

Contents

1

Our Board of Trustees _____	3
Our Officers and Staff _____	3
A Message from our President _____	5
A Report from our Executive Director _____	7
The Story of our Founder _____	9
Special Atkinson Initiatives _____	11
A Review of Projects Funded This Year _____	15
An Update on Earlier Projects _____	21
Financial Overview _____	25
Special Thanks _____	27



2

“The democratic process means that all the people, by thinking, planning and experimenting together can work out measures which will bring the greatest good to the greatest number of people.”

—Joseph E. Atkinson



Our Board of Trustees

Our Officers & Staff

Catherine (Betsy) Atkinson Murray (Chair)

Peter A. Armstrong

J. Murray Cockburn

Reverend Susan Eagle

Carol Goar

Beland H. Honderich

Dr. Burnett M. Thall

President: Catherine (Betsy) Atkinson Murray

Treasurer: J. Murray Cockburn

Secretary to the Board & Executive Director: Charles E. Pascal

Program Co-ordinator: Christine Avery Nuñez

Secretary: Elizabeth Chan

4



A Message from our President

*“A prosperity that fails
to benefit the classes
that form the
foundation of society
is not real but
artificial. Prosperity
must bless all.”*

—Joseph E. Atkinson

This year the Foundation focused on “partnering”. In a country with too few resources dedicated to promoting social and economic justice, we continue to try and draw together individuals and organizations to build towards a fair and equitable society.

The past year has been a particularly important one for building new partnerships, strengthening existing ones and giving our own partners a bigger role in our ongoing operations. For example, we worked together with other foundations, the Maytree, Laidlaw and Gordon foundations, to create a “partnership community” together, sharing information, targeting our resources and discussing priorities.

We have brought together many people and involved them in trying to create new alliances for fairness such as a collaborative effort to develop publicly-available measurements of well-being that truly reflect Canada’s values. We made a commitment to provide large-scale funding in our two priority areas—early childhood education and development, and economic justice—and involved nearly 100 partners to help us focus our activities in those areas.

The past year was also one in which our Board of Trustees took the first steps to ensure we reflect our own principles of access and equity. We elected to the Board Rev. Susan Eagle, co-chair of the Ontario Social Safety Network—the first Board member who is not part of the Atkinson, Hindmarsh or *Toronto Star* family. We also elected Carol Goar the award-winning editorial page editor of *The Toronto Star*.

My sincere thank you to the Board for their dedication and hard work to promote social and economic justice in the tradition of our founder, Joseph E. Atkinson. I especially appreciated their work this year in focusing on our new directions. None of this would be possible without the efforts of Charles Pascal, Christine Avery Nuñez and Elizabeth Chan. And I also want to thank our ever-growing number of partners who make our work possible.

Catherine (Betsy) Atkinson Murray
President

6

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

—Margaret Mead



A Report from our Executive Director

Partnership is one of those principles that is more often seen in the breach than in the observance. Many public and private organizations, for example, like to say that they've consulted with their "partners"—sometimes there is genuine collaboration taking place, or all too often the consultation seems like a nice thing to be perceived to be doing.

During the past year, the Atkinson Charitable Foundation (ACF) worked hard to build real partnerships—enduring, sustainable, equitable partnerships—so that the benefits of our work will have the greatest ripple effect, improve the lives of the largest number of people, and lead to the most significant long-term changes.

A number of projects that we continued to fund in 1999 reflect the partnership principle:

- **Food 2002** is focusing on a plan for better food security and eliminating hunger. The project has made this possible by bringing all of the partners to the same table—government, producers, wholesalers, retailers and grassroots agencies.
- **Canadian Community Reinvestment Coalition**, a project of The Democracy Education Network, brings together over 100 agencies to identify systemic barriers that prevent access to capital and other financial services for poor communities.
- **Opportunities 2000** is dedicated to ensuring that 2000 households in the Cambridge/Kitchener Waterloo communities escape poverty by the end of the year 2000. Their success is based on an incredible partnership table that includes: those living in poverty, business, industry, the third sector, labour and education. The ACF was pleased to have introduced to the table a significant funding partner, The Royal Bank.

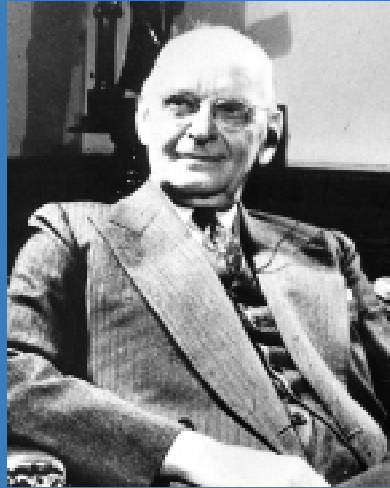
Indeed, our most important partners are our grantees. Their work is the reason our Web site received so many "hits" last year, and their reports continue to get the wide attention of policy makers and print and electronic news media such as the CBC and *Toronto Star*.

In the coming year we will continue to strive to be better partners, to strengthen existing partnerships and build new ones so we can become an even stronger force for promoting social and economic justice.

My continuing gratitude goes to our dedicated board for its visioning leadership, Christine Avery Nuñez and Liz Chan for their remarkable work at the Foundation, our communications consultant Seymour Kanowitch for his superb strategic advice, and our digital designer Heather Brade for her creativity.

Charles Pascal, Executive Director

8



The Story of Our Founder

In this time of growing disparities and increased poverty, we would do well to remember the lessons and life story of our founder, Joseph E. Atkinson.

Mr. Atkinson will always be best known as a businessman and publisher of *The Toronto Star*. But he was a different kind of businessman and a different kind of publisher. He was a tireless social crusader determined to create a just and equitable society.

Much of his world view was formed when he was a boy. His father died when Joseph was just five years old, leaving his mother with eight mouths to feed. She opened a boarding house for labourers in the local mill and it was there that he first learned about the grinding effects of poverty.

As publisher of *The Toronto Star* (1899–1948) through two world wars and the Great Depression, Mr. Atkinson was a brilliant and provocative editorialist—a strong voice for policies that would alleviate social and economic disparities. His legacy lives on in the form of programs such as minimum wage, retirement and disability pensions, and employment insurance.

Just as many are involved today in the fight against the erosion of social programs, Mr. Atkinson knew that it would be a constant struggle to protect and improve policies and programs that protect the vulnerable. That is why his final and most enduring contribution was the creation of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation.

Today our foundation carries on his mission, with a renewed commitment to bringing together individuals and groups in new partnerships, knowing, as he did, that social change requires a collective effort and a powerful voice.

10

“Few will have the greatness to bend history itself; but each of us can work to change a small portion of events, and in the totality of all those acts will be written the history of this generation.”

—Robert F. Kennedy



Special Atkinson Initiatives

While the Atkinson Charitable Foundation provides most of its support in the form of grants to non-profit, registered charities in Ontario, we also initiate and fund a number of our own special projects.

The Ruth Atkinson Hindmarsh Award

This award was established in 1998 to celebrate and encourage the heroic efforts of organizations that fight childhood poverty and its disastrous effects. It 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. The award is co-funded between the four Hindmarsh families and the Foundation.

The 1999 Award went to Ryerson Community Public School, an inner-city full-service school in downtown Toronto. The School is a strong champion for the promotion, prevention and intervention approach to preparing the community for the start of school and supporting the community throughout the year. Ryerson involves student, teachers and parents in a partnership with more than 50 community agencies

“What makes Ryerson Community School unique is not who we are but the people we serve,” said Principal Chris Bolton in accepting the award. “We develop programs that reflect the needs of the community **with** the community not just **for** it. This is critical because a large proportion of our students come to the learning environment at considerable risk. They face challenges like a new language, a new country, while at the same time dealing with the problems created by low income. We’ve created a community outreach/community development model that ensures the well-being of students and their families.”

12

The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy

The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy is designed to further both the tradition of liberal journalism in Canada and the commitment to social and economic justice of Joseph E. Atkinson, former publisher of *The Toronto Star*. The Fellowship, funded by *The Toronto Star*, the Beland Honderich family and the Foundation, provides a grant for a Canadian journalist to undertake a year-long research project on a topical public policy issue.

In 1999 the Award went to Alison Griffiths and David Cruise for their proposal “Hear No Evil” a look into the world of the hard of hearing and the deaf. Cruise and Griffiths have won 10 major writing and documentary awards. Their fellowship series will first appear in the *Toronto Star* in the fall, 2000. The Fellowship winners receive a stipend of \$65,000 plus an expense budget of \$25,000.

The Atkinson Letter

The Atkinson Letter is a periodic newsletter designed to inform the public about major social and economic policy issues and promote debate about progressive, alternative solutions. The *Letter* is sent to over 1,500 opinion leaders across Canada.

In 1999 we published two two-part series. The first series examined the issue of **health guides and report cards for Canada**. It looked at the role that these reporting mechanisms play in other countries, the benefits they could bring to Canada, and what it would take to develop a national program of health guides and report cards in Canada. The second series examined the issue of whether **Canadians are working too many hours**. It looked at the social and



economic benefits that reduced work time could bring, the lessons from other countries, and what governments, business and labour could do to create a better work/life balance for Canadians.

Feed the Needy 1999 Campaign

Although our foundation's focus is on addressing long-term, systemic problems that impact the disadvantaged, our Board has continued its support for some programs that meet the short-term needs of low-income families and individuals. Feed the Needy is one such program. It provides funds for shelters and missions to purchase food and clothing during the holiday season. This year our donation of \$85,000 went to:

The Salvation Army, Toronto	\$30,000
Society of St. Vincent de Paul, Toronto	\$15,000
The Scott Mission, Toronto	\$15,000
Yonge Street Mission, Toronto	\$10,000
St. Francis' Table, Toronto	\$5,000
Good Shepherd Refuge, Toronto	\$5,000
St. Bartholomew's Church, Toronto	\$5,000



14



A Review of Projects Funded This Year

*“I am only one; but still
I am one. I cannot do
everything, but still I
can do something; I
will not refuse to do
something I can do.”*

—Helen Keller

In 1999 we provided \$2,111,430 in grants (\$587,929 to new projects and \$1,523,501 in ongoing funding to multi-year projects):

NEW PROJECTS FUNDED IN 1999

Alexandra Park Co-op Conversion

A grant of \$25,000 was given to assist the residents of Alexandra Park, a 410-unit social housing project in downtown Toronto, to convert to a non-profit housing co-operative. This would improve the residents' quality of life, enable them to have more control over their environment, develop their confidence and skills by allowing them to run their own housing, and utilize the co-op structure to address other needs of the residents. If it succeeds, it will be the first conversion of public housing in Canada to co-op management controlled by the residents.

Benchmarks: Principles for Global Corporate Responsibility

The United Church was given a grant of \$60,000 (\$30,000 in 1999) to work in collaboration with the Task Force on Churches and Corporate Responsibility to support their human rights and social justice standards in corporations. They developed *Principles for Global Corporate Responsibility* a tool for NGO's and corporations to establish indicators of corporate responsibility.

Canadian Partnership for Ethical Trading

The United Steelworkers Humanity Fund was awarded a grant of \$80,000 (\$31,000 in 1999 and \$49,000 in 2000) to help develop a fair code of minimum labour standards and practices. The work also includes developing mechanisms to ensure compliance along with government action to address the problem of sweatshop labour in Canada and abroad.



16

Child Care Education Foundation

The Child Care Education Foundation was given a grant of \$7,500 to work in partnership with the Child Poverty Action Group on the Impact of Tax Cuts on Families with Children. This research project will compare and analyse a representative range of federal tax proposals from the perspective of their impact on families with children.

Closing the Gap (Phase 2)

The Centre for Social Justice was given a grant of \$200,000 for an initial three years. The project is conducting research on the gap between rich and poor in Canada , promoting dialogue and developing policy options.

Dialogue on Health Reform: Sustaining Confidence in Canada's Health Care System

The Department of Health Administration at the University of Toronto was awarded a grant of \$122,000 (\$61,000 in each of 1999 and 2000) to research and promote dialogue on the fundamentals of national health insurance. The project also will document the growth of a two-tiered health care system due to passive privatization and the growth of private insurance. Sensible reforms for improved home care and better waiting list management are being researched.

Economic Justice Education and Research

The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives was given a grant of \$50,000 to assist in general public education and research.



Eh Magazine

The Development Education Centre was given a grant of \$8,200 to prepare a business plan for a new Canadian progressive Web magazine called “Eh Magazine”.

Housing Opportunities Made Equal: HOME

People with low incomes have difficulty finding affordable housing. The Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) was given a grant of \$90,000 to research how systemic barriers can be removed so that people with low incomes can have equitable access to affordable housing.

Homes First Society

The Homes First Society was given a grant of \$6,800 for the development of a conference “Choosing a Clear Path to the Future Together” to explore the issues of homelessness.

My First Job: How to Find, Land and Succeed at Your First Job

The Youth Employment Services of Toronto was given a grant of \$26,500 to develop, publish and disseminate a book aimed at disadvantaged youth. The publication will offer concrete, straight-talking, fundamental advice to youth regarding getting a job and keeping it.

PEACH — Community Banking: What is it?

The Jane-Finch community was given a grant of \$3,000 to bring together 40 bankers and 40 community members and promote a dialogue on community banking.



People’s Rights & Poverty in Ontario: Increasing the Capacity of the Poor to Participate (Phase 2)

The Centre for Equality Rights in Accommodation (CERA) and Low Income Families Together (LIFT) have been given a grant of \$90,000 to continue their effort to increase the capacity of low-income people to participate in dialogue concerning economic and social rights.

CONTINUED FUNDING FOR MULTI-YEAR PROJECTS

In addition to the grants described above, the ACF provided grants in 1999 to the following projects as part of multi-year projects approved in previous years:

Access Denied: Poverty and Women Abuse— London Family Court Clinic	\$73,929
Atkinson Intern—University of Toronto	13,510
Broadening the Circle—(Ontario Child Care Foundation) ..	\$51,250
Caledon Institute—Speaking Out	\$222,490
Community Family Literacy Program— Macaulay Child Development Centre	\$99,438
Community Report Card— Canadian Institute for Advanced Research	\$130,000
Cyber Moms—Lakehead Social Planning Council	\$55,000



Democracy Education Network	\$60,000
Documenting the Effectiveness of T.O. Parenting Centres— Toronto School Board	\$6,200
Faith and the Moral Economy Moderator’s Tour— United Church of Canada	\$145,000
Food 2002—Foodshare of Metro Toronto	\$42,688
Ontario Association of Rehabilitation Services	\$20,750
Operation 2000 (Phase 2)— The Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives	\$79,175
Opportunities 2000—Lutherwood Foundation (CODA)	\$95,000
Raising the Roof for Canada’s Homeless	\$30,000
Spreading the News about Poor Power at the Polls (Phase 3)—The Lakehead Social Planning Council	\$49,894
32 Hours: Action for Full Employment— Food Share Metro Toronto	\$75,000
Women’s Economic Development Consortium— Canadian Women’s Foundation	\$50,000
Workfare Watch—Community Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto	\$13,000



20

An Update on Earlier Projects



“Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all indirectly.”

—Martin Luther King

A number of multi-year projects and projects awarded grants in previous years produced significant findings and recommendations in 1999:

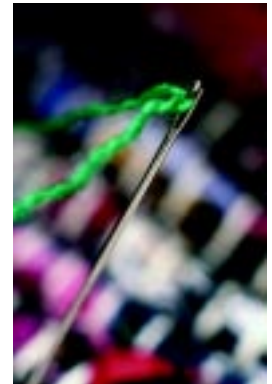
Ontarians Fearful and Confused about Health Care

A research report by the Caledon Institute, *Costs, Closures and Confusion: People in Ontario Talk* found that health care in Ontario is unravelling, with people finding it harder to access services, the quality of care spiralling downhill, and more and more costs being off-loaded onto patients. The report was the fourth issued by the *Speaking Out* project, which is funded by the Foundation.

Costs, Closures and Confusion revealed Ontarians' fear and confusion about virtually every aspect of the health care system, including: the length of time between making an appointment and seeing a doctor; poor hospital care due to hospital closures, fewer nurses and cuts in supplies; patients being discharged quicker and sicker to their homes, where family members may not be there or may not have the skills to provide care; community-based services such as home care or long-term residential care not available or affordable when needed; and, costs being shifted onto patients and their families in the form of user fees and payment for long-term residential care.

New Protections Proposed for Homeworkers

Sweatshops are alive and thriving in Toronto in the midst of one of the wealthiest economies in the world, according to a report by OISE professor Dr. Roxana Ng, *Homeworking: Home Office or Home Sweatshop?* The study was conducted under the auspices of the Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textiles Employees (UNITE) sponsored by the Development Education Centre.



The study found that among other third-world-like conditions: the rate of pay for home-based garment workers hadn't gone up since the 1980s, with some workers earning as little as \$2 an hour; almost no homeworkers received vacation pay and none were paid overtime; and, many homeworkers suffered from repetitive stress injuries such as back, shoulder, neck and knee pain, but received no medical benefits.

The report recommended a number of actions for improving the conditions of homeworkers, including: a public information campaign to inform employers, policy makers and ordinary Canadians about the conditions of homeworkers; the creation of a central registry for homeworkers; more proactive measures by the federal government to monitor the practices of manufacturers and retailers; and, more audits and monitoring of employers by the Ontario Ministry of Labour to ensure that they do not violate labour standards.

Ontario Works Isn't Working

Ontario Works has yet to live up to expectations, concluded a report by Workfare Watch — a joint project of the Ontario Social Safety Network and the Community Social Planning Council of Toronto. The report, *Broken Promises: Welfare Reform in Ontario* was based on one-on-one interviews and focus groups with 230 social assistance recipients.

Broken Promises revealed a number of horror stories resulting from the program's limited living allowance and restrictive regulations. One tale told of Susan, an Oshawa resident who picked a dead deer off of the road, gutted it in her driveway at 2 o'clock in the morning, and put it in the freezer to feed her kids. Another was the story of Magda in Thunder Bay who had her gas cut off because she had to choose between paying the bill and paying for



food. Yet another was the story of Simon from Niagara who wanted to get training but was told by his worker to just go pump gas or mow lawns.

The report concluded that there is substantial evidence that Ontario Works may be hindering rather than helping people to find work and could be failing to prepare them for a real escape from poverty. For most interviewees, the promised ‘hand up’—meaningful training, employment supports, transportation and child care—never materialized.

More Canadian Families Sliding to the Bottom of the Income Scale

In a follow-up to the highly successful 1998 study, *Closing the Gap*, economist Armine Yalnizyan toured Canada in 1999, speaking with thousands of people about the growing income inequality. Her response to those conversations was the report *Canada’s Great Divide: The Politics of the Growing Gap Between Rich and Poor in the 1990s*, published by the Centre for Social Justice, sponsored by The Development Education Centre.

The report demonstrated that Canadian families have fallen toward the bottom of the income scale over the course of the 1990s, and the odds of getting ahead have all but disappeared. It showed that after a decade of “more market, less government” inequalities in Canada have grown and there has been a dramatic surge in the proportion of families who have ended up at the bottom of the income scale. Surprisingly, the proportion of families in the middle and at top actually fell between 1989–97, as did their average incomes.

The report proposed four solutions for closing the growing gap: even distribution of job growth; better wages; services to help families meet their basic needs; and, supports for the poorest families.



24



Financial Overview

Balance Sheet

As at December 31

	1999 \$	1998 \$
ASSETS		
Cash	338,001	107,236
Investments, at cost	47,079,932	47,078,869
Other assets	9,261	8,637
	<u>47,427,194</u>	<u>47,194,742</u>
FUND BALANCES		
Income fund	6,447,854	6,573,524
Capital fund	41,000,816	40,635,624
The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	(21,476)	(14,406)
	<u>47,427,194</u>	<u>47,194,742</u>

The data on this page has been extracted and summarized from the 1999 Audited Financial Statements of the Atkinson Charitable Foundation. A complete financial statement will be published in the Toronto Star and is available on our Web site at www.atkinsonfdn.on.ca. A printed copy is also available by phoning our office at (416) 368-5152, faxing us at (416) 865-3619, or writing us at:

The Atkinson Charitable Foundation
One Yonge St., Suite 1508
Toronto, Ont. M5E 1E5

Statement of Income Fund

As at December 31

	1999 \$	1998 \$
RECEIPTS		
Interest on bonds	965,736	2,204,475
Interest on short-term investments	15,559	150,472
Dividends	1,561,622	2,238,876
	<u>2,542,917</u>	<u>4,593,823</u>
Income received from private estates and individuals	28,125	31,350
	<u>2,571,042</u>	<u>4,625,173</u>
DISBURSEMENTS		
General & administrative	210,944	161,878
Non-recurring human resource costs	—	358
Investment management	92,851	170,312
Grants program		
Program development	281,487	202,209
Grants paid	2,061,430	2,066,786
Grants paid to The Atkinson Fellowship in Public Policy fund	50,000	50,000
	<u>2,696,712</u>	<u>2,651,543</u>
Excess (deficiency) of receipts over disbursements for the year	(125,670)	1,973,630
Income fund balance, beginning of year	6,573,524	4,599,894
Income fund balance, end of year	<u>6,447,854</u>	<u>6,573,524</u>

26



Special
Thanks

We wish to thank the following individuals, who are among the many that provided advice and support to the Foundation's work during 1999:

Mark Anielski	Martha Friendly	Michael McCracken	Martha Shuttleworth
Elio Antunes	Michael Fullan	Kerry McCuaig	Nan Shuttleworth
Joyce Armstrong	Leo Gerard	Bruce McLeod	Erica Simmons
Ken Battle	Nathan Gilbert	Linda McQuaig	Paul Steinhauer
Maude Barlow	Sam Gindin	Michael Mendelson	Terry Sullivan
Monique Begin	Mary Gordon	Hans Messinger	Sherri Torjman
Jane Bertrand	Carol Gott	Paul Moore	Annette Tromley
Chris Bolton	Bill Graham	Fraser Mustard	Bill Van Iterson
Paul Born	Eunice Grayson	David Nitkin	Gerald Vandezande
Alan Broadbent	Kathleen Guy	Frank O'Dea	Tom Walkom
Bruce Campbell	Josephine Grey	Dan Offord	Peter Warriar
Pat Capponi	Joe Hall	John O'Grady	May Wong
Tony Clarke	Anders Hayden	Ratna Omidvar	Bob Wong
Gordon Cleveland	John Hindmarsh	Lars Osberg	Robert Wyatt
Ronald Colman	Lynne Hindmarsh	Landon Pearson	Bev Wybrow
Duff Conacher	Marian Hindmarsh	John Pepperell	Armine Yalnizyan
Reid Cooper	Nancy Hindmarsh	Doug Peters	
Sue Cox	Maria Elena Hoffstien	David Pfrimmer	
Gordon Cressy	John Honderich	Rev. Bill Phipps	
Shirlene Curtis	Dan Keating	Chris Pinney	
Arthur Donner	Pierre Laliberte	Robert Rabinovitch	
Daniel Drache	David Langille	Judy Rebick	
Karen Engel	Christine Lee	Marvi Ricker	
John English	Carla Lipsig-Mumme	Nada Ristich	
Debbie Field	Graham Lowe	Walter Ross	
Sharon Filger	Hugh Mackenzie	Carol Russell	
Ruth Folland	Gar Mahood	Hugh Segal	
William Folland	Julie Mathien	Katherine Scott	
Ursula Franklin	Judith Maxwell	Malcolm Shookner	

