COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

An alliance between the school and its community is one of the most important factors to improve the quality of education and the quality of life for our children.

Schools of today face complex and challenging tasks in an environment that is growing more demanding but less friendly toward education. The different sectors of our society must stop pretending that our schools by themselves have the capacity to successfully address the enormous challenges thrown at them. We must start lending the encouragement and tangible support that are necessary if our schools are to play their role in bringing about the kind of changes that are required in our society.

The quality of education can only improve if we pay attention to the quality of life in our respective communities. Schools are no more than a reflection of the communities of which they should be an integral part. As Ernest Boyer wrote, "You cannot have islands of excellence in seas of indifference."

Strini Reddy,
Executive Director,
Manitoba Association of School Superintendents
1995

SUBMITTED BY TOM SIMMS, CEDA,
TO THE EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE
ON JANUARY 18, 2006.

JP.

"We are all in this together"

Presentation by the

Community Education Development Association

Academic Achievement and Socio-economic Status

Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, 2004

- **81% of students in high socio-economic neighbourhoods in Winnipeg graduated from Grade 12**
- **37% of students in low socio-economic neighbourhoods in Winnipeg graduated from Grade 12**
- **27% of students in the downtown area of the inner city graduated from Grade 12**
- **22% of students in the north end area of the inner city graduated from Grade 12**

The Cost of Doing Nothing

- the annual cost of maintaining an individual youth in the Manitoba Youth Centre is $92,000
- the annual budget of the Manitoba Youth Centre is $10.6 million – present capacity of MYC is 135 beds
- a recent 2004 One-Day Snapshot of Aboriginal Youth in Custody Across Canada undertaken by the federal Department of Justice indicated that 80% of the youth in custody in Manitoba were Aboriginal

Student Migrancy

- an average of 50% of the students in inner city schools transfer in and out of the school during the course of the school year
- it is not uncommon for young students in Grade 2 to have moved 3 or 4 times
- educators indicate that each time a child moves the student loses 6 months of learning

The Impact of Neglect: Arson Capital of Canada

- 1990 - $42,000 average value of a house in the north end
- 1999 - $19,000 average value of a house in the north end

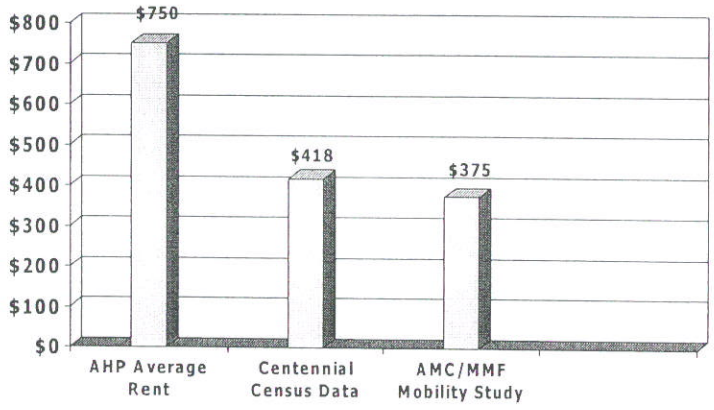
Impact of Investment: Neighbourhood Renewal

- 2000 - $21,600 average value of house in north end
- 2005 - $42,000 average value of house in north end

Impact of Investment: Leveraging

- for every $1 the City of Winnipeg invested in the WHHI, $10.20 were leveraged from other public/private sources

"Affordable Housing" Monthly Rent Gap



Would you invest in infill housing in the inner city?

- $120,000 for new house
- $5,000 property tax credit over 5 years
- $50,000 – market value of house

Partnership in Action: Boarded Up Houses

- 2004 – 19 boarded up houses, 3 houses on boarded up housing registry
- 2005 – 27 boarded up houses, 23 houses on boarded up housing registry

Building the Property Tax Base in Centennial - 2005

- 2 boarded up houses are renovated
- 1 boarded up house demolished and new home built on vacant lot
- 10 new houses built on 10 vacant lots

Centennial Neighbourhood Housing Plan – 2005 - 2009

1. Zero Tolerance for Boarded Up Houses
2. Building and Health Code Enforcement
3. Rent Subsidized Housing
4. Manitoba Housing Tenant Relations Program
5. Home Ownership Program
6. Housing Renovation Job Training Program
7. Strategic Site Development