

Citizen Control of the Citizen's Business

TORONTO'S CITIZENS CAN CONTROL TORONTO'S AFFAIRS ONLY
THROUGH FREQUENT, PROMPT, ACCURATE AND PERTINENT INFOR-
MATION WITH REGARD TO TORONTO'S BUSINESS.

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Federation of Philanthropies is No New Idea for Toronto

In 1912, a small group of social workers formed the the West District Social Conference, at a meeting at the University Settlement.

A few months later the Central Case Conference was organized at the Fred Victor Mission.

Soon afterward, a similar group was formed in East Toronto.

In January 1914, a meeting at the City Hall appointed a committee to draw up a plan of united action.

The result of this natural growth was the establishment of nine Neighborhood Workers' Associations, each with a volunteer secretary, and a Central Council elected on a representative basis. This organization was very successful in co-ordinating relief work, but has been, of course, unable to attack the whole field of philanthropy. In fact, the growth of its activities was such that it soon was compelled to obtain three paid secretaries. These were provided by the Social Service Commission, the salaries being paid, of course, out of the city's revenues. The system of dual control which resulted, as might be expected, has become unworkable.

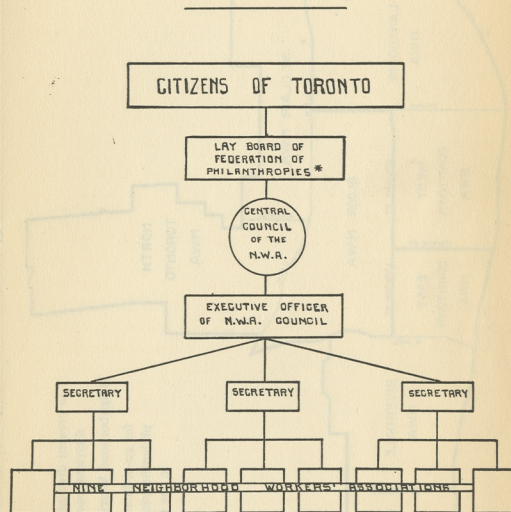
The Neighborhood Workers' Association should control its own work. If it controls its own work it must control its secretaries, and if it controls its secretaries it should pay their salaries. If the City Council were to vote the money for secretaries' salaries directly to the Neighborhood Workers' Association the difficulty would be partly removed. But the work of the Neighborhood Workers' Association fundamentally requires private control—at least at this stage in evolution—and there should certainly be no difficulty in raising, from private sources, the small sum annually necessary. No one can estimate the good which the Neighborhood Workers' Associations have done or will do. An investment in their work will bring magnificent returns, particularly during the war and after-the-war period.

The controlling influence in the Neighborhood Workers' Associations, and their central body, will and should always be in the hands of professional workers, although there might be lay representation. The central body should control the details of practical outdoor relief work, through a responsible executive, and should formulate city-wide plans of work to be passed upon by some representative lay citizen body. This is the general type of organization which has proved most effective in most human undertakings—a professional officer (or body) recommending policies and executing them when decided on, and a lay body passing on recommendations made to them by professionals.

Toronto already has the professional body for the co-ordination of outdoor relief in its Neighborhood Workers' Associations and their Council. It needs:

1. A professional executive officer, with sufficient assistance, for the Neighborhood Workers' Associations;
2. A lay body, representative of the city at large, to decide on plans of work for the city as a whole, and find the necessary money. This body should deal not only with outdoor relief, but with institutional relief and with hospital service, each one of which types of activity should also have central councils.

SUGGESTED PLAN



*One possible method of selection is outlined in the pamphlet "Toronto Gives" recently issued by the Bureau of Municipal Research.

The lay board suggested would deal directly, not only with the Council of the Neighborhood Workers' Associations, but with a Council or Councils of institutions doing indoor social work.

The present division of the city into districts, each with a Neighborhood Workers' Association for co-ordinating certain philanthropic activities in the city.

