation's website: ([www.atkinsonfoundation.ca](http://www.atkinsonfoundation.ca))



# The Canadian Index of Wellbeing: Measuring what matters

*How is it possible that in the midst of such economic wealth,  
there are still so many children living in poverty?*

*Why is it that the gap between rich and poor continues to grow?*

*How is it that in the midst of unprecedented housing booms there are still so many homeless  
people, and families living in sub-standard accommodation?*

*Why is it that at a time when the planet is warming, the climate is becoming more extreme,  
and natural resources are diminishing, so little is done to protect the environment and preserve  
it for future generations?*

Canadians are asking these questions of their elected officials and wanting to know what they can do within their communities to help solve them.

Enter the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW). *"The CIW will 'connect the dots' between social aspirations and public policy, based on hard evidence. The CIW is being developed to make sure that we are measuring what matters"* stated The Honourable Roy J. Romanow, Founding Chair of the CIW Institute Board in one of his many speeches promoting the CIW across the country and overseas.

The CIW's vision is to enable Canadians to share in the highest wellbeing status by identifying, developing and publicizing measures that offer clear, valid and regular reporting on progress toward wellbeing outcomes Canadians seek as a nation. The CIW defines 'wellbeing' as the presence of the highest possible quality of life in its full breadth of expression in eight categories or domains (living standards, health, a sustainable environment, vital communities, education and skills, balanced time use, civic participation, and arts, culture and recreation). Together, the domains will be distilled into 64 specific and measurable indicators, and a composite index with a single number that will go up or down, much like the TSX or Dow Jones.

The CIW is in an advanced state of development under the leadership of world class experts, and backed by rigorous Canadian and international peer review and public consultation. Together, the domain reports will provide the broadest possible profile of Canadian wellbeing in much the same way as the gross domestic product (GDP) provides a profile of the Canadian economy. In other words, it will link the economic reality and longer-term prosperity of Canada with the social, health, and environmental conditions that shape our communities.

This year saw the completion of the first versions of five domain reports (Living Standards, Healthy Populations, Community Vitality, Time Use, and Educated Populace), the composite



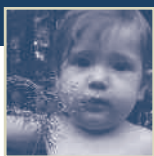
framework and development on the Ecosystem Health domain. The last two domains, Civic Engagement and Arts, Culture and Recreation will be tendered and developed in 2008.

Fostering the CIW Network and expanding a cross-Canada network of users and champions has been exceptionally successful this year. Through a variety of strategic activities including the second round of cross-Canada roundtables in thirteen communities, use of a web based e-bulletin to maintain and expand a growing network of stakeholders and potential users, conference presentations in Canada and internationally, keynote presentations by Mr. Romanow, and media, video and publication opportunities have all kept the CIW project front and centre. A highlight of the year was the well-received closing keynote delivered by Mr. Romanow titled "*Promoting Progress, Making it Happen*" at the OECD's Second World Forum on 'Measuring and Fostering the Progress of Societies' in Istanbul, Turkey in June 2007. A video sponsored by The Atkinson Charitable Foundation based on the Forum, including a clip of Mr. Romanow is posted on YouTube and a link available from [www.ciw.ca](http://www.ciw.ca).

The CIW Project has been supported by a Funders' Alliance led by the Atkinson Foundation. Joining the RBC Foundation in 2007 were four new alliance members: the Lawson Foundation, McConnell Family Foundation, Province of Ontario, and the Canadian Council on Learning. This allowed focused attention on R&D activities and organizational development. The CIW forged ahead with a new organization structure, established an International Advisory Network, and began recruiting for a newly forming CIW Institute Board.

Speaking on behalf of all of the people involved in developing the CIW, Mr. Romanow sums up the project by stating "*we believe that as we promote the CIW and its results become widely known and broadly discussed, it will emerge as Canada's principal means of measuring genuine progress. If we can establish a new conceptual approach to measuring how we are really doing, then we can change the national dialogue. In doing so, we can change the course of national decision making and bring it back into line with Canadian values.*"

*For more information about the CIW, and to sign up for the e-bulletin, visit [www.ciw.ca](http://www.ciw.ca)*



## ATKINSON ECONOMIC JUSTICE FELLOWS

The Atkinson Economic Justice Fellowships are awarded to exceptional community leaders whose work inspires the Foundation's imagination. The awards provide Fellows with support to continue to think and act for a more just and healthier future for all Canadians. Fellowships typically provide up to \$100,000, including stipend and expenses, for a period of up to three years.



**CATHY CROWE** continued raising public awareness about housing and homelessness solutions. In 2007, Ms. Crowe released *Dying for a Home: Homeless Activists Speak Out*, an inspirational book that draws on the voices of homeless and formerly homeless people who have been part of the struggle for a national housing programme.



**THE HON. ROY J. ROMANOW** continued his active engagement in the development and promotion of the Canadian Index of Wellbeing (CIW), a new approach to measuring the true wellbeing of Canadians. He also continued his important work aimed at strengthening and sustaining Canada's medicare system.



**UZMA SHAKIR** was awarded the Fellowship in 2007 with the goal of engaging new immigrants in shaping what Canada's future should look like. Ms. Shakir is committed to working with diverse communities on issues such as poverty, access to professions and trades, human rights and the erosion of civil liberties.

## ATKINSON FELLOWSHIP IN PUBLIC POLICY



The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy is designed to further the tradition of liberal journalism and commitment to social and economic justice fostered by Joseph E. Atkinson. Funded by the Toronto Star, the Honderich Family and the Foundation, the one-year Fellowship is open to experienced, full-time Canadian journalists who have achieved some distinction in reporting on policy issues. The 2007 Fellowship was awarded to Toronto Star feature writer **Judy Steed** for a research project entitled *Aging: The Myths, the New Research, the Hidden Poverty, Transformative Models and Public Policy Innovations*.



# WHAT DOES POVERTY MEAN TO YOU?

## A PHOTO ESSAY BY CHERYL DUGGAN

Cheryl Duggan has had a lifetime experience of both poverty and disability. She has been forced to find creative ways to adapt financially, physically and spiritually to her daily struggles. During a recent symposium on poverty in Toronto, Cheryl decided to set up her photo equipment in the hallways, and capture how passer-bys responded to a simple question: What does poverty mean to you? The following is an excerpt of her photo essay – a full version is available at [www.25in5.ca](http://www.25in5.ca) <<http://www.25in5.ca>>.

Poverty means being totally disconnected from society.

**Connie Harrison**



Poverty means not having resources and not being able to make life's simple choices.

**John Stapleton**



Poverty means people are not able to participate in life within their communities - economically or socially.

**Councillor Joe Mihevc**

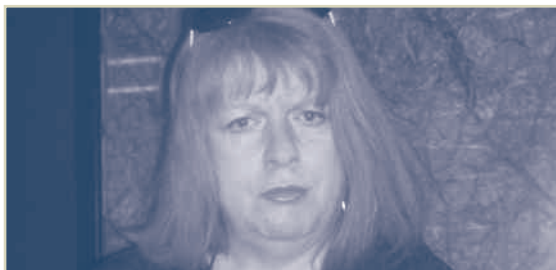


Poverty means not being able to problem solve at the most simple level.

**Kathy Kunsmann**



Poverty means not being able to utilize six years of university education. **Sharon Devers**



Poverty means too much month at the end of the money. **Terrie Meehan**

Poverty means the oppression of people and communities. People can't live their full potential. **Michael Creek**



Poverty means insecurity. You never know what's around the corner. **Bonnie Risser**

Poverty means children not having access to educational resources including school trips. **John Campey**



Poverty means not getting enough of the things that my children and I need. **Ursula Samuels**

Poverty means not having a decent affordable home. **Tracy Izzard**



Poverty means that not everyone has an equal chance of success. **Annie Kidder**

Poverty means choosing which potato to cook. **Kevin Desmoulin**





Poverty means being a second class citizen ...  
without a voice. **Naomi Berlyne**



Poverty means a  
lack of space to  
think and exist.  
**Glen Pappin**

Poverty  
means a lack  
of strength –  
like a drum  
outta tune  
**Clifford Scott**

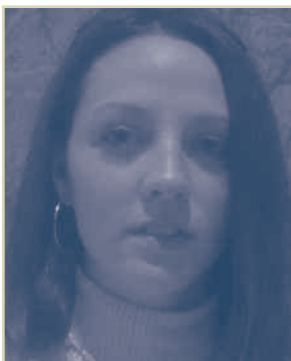


Poverty means  
pain and sadness  
for what you  
can't have.  
**Zephie Jones**

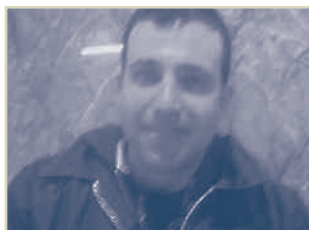
Poverty means the  
chronic waste of  
amazingly talented  
people who have been  
forced into a life-  
sentence of insecurity.  
**Michael Yale**



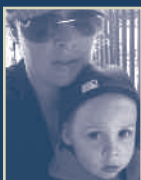
Poverty means a lack of hope.  
Without hope there's nothing!  
**Curtis Bishop**



Poverty means  
adapting to a  
different culture -  
a culture of poverty.  
**Amber Buott**



Poverty means  
its time to stand  
up and speak  
out.  
**Jonah Shein**



Cheryl Duggan is an ODSP recipient who is earning her monthly stipend by advocating for both people living in poverty and people with disabilities. A few of the initiatives that she is involved with are the ODSP Action Coalition, 25 in 5 Network for Poverty Reduction, and the International Day for People with Disabilities celebrations.



# Atkinson Charitable Foundation Mission statement

... promoting social and economic justice in the tradition of our founder Joseph E. Atkinson.



## Our Board of Directors

Front row:

**Rev. Susan Eagle,**  
**Peter A. Armstrong**

(President and Chair),

**Carol Goar.**

Back row:

**Hugh Mackenzie**

(Treasurer),

**Nancy Hindmarsh,**

**Charles E. Pascal**

(Executive Director and  
Secretary to the Board),

**Grace-Edward Galabuzi.**



## Our Staff

From left to right:

**Linda Rattie,**

Project Assistant,  
Canadian Index of Wellbeing,

**Lynne Slotek,**

National Project Director,  
Canadian Index of Wellbeing,

**Charles Pascal,**

Executive Director,

**Christine Avery Nuñez**

Office Manager,

**Pedro Barata,**

Outreach and Communications  
Coordinator,

**Elizabeth Chan**

Administrative Assistant.

### Visit us on the Web...

Visit the Atkinson Foundation's website for more news, views, updates and links to a vast selection of resources from the Foundation and its partners. While there, sign up for the Foundation's e-bulletin and stay up to date on the latest news:

<http://www.atkinsonfoundation.ca/>



# Financial Overview

## BALANCE SHEET

As at December 31

	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Cash	171,304	123,140
Investments, at cost	59,075,352	57,760,707
	<b>59,246,656</b>	<b>57,883,847</b>
<b>FUND BALANCES</b>		
Income fund	3,922,370	5,039,416
Capital fund	55,324,286	52,794,591
The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	—	49,840
	<b>59,246,656</b>	<b>57,883,847</b>

## STATEMENT OF INCOME FUND

Year ended December 31

	2007 \$	2006 \$
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Interest on bonds	928,270	787,616
Dividends	1,032,028	1,009,984
Interest on cash and short-term investments	35,268	32,919
	<b>1,995,566</b>	<b>1,830,519</b>
Contributions Received	589,476	1,577,507
	<b>2,585,042</b>	<b>3,408,026</b>
<b>DISBURSEMENTS</b>		
General and administrative	329,812	279,454
Investment management	426,067	422,082
Grants program		
Program development	1,380,373	987,651
Grants paid	1,515,836	1,117,385
Grants paid to The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	50,000	50,000
Transferred to the Capital Fund	—	1,500,000
	<b>3,702,088</b>	<b>4,356,572</b>
<b>Deficiency of receipts over disbursements for the year</b>	<b>(1,117,046)</b>	<b>(948,546)</b>
Income fund balance, beginning of year	5,039,416	5,987,962
<b>Income fund balance, end of year</b>	<b>3,922,370</b>	<b>5,039,416</b>

The data shown has been extracted and summarized from the 2007 Financial Statements of The Atkinson Charitable Foundation.



From bitter personal experience, Joseph Atkinson believed the state had a duty to help the widowed, the orphaned, the sick, the old, the unemployed, the forsaken - all those who fell by the wayside through no fault of their own. In 1946, as the Ontario government moved to close daycare centres for children of working mothers, Atkinson's *Toronto Star* summed up its long struggle for social reform when it said on its editorial page:

"The point at issue is simply this. Is it or is it not desirable that out-of-work people should have some means of subsistence? Is it or is it not desirable that people should be able to give their children a proper start in life? Is it or is it not desirable that people should have proper medical care irrespective of their means? Should aged people be assured of at least some sort of income, or should they not? In brief, are human beings in a prosperous country like Canada entitled to some means of security in life? The Star thinks that they are."



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The Atkinson Charitable Foundation  
One Yonge Street, Suite 1508  
Toronto ON M5E 1E5  
<http://www.atkinsonfoundation.ca>