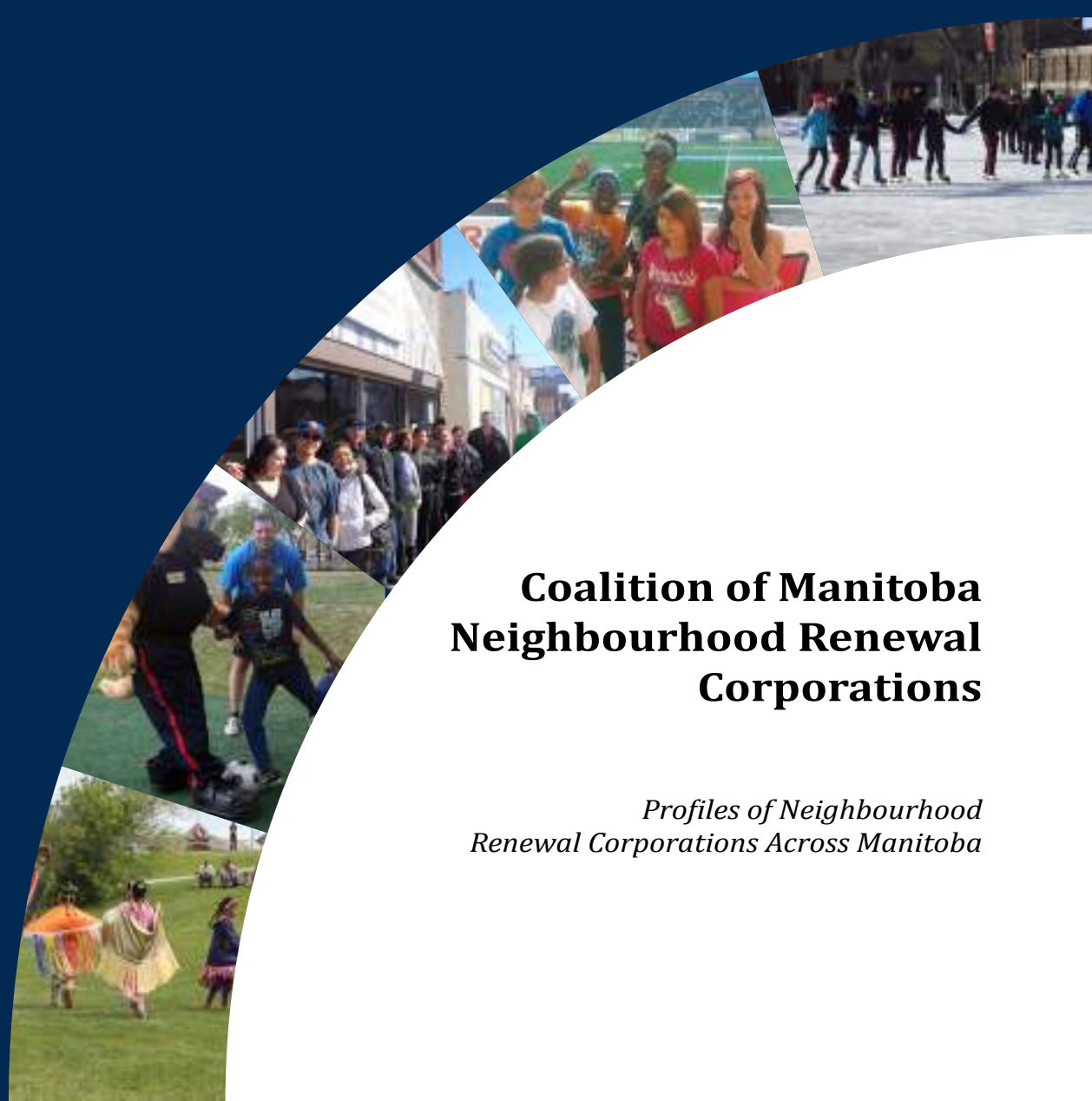


# The Collective Impact of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations of Manitoba



## Coalition of Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations

*Profiles of Neighbourhood  
Renewal Corporations Across Manitoba*

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# **Introduction to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations**

Manitoba has one of the most unique and promising models for community development in North America. Under the Neighbourhoods Alive! strategy, Manitoba developed a long term community led development model that empowers communities to take the lead in making their own communities the best place to live through the established Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (NRC) in their designated area. While each NRC takes a unique approach, as directed by their communities, there are many areas of common work that allow NRCs to share ideas, approaches and information to make every community development project in Manitoba a success.

## **COMMUNITY LED DEVELOPMENT**

### ***Community Led Development Principles***

The Community Led Development model is based on several principles and beliefs which the NRCs are built on and adhere to as they conduct business within their communities. These principles include the understanding that local residents and organizations have the best knowledge of local issues and have the best insight to find appropriate solutions that meet their needs. Using these principles, communities are encouraged to collaborate and cooperate to prioritize community needs and support local leaders as they take on various pieces of work to realize community goals.

### ***Five-Year Plans***

To facilitate community led development effectively, each NRC develops their strategic plan through an extensive community consultation process. Local residents, businesses, organizations, and other stakeholders are engaged through public forums, surveys, focus groups and interviews to identify what priority areas exist that need to be addressed, who or what organization is best suited to lead the initiative and how the community can collectively achieve the goals.

### ***Annual Reports to Community and Funders***

NRCs complete annual reports based on the five-year plan which are circulated as a feedback and "check-in" mechanism. This process provides the opportunity for communities and stakeholders to review what has been completed to date and provide further input regularly. It allows communities to change focus as opportunities arise and adapt to external factors that either enable or inhibit work being done on community priorities.

### ***Board Composition***

To ensure NRCs as organizations remain connected to their communities in an effective way, their Boards of Directors are comprised of local residents, businesses and organizations who are impacted by and can contribute to achieving community goals. Many of their by-laws dictate what percentage of local versus non-local residents are allowed to govern, as well as, how many seats are designated to key stakeholders, based on the needs of the neighbourhood. This ensures that the designated geographical area is in receipt of the funds and that the money stays local, and that programming and services meet local needs.

### ***Small Grants Funds***

The Small Grants funding program has become an important mechanism to enact the priorities in the five year plans. Each designated community administers the fund which are available to groups of residents, community organizations, or local businesses to move community projects forward. Eligible projects must further the objectives of the community's Five-Year Plan and must assist in achieving local goals related to:

- 1. Community Capacity Building and Empowerment;**
- 2. Safety;**
- 3. Housing;**
- 4. Economic Development; and/or**
- 5. Recreation and Wellness opportunities**

The allocation and approval of these funds is managed by a local group of residents, supported by the NRC's and various neighbourhood stakeholders.

### ***Neighbourhood Renewal Fund***

The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is another important mechanism used by communities for neighbourhood renewal. It assists neighbourhood organizations representing residents and other local interests, in strengthening local capacity and revitalizing communities through a broad range of locally planned and supported initiatives. This funding is only available in designated NRC communities. Although the decisions for allocating the fund is still managed by the government, applicants are encouraged to consult with their local NRC during the development of their application. Once the applications are completed and submitted, they are then provided to the NRCs to review and to provide feedback on how the proposed project fits with the five year plan.

## **NRCS AS JOB CREATORS**

NRCs are not only important community employers within their designated neighbourhoods, but they are also important advocates for people who face barriers to employment as well as those who are unemployed or underemployed. Training programs and social enterprise development, coupled with a strategic network linking them has demonstrated success in moving people to meaningful and sustainable employment.

### ***Social Enterprises***

Social Enterprises are usually born out of a gap in goods and services in a particular neighbourhood or community, that isn't being met by existing businesses. The profits generated are used to address a local social issue, often related to employment, training and community services.

NRCs interact with social enterprise in varying degrees. Some have developed to offer training opportunities as part of their sustainability plan, while others provide governance support or facilitate networks that connect social enterprises, businesses, program graduates and consumers with each other.

Models vary from those that access a certain percentage of government funding to those that are self-sustaining.

### ***Local Procurement Practices***

Profitable and successful businesses are key to healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities. Since NRCs are mandated to focus their efforts within their catchment areas, it makes sense to purchase goods and services from local businesses. This practice helps retain and expand employment in the immediate area and is vital for developing strong and mutually beneficial relationships.

## **FUNDS LEVERAGED IN COMMUNITY**

### ***Core Funding & Multi-Year Funding Agreements***

Core funding and multi-year funding agreements have provided NRCs access to stable, committed, long term funding which is the backbone of the success of Manitoba's renewal corporations. These two tools enable NRCs to plan ahead and provide the necessary long-term commitments needed to demonstrate to other funders that NRCs are stable and have the capacity to deliver programs effectively and efficiently.

### ***Shared Services***

In many cases, NRCs provide streamlined administration services for a variety of programs, organizations and funding contracts to ensure dollars provided to communities are spent effectively. Utilizing shared administrative services approach reduces overhead costs for smaller groups while allowing them to focus their fundraising efforts on program delivery. Other funders also benefit from lower overhead costs as project funding can be provided to communities without the high burden of full administration budgets.

## **ENGAGING COMMUNITY VOLUNTEERS**

NRC's are powered by volunteer boards of directors. They also create other volunteer opportunities through project review committees, community events, and accessing resources such as SPARK.

Meaningful volunteerism opportunities are often a stepping stone for those who encounter barriers to employment and provide safe and long lasting connections to other community members. It fosters a strong sense of community which is important for issues to be fully understood and for solutions to be found and shaped through a variety of perspectives.

### ***Connecting the Community***

NRC's have an extensive history of working with others in the neighbourhood. this organizational commitment is well recognized as an effective and efficient approach to both building neighborhood relationships and combining efforts towards implementing community based programs and services.



# History of Renewal and Community Development

In the late 1990s, residents from across Manitoba became increasingly concerned about the decline in inner city communities after nearly 2 decades without a provincial community development strategy. Many groups were concerned with the housing stock, safety, and well-being of their communities and began to organize and develop strategies to address the issues. In 1999, community groups in the West Broadway, West End and North End neighbourhoods of Winnipeg came together to visit a promising community development model organization in Saskatchewan. Upon their return, the groups approached the Manitoba Provincial government and advocated for the development of a community led development program to address community concerns in Manitoba.

## ***IN 2000, 5 COMMUNITIES RECEIVED DESIGNATION STATUS***

- ***Winnipeg (North End\* , Spence & West Broadway)***
- ***Communities (Brandon & Thompson)***

The Manitoba government launched Neighbourhoods Alive! in 2000 as a long term social & economic strategy to support community-driven revitalization in designated older neighbourhoods across Manitoba, originally focusing on Manitoba's three largest cities; Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. Over the years, Neighbourhoods Alive! expanded to include additional communities and grew to a total of 13 community organizations.

## ***By 2010, 13 DESIGNATED NEIGHBOURHOODS/COMMUNITIES WERE ESTABLISHED***

- ***Winnipeg (North End\*\* , Spence West Broadway, Central\*\*\* , Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews & Chalmers)***
- ***Communities (Brandon, Thompson, Flin Flon, The Pas, Dauphin, Portage la Prairie & Selkirk)***

Each community has its own focus, vision and history. As a result, the communities look at different strategies to deal with their specific social, economic and environmental concerns. Common issues include high rates of poverty, unemployment and crime, and often, a lack of family support, recreation, affordable housing and economic opportunities.

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\*2000 North End includes: William Whyte, North Point Douglas & Lord Selkirk Park.

\*\*2010 North End includes: St. John's, Dufferin, William Whyte, North Point Douglas & Lord Selkirk Park.

\*\*\*Central includes: West Alexander, Centennial & Central Park)

Neighbourhoods Alive! recognizes that because each neighbourhood has its own strengths and its own set of priorities, successful community renewal will look different in each neighbourhood. The best ideas for neighbourhood renewal come from the community. Neighbourhoods Alive! builds on the strengths of the community, helping to improve community health, safety and stability. Neighbourhoods are physically transformed through housing improvements and greening projects. Recreational, cultural and arts programs are created to offer young people positive alternatives for their free time. Revitalized public spaces provide opportunities for residents to get together, which helps strengthen community relationships and pride.





***Brandon Neighbourhood  
Renewal Corporation***

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***Central Neighbourhoods  
Development Corporation***

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***Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews  
Community Association***

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***Dauphin Neighbourhood  
Renewal Corporation***

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***Flin Flon Neighbourhood  
Revitalization Corporation***

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***North End Community  
Renewal Corporation***

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***The Pas Community  
Renewal Corporation***

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***Portage la Prairie Community  
Revitalization Corporation***

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***Selkirk Community  
Renewal Corporation***

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***Spence Neighbourhood Association***

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***Thompson Neighbourhood  
Renewal Corporation***

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***West Broadway  
Development Corporation***

# NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL CORPORATIONS

since inception in 2000



558,027 community  
members engaged



11,320 community  
events enjoyed



\$8,946,584.43 invested  
in housing



\$30,963,163.01  
leveraged in housing



\$884,903.60 invested  
in community safety



1226 jobs created



\$4,634,554.30 in community wages created



986 community gardens  
created



54,281 families engaged

# Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation



## ***Background***

BNRC started with a General Manager and Financial Manager. Between the two positions, they worked tirelessly to create a community plan, assist in housing at the local level, and look for opportunities to grow whenever possible. They delivered programs such as Front and Paint and Store Front Improvement, and hosted or helped with several community events. The first opportunity for significant growth came in the form of a NRF grant that allowed for a Community Development Coordinator Position which distributed the small grants program. Much of the work done in these first years was focused on beautification, re-greening and community events. In 2008 a General Manager was hired who had bigger visions for the BNRC and by 2009, we had expanded to include a Housing Coordinator and a budding social enterprise that offered a construction training program to individuals with barriers to employment while helping to remove those barriers.

Since this time, we have continued to expand to deliver Homeless partnering strategy funding for the Federal government, delivering a second smaller social enterprise for those looking for casual labour, and a community marketing and community research division.

## ***Impact and Successes***

BNRC signs can be found on several important community projects across our neighbourhood including, parks, green spaces, and hundreds of Community Garden beds. In fact, because of the BNRC's commitment to community gardens, Brandon has one of the highest per capita rates for garden beds in the country. Today, the BNRC is having a major impact on the lives of individuals who were unable to join the labour market due to significant barriers, while at the same time maintaining and increasing Brandon's stock of affordable or social housing units. Our commitment to delivering HPS funds in an effective manner has ensured that high priority homeless prevention and intervention programs have received the funding they need, when they need it. Our support for community events have helped Brandon feel like a community, during a time of significant new comer growth.

BEEP and Bug n Scrub social enterprises are major NRC successes.

We were identified as one of 6 original communities to receive support from the Mobilizing Local Capacity to end Youth Homelessness to develop a plan to end youth homelessness and a road map to accomplishing that goal.

We won the contract to deliver HPS funding in our community Contracted by the City to coordinate their Affordable Housing Strategy.

Partnered with Brandon University to create a Poverty Report for Brandon Community Connections.

The BNRC remains open for business to all potential partners. We continue to reach out to new partners while creating awareness of community priorities through the Community 5-year plan. We look for opportunities to promote the Community 5-year plan wherever possible and try to support organizations however possible in moving these priorities forward. We spend our time our in the community whenever possible talking to people. Most importantly, we look to communicate effectively internally, so that the work we are doing in each area benefits each other and encourages collaboration whenever possible. This allows us to offer a holistic service and access to the best information from across the housing spectrum and have a big picture of what's going on in our community.

***Community Needs***

Our community needs the BNRC to continue to push for the severe housing and social needs of our community members. We are important advocates for affordable housing, and we are excellent facilitators in bringing likeminded community groups together to solve real problems. We have spearheaded efforts on beautification and the maintenance of green spaces.



And we have become an important employer for those who have previously been excluded from the labour force. Most importantly, we are an important catalyst for a variety of projects, acting as a coordinator to bring people together, focus their ideas, ensure we eliminate duplication of services, and that the investments made in our community are strategic, and used as effectively as possible to better the lives of Brandon's marginalized populations.

## ***Background***

Following two years of consultation with local stakeholders organized by the Community Education Development Association (CEDA), and shortly after the Winnipeg Foundation’s Centennial Project had ended, the Central Neighbourhoods Development Corporation (CNDC) held its founding AGM on November 14, 2007 at the Dufferin School. CNDC incorporated in April 2008, and is one of three multi-neighbourhood NRC’s in Winnipeg, operating in Central Park, Centennial and West Alexander.

## ***Impact and Successes***

Since April 2008, CNDC has been coordinating, supporting, and delivering safety initiatives, recreation programs and events, partnering with local stakeholders to promote health and wellness in the three neighbourhoods; building community networks and local capacity; and enhance community image and pride; and developing its organizational capacity to enhance suitability in programming and funding.

For near ten years CNDC has delivered housing improvement programs in three neighbourhoods through exterior fix-up grants’ supported beautification, greening, sports and recreation, and education and capacity building events and initiatives through its small grants fund; and attracted investment to the area by partnering with three levels of government, not-for-profit agencies, local institutions, and resident associations.

CNDC has placed three of Winnipeg’s oldest neighbourhoods, that are experiencing high socio-economic stress, on the development agenda in the core area. CNDC’s commitment to multi-faceted renewal in Central Park, Centennial, and West Alexander Neighbourhoods, through multi-stakeholder engagement, has gradually shifted the perception about these neighbourhoods from crime-ridden poverty-stricken areas to developing, more inclusive, healthier, safer communities where people live, work and play.



### ***Community Connections***

CNDC establishes and maintains community connections through gatherings, facilitating training, conducting need assessments, providing administrative and governance support, and filling gap areas in service. Youth engagement initiatives being undertaken at educational institution/school and by social agencies; BIZ development and attracting businesses to the area; safety initiatives; and capacity building projects to support the operational cohesion of resident associations and other stakeholder groups are examples of our community engagement.

### ***Community Needs***

Our Community needs a Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (NRC) with a balanced approach to social and economic development and capacity building. CNDC is in a suitable position to maintain and build further engagement through a multi-stakeholder approach on several key initiatives in the areas of crime prevention and safety; green area development; recreation programming for underserved communities; housing development and/or improvement; beautification and image enhancement; and education/economic development through training and job creation.



***For more information visit: [www.cndc.ca](http://www.cndc.ca)***

# Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation



## ***Background***

Since 2010, extensive planning efforts dedicated to 'renewal and revitalization' have been fully underway with residents and stakeholders in the Chalmers neighbourhood located within the broader community of Elmwood. Initially, steps were put in place by Neighbourhoods Alive! representatives and members of the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee in Chalmers (NACC).

Beginning in late 2012 and continuing throughout 2013, a series of steps were put in place to ensure the transition was completed from NACC to official Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) status as the 13<sup>th</sup> Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation in Manitoba.

These steps included the following:

- February, 2013: Hiring of Executive Director position for Chalmers
- July, 2013: Articles of Incorporation
- September, 2013: General Meeting to complete the creation of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) including:
- By-Laws, Board of Directors , Adopted 5 Year Neighbourhood Plan.

Shortly after the General Meeting in September 2013, it was determined that efforts would be put in place to apply for Charitable Status under CNRC. In consultation with NA! and Legal Services it was confirmed that CNRC could not be both a Charitable organization and a granting body (small grants fund or housing fix-up grants) under one organization.

As a result, a complimentary organization was established as the Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative Inc. (CCRI). CCRI is a non-share capital corporation created by the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature and which CNRC therefore is unable administer. These developments included the establishment in December 2013 of organizational components for CCRI such as: Articles of Incorporation, By-Laws, Board of Directors and Governance (Policy) Manuals.

The final steps related to the creation of CNRC and CCRI were completed with the adoption of a multi-year Neighbourhood Development Agreement with NA! effective April 1, 2014. Prior to this date, funding supports for both organizations were provided through a funding agreement with the Elmwood EK Active Living Center who provided financial and bookkeeping services for the NACC initially and preliminary stages of both CCRI and CNRC.

Other significant organizational milestones related to operations would include:

- September 2015, Adoption of 5 Year Chalmers Housing Plan (CNRC)
- November 2015, Approval of Charitable Status (CNRC- advised in Jan. 2016)
- March 2016, Agreement for provision of Housing Fix Up Grants for four years (CCRI)
- April 2016, Neighbourhood Development Agreements in place until March 2021(CNRC/CCRI)
- April 2016, Agreement for provision of Small Grants Fund for four years -building on 2014 and 2015 experiences (CCRI)
- September 2016, First ever Charitable Grant approved, United Way

### ***Impact and Successes***

Our CNRC website at [chalmersrenewal.org](http://chalmersrenewal.org) and Chalmers Renewal Facebook contains several great pictures and interesting videos which highlight the various initiatives which are supported by the organization and several area stakeholders. A key area of success remains the ability of our community to work together in a collaborative manner...everyone from agencies and organizations to business, schools and the faith community are dedicated to improving our Chalmers neighbourhood and the broader community of Elmwood.

### ***Community Connections***

As of the 2011 Census, the neighbourhood of Chalmers consists of approximately 9,700 residents which is highlighted by a significant percentage of Newcomer Canadian, Aboriginal populations and residents under the age of 30 years old.

In the first few years of operation, we have been focused on addressing organizational governance requirements such as by-laws, incorporation, financial services, planning priorities, policy manuals, insurance, audit, agreements and charitable status.

At the same time, we have had a significant focus on establishing neighbourhood relationships and initiatives. On at least two occasions (during the 2013 consultation process leading up to the 5 Year Plan and in 2015 while preparing the Housing Plan) CNRC has engaged the community with door to door, mail drop service to keep residents aware and informed about opportunities. This communication was combined with several in-person focus groups and survey gathering experiences at school based and neighbourhood special events. Maybe not guaranteed 100% service but the participation levels in preparing both the 5 Year and Housing Plan did suggest that a good percentage of residents were aware of the opportunity to provide their input and involvement.



The six main priorities identified by our residents and stakeholders within the 5 Year Plan include safety, recreation & greening, community services, community connections, health & wellness and housing. As a relatively new organization it is our estimate that with a variety of partners, we are presently serving in the range of 25-35 % of the overall Chalmers population.

This would represent actual participation within the provision of our organizational activities which were derived from the 5 Year Plan. The NRC in Chalmers is vital in establishing local relationships which offer various activities that focus on addressing food security, housing conditions, economic development, safety aspects and access to recreation and wellness.

We currently have one office which is located at 180 Poplar Ave. At present, our staffing consists of one full time position (Executive Director), two year-round, part time positions (Housing Support Coordinator and Action Plan Support Coordinator) and one summer part time position (Urban Green Team student). We also engage various contract positions as required for activities such as special events, child minding, workshop facilitation and action plan initiatives.

### ***Neighbourhood supports***

In terms of the **Small Grants Fund** for the last fiscal year 2015-16, we were proud to support different projects totaling \$23,250. These 12 projects served 11,606 residents with the assistance of 235 volunteers and has leveraged a total funding of \$39,239.

In terms of the **Home Fix-Up Grants**, our funding supports from fiscal year 2015/16 and 16/17 (ending March 31, 2017) were combined and facilitated as one intake for a total amount of \$47,000 available as granting funds for the Chalmers neighbourhood. The implementation of this intake is not yet complete. Full statistical summaries are not finalized but the number of projects supported included 6 Clean up Grants, 18 Landlord Rental Improvement projects and 26 Homeowner Grants.



## **Daniel McIntyre/St Matthews Community Association**



### ***Background***

DMSMCA was created based on community need and demand; SNA had already been established for a few years but there was a need that was recognized for the neighbourhoods directly adjacent to the west. Extensive community consultations were done confirming the need for a NRC and community priorities were identified including the desire to establish a separate NRC for the DM/SM neighbourhoods.

DMSMCA serves the Daniel McIntyre /St. Matthews neighbourhoods in West Central Winnipeg. Our mission is to empower the community of Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews to achieve social, cultural, economic and environmental wellbeing. Our vision is of the Daniel McIntyre – St. Matthews Community which is stable, health and safe, a neighbourhood that is diverse, welcoming, vibrant, clean and self reliant.

We work with residents, stakeholders and partners on various issues to reduce poverty and support the renewal of our neighbourhoods. Our work primarily focuses on the following six areas – Housing; Community Building, Wellbeing and Safety; Greening and Environment; Community Involvement and Outreach; Recreation and Youth; and Community Economic Development.

In 2007, DMSMCA was created and a Community Development Worker was hired. March 2008, DMSMCA was incorporated and hired the Executive Director. By the fall of 2009, the staff had grown to include 4 program staff supporting the different areas of focus identified through the community consultations and part-time youth program staff. September 2010, DMSMCA bought and got possession of our DMSMCA building. June 2012, the DMSM Community Resource Centre was launched and opened.

We are governed by a volunteer Board of Directors comprised of community residents, organisations and stakeholders in the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews community. Our mandate is to plan and coordinate neighbourhood renewal efforts through Community Development and Community Economic Development.

### ***Impact and Successes***

The positive impacts through the work of DMSMCA in our community have been many and far reaching, highlighting the effectiveness of community-led neighbourhood revitalization and community economic development.

**Housing:** Every year, we provide housing fix-up grants to community members and landlords in the neighbourhood – since 2007, we have provided \$515,714 in housing grants which has leveraged \$1,033,351 from homeowners and landlords. We also offer support for homeowners who need help maintaining their homes providing hands-on workshops on a variety of topics and support renters who need help with advocacy in dealing with landlords.

**BiteBack Bed Bug Prevention Program:** Created to support stakeholders in West End/West Broadway neighbourhoods to reduce and prevent the spread of bed bugs, this is a collaborative program between DMSMCA, SNA, WBCO, New Journey Housing and RaY. The Program focuses on filling service gaps in the community that include empowering community stakeholders with important educational and physical tools to address the bed bug epidemic.

Since the September 2012 launch, the program has conducted over 70 workshops, with over 1100 participants, handled 444 individual cases, and worked with over 55 landlords. Our steam cleaner has been rented over 80 times, the vacuum over 35 times and our website, [www.bitebackwpg.com](http://www.bitebackwpg.com) has had over 4500 views since it's launch in December 2014. Our coordinator regularly gets calls from all areas of Winnipeg, as well as frequently collaborates and provides workshops at other core neighbourhood agencies outside the boundaries of this program. We have also fielded calls from other areas of Manitoba, as well as had requests for information from Saskatchewan, British Columbia, and most notably from two Universities in Ontario interested in our protocol information to help advise students conducting research in clients' homes.



**Community Building, Well-Being and Safety:** DMSMCA has implemented a variety of safety initiatives over the 9 years since we have been established including: annual safety BBQs hosted in collaboration with residents in the neighbourhood, annual safety audits and lighting audits with residents, schools and other community

stakeholders. At our Centre in partnership with SNA and Klinik, we host a weekly drop-in for sex trade workers, providing harm reduction supplies, a hot meal and a safe space. We also provide a variety of services and programs to building and connect community.

**Greening and Environment:** DMSMCA has 4 community gardens throughout our neighbourhood, providing 85 garden individual garden plots that are available for community members. The Bike Cage, a DMSMCA service, is a community bike resource centre that is volunteer run. In its 7<sup>th</sup> year, the Bike Cage is open all year round and sees over 1200 every year. We also have a community green map (available on our website) and provide a variety of greening and environment workshops throughout the year.

**Composting for Communities Program:** The goal of this program was to reduce the greenhouse gas emission in the DM/SM neighbourhoods by collecting organic materials from businesses/ organizations by bicycle/trailer and depositing it at community compost sites throughout the neighbourhood. After two and a half years, through this program over 36,000 lbs of organic waste was diverted from the landfill – this is **23 tonnes of CO2 reduced in the DM/SM neighbourhoods.**

**Community Involvement and Outreach:** Keeping our communities connected and informed is the foundation of our work – communications tools and events build community and stronger neighbourhoods where people know each other and have pride in where they live. Every year, we organise and host a variety of large and small events in the community including: Winter Carnival (February), Spring Clean-up (April), Spring Rummage Sale (May), Summer Fest (August), March for Peace (September), Haunted Halloween House (October), Fall Supper (November), Winter Wonderland Bus Tour (December), Pictures with Santa (December). We also provide a quarterly newsletter (Front Porch News), a quarterly newspaper (Our West Central Times), a weekly email digest as well as regular posts on our Facebook Page and Instagram as well as our Website.

**Recreation and Youth Engagement:**

Bringing people together to get active and learn new things is an important part of the work that we do in the community. We offer a variety of programs for youth such as Art Party weekly drop-in, digital photography for youth classes, DJ classes, Hip Hop dance classes and others. We offer programming for seniors such as bi-monthly teas, bi-monthly seniors luncheons, computer classes for seniors and other workshops. We also offer a



variety of programming to support adults in general such as money management training, tax preparation services, CPR and First Aid training, Belly Dancing and Yoga for adults.

**DMSM Community Resource Centre:** Our DM/SM Resource Centre is a bustling hub for people in the neighbourhood and beyond; providing the community with access to all manner of resources – information, referrals and support; workshops and classes; a place for meetings and community organizing. We also offer the use of computers, a phone, printing, photocopying and fax services free of charge. Through our Resource Centre, we assist individuals and families in accessing resources within our community and beyond. Since the Resource Centre opened in June of 2012, we have assisted over 11,000 people.



**Community Stories:** I am so happy to have discovered DMSMCA about 2.5 years ago when I arrived from California during an unusual cold snap, colder than the planet Mars. The Staff helped me to survive, providing excellent resources, and one in particular, how to prevent cracked pipes, a new idea in my new Winnipeg.

I enjoy knowing my community so I decided to participate in some of the outstanding DMSMCA events like: volunteering to clean-up after some of the many socials, picking-up garbage after the snow melt, attending meetings in support of safety and healthy living, hands-on home maintenance workshops, meeting our elected representative, and more. What an opportunity to meet fellow neighbours and the excellent Staff are available to assist you or make a referral. I use the print resources and the online newsletter is very

upbeat and a fun read! Drop by and experience why I visit our wonderful community centre. - Laura

### ***Community Connections***

We work with and provide space for the community to identify their needs and priorities, either individually or as a whole and then work in collaboration with the community to meet those needs. We try and provide a space that is open, safe and accessible to any member of our community, no matter what their circumstances. In essence, we work with community wherever they are at (for instance providing a weekly drop-in, safe space for people working the sex trade) to help them meet their needs.

### ***Community Needs***

There are so many gaps in services and programs overall, as an inner-city community, many people in our community are low-income, are marginalized and don't have the resources or access to the resources to fill those gaps themselves. Through our programs and services, we attempt to fill some of those gaps and/or help people to find resources to fill those gaps.

Every community is different and crucial priorities should be identified by each individual community. Areas of priorities identified by stakeholder in DM/SM include: Community Involvement and Outreach; Community Housing; Community Building, Wellbeing and Safety; Greening and Environment; Recreation and Youth Engagement; Community Economic Development.



## Dauphin Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation



### ***Background***

The Dauphin Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (DNRC) was established in 2008 through the efforts of community-minded individuals and a provincial designation. It is governed by a board of committed volunteers and directed by a five-year plan that is developed based on feedback from community members. DNRC started with solely an Executive Director on staff but experienced growth in 2012 through an NRF grant to employ a Community Liaison. This second staff person significantly expanded our capacity for community engagement. We believe that our community would benefit from addition expansion of this grassroots community organization.

The mandate of the corporation is to contribute to stability, capacity building, economic development and well-being in Dauphin. Our current areas of emphasis are community pride, economic development, housing, recreation & green space and youth. Community connecting is the fundamental principle that underpins all of the work of our organization.

DNRC's goal is to empower our neighbourhood through collaboration, to build a healthy community. We have a close working relationship with the City of Dauphin.

### ***Impact and Successes***

The DNRC is a partnership-based, community development organization that supports activities aimed at meeting local and provincial objectives. Through our strategic efforts to bring groups together, we efficiently address pressing, local needs. We are an important leader in Dauphin ensuring cooperation and collaboration between community groups and organizations, aligning efforts across sectors.

DNRC administers the Small Grants Fund (SGF) which is an annual allocation of \$25,000.00 that provides grants to support projects that bring people together and respond to the priorities of the neighbourhood renewal plan. This initiates additional investment in local development and programming. Community connectedness is fostered through the SGF program because of accessibility to funds and local support throughout the application process. Our office maintains a welcoming environment which encourages community members who strive to champion local initiatives. Since 2011, DNRC has granted \$111,847 to more than 70 community projects through the Small Grants Fund.

The Community Housing Improvement Initiative (CHII) has been a huge local success with an annual contribution of \$25,000.00 from Manitoba Housing. This program aids low-income homeowners in improving the aesthetics and efficiency of the exteriors of their homes. This has significantly enhanced neighbourhood pride and safety. Dauphin has successfully completed its third year of this program with extensive partnership with local building supply stores. Materials have been sold to participants at discounted rates which has extended the buying power of provincial dollars. Spending accounts have ensured the ability to access credit as required. The local Coop Building Centre and McMunn & Yates store have been important partners in this endeavour. This investment has leveraged additional, economic returns in that participants shopped locally and personally contributed to their projects. This minimal provincial investment has resulted in large, visible change for our whole community.



DNRC supports various projects that address a broad spectrum of needs. The objective of our Building Community through Cultural Awareness grant is to create a positive climate around diversity. The goal of this grant is to confront racism and cultural misconceptions in Dauphin. We support the local need for Settlement Services given the increasing newcomer population. Community connectedness enhances the welcoming nature of our community.

We have financially supported and provided leadership for the revitalization of outdoor, community gathering spaces. Our efforts have ranged from a feasibility study that resulted in the development of a state-of-the-art skateboard park to installing raised

garden beds and fruit trees. We have focused on depressed areas of the city transforming underutilized, unattractive spaces into neighbourhood meeting places.

DNRC supports various, community-based organizations collaborating to address community needs and opportunities. For example, DNRC contributes to the work of Housing First, Dauphin Age Friendly, Healthy Child Coalition, Healthy Together Now, Habitat for Humanity, Arts Alive, Parkland Settlement Services, Culture Days, Winter Life, Chamber of Commerce initiatives, Dauphin Friendship Centre initiatives and MS Society initiatives, among others.

We are currently conducting community consultations to inform our next five-year community plan. We are taking a multifaceted approach to data collection to ensure that all segments of the population have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this local plan of action. It is evident that while much work has already been accomplished, there is an ongoing need for the DNRC to support concerted community-led development. Our organization continues to be financially efficient and adds great value to the community. DNRC has collaborated with numerous organizations in our community over the past 8 years and has enabled much growth and productivity. We provide a great service to the community at reasonable cost to taxpayers.

DNRC has succeeded in investing in neighbourhoods that need a boost. Over the past three years we have invested in the West End of Dauphin, creating two unique community spaces. A community garden is nestled in the residential portion that boasts raised garden beds, fruit trees and a playground. On the west entrance of Dauphin, a vacant lot was transformed into a welcoming meeting space and now is home to a swing and flower planters. We focussed the CHII investment in that area of the city in 2015 and saw the impact of these improvements.

### ***Community Connections***

DNRC has reached out to groups and individuals to create meaningful partnerships in our community. Together we collaborate to achieve our goals. We have built capacity in many existing community organizations and groups. For example, we have supported MS Society's Riding Mountain Challenge, Rotary's Manitoba MudRun, Chamber of Commerce Street Fair and winter activities, the development of the D-Town Plaza and various other initiatives. DNRC has contributed to community connecting in thousands of instances over our tenure and continues to make that our primary priority. Connecting residents of Dauphin from all walks of life creates a community that feels safe, comfortable and welcoming. Through our collaborative efforts, DNRC engages approximately 10,000 people annually with various events and projects.



DNRC sits together with organizations like the regional health authority and the school division (and many other groups) to further plans we share for community development. DNRC actively listens to community members and uses feedback to shape our ongoing work.

### ***Community Needs***

Dauphin has lower income and education levels than the provincial average. The demographics in our community provide unique challenges in housing and services provision. Dauphin needs our Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to identify and address local priorities and needs. NRCs allow creative, grassroots solutions to challenging social needs. Dauphin needs an organization that promotes unity and connectedness between residents of the city.



# Flin Flon Neighbourhood Revitalization Corporation



## ***Background***

The FFNRC came about as a result of the province's decision to extend the Neighbourhoods Alive! program to several rural communities in 2008-2009. To initiate the process here NA! contacted a variety of local organizations, such as Greenstone Community Futures, the City of Flin Flon, the Chamber of Commerce, the Flin Flon School Division, the Women's Resource Centre, the Flin Flon Arts Council and the Flin Flon Indian and Metis Friendship Centre. Representatives from these groups formed the nucleus of the "Interim Advisory Committee" appointed by NA! which conducted extensive community consultations in Flin Flon in 2008 and set up a working organization at the local level. In this it was greatly assisted by NA!, whose staff worked closely with the IAC and by the other NRCs, which had already developed procedures and documentation that served as invaluable models. This culminated in the creation of the FFNRC early in 2009 and the drafting of its first 5-year-plan.

## ***Impact and Successes***

The FFNRC's main impact on the community has come through the two grant programs it administers, namely the fix-up grants and the small grants programs. Since 2009 we've awarded a total of \$221,198.54 in fix-up grants to some 99 recipients (low-income home owners or landlords of low-rent properties), and approved a total of \$190,401.34 in small grants for some 78 community projects. The fix-up grants resulted in home-owners spending at least a further \$61,252.82 on their renovation projects. It is likely the community impact of both these programs is enhanced by the FFNRC's very user-friendly, locally-based application process. This makes our fix-up grants program far more accessible to seniors that might lack the computer access/expertise needed for filling out online forms. Similarly the small grants program is accessible to small groups that might not have the staff to readily access grants administered from remote locations with fixed application deadlines.

The FFNRC's grassroots orientation and locally-based administration have enabled it to have a far greater community impact than comparable province-wide programs administered out of Winnipeg. There is something about the FFNRC's community presence, where it goes out into the neighbourhoods to promote the fix-up program, makes house calls and coaches people through the application process step-by-step if necessary, and works through local contractors and businesses that has enabled it to win a far greater level of community buy-in.

Much the same can be said about the FFNRC's experience with the small grants program. Funds allocated to the small grants fund here have supported dozens of community projects in Flin Flon, as opposed to gathering dust in some bureaucracy's account in Winnipeg. In part this can be attributed to our board members whose deep connections with the community make them great ambassadors for the small grants program.

The small grants program has made possible a wide variety of events and activities here. More community facilities, programs, and groups exist or have been restored thanks to the small grants program. The small grants program has also harnessed a great deal of volunteer activity for socially beneficial ends. It has also reduced the barriers to participation in local activities and events by low-income people. It has enabled groups to hold events, such as free community barbecues, where cost recovery through ticket sales might not have been practical, and which might have led to the exclusion of low-income persons. Small grant applicants generally must show the FFNRC that they've made reasonable efforts to reduce barriers to participation in their activities. This has led to some groups revising their projects or their operating policies to reduce participation barriers.

Community life in Flin Flon is likely far richer for the events, activities and projects supported through the small grants program. A great deal of community connecting takes place through these projects. The

small grants program has played a major role in restoring or upgrading community facilities and enhanced their capacity to carry out their community-connecting function.

Facilities that have benefitted from small grants in recent years include several school playgrounds and community parks, the Flin Flon Station Museum, the Flin Flon Public Library, which used a small grant to



completely revitalize its children's section, and several local church and legion halls, which serve as important community meeting places and event venues.

Several NRF projects involving the FFNRC have also benefitted the community. The Community Parks and Playgrounds Revitalization Project saw a comprehensive renewal of parks/playgrounds in several Flin Flon neighbourhoods. The Pioneer Square project has proven to be a complete game changer for our community, creating for the first time a

public square type meeting place and open air stage right in the heart of our downtown. That stage has been the scene of many performances and public ceremonies since, and has become an integral part of Flin Flon's Canada Day and homecoming celebrations, Culture Days, and the annual Christmas Tree Lighting ceremonies. It also served as the venue for the "Busking Amped" series of community concerts organized by the FFNRC in the summer of 2014. The Channing Beach Restoration Project played a significant role in restoring what had once been a significant local recreation area.

The FFNRC has also helped local organizations access funding from other provincial programs. The most clear-cut example of this would be its success in encouraging the Flin Flon Arts Council to apply for Urban Arts Centre funding for the Northern Visual Arts Centre. This resulted in the first such grant to an arts centre outside of Winnipeg and helped establish what has become a major cultural institution here. It is also a good example of how a neighbourhood renewal corporation can help a community bridge the gap between a Winnipeg-based funding program and a local organization that might not otherwise have the staff resources or expertise needed to access such programs on its own. This was a win-win situation, since while FFNRC's intervention clearly benefitted the community it also helped the province extend the benefits of what was supposed to be a province-wide program to a non-Winnipeg community for the first time. This in turn goes back to the whole rationale behind extending the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative to communities outside of Winnipeg.

The completion of Flin Flon's first-ever comprehensive housing study by the FFNRC has assisted a variety of organizations and individuals working in the area of housing, insofar as it enables housing-related discussions and proposals to proceed from a factual basis rather than unfounded assumptions. It also helps establish certain parameters by which the success of home-owner renovation assistance programs and other housing initiatives can be measured.

The FFNRC also brought Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design into the public consciousness here for the first time, with the community CPTED workshop it organized in January 2011. This was followed by several other CPTED-related projects, such as the Freedman Bridge mural and the 100 Stairs security cameras and most recently by several projects implemented by Citizens on Patrol. Citizens on Patrol is another good example of a fledgling (at least as far as Flin Flon was concerned) organization that had built up a strong cadre of volunteers but needed some start-up funding to launch some key projects, which in this case came through the small grants program.

The FFNRC has also organized several other meetings/workshops/presentations around specific issues that attracted a broad cross section of the community. These include a

community housing strategy presentation by CMHC, the first ever for this region, and a community board-training workshop held with the cooperation of Community Futures Greenstone.

The FFNRC has also become well-known in Flin Flon for the community events it organizes in conjunction with the annual “Flinty’s Birthday” celebrations. This has included such family- friendly events as “World Bubble Day” and the Flin Flon Dinosaur Races. The FFNRC has also contributed its bubble expertise to support many other community events, including Culture Days, Friendship Play-Days, Summer in the Parks, the Trout Festival, and the kickoff to the public library’s annual summer reading camp.

The FFNRC is also the driving force behind “Flowers on Main Street”, a project that brings several dozen hanging flower baskets to the lampposts of Main Street Flin Flon every summer.

### ***Community Connections***

Relationship-building for the FFNRC begins with its board. From the start the FFNRC has worked towards having a board that represents a broad cross-section of its community and that is deeply engaged with that community. Most board members belong to several other community organizations as well and volunteer extensively. This has built a solid network of community relationships which the FFNRC can access at need.

As an organization the FFNRC strives to make its application processes as transparent and user friendly as possible. It also practices community outreach wherever possible, to encourage community groups to consider our small grants program as a funding source. Although we can’t approve every request for funding, we strive to be fair and consistent and adopt a non-adversarial approach to grant applications. We always work to ensure applicants understand the criteria by which grants are awarded and that they have made their application the best it can possibly be.

Over the years we have built relationships through a variety of community partnerships. We have assisted several organizations with their community events, either through the small grants or the NRF fund or through some form of partnership/contribution of staff and other resources by the FFNRC. This has seen us work closely together with the City of Flin Flon, the Flin Flon Aboriginal Friendship Centre, the Flin Flon Arts Council, the Flinty’s Birthday Committee, the Flin Flon Public Library, the Trout Festival Committee, and the Flin Flon Station Museum. Our long-running “Flowers on Main Street” program has involved working closely with the City of Flin Flon, the fire department, the Flin Flon & District Chamber of Commerce, and HudBay Mining and Smelting, as well as many Main Street businesses.

The community meetings we've organized and our community consultation process have also helped us develop relationships in the community as have our community CPTED workshop, the CMHC housing presentation we hosted, our information sessions on the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, our Community Board Training workshop (a joint project with Community Futures Greenstone), and our annual community event.

### ***Community Needs***

Flin Flon faces several challenges. One is existential, since the mine that is the basis of the entire economy here could close within the next six years. Flin Flon's population has been declining for many years, as many people find it very difficult to make ends meet if they are not employed at the mine or in the public sector. This has led to a steady outmigration of young people. Seniors make up an ever growing proportion of the population and some no longer have any family in town. Some reports indicate Flin Flon may even have a small homeless population, in the order of a hundred people or so, of which at least 75% is aboriginal.

Another challenge facing Flin Flon is its aging housing stock. Some 75% of its units were constructed prior to 1971, as opposed to 50.8% for the province as a whole. Flin Flon has also been suffering from an ongoing attrition of its housing stock since 1981, and the rate of loss has accelerated from an average of 8 houses per year in the late 1980s to an average of 20 per year since 1996. A significantly higher percentage of Flin Flon residents regard their homes as being in need of repair than the provincial average.

As a smaller community, Flin Flon lacks the variety of community organizations, institutions, businesses, and funding agencies characteristic of larger centres that might normally be a source of support for community projects. Its aging and declining population is reflected in its aging volunteer base and the fading away of some long-standing community organizations. There is the potential for gaps to arise in the services formerly provided by these now extinct organizations, as it is uncertain whether other organizations will replace them. A decline in church membership in Flin Flon has also led to the closing of several church halls that also functioned as important community resources in the past and if anything this process is likely to accelerate in the coming years.

Flin Flon also lacks a higher education institution, unlike the other two northern cities, apart from a small office maintained by UCN, and a small mining training facility that operates on an intermittent basis.

Many of Flin Flon's strongest volunteer organizations are strictly volunteer and do not have paid staff or office facilities. Their focus has traditionally been on carrying out their

core missions to the community and they may not necessarily have the funding in place to launch new initiatives, no matter how beneficial these may prove to the community over the long run.

Finally, Flin Flon's sheer geographic distance from Winnipeg and other large centres make it impractical for most people, no matter how deserving their project or group, to readily access facilities, offices, and programs there in person. Nor is it very practical or cost-effective for officials from those centres to regularly attend to the day-to-day administration of small grants type programs here.

Since its inception the FFNRC has attempted to respond to these challenges and with some considerable success. It has put more into the support of renovations for low-income homeowners in Flin Flon than all the other provincial programs put together since 2009. Its small grants program has filled a definite funding gap confronting community groups in Flin Flon and allowed them to complete dozens of highly worthwhile projects. It is unlikely any of these renovations or projects would have taken place in the absence of the FFNRC.

The FFNRC's on-the-spot community presence has been crucial to the success of both the fix-up and small grants programs here and in addressing some important community needs. There is no evidence that these needs could be addressed anywhere near as cost-effectively by a program administered out of Winnipeg.





## North End Community Renewal Corporation

### *Background*

The North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) was founded in 1998 by a coalition of Winnipeg organizations who were concerned about the trends in the north end of Winnipeg and who were aware of the good results that community development corporations in other parts of North America were achieving in revitalizing inner city communities.

NECRC was established to serve the community within the geographic area: north of the CP tracks, south of Carruthers Ave., east of McPhillips St., and west of the Red River. (comprised of 11 neighbourhoods: Dufferin Industrial, Dufferin, William Whyte, Lord Selkirk Park, North Point Douglas, Burrows Central, St. John's, Inkster, Faraday, Luxton, St. John's Park and Robertson)

The mandate of the corporation is to promote the social, economic and cultural renewal of the north end of Winnipeg. It does this by improving the quality and accessibility of housing, creating jobs, upgrading and industrial areas, implementing employment development programs, improving the overall image of the community and reducing crime in the community. The corporation provides a coordination and facilitation role, through a strategic focus for many of the community improvement activities taking place in the north end.

NECRC is governed by a Board of fourteen Directors with representation from the following sectors: Aboriginal, Cultural, Business, Community Service, Labour, Religious, Resident, and Youth serving organizations.

NECRC is rooted in a community economic development (CED) approach. CED is defined as...."action by people locally to create economic opportunities and enhance social conditions in their communities on a sustainable and inclusive basis, particularly with those who are most disadvantaged.

### *Impact and Success*

**PATH Employment Centre:** provides a range of resources and services for individuals engaged in a variety of employment-related activities. Some participants come to the Centre looking for assistance with housing, health and other social issues, while other participants are seeking career counseling, help with a resume, or the development of a job search plan. PATH caters their services to those who face multiple barriers to employment.





**Picnic in the Park:** An annual cultural event provides a family fun day, at no charge and opportunities to get to “know your neighbour”. and draws approx. 1500 to 2000 residents per year.

**NE School Resource Officer Program:** Started in 15 north end schools, which proved to

significantly improve community/youth/police relationships. Program has not expanded into other areas of the City. NECRC took the lead on this project and coordinated partnerships.

**Tenant Landlord Cooperation Program:** The TLC program is a direct advocacy program to help individuals understand their rights and responsibilities on rental issues. The program assists both tenants and landlords in resolving rental disputes.

**Community Financial Services Centre:** Provides low income residents with an alternative to fringe financial service providers, like pawn shops and payday lenders.

**Citizens Bridge:** Is a one stop shop for supporting clients to get identification documents, bank accounts, and driver licences. Its mission is to assist individuals with identification procurement, open bank accounts, financial literacy workshops, and driver education course. We work in cooperation with 108 organizations who refer individuals to our program. Our goal is to connect with individuals who are looking for employment skills training, identification and financial literacy.

**North end Wellness Centre:** A much needed recreation facility for children and families in the north end.

**Housing Fix Up Grants:** Significant funding provided to support residents/landlords in revitalizing the neighbourhood.

**Small Grant Fund:** \$150,000 per year administered at a very cost effective level to support numerous capacity building, well being, community connecting and economic development activities at the grassroots level. The program leverages money at a ratio of \$1 to \$4.

**Merchants Hotel Closing and Redevelopment:**

Once a flashpoint for community frustration and a symbol of decline, the Merchants Hotel, also known as “the Merch,” is now being redeveloped into an innovative educational, student housing and retail complex called



Merchants Corner. This is a beacon of hope for the community and a tipping point in the future for Winnipeg’s inner city – socially and economically. The new facility will feature 30 units of affordable housing and will be an educational hub hosting the University of Winnipeg’s Department of Inner-City Studies and CEDA-Pathways to Education program. It will also include a common space, open to the community, in which literacy programming for preschoolers will be offered among many other activities.

**Neighbourhood Power Smart Program:** Partner with Manitoba Hydro to help North End property owners access energy efficiency upgrades to lower their utility bills and improve their quality of housing.

**Storefront Enhancement Grants:** significant neighbourhood revitalization to storefront properties (business and organizations) since 2005.

**Lord Selkirk Park Comprehensive Community Initiative:** a ten year initiative led by the local community which transformed Lord Selkirk Park into a community of opportunity and hope. Today local residents have access to:

- All 150+ units and hi rise have been renovated through the Refresh program – Province of Mb.
- Grade 12 diploma program – Kaakiyow adult learning centre – since 2007 – approx. 12 graduates per year obtain their grade 12 diploma.
- Lord Selkirk Park Adult Literacy Program
- Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre
- 40 space infant/preschool childcare (newly renovated space)

**Building Construction Maintenance Program (BCMP):** Partnership with Manitoba Housing and the local community as an employment and training program for NE youth and residents interested in the trade of carpentry and housing construction. It provides hands-on experience through the maintenance and repair of MH properties. \$15 million in wages in the north end since 2006; 510 trainees and 415 employment positions.

**Xmas Gift Giving Event:** Since 2014- approx. 500 families come out to secure/ wrap gifts for their children, at no cost. All gifts are donated by local organizations.

**Art Murals:** on the Vineyard church walls, as a means of community beautification, increased accessibility to art and arts programming. May have the potential to have long term socioeconomic impacts similar to those seen in Miami's *Wynwood Walls* or Philadelphia's *Mural Mile* arts districts.

### ***Community Connections***

The North End Community Renewal Corporation works in the community as an advocate, builder of partnerships, liaison to government and coordinator of meetings, events and initiatives. By taking on a coordination, facilitation and communication role in all the work that we do we are able to foster collaborative partnerships with community organizations and groups are to implement the Community Plan.



### ***Community Needs***

NECRC's catchment area includes the R2W postal code, one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the city, perhaps in the country. We successfully work at a grassroots level- delivering basic services by reaching marginalized people in areas of housing, safety, employment through coordination and communication with the community.

# Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation



## ***Background***

PCRC was created in 2009 as an outcome from the Portage la Prairie Social Planning Initiative, a report prepared by the Institute of Urban Studies at the University of Winnipeg in cooperation with the Portage Community Network.

## ***Impact and Successes***

PCRC was the recipient of a significant grant from Status of Women Canada for a 3 year program examining barriers to economic security for women in Portage la Prairie.

PCRC led the formation of a housing collation that resulted in the building of an affordable housing complex, Fisher Apartments, owned and operated by CMHA – Central Region.

**Green Team and Graffiti Removal Program:** PCRC hires 2 students every summer to act as Graffiti Removal Team, working with the Community Engagement Coordinator to complete a graffiti audit in target neighbourhoods. This graffiti audit serves as a reference point to determine the number of tags annually, identify highly graphitized areas, and serves as the work plan.

From that point, the Team works with home owners to remove the graffiti and educate neighbourhoods on why graffiti removal improves the appearance of an area, and the perceptions of safety, preventing the likelihood of the tag recurring in the same place. PCRC uses advertising in local media, as well as our social media pages and word of mouth to promote this free service, and it also serves as a platform for PCRC to inform our community about the benefits of neighbourhood beautification, and other steps to take as a city to improve feelings of safety in target areas.

In 2016, the Green Team was able to remove 59 incidents of graffiti. That included personal properties, businesses, as well as city property, and the team also removed graffiti from the BDO Centre for the Community in its entirety, the provincial overpass on Tupper Street, the CP Heritage Station and they painted over the longstanding eyesore MTS building on Pacific Avenue. Our team painted over the overpass 3 times in total, as it continued to be a high risk area.

## ***Community Connections***

Partnerships are a key element in how PCRC has been part of the community for the past 7 years. PCRC seeks community partners, either other non-profit organizations or local businesses, for most projects or events, and have found this to be a successful strategy.

Not only does PCRC benefit from new connections, but it often provides an opportunity to build relationships with a different demographic of our community.



**2015-2016 Partnerships:**

From May 2015-March 2016, PCRC hosted 15 events in Portage la Prairie. These events took place throughout the city,

in our target areas and more central locations as well. We engaged community members from all across the city by drawing many to the North East neighbourhood with a winter festival, but also encouraging those in our North East and North West neighbourhoods to join us for events in the central locations of our city, as PCRC continues to work to bridge the divide between residential areas.

- May 2, 2015 - Community Celebration BBQ hosted at Island Park
- 80+ attendance
- June 13, 2015 - Bike Week Kick Off hosted by PCRC in Heritage Square, in partnership with the Active Transportation Committee – 50+ attendance
- July 9, 2015 - PCRC hosted a free BBQ and baseball night held at Fort la Reine School – 80+ attendance
- August 12, 2015 - PCRC partnered with the City of Portage to host a Connecting Community BBQ at Red River College – 225+ attendance
- Thursday, October 22, PCRC hosted Be Safe, Be Seen on Halloween at La Verendrye School, in partnership with the RCMP and Citizens on Patrol – 100 attendance
- November 26, 2015 - PCRC presented a Winterize Your Home Workshop at the Herman Prior Centre, in cooperation with Manitoba Hydro and the Portage Library – 15 attendance
- January 13, 2016 - PCRC hosted Board Games Night at the Herman Prior Centre – 8 attendance

January 31, 2016 - PCRC hosted Winterfest 2016 at North Memorial School Outdoor Skating Rink in partnership with ROK (Recreation Opportunities for Kids), the Newcomers Welcome Centre, and PRED – 250+ in attendance

February 5, 12, 19 and 26 - PCRC hosted Winterruption on the Crescent Lake skating oval in cooperation with PRED – 50 attendance

February 11, 2016 - PCRC hosted Winter Buster Sports Night at Red River College in partnership with the Eagle Fire Youth Centre – 50 attendance

February 27, 2016 - PCRC presented Breakfast on Ice held on Crescent Lake in partnership with PRED and the Portage Plains United Way – 200+ attendance

March 24, 2016 - PCRC hosted Easter Eggstravaganza at North Memorial School in partnership with Big Brothers, Big Sisters – 70 attendance

***Community Needs***

PCRC serves as a connector in our community, bringing together individuals, organizations, and businesses to continue building a vibrant Portage la Prairie.



# Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation



## ***Background***

Legally incorporated in December 2008 the Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation is a non-profit organization governed by a ten-member Board of Directors.

The SCRC accepts and reviews requests from local, non-profit organizations and makes recommendations to Neighbourhoods Alive based on the priorities of the Community Plan.

SCRC receives core funding from Neighbourhoods Alive! an initiative of the Province of Manitoba.

NA! is a community based strategy helping to build healthy neighbourhoods.

NA! supports and encourages community-driven revitalization efforts and the goals established by the community with funding and planning assistance.

**The Community Plan:** The SCRC began as the Interim Advisory Committee (IAC). The mandate of the IAC was to advise NA! on revitalization priorities for the community and develop a 5-year renewal plan through community consultation.

The priorities included in the plan are youth, crime/safety, housing, public transportation, Manitoba Ave. East and economic development and goals were set for each priority.

In 2007 a Project Officer with Neighbourhoods Alive! contacted the Selkirk MLA- Greg Dewar regarding an expansion in new initiatives that were taking place in the province. MLA- Greg Dewar in conversation with City Councillor Darlene Swiderski mentioned the new project taking place and Darlene quickly realized the need in Selkirk for a Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation. Darlene began to network with various organizations in Selkirk who also seen the need for a NRC in Selkirk. This group of organizations formed the Board of SCRC and moved forward with the funding applications and incorporation for the organization. The Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation (SCRC) was incorporated in December 2008 and Darlene Swiderski was hired as the Executive Director by the Board of Directors to oversee the organization.

The Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation has served on various Committees as follows:

- Putting People First Coalition
- Interlake Sexual Exploitation Educators (ISEE)

- Interlake Affordable Housing Coalition (IAHC)
- Crime Prevention Advisory Board (CPAB)
- Promoting Aboriginal Student Success Committee
- Selkirk Youth Committee
- Communities in Bloom

### ***Impact and Successes***

We have become a catalyst between other non- profits. Creating new connections. One example is our NRC joining forces with our senior group and our light house program to plan for inter-generational programming.

- Connecting a local elementary school with our local library to start a family lead literacy program.

We address our community as a whole.

We address our citizen's needs, without holding the idea that Selkirk is just a service hub for the Interlake.

SCRC has become a hub for non-profits in Selkirk. If we don't go to them first, we often have other Non-Profit's, citizens and business contact us with an idea and how we can help them achieve their goal.

Our small grant application process is more than just giving out money. It allows our board of respected Selkirk community members and our staff to assess what is needed in our community. SCRC will often contact applicants about their programs and how we can help them, going about our small grants opportunity. We can help them find grants, fill out proposals, volunteer for their event, fundraising ideas, etc.

Helping our community get back on their own two feet. SCRC allows residents to have their ideas and dreams for our community come true.

**Art and Culture:** SCRC has been working with our local Art Gallery (Gwen Fox Selkirk and District) to work towards expanding the Interlake juried art show. SCRC is also partnering with the gallery to host art classes for at risk youth.

- Piano Festival has been sponsored through SCRC Small Grants Fund for the past two years.
- SCRC has also funded Gordon Howard Senior Centre's Multi-Culturamas



**Economics:** With the help of SCRC and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund we have had a success Farmer’s Market in Selkirk since 2009.

**Agriculture:** SCRC has been supporting the Triple S Fair and Rodeo which is a successful event in our area for many years. It is a weekend event that draws a crowd province wide.

**Business:** We have helped local Selkirk business become more community minded. With our partnership with Domino’s pizza and our relationship with Home Hardware. We are planning a local “Do It Yourself” home repair workshops with Home Hardware, to increase local spending and to give home owners support in handling repairs themselves.

**Health:** We support the Selkirk Scouts troop. They promote a healthy, well rounded lifestyle. We recently supported them with a grant to purchase new camp and canoeing equipment.

**Employment:** SCRC has run a successful summer day camp. This allowed parents to work through the summer months, and SCRC created employment for the camp staff.

- SCRC has also sponsored and co-organized a successful Career Expo for the past two years with hundreds in attendance and approximately 30 booths of local employers and post-secondary institutes.

**Child Care:** Along with our summer day camp, we support many family programs.

- “Little Metis Sing with Me” is a parent and child program that through a metis lens is a program of music, movement and craft.
- SCRC will also be hosting a discussion group with those in Child Care in the area on the future for Selkirk. Our goal is to create licensed child care centre spots and additional licensed after school spots.

**CHII:** Total of **102** applications approved 98 Residential and 4 Rental Units for a total of **\$187,502**.

**Small Grants Fund:** Total of **97** applications approved for a total of **\$151,721**.

**Community Kitchen:** Selkirk Community Kitchen is a program initiate, endorsed and supported by the Putting People First Coalition. This program is open to all Selkirk Residents, it is a Free opportunity for up to 10 participants for 3 evening sessions (with 7 sessions planned, making it accessible for 70 residents to participate). The goal is to gain new skills, socialize and provide healthy food for their families, by working together to plan, prepare, and cook healthy and economical meals to take home to their families.

**Community Garden:** Community Garden is a program through Growing Years Family Resource Center and Selkirk's Our Daily Breads Soup Kitchen. The Community garden is free and open to all; it is a chance for Selkirk residents to learn about gardening while helping provide fruits and vegetables to the local Soup Kitchen. They also have the "Our Earth Rules" Club for the children; this program teaches the children about the earth, the environment and our surroundings.

**Women's Wellness Day:** Women's Wellness Day was hosted by National Victims of Crime Awareness Week, Nova House and SCRC. With more a dozen presenters it was a chance to see what is available in the community. It was open to the public for the first time and was very well attended with over 125 participants.

**Playground Upgrades:** All Community Playgrounds have been upgraded with new, safe play structures. SCRC kick-started the process in 2009 with the Queen Avenue Playground. The MMF received a grant for the large play structure and swing set with the City of Selkirk and SCRC providing small grants for smaller structures and benches. 2012 saw the completion of Little Lake playground and Penwarden Park and Ruth Hooker School. SCRC held BBQ's at all locations and also one in the Selkirk Park where there were free hot dogs and drinks, face painting, tattoos, scavenger hunts and races.

**After School Program:** The SCRC Creative Mind Art and Gym after school program started November 6, 2012 and continued to May 30, 2013. It was held Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday at Ruth Hooker School and offered an art program and physical activities. SCRC was able to get a discount on bus fare from the Selkirk Handi-Bus to bus the children to the Regional High School for swimming on Thursdays. The City supplied casual employees to help out and the school division supplied the space and for that we are very thankful as well. Grants were received from IERHA, Child Nutrition Council and the Selkirk Foundation (Gaynor Family Fund) for the program. There were over 65 children registered in the program.

The City of Selkirk has taken on the After School Program and has successfully extended the Program to a total of 4 Schools which runs twice a week with approximately 80 participants per week.

**Homeless Shelter:** Our Daily Bread Soup Kitchen - Selkirk has been aware of the need for a homeless shelter in the city. Rene Gauthier, who runs the soup kitchen, requested the use of a city-owned building to house the homeless. The request was granted but the building was in need of renovations. With the aid of many community volunteers and funding through SCRC the renovations were completed and the St. Francis Place Shelter

officially opened on November 16, 2014. More than 200 people found refuge at St. Francis Place within the first 4 months of opening.

**Mult-Cultrama:** Gordon Howard Senior Centre - Mini-culturama was very successful. The venue was filled to capacity. Results from a survey and requests received to hold more has prompted the centre to have more mini-culturamas throughout the year. It was a unique cultural experience in the form of food, entertainment and displays. Countries and cultures on display have included Canada, Scotland, Japan, Spain, Iceland, Hawaii, Australia and Metis nation. Members participated in the event not only by attending but also by donating display items. The event was open to the general public.

**Interlake Career Expo:** Co-organized the first Interlake Career Expo in 201 held in Selkirk with approximately 300 local residents attended. We are currently organizing the 3rd Career Expo.

**Options Employment Services:** In partnership with SCRC and the Selkirk Record a career fair was held that brought job seekers and local employers together. It also provided an opportunity for local service providers to communicate. Job seekers had the opportunity to see what opportunities exist in Selkirk and employers got the opportunity to speak to students and find out what they had to offer. More than 20 employers and 300 students participated.

**Day Camps:** The Summer Time Adventures Recreational (STAR) Day Camp is a free Summer Program for at-risk youth ages 6-12. The Day Camp started by SCRC in July 2013 with approximately 50-60 participants per year and partnerships with the City of Selkirk's Camp Awesome and Lord Selkirk School Division's Summer Explorers. This program

supports the academic development, self-esteem and life opportunities of at-risk elementary school children in 4 Selkirk schools and reduce "summer learning loss" that occurs by students who are not engaged in literacy and numeracy activities. Outcomes of the program included academic programming, recreational and physical



activities, activities to build positive relationships (e.g. cooking), remediation and enrichment activities (e.g. numeracy, literacy, music, and art), life skills (conflict

resolution, negotiation, decision-making), character development, social/emotional development and Aboriginal perspectives. More than 150 students participated in 4 full-day field trips during the program. The project exceeded original expectations and the Lord Selkirk School Division will continue to support this project and look at expanding the program to additional sites in order to increase student enrollment.

**Practical Parenting:** Growing Years – The 6-week session on Practical Parenting filled a much needed gap in services. Some of the participants are mandated by Justice or Child and Family Services to take classes so it is imperative that there are classes available. Presentations have been made to other organizations who are anxious to have the Practical Parenting and/or Anger Management courses running as often as possible.

**Beautification/Greening:** SCRC in partnership with Home Hardware and the City of Selkirk planted 69 trees this year in Selkirk Parks, with a \$4,500 grant from Tree Canada.

Also, over 5000 Community in Bloom Canada 150 Tulips have been distributed by SCRC to local non- profits, citizens and businesses through a donation by Selkirk Home Hardware, a value of \$3,400.

### ***Community Connections***

Attend AGM's to show support

Attend other Non-Profit's board meetings to conduct presentations.

Attend as many events, programs, rallies, etc. as possible.

Building connections with businesses by delivering newsletters, posters and introducing our NRC.

Staying up to date on Social Media and local news.

We stay connected to our Municipal Government to avoid duplication of programs.

Join in discussion groups and meetings that meet our Community plan.

Lord Selkirk School Division. We support two programs that our LSSD run that meet our Community Plan. We support them by offering assistance, small grants and advertising.

- Summer Explorers Day Camp. A summer day camp that is run by educators for children deemed at risk by the administrators at their school.
- START (Selkirk Team for at Risk Teens), this program is funded by SCRC and the LSSD and is run by the RCMP in the school.

**Networking Strategy:** SCRC has partnered with Selkirk Domino's Pizza this year. SCRC contacts local service groups, non-profits and other volunteer organizations to receive up to 5 Large Pizza's each week. Our role is to contact the organization and get their order. Domino's then delivers, and the organization sends us a picture of their pizza party which is then shared on social media.

The City of Selkirk has benefited greatly since the incorporation of the Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation with the revitalization, beautification and Community Development that has taken place since its incorporation.

NRC's have been instrumental in bringing together organizations and service providers. Prior to SCRC being established many organizations & service providers in Selkirk worked on their own struggling to connect with vital resources. SCRC has brought these organizations together and provided funding and helped organizations to secure other resources needed to strengthen their programming, events and resources.

### ***Community Needs***

Selkirk has many non-profits that fit many of our Community needs. Seniors, Youth, Children and Families (to name a few) have many options for strong non- profits for assistance. Within each of these cohorts, there are many options available including resource centres and employment agencies. Our NRC addresses our community as a whole. It addresses not only our citizen's personal needs, but needs of our environment, health and wellness, housing needs, and safety to all.

By seeing Selkirk as a whole, we are able to create partnerships between our NRC and other organizations and citizens. We are able to see what is lacking in our community and start new initiatives following our Community Plan. In the same way of seeing Selkirk as a whole, we are able to see what programs are successful and not to duplicate but to offer help in the way of small grants, volunteering and finding new grant opportunities.

The NRC community plan is a great way to evaluate how our Communities are functioning. Everyone is looking for ways to better themselves and their own community. Our community plan lets us evaluate how we are doing, and what we need to improve.

Selkirk is considered the service hub to the Interlake. Many times the needs of our citizens aren't fully addressed as a result. SCRC stands to represent our community and our people.

# Spence Neighbourhood Association



## ***Background***

The Spence Neighbourhood association was started by a group of local residents and business owners coming together to address 20 years of decline in the community. The residents were committed

**Mission:** The Spence Neighbourhood Association works with the people of Spence to revitalize and renew their community in the areas of Holistic Housing, Community Connecting, Community Economic Development, Environment and Open Spaces and Youth and Families.

**Vision:** Welcome Home

**Guiding Principles:** ARTICLE 2 (taken for the Spence Neighbourhood Association constitution) \_The Spence Neighbourhood Association (S.N.A.) shall be guided by and committed to the following principles:

- People of the Spence Neighbourhood Association (S.N.A.) will have opportunities that offer meaningful participation within the S.N.A.
- The members of S.N.A. will participate, take action, and have decisive control in their Association/neighbourhood and thereby will increase their participation in decision making at a municipal level.
- The process the S.N.A. embarks on will have an impact on the goals defined by the community (such as: safety, housing, employment, health, and image).
- The S.N.A. Board will be accessible for feedback, input, direction, and participation to the neighbourhood and to the staff they may employ.
- The S.N.A. will have respect for all people (whom live, work and volunteer here).
- The Board will be representative of the neighbourhood.
- The Board will receive and act on community needs and input, and advocate when and/or where necessary.
- In decision-making, the S.N.A. will work towards consensus as defined by the membership or board.
- The S.N.A. will develop connections amongst the people living, working or volunteering in the Spence Neighbourhood, and as well to other organizations and resources.
- The S.N.A. will continually work towards the sustainability and continual renewal in the development of the Spence neighbourhood.

- The board will promote and foster community economic development (c.e.d.)

### ***Impact and Successes***

The impact on the Community has been huge to break down impact last years stats show that SNA worked with:

- Total number of Community participants = 4135
- Total number of programming hours = 12,116
- Total community events = 206

By major area of focus the impact is:

- Holistic housing- homeless outreach, rental- tenant mediation, workshops regarding home improvement, advocating for housing stock and quality in our neighbourhood..etc.
- Community Connecting (safety): community safety audits, community building kitchen circles, safe space for sex workers, advocating for improved quality of physical and overall safety of the neighbourhood, as well as working in collaboration with the police to enhance relationships between them and community members.
- Community Economic Development: providing casual, part-time jobs to community members, providing skills building workshops to increase employability in neighbourhood youth, providing job placements for your and first job experiences, aiding in resume construction, first aid-cpr training and WHIMIS.
- Environment & Open Spaces: providing and maintaining community gardens in the summer, organizing and implementing community clean-ups, providing workshops to improve food security in the neighbourhood, working with an arms length community board to facilitate indigenous solstice events .
- Youth & Families: providing several sub-programs to improve inclusion of vulnerable youth in our areas as well as fostering as sense of wellbeing, belonging and pride in our neighbourhood. Programs include after-school drop-in programming for ages 6-12, 12-18; sports programming for basketball and futsal (soccer); an area wide, overnight safe space for our most vulnerable youth, youth employment programs, strengthening families workshops...etc

**Housing:** Built 33 homes sold to low income families, supported the renovation of 150 other homes. Provided housing fix up grants to community members and innovative roofing grant as housing in our community are some of the oldest in the province. Annual we help 50-75 homeless people get housed and stay housed. Our innovative Rental safety

program addressing immediate safety concerns while also supports landlord and tenant negotiations.

**Community connecting (safety):** SNA has implemented a variety of safety issues over the past 16 years including annual safety audits of the community, lighting audits, installing fencing, lighting and other safety features in the community and building strong community connections with police.

**Environment and Open Spaces:** SNA has established 11 community gardens and a community greenhouse site. With over 80 community gardeners annually. We have created a community green map as well as hundreds of community workshops on gardening, compost, etc.

**Community Economic Development:** SNA skills bank has connected residents to over \$180,000 worth of local jobs. We have provided over 4,000 residents with ID supports, and helped 900 community members secure long term employment. Our Youth employment programs graduate 10-20 youth annually into the workforce. Youth Crew generates \$20,000 worth of jobs for youth annually.

**Youth and Families:** SNA youth programs work with over 1,500 youth annually, keeping them out of Jail and Gangs and engaged positively in the community. We provide access to organized sports, art and recreation opportunities, along with serving two meals a day for community youth. The year we launched a 24 hour safe space providing overnight safe space for youth in the West End of Winnipeg.





### ***Community Connections***

SNA is a leader in building community connections. We have supported and established many community based networks for community members and agencies. our approach to community connections is as follows:

- 1. SNA host committees in each of the 5 main areas that act as a connection point for all residents to those areas of work and report directly to the board.**
- 2. SNA supports community wide connections through management of the West Central connect network and e-mail listserve**
- 3. SNA consults with residents annual on activities, programs and events, but also develops 5-year community led plans**



### ***Community Needs***

The Spence Neighbourhood is one of the poorest in Canada, yet we have been able to establish and build a strong community network able to implement community programs to address issues of poverty, violence, housing, and environment, all led by the community. While we have seen many successes, we still have lots of work to do to support, healing, eliminating poverty, safety issues and housing for those most vulnerable members of our community.



## **The Pas Community Renewal Corporation**

### ***Background***

The Pas Community Renewal Corporation (TPCRC) encompasses the physical demographic of the town of The Pas. Through community consultations, a 5-year plan was developed which is intended to provide a general context for neighbourhood revitalization and development in The Pas. It is also meant to guide the work of the organization as the main medium for such development. It has been prepared in accordance with the guidelines of Neighbourhoods Alive!, the primary core funder for community and inner city neighbourhood development corporations.

### ***Impact and Success***

NRC serves as an advocate for initiatives, projects and programs as well engaging and supporting existing community initiatives. NRC administers small grants and housing fix up grant programs delivering to the community. Providing staffing support to Residents of The Pas.

NRC has great success through the programs delivered to the community. NRC manages the housing fix up grant program which is beneficial to low and fixed income applicants. This program demonstrates Community pride for home owners & beautification of neighborhoods, as well supporting small local business in our community. NRC manages the small grants program supporting projects that enhance access to barrier free recreation and increased participation from children & families. Partnering with local community groups.

Northern Juried Art Show- Extensive Annual Community Project \$47,000.00. 103 artist participation from Northern region, 34 of them being youth.

6 Week Community Wellness Challenge-300 registered participants. Focus to maintain a wellness focus on healthy living.

Tickled Pink Day- Anti Bullying Awareness Day- Project serves 7 community schools and 2,500 students.

The Pas Disc Golf Course- broadens the use of the local park to larger community population. Project provides connection, delivering low cost recreational activity.

***Community Connections***

Our NRC engages in relationship building through events that bring together our community with service groups, local organizations, schools, businesses. Partnership is built through communication and volunteer work brought forward to our NRC. Our partners support NRC’s extensive Community projects delivered throughout the year.

***Community Needs***

Our Community needs an NRC, as the NRC delivers community connection, engaging and promoting community involvement. THE NRC has an action plan of several key points to deliver to the community, addressing the areas of Crime & Safety, Parks & Recreation, Housing, Physical Environment, image& Pride & Community Economic Development.



# Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation



## ***Background***

**Established in 2001**, the TNRC is a community development organization governed by a volunteer board of directors working to support neighbourhood renewal initiatives by providing assistance to the community through project funding and education. The Manitoba governments' Neighbourhoods Alive! provides core funding to the TNRC, enabling the organization to act as a catalyst for community development in Thompson. The TNRC has focused on recreation, housing, neighbourhood empowerment, cleanliness and beautification, safety and crime prevention, and economic development.

**Community Consultations:** The Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation successfully engaged members of the community over the last 15 Years. The process involves obtaining feedback from the community at large through survey distribution and focus groups. This enables the TNRC to address key areas through program development and delivery concerning members of the community. In addition, this also enables the TNRC to work with local non-profit organizations in forming partnerships on initiatives.

## ***Impact***

Through partnerships and cooperative networks, the TNRC has helped to reduce the impacts of marginalization of "at risk" and minority population through education and program delivery. This has been a key factor in reducing crime and providing support and assistance to low-income and/or homeless families, youth and individuals. The overall impact has reduced the amount of time and resources spent on addressing specific needs of these individuals, from service providers that are not equipped with the appropriate resources.

## ***Successes***

The TNRC has successfully developed and implemented many short-term projects to address key priority areas, and has developed the capacity to deliver grants available to community members and organizations. Below are some of the projects that have been highlights of the organization of the last 15 Years:

**"Our Home Kikinaw":** The project was developed to meet the demand for housing the Thompson. During the initial development, Thompson was facing a housing crisis where there was a zero percent vacancy rate. This unique project was partially funded through Manitoba Housing, but relied heavily on volunteers, donations and fundraising efforts.

Modelled after Habitat for Humanity, the project provided the opportunity for low income families with the opportunity to become homeowners. The community utilized local resources and volunteer efforts to construct two – four bedroom units to accommodate larger families that cannot obtain an affordable housing unit to meet their needs. Two homes valued at over \$200,000.00 each were constructed.

**Small Grants Fund:** The Small Grants fund has issued over \$750,000.00 to local organizations and community groups that implement projects that meet the 5 Year community priority areas. The Small Grants fund has leveraged approximately \$250,000.00 in funds from partnering organizations, funding agencies and local fundraisers making a total investment of \$1,000,000.00 in the City in 15 years. This has helped provide educational and awareness programs remain on the forefront of issues affecting key neighbourhoods and demographics.

**Community Housing Improvement Initiative:** Also known as the Property Enhancement Program, the program provides grants up to a maximum of \$2500 for lower to middle income homeowners and landlords to complete external repairs to their property. The project has issued approximately \$300 000 in grants to the Thompson region for neighbourhood improvement with repairs to 120 units over the course of the program.

**Asset Building Program:** Since 2010, TNRC has entered into several annual agreements with SEED Winnipeg to deliver the Asset Building Program. The program provides capacity building for low-income earners with through delivery of Money Management training, opening bank accounts and establish long-term savings patterns. The program offers a 3-1 matched savings account, in which once the client has saved \$250.00, the program matches the client with \$750.00 for a total of \$1000.00 towards the purchase of a restricted household asset. To date the program has provided over \$100,000.00 of matched savings to over 130 clients.

**Downtown Ambassador Program:** In response to crime and prevention priorities identified through the consultations, the TNRC successfully delivered the downtown ambassador program over 10 Years. The program provides a presence and additional information in neighbourhoods by reporting incidents of crime to RCMP for response. The program received funds from the Municipality grant from the City of Thompson. With a financial investment from the Province of Manitoba, the program has evolved into the Community Safety Offers program delivered by the RCMP that provides additional patrols freeing up resources to address serious crime matters as they arise.

**Cultural Revitalization:** TNRC has been involved in cultural revitalization through delivery of educational projects and initiatives by being active in committees and community groups. The educational project titled “Cultural Proficiency” aimed at education youth and organization on the impacts of residential schools and colonization. These groups and initiatives include the Thompson Aboriginal Accord, Thompson Urban Aboriginal Strategy, and various cultural groups delivering programs and workshops throughout the City.



**Community Partnerships:** The TNRC relies heavily on community partnerships and volunteers to coordinate and address priorities identified by local residents. Over several years of efforts in lobbying, advocacy and awareness, many successful partnerships have evolved to delivery programs and projects addressing community needs including.

**Assiniboine Credit Union**

**Canadian Mental Health Association**

**Christian Fellowship Centre**

**Community Futures – North Central Development**

**Keewatin Tribal Council**

**Local elementary schools**

**Local RCMP Detachment**

**Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre**

**Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak Inc.**

**Pride North of 55**

**RD Parker Collegiate**

**School District of Mystery Lake**

**SEED Winnipeg**

**The City of Thompson**

**Thompson Boys and Girls Club**

**Thompson Homeless Shelter**

**Thompson Housing Agency**

**Thompson YWCA**

**Vale**

## ***Community Needs***

### **Community priority area identified:**

1. Safety and Crime Prevention
2. Housing
3. Youth
4. Economic Development
5. Cleanliness and Beautification



### **Key priority neighbourhoods are:**

- |              |              |             |              |
|--------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1. Eastwood  | 2. Downtown  | 3. Juniper  | 4. Deerwood  |
| 5. Burntwood | 6. Southwood | 7. Westwood | 8. Riverside |



# West Broadway Community Organization



## ***Background***

West Broadway Community Organization (WBCO) was incorporated in 1997 following several years of grassroots, community activism by area residents, businesses and stakeholders. Through the 1980s and 90s West Broadway had become one of Canada's most precarious neighbourhoods with an extremely high crime rate, concentrated poverty, low property values, and a high degree of disinvestment amongst property owners, government and service providers. WBCO provided a much needed mechanism for community organizing, channeling frustrations and scarce resources into collective priorities like crime prevention, housing development, employment, food security and greenspace development.

Incorporation enabled the launch of programs, while receiving charitable status began a chapter of significant reinvestment in neighbourhood assets and initiatives. Today WBCO is a sophisticated non profit organization with six full-time staff and as many as 15 part-time staff throughout the year, hundreds of volunteers, and efficient programming that continues to channel community priorities into meaningful action.

## ***Impact and Successes***

Today West Broadway is a case study on the positive impact of community economic development and neighbourhood revitalization. Still one of Winnipeg's highest concentrations of low income households, area residents now have access to a full spectrum of services, resources, flourishing businesses and increasingly stable housing. Crime rates have fallen, millions of dollars have been reinvested into buildings, dozens of new programs and organizations have been launched, and most vacant lots and derelict houses have been developed or are now community greenspaces used by hundreds of residents.

**Housing:** Foundational partners in the development of Green Heart Housing Coop, Kikinaw Housing, numerous Westminster Housing Society and Lions Place housing rehabs or new builds. Leveraged approximately 10 million dollars in housing retrofits, affordable builds and exterior improvements. Offering Manitoba's only rooming house specific outreach program (since 2012) and interior fix-up initiative (since 2015).



**Gardens/Green Space/Composting:** West Broadway Community Organization owns or manages eight community gardens. WBCO also coordinates with partner organizations and stakeholders to expand/revitalize all public access green spaces within the neighbourhood.

**Key Points:**

- 200 volunteer gardeners per year
- 62 Family size garden plots producing thousands of pounds of food annually
- 12 WBCO organized events each season including workshops, work-bees, celebrations, etc.
- 250 children attend programming at West Broadway Kids Garden every summer
- Traditional Indigenous cultivation methods practiced and shared by community elders for the past three years.
- West Broadway is home to an expanding community orchard which includes: Apples, Apricots, Cherries, Grapes, Raspberries, Gooseberries
- WBCO also owns or manages six well-used community composting sites in the neighbourhood



**The Good Food Club**

**Key Points:**

- GFC program launched in 2001
- Approximately 5000 meals served by the GFC at various WBCO events in 2015
- Approximately 1000 catering plates served by GFC members at partner events each year

- 250 people have been trained in safe food handling by GFC at low/zero cost since our training program started in early 2015
- GFC has taken inner city residents on 15 to 20 farm trips each year for the past 15 years. With 7-14 people per trip that's over 2500 individual trips! Farm trips offer exercise, education, skill building, opportunities to socialize, fresh air, and insight into local agriculture
- Since 2013, Kids Cooking has served 1300 meals to children and youth preparing their own food and eating together, learning important skills and healthy eating behaviours
- Approximately 10000 sweat-equity points are logged each year by members - used to purchase food at GFC markets and gain access to Club events
- Approximately \$12000 worth of locally produced, affordable foods (including vegetables, meats, cheese, eggs, honey, grains) sold/made available to the community at the outdoor West Broadway Farmers' Market hosted by the GFC each year for the past eight years
- Approximately \$25 000 in sales are generated at the indoor Good Food Club Indoor Market each year
- 40-50 cooking classes, skill building workshops, and fitness events offered each year - benefitting 800 to 1000 community members annually
- Approximately 1500 Good Food Boxes distributed to GFC members annually
- 1500 members have signed up to date. Each membership is per family... therefore each membership may impact as few as one or as many as 5 people

**Property Improvement Program (Exterior Fix-up Program):** In 2015, PIP allocated \$42,643 in funds to exterior fix-up efforts in West Broadway, awarding a total of 17 grants to rental properties and 11 more to single family homes. PIP leveraged \$118,667 in private investment from landlords and homeowners. In the past ten years of PIP programming WBCO's has leveraged over \$1.5 million in private investment towards the wellbeing of local housing stock.

**Small Grants:** \$265,000 private funds leveraged in 2015 through the West Broadway Small Grants Program. As with PIP, this was an average year for a program operating for the past 15 years. We estimate that 4 million additional dollars have been leveraged through this program since 2001.

**Rooming House Outreach Program (RHOP):** Currently, the only rooming house-specific outreach program offered in all of Manitoba. An eviction prevention initiative, RHOP stabilizes tenancies by working with tenants to address personal and systemic issues immediately affecting their capacity to retain housing.

## RHOP 2015-2016

- More than 40 participating tenants were referred by RHOP staff to 55 local programs and resources, all of which were previously unknown to them.
- 18 program participants have seen positive changes in employment and income through participation in RHOP: several secured full-time work through RHOP referrals or assistance, two found part-time work, and five participants are now accessing daily labour resources which they were not connected to before RHOP
- Six current participants were enrolled in education and training programs referred to them through the program.
- Five participants have secured valid photo ID and are now connected to financial institutions.



- Four participants secured family doctors for the first time in their lives.
- Through RHOP intervention, in 2016 alone, evictions were prevented for three tenants, and evictions were mediated in the case of six tenants, resulting in a much more stable transition for the tenant, with support plans created and implemented.
- Leveraging significant private investment from landlords, RHOP facilitated painting, patching, electrical repairs and upgrades, repairs to plumbing and bathrooms, replacement/repairs to windows, replacement/repairs to dead-bolt locks and door frames; greatly enhancing the safety, security, and livability of participating houses.



### ***Community Connections***

West Broadway Community Organization (WBCO)'s Board of Directors has embraced 11 community economic development guiding principles (as they are defined by Neechi Foods Worker Coop) and is committed to revitalization that has a strong social fabric of meaningful relationships at its core.

WBCO hosts a bi-monthly West Broadway Stakeholders Networking meeting for area non-profit organizations to connect, discuss local issues, and share information. Ad-hoc community committees are convened regularly to address ongoing issues: rise in criminal activity, snow removal concerns, proposed zoning changes, facility closures, homelessness, etc. Bi-monthly meetings are held for the West Broadway Housing Stakeholders who act as the stewards of West Broadway's Five-Year Housing Plan, ensuring public funds accessed for local housing objectives adhere to community priorities. WBCO's Executive Director is an ex-officio member of the West Broadway Business Improvement Zone's Board of Directors.

As a residents' association, WBCO's membership is comprised of everyone who lives, works and plays in this neighbourhood. It is essential to community organizing and revitalization efforts that all community members are afforded equal voice in local decision making. Bearing in mind that not everyone feels comfortable or interested in participating on a board or in a committee format, WBCO has created an alternative mechanism that works to provide opportunities for the inclusion of marginalized voices in community conversations. The Big Ideas Committee is an experimental approach to consultation where WBCO Board members find opportunities to connect in person with marginalized community members in comfortable settings, documenting perspectives on local issues and relaying these perspectives to the Board each month.

### ***Community Needs***

As the West Broadway neighbourhood continues evolving, the NRC continues to meet long-established needs and develop answers for new emerging needs:

- Retaining and improving green spaces continues to be a priority for this densely populated urban community. River front development and vacant lots continue to be a focus
- Working with property owners to maximize the use of land in our neighbourhood, particularly encouraging redevelopment of surface parking, underused single-use commercial spaces, and pressing non-profit organizations to consider relinquishing commercial spaces on our main strips in favour of businesses that require store frontages
- With high rental density and a full spectrum of amenities and resources within walking distance, we have noted that four often vulnerable demographic groups are well represented in West Broadway -- seniors, low income residents, people with disabilities, and increasing numbers of refugee families. WBCO recognizes that there is a huge need for specialized supports unique to each group
- With 91% of local residents renting and over 400 rooming house units present, WBCO recognizes a strong need for resources, education, and advocacy for both renters and landlords
- Rising rents and tenant displacement is a concern, particularly for the hundreds of tenants whose rents have risen beyond affordability. Balancing our economic and business objectives with retaining access to the neighbourhood for lower income residents is a high priority
- Community-building through activities bringing together blocks and streets (eg. block parties) and neighbourhood-wide events (eg. Spring Clean-up, Annual Snoball Winter Carnival)
- The informal counseling and advocacy that crops up endlessly as staff work alongside real people in the neighbourhood facing real problems

Continuing coordination between all of the organizations that have worked over the past 30 years to revitalize this neighbourhood and who continue to work daily to help residents face the challenges of living and working in this dynamic neighbourhood.

## Contact

Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation	410 - 9th Street (Main Floor) Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6A2	(204) 729-2496
Central Neighbourhood Development Corporation	372 Notre Dame Ave. Winnipeg, Manitoba R3B 1P8	(204) 954-3860
Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation	c/o 180 Poplar Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R2L 2C3	(204) 669-0750
Daniel McIntyre/St Matthews Community Association	823 Ellice Ave Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0C3	(204) 774-7005
Dauphin Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation	100 Main Street S Dauphin, Manitoba R7N 1K3	(204) 622-3171
Flin Flon Neighbourhood Revitalization Corporation	201 - 35 Main Street Flin Flon, Manitoba R8A 1J7	(204) 687-6972
North End Community Renewal Corporation	509 Selkirk Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R2W 2M6	(204) 927-2333
The Pas Community Renewal Corporation	Box 2999 The Pas, Manitoba R9A 1R7	(204) 623-4269
Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation	Unit B-56 Royal Road North Portage la Prairie, Manitoba R1N 0V1	(204) 240-6471
Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation	C/O: City of Selkirk Community Services Office 630 Sophia Street Selkirk, Manitoba R1A 2K1	(204) 482-7005
Spence Neighbourhood Association	615 Ellice Avenue Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0A4	(204) 783-5000
Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation	101 - 55 Selkirk Avenue Thompson, Manitoba R8N 0M5	(204) 677-0760
West Broadway Community Organization	608 Broadway Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0W8	(204) 774-7201

