



“Do not unto your fellow what is hateful to you; this is the whole law; the rest is commentary.”

- Hillel

Phil Brown was born in London, England in 1951 of mixed English and Armenian parentage. His family came to Canada in 1955 and eventually settled in Kingston where his father took a teaching position at Collins Bay Penitentiary. Phil attended high school at Kingston Collegiate and Vocational Institute and went on to obtain a B.A. in history from Queen's University in 1974. While at Queen's, he discovered an interest in radio broadcasting at the university radio station, CFRC.

For a time, he pursued a career in radio, working for 18 months at CKWS and CKWS FM, the CBC affiliate in Kingston. However, pursuing a radio career related to his primary interest—classical music and arts programming—was extremely challenging at a time when CBC was cutting back on hiring, so he decided to return to post-graduate studies.

During a visit to New York City, Phil discovered that his fascination with maps and cities might constructively be directed into a career as an urban planner. He enrolled at the University of Toronto Planning School where he studied under such planning notables as Dr. Hans Blumenfeld.

In the course of his studies, Phil discovered that his background in history gave him a valuable perspective when approaching a problem. A scientist applies scientific

reasoning and method to the here and now, but Phil also looks at the perspective that history has to offer—the process that leads to the present situation—as an important determinant for possible future paths. In short, he believes that you have to know where something has come from if you want to understand where it can reasonably be expected to go.

Phil also learned not to take anything for granted and to pay attention to details while maintaining a holistic perspective. He brings this ability to all projects. He has also developed an intuitive ability to look ahead in the process, foresee potential pitfalls and nip them in the bud so they don't derail a project.

Phil views projects in terms of their process and cannot approach a new project without intuitively beginning to develop plans for its realization. During conceptualization, his plans are always detailed. However, they are also flexible and open to change, allowing for assumptions and circumstances to shift if the project demands it. In short, Phil can come up with complex, detailed and flexible plans at the drop of a hat and revise them just as quickly. He believes that comprehensive, yet flexible plans are critical to the success of any project.

After graduating with an M.Sc. in Urban Planning in 1976, Phil worked for several years as a planning consultant and a municipal planner, including two years as the planner for the City of Stratford. Because of his attention to detail, he developed a particular expertise in drafting zoning bylaws.

However, Phil found municipal planning to be a frustrating career. He felt that the tools available to municipal planners primarily applied controls and restrictions. Phil went into planning to be creative and to make things happen. He wanted to build something.

While working on a new zoning bylaw for Sudbury in the early 1980s, Phil began exploring ways to increase the supply of affordable housing. In 1982 he got involved in developing a housing co-op and in 1983 he became the manager of Northern Non-Profit Housing, a fledgling co-operative and non-profit housing

resource group based in Sudbury. Northern Non-Profit Housing worked closely with CMHC to develop affordable housing throughout northeastern Ontario and, under Phil's direction, it developed co-operative and non-profit housing projects and urban native housing in Sudbury, Sault Ste. Marie, North Bay, Timmins, Cochrane, Kapuskasing and Hearst.

Phil came to Ottawa in 1987 to join the Ottawa Federation of Housing Co-operatives as a consultant. In 1989 he left that organization to establish Jackson-Brown Associates with his wife and partner, Joanne Jackson. For several years, he focused primarily on the development of non-profit housing projects and community health centres until government funding was slashed in 1995. He subsequently obtained a real estate licence and went into real estate sales with Coldwell Banker. When capital funding for community health centres once again became available in 1998, he returned to serve the non-profit sector, specializing in planning and developing institutions and community service facilities.

He has taken an active interest in the community and has served on the boards of several public bodies and community service organizations.

Phil has been greatly influenced by his unusual and intriguing heritage. His father inherited a strong left-of-centre political ideology, a caring disposition and pacifist outlook. A conscientious objector, who drove ambulances in London during World War II, he served in Greece after the war with the *Save the Children Fund*. In Greece, he met and married Phil's mother, an Armenian refugee from Turkey who came from a prominent professional and business family.

He credits his parents for many of the strengths he brings to his project management work. Taking the best of both worlds, he combined his mother's business sense with his father's strong commitment to social justice and integrated these qualities into what has become his speciality—the development of facilities for non-profit, public and community service agencies and institutions—a career that by its nature demands an eclectic blend of abilities and high ethical standards.

PERSONAL PROFILE OF PHILIP BROWN

He has a strong personal commitment to social justice, human rights and civil liberties. On the business side, his entrepreneurial perspective is critical in developing practical, credible business plans and in establishing effective relationships. Phil enjoys assembling and managing self directed teams.

Outside his work and volunteer activities, Phil takes a keen interest in the community, politics and world events. As he puts it, he likes to watch history unfold. Reading newspapers regularly helps to keep him current.

He also reads a variety of books, taking a particular interest in history, current events, contemporary philosophy and fantasy. He enjoys photography, especially with the advent of digital imaging technology, and listening to music. He has also volunteered at Centrepoint Theatre. If time permitted, he would get back into theatre and audio/visual production, publish his father's memoirs or start work on another model railway. If only the day had more hours!



Professional and Community Affiliations and Memberships

Professional Affiliations

Registered Professional Planner (R.P.P.), and full member since 1979 of the Canadian Institute of Planners and the Ontario Professional Planners Institute.

Memberships and Activities

- Member, City of Ottawa Health and Social Services Advisory Committee, from 2001
- Director, Rideauwood Addictions & Family Services, from 2001
- Director, Centretown Affordable Housing Development Corporation, from 1999
- Member, Coalition of Community Health and Resource Centres of Ottawa-Carleton from 1997 to 2001, including Co-chair, 1999 to 2001
- Director, Somerset West Community Health Centre, 1995 to 2001
- Volunteer, Stage Crew at Nepean Centrepoint Theatre from 1999 to 2001, including *Outstanding Volunteer* distinction in the 1999-2000 season
- Member, including Chairperson, 1995 to 1996, Nepean Committee of Adjustment and Property Standards Committee, 1995 to 1997
- Director, Association of Development Consultants of Ontario, 1991, 1992 and 1995
- Member, City of Ottawa's *A Better Way* Task Force on the planning approvals process, 1993
- Director, Vice-President and President, Capital Community Credit Union, 1989 to 1994
- Member, Member Services and Provincial Image Advertising Committees, Credit Union Central of Ontario, 1992 to 1994
- Treasurer, West End Legal Services, Ottawa, 1989 to 1991
- Trustee, Federal Co-operative Housing Stabilization Fund, 1989 to 1991
- Adjudication Team Member, CMHC Housing Awards Program, 1990
- Director, Options Bytown, an Ottawa residence for the homeless, 1989 to 1990
- Member, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association, 1989 to present
- Development Committee of the Co-operative Housing Federation of Canada, 1984 to 1988, Chairperson from 1987 to 1988
- CMHC/CHF Joint Program Delivery Liaison Committee, 1987 to 1988
- Founding Member, Ontario Co-operative Housing Committee (later the Co-operative Housing Association of Ontario), 1985 to 1986
- Director and President, Sudbury Community Legal Clinic, 1983 to 1986
- Director, Resource Group Co-ordinator, Northern Non-Profit Housing, Sudbury, 1983-1986



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