Presentation to the City of Winnipeg
Executive Policy Committee
Monday, March 15, 2010
By Rob Neufeld (NECRC)

Your Worship Mayor Katz, Deputy Mayor Swandel, Councilors Clement, Fielding, O'shaughnessy, Pagtakhan and Steves, fellow affordable housing stakeholders

Government, Community and Neighbourhood Renewal Organization (NRO) Partnerships
NECRC promotes Social, economic and cultural renewal in the North End and the combined investment of government, community, NRO and private initiatives for housing renewal in NA! Neighbourhoods and North End Housing Improvement Zones

- Support from 3 levels of Government is much appreciated.
- Local Communities include WWRA, NPD, (HIZ) & St. Johns, Dufferin, LSP (NA!)
- Organizations / Housing Providers

Network meetings facilitate fix-up grants, tracking boarded and vacant, TLC, HTI, infill, rehab projects
Community Organizing includes Association, Committee and stakeholder meetings.
Bigger Projects: ex) North End Wellness Centre

Appreciation
We Support WHHI – 3 window, one stop shop for housing renewal
Work well with Stan Dueck, Dave Dessens, city bylaw, existing building and fire inspectors
City Policy Report show the excellent work that has been done through this cooperation
Our joint efforts result in a coordinated strategy for renewal in the North End

Ten Reasons for Housing Renewal

1. Return on investment… rising real estate values
2. Social Responsibility… disinvested neighbourhoods need some help
3. Business Case: fix-ups encourages pride and initiative (ex. Broken Window Theory)
4. Value Added… fix-up grants as seed money ex.) 5 years of successful grants
5. Safety… arson some years ago, less vacancy, low income people in better housing
6. Health… cooperation with inspectors ex) Burrows home critical home repair
7. Quality of Life: home ownership / quality rental units ex) infill / Gateway / Salter
8. Good for Winnipeg: uniting to renew declining properties vs decline of the 1990s
9. Momentum: 7-10 years of plans, organizing, community & City initiatives. Let's keep it going!
10. Inner City is City Halls closest neighbour – a great partner (2 million budget line)

Issues at Hand:

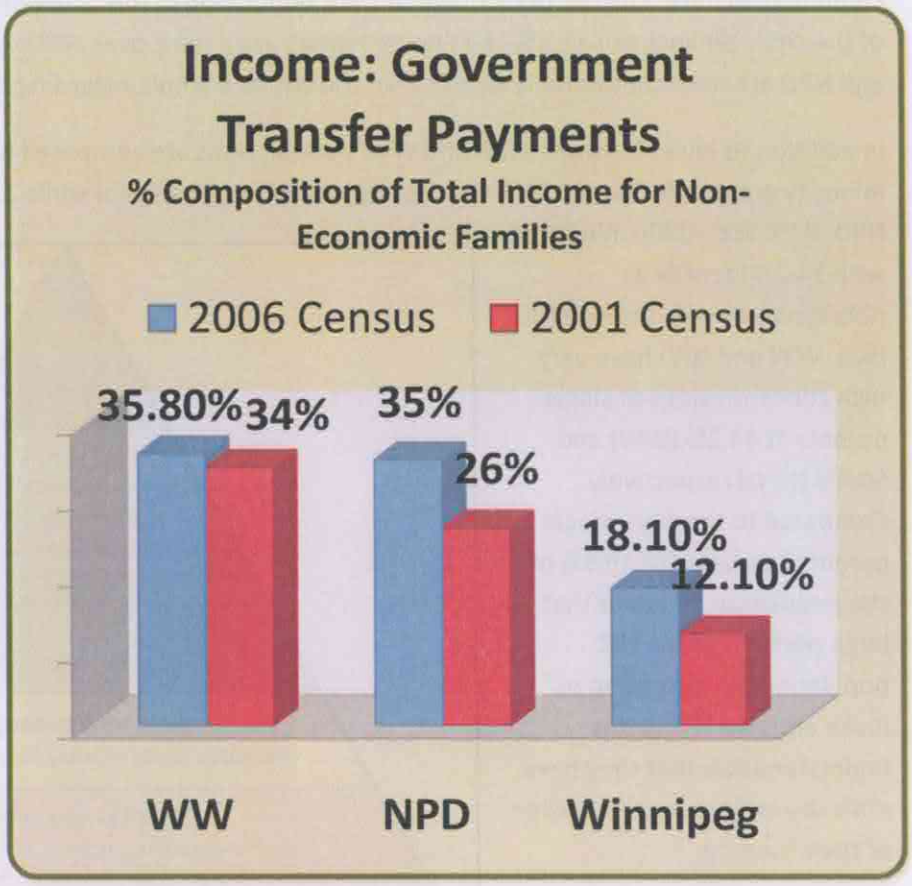
1. Acquisition/supply of 1$/low price lots: for low income housing
2. Private Vacant and Boarded – need to enforce the bylaws – acquire homes
3. Funding the Gap: Rising cost of renovation: demolition/infill verses renovation
4. Stabilization: diverse housing, un-slumming so we don't push people out
5. Energy Efficiency Programs Grants in progress
6. Lack of a National Housing Policy (need more not less)
7. Could use 2 million to increase program / capacity / infrastructure
8. **LETS KEEP THE MOMENTUM FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING GOING**

#	Housing Initiative Projects	Network	WW/NPD	Street	Initiative / Activity
1	WW Pritchard Park Building	WWRA	WW	Pritchard	William Whyte Monthly Housing Network Meetings
2	NPD Women's Center	PDRC	NPD	Euclid	North Point Douglas Monthly Housing Network Meetings
3	NPD Gateway Apartments	NEHP	NPD	Euclid	New Rental Supply Program - Med. & Low Income Housin
4	Future Infill (2006)	Habitat	NPD	Euclid	Infill to be built on vacant city owned property
5	Exterior Renovation Fix-ups	NECRC	NPD	Euclid	Painting home, refinished brick
6	Historic Barber House Project	Sistars	NPD	Euclid	Proposed Site for Historic House Reno and Daycare
7	Derelict House / Future Infill	NEHP	NPD	Barber	Vacant Boarded Building slated for Demo and Infill 2006
8	Exterior Renovation Fix-up	NECRC	NPD	Barber	New front porch, steps, entry area renovation
9	Demo after fire / New Infill	WHRC	NPD	Barber	Using WHHI approved infill home design
10	Res.Rehab.Assist.Prog.(RRAP)	WHHI	NPD	Grove	Federal/Provincial - Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI)
11	Special Project	Habitat	NPD	Alfred	Whole Street of new housing to for low income homeowne
12	Exterior Renovation Fix-ups	NECRC	NPD	Hallet	Numerous grants on this street has made a big difference
13	Church of the Open Door	Sistars	NPD	Euclid	Temporary daycare through govenment assistance
14	Aboriginal Housing Rehabilitation	Kinew	NPD	Lorne	Exterior Renvoations
15	Current Infill nearing Completion	NEHP	NPD	Lorne	Infill built on vacant city owned property
16	Current Infill nearing Completion	NEHP	NPD	Lisgar	Infill built on vacant city owned property
17	Special Project: Fire Rescue House	NEHP	WW	Selkirk	for one live in caretaker renter suite for refuge after fire
18	984 Main - New Rental Supply	Private	WW	Main	Old rooming house renvoation into 24 self contained suite
19	Three Infills in a Row	NEHP	WW	Pritchard	Infill built on vacant city owned property plus demolition
20	Pritchard and Manitoba Avenues	WWRA	WW	Prit. / MB	Focus of WW renvitalisation stratgegy
21	William Whyte School	WWRA	WW	Pritchard	Monthly William Whyte Residents Association Meetings
22	Scattered Coop Housing	MAPS	WW	Pritchard	MAPS interest in joining the housing network
23	Apartment Renvovation	WHRC	WW	Salter	Burnt apartment renvovated by WHHI funding (Prov./Fed.
24	Inner City Renvovations Rehabs.	NEHP	WW	Burrows	Old houses rehabilitated through WHHI funding (Prov./Fe
25	ex) Community Flower Garden	WWRA	WW	Aikins	Numerous gardens on vacant lots provide green space
26	Tot Lot Playground	WWRA	WW	Aberdeen	Through provincial funding
27	Exterior Renovation Fix-up	NECRC	WW	Burrows	
28	Exterior Renovation Fix-up	NECRC	WW	Salter	Residential fence behind the White Top Restaurant
29	Infill and Renovations	NEHP	WW	Pritchard	New infill on empty lot and current rehap. Project
30	Aboriginal Housing Rehabilitation	Kinew	WW	Pritchard	Exterior Renvoations
31	Past Infill by on Empt Lots	Habitat	WW	Pritchard	Numerous Habitat Houses and two vacant Habitat Properl
32	Commercial sites on Selkirk	WHHI	WW	Selkirk	Federal Funding: Oyate Tipi, Urban CircleNdinawe, NEWI

Good Morning Mr. Mayor, Councillors,

I would like to begin by thanking you for this opportunity to comment on the 2010 preliminary budget for the City of Winnipeg. The North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) would also like to express our appreciation to the City for the extra steps you have taken to consult the community on this year's budget process. NECRC is an organization that operates under the principles of Community Development, this is to say that communities must be involved in decisions that affect the community and the City's pursuit of a budget process that increases community involvement and input is to be applauded.

NECRC, along with our colleagues from Winnipeg's Community Development Corporations, are pleased to see that the City intends to maintain the Housing Rehabilitation Investment Reserve again this year. This housing-focussed funding enables the residents of Winnipeg's Housing Improvement Zones (HIZ) to better address the decline of our core-area housing stock. As a note, all statistics used in this presentation are from the 2006 Statistics Canada census data.



The communities of William Whyte (WW) and North Point Douglas (NPD) both have an average dwelling age of 93 years. As this aging housing stock is of a lesser quality than the newer stock of neighbouring communities, property values are correspondingly lower. This, as well as factors like crime and homeownership ratios, contributes to a community housing market that keeps rents lower than the City's average. Low property values make the housing in our communities attractive to speculators looking for revenue properties. I have had community members report that speculators are actually posting unsolicited flyers on homes in the area indicating that they are willing to purchase. This is problematic for WW and NPD as it is a community priority identified in both neighbourhoods's housing plans to increase homeownership over rentals in order to create a more stable community. While the new-infill development programs funded

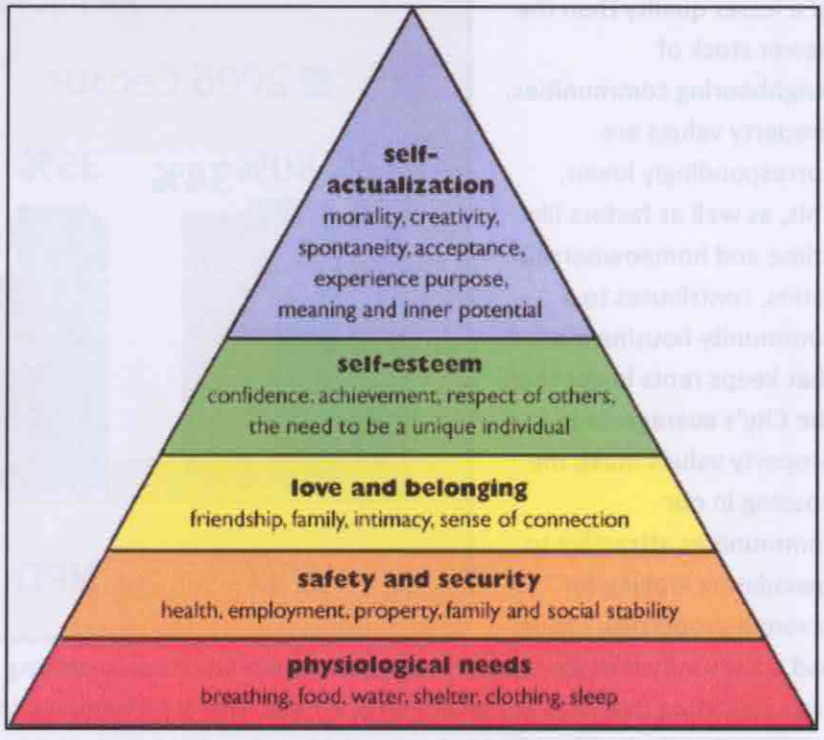
through the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative are contributing to a slight increase in homeownership, the pace needs to increase in order to avoid back-sliding.

Having among the city's lowest property values and rents contributes to a lower-income population that requires assistance to deal with housing decline. According to the 2006 census, the average individual income in WW is $18,749, but half of the communities residents earn less than $16,190. In NPD, the average income is $18,090 with a median income of $15,461. Comparing these statistics to the city's average income of $33,457 and median income of $26,016, we can see that these are clearly economically challenged communities.

The incidence of low income in NPD is 57% of economic families while WW is slightly lower at 48.7%. This is a very high concentration of low-income compared to the city at 14.9% of economic families described as low income.

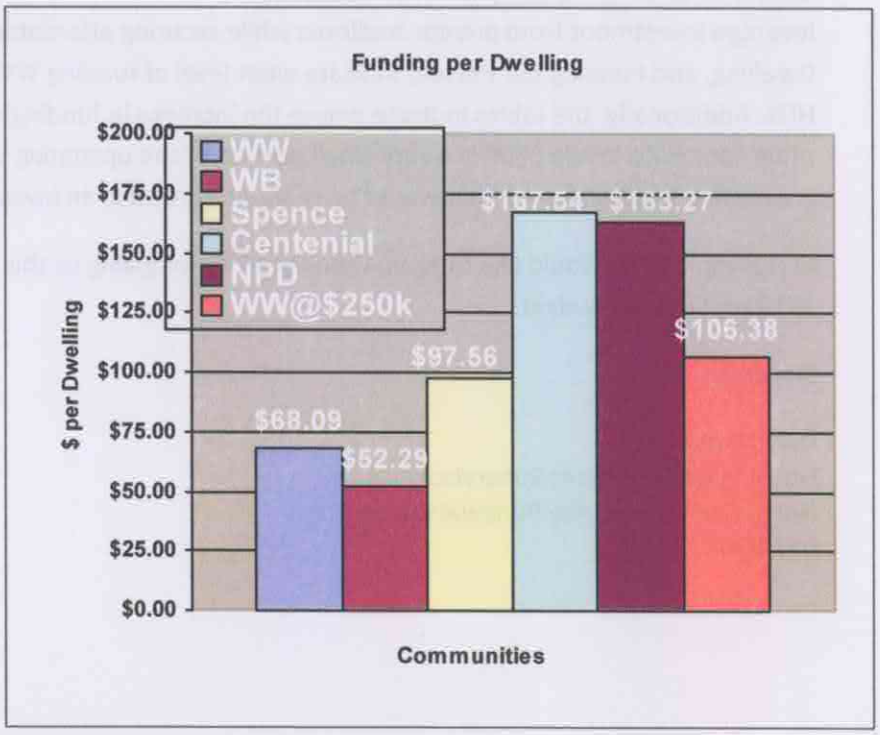
Furthermore, 39 % of renters and 22.1% of homeowners in WW spend over 30% of their income on housing. Similarly, 45.9% of renters and 17.7% of homeowners in NPD are in the same situation. Both communities have a higher percentage of their population in this situation than the City as whole. 37.2% of the city's tenants and 11.6% of its homeowners are paying over 30% of their income for shelter. WW and NPD are both considerably higher than the city as a whole regarding homeowners.

In addition to lower incomes, NPD and WW's populations are composed of high concentrations of minority groups. 44.5% of WW's community identify as Aboriginal while 22.2% are visible minorities. In NPD, 8.8% are visible minorities with 34.2% identify as Aboriginal. As with most of the HIZs, WW and NPD have very high concentrations of single parents at 44.2% (WW) and 50.4% (NPD) respectively. Compared to the city's single parent population of 19.5% of the population, it's clear that large portions of the HIZ population are struggling to make ends meet and it is understandable that they have difficulty addressing the decline of their housing.

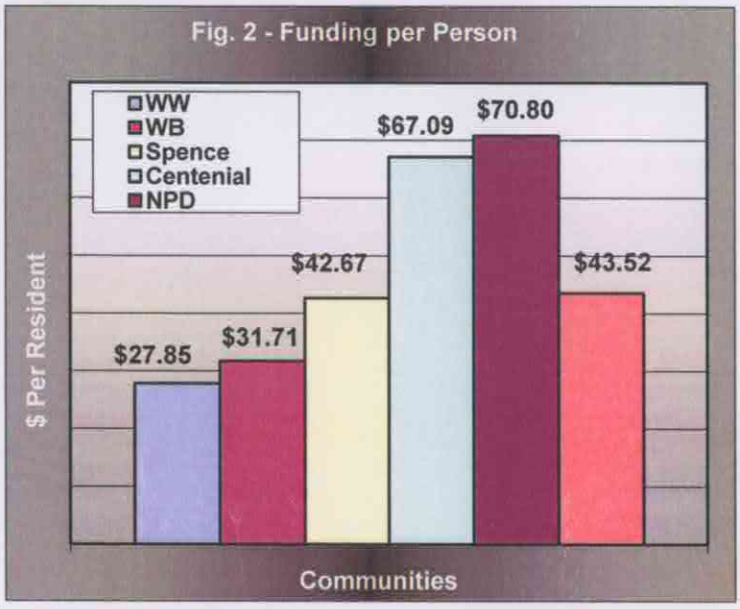


You may be familiar with Maslow's Hierarchy of Need. This table outlines five fundamental human needs and their hierarchical nature. Basically, for a person to achieve their full individual potential they must fulfill their needs moving from the bottom (physical)

to the top (psychological) of the pyramid. Shelter falls under base physiological needs, and without it an individual is unlikely to realize their full potential. Until a person is able to address their physiological needs, they will struggle that much harder with things like health, family and social stability, connectedness, confidence and morality. These are all factors that contribute to a healthy and stable community and they will continue to suffer until the lack of quality affordable housing is corrected.



While the supports provided through the HIZ funding are appreciated, we would request that you consider increasing the HRIR from $1 million to $2 million. The HRIR is roughly 0.12% of this year's preliminary budget, and while we understand that money is tight, we believe that, if possible, an increase to the HRIR would produce benefits beyond housing quality. This increase in funding will not only benefit the city's HIZ communities, but the city as a whole. An increased investment now could save money in the long run as these housing supports enable struggling community members to address needs further up the hierarchy, such as health, employment and confidence. Since the City began funding HIZs, there has been a noticeable decline in crime and arson and property values have increased. Further funding should contribute to increasing these benefits. Increasing the HRIR will not just contribute to improved housing conditions, it will assist single parents realize repairs they otherwise wouldn't, it will take some of the burden of home maintenance from significant Aboriginal and minority community members, enabling them to better address their own food, health, employment and social needs. Such an investment would also contribute to keeping the upward trend in the value of core-area housing and subsequently increase the City's revenue through property taxes.



While we ask that you consider the advantages of doubling the HRIR, we understand that this may be unrealistic at this time. However, we would ask that you seriously consider increasing the HRIR enough to provide an increased budget for William Whyte. WW still has upwards of 50 vacant and derelict houses as well as more than 50 vacant lots. An increase of $90K to an annual budget of $250K would enable us to do more fix-up grants, more infill homes for new homeowners and further funds to leverage investment from private landlords while securing affordable rents. The two tables, Funding per Dwelling, and Funding per Person, indicate what level of funding WW is receiving compared to the other HIZs. Additionally, the tables indicate where the increase in funding would put WW compared to the other four HIZs. While $90K is a very small portion of the upcoming Winnipeg budget, the benefits of preventing further decline that would be realized from such an investment would be well worth it.

In closing, NECRC would like to again thank the City for giving us this opportunity to comment on the 2010 preliminary budget.

Sincerely,

Dale Harik
Housing Development Supervisor
North End Community Renewal Corporation
927-2343

North End Community Renewal Corporation March 2, 2010

Good morning Mr. Mayor and Councillors,

My name is Dale Harik. I am the Lead Community Housing Coordinator with the North End Community Renewal Corporation, a non-profit organization committed to the social, economic and cultural renewal of Winnipeg's North End. We operate within eleven North End communities, but the majority of our housing activities take place within the communities of William Whyte (WW), North Point Douglas (NPD), Dufferin, St. John's and Lord Selkirk Park. I primarily work in the Housing Improvement Zones of WW and NPD.

I would like to start by thanking you for giving us this opportunity to provide input on the preliminary budget. We have noticed the effort the City has made towards involving Winnipeg's communities in the budget process this year and are appreciative for the multiple consultations held by the City to solicit input on this year's budget.

The City's investment in the core North End communities of WW and NPD has been integral to combating the decline of these neighbourhoods. While the investment has been substantial since 2001, we would like to stress the importance of maintaining this funding in order to continue fighting the decline of our housing stock.

Thanks to the City's funding, WW and NPD are able to realize housing supports that are vital to the lower-income community members who are struggling with the realities of an aging housing stock. Due to this funding through the Housing Renewal Investment Reserve, our two HIZ's are able to engage in the following activities:

Approximate Annual Allocation

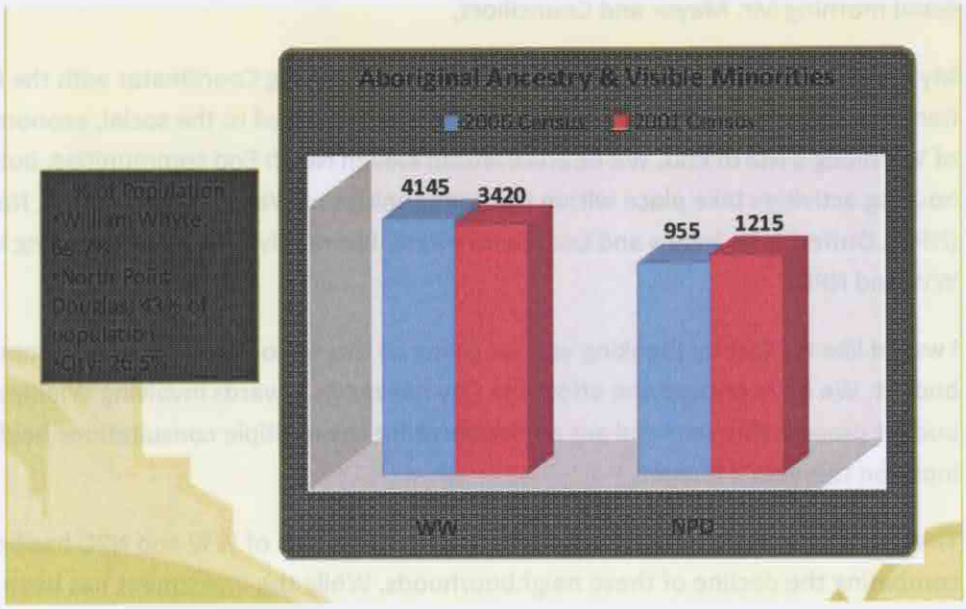
• Exterior Renovation Program	$30,000
• Minimum Home Repair Grants	$18,000
• Housing Coordination (coordinator salary)	$21,000
• Housing Development (infill, rehab & new rental)	$83,500
• Resident Association Capacity Building	$7,500
Total	$160,000

I'd like to take a few minutes to go over a comparison of the 2001 and 2006 census data for these two communities in order to give an impression on their progress.

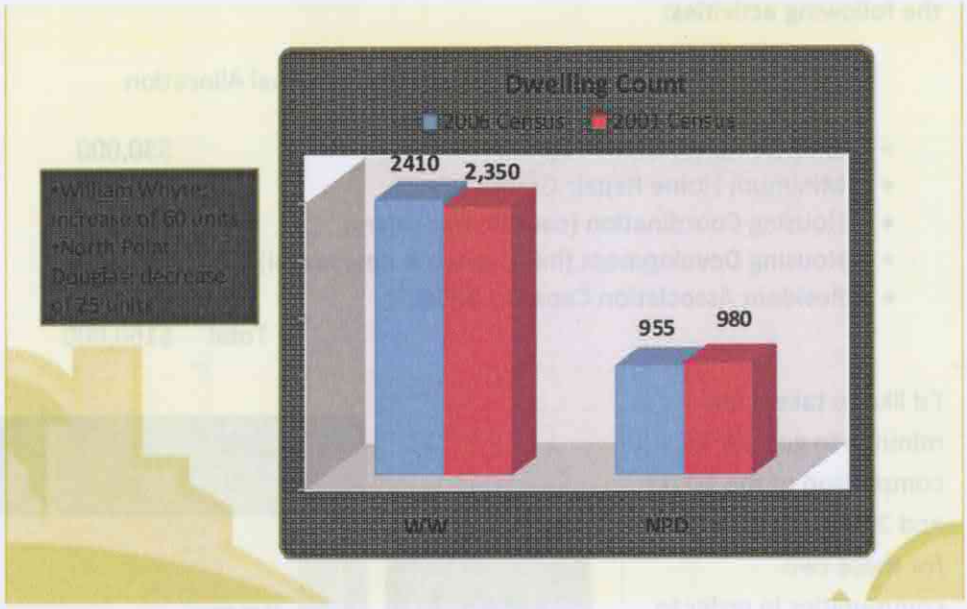
The first table indicates population growth with WW growing by 8.3%



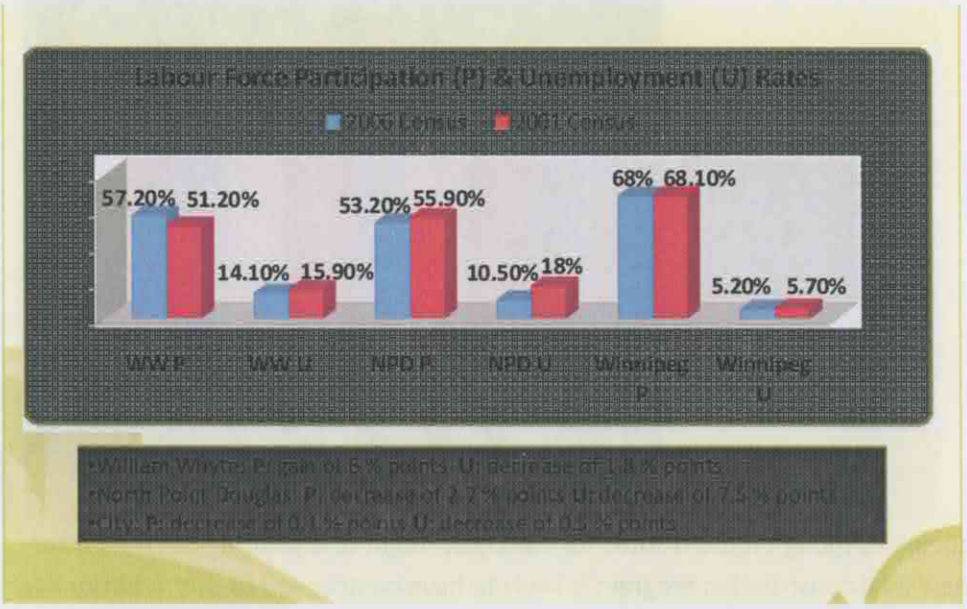
and NPD losing 1.5% of its population. The next table indicates that new immigrants and those with Aboriginal ancestry are concentrated in these communities at much higher levels than the City as a whole. The 2006 census indicates that 66.7% and 43% of the populations of WW and NPD respectively are made up of those with minority status, compared to the City's 26.5%. This is relevant as minorities can have greater difficulty accessing resources due to language and cultural barriers.



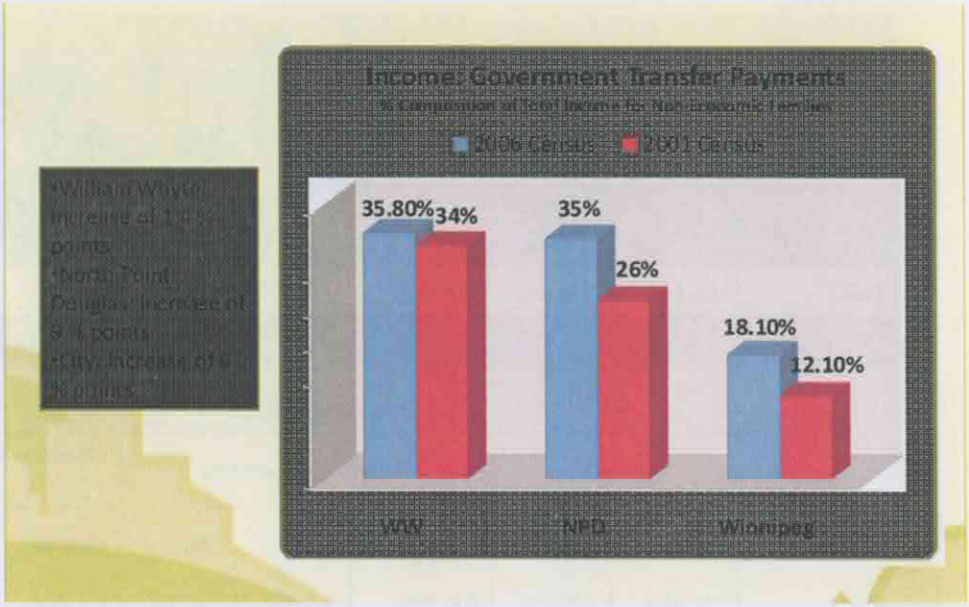
The next table indicates that between 2001 and 2006, WW increased its housing stock by 60 units, to 2410 units, while NPD decreased 25 units to 955. Regardless of the new infill construction taking place, properties are still falling out of the NPD stock, highlighting the importance on developing strategies to continue to increase the housing stock. NPD has approximately 30 boarded and vacant homes and WW has upwards of 50. While WW still has plenty of vacant lots to build on, NPD is nearly out, so it will be crucial for the City to be able to have these properties dealt with in order to increase housing in NPD.



The next series of tables is indicative of the income situation in our HIZs. WW has increased its participation rate between census years and very slightly decreased its unemployment rate. NPD has also improved on its unemployment rate while its participation rate has decreased. Although these communities have improved somewhat, the labour force participation rate is over ten percentage points lower than the City as a whole while the unemployment rates are similarly out of sync with the City.



The next two tables continue to demonstrate the income disparity prevalent in the North End HIZs. The first shows that the percentage of government transfer payments as composition of total income for non-economic families has increased across the board. WW fared better than the City as a whole, increasing by a mere 1.4 percentage points, while NPD's reliance on social assistance increased by 9 percentage points, 3 points worse than the City.



The second table indicates that WW's average income increased by 16.7% while NPD's average income decreased by 17%. These changes are compared to the City's average income increase of 15%. Note that the average income in these communities is far lower than the City's. Compacting on these averages is the median incomes for NPD and WW at $15,461 and $16,190 respectively. This means that half of each of these communities are living well below the poverty line.

While some of this data is not very positive, particularly the income statistics, the following table demonstrates that tangible improvements have been made in both communities.



Both communities identified the need to increase home-ownership in their Housing Plans, and it appears as though there is some forward movement to equalizing the tenant to homeowner ratio. The new infill construction program is likely to have contributed to this. Additionally, the need for both minor and major repairs has also decreased somewhat, as has the number of households spending above 30% on housing in WW. NPD, however, has seen a slight increase in households unable to afford available housing.

Dwellings 2006

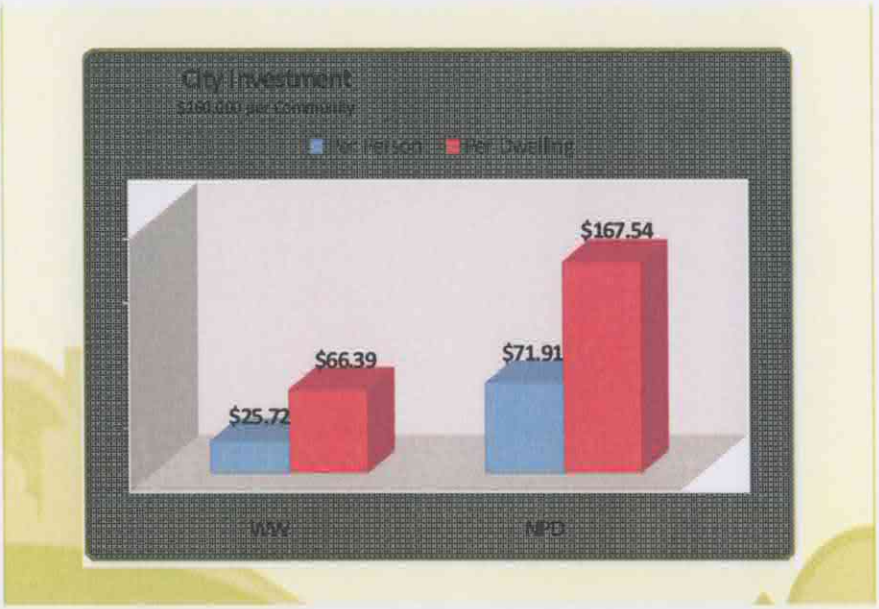
Dwelling:	Tenure		Repair Requirements			Households Spending > 30% on Shelter	
	Owned	Rented	Regular Upkeep	Minor	Major	Tenants	Home-owners
WW	39.4%	60.6%	52.2%	30.1%	17.7%	39.0%	20.2%
NPD	41.6%	58.4%	47.6%	31.9%	20.4%	45.9%	17.7%
Winnipeg	65.1%	34.9%	62.4%	29.1%	8.5%	37.3%	11.6%

Dwellings 2001

Dwelling:	Tenure		Repair Requirements			Households Spending > 30% on Shelter	
	Owned	Rented	Regular Upkeep	Minor	Major	Tenants	Home-owners
WW	37.4%	62.6%	46.2%	34.1%	19.7%	51.6%	10.0%
NPD	37.2%	62.8%	51.3%	34.0%	14.7%	43.6%	16.7%
Winnipeg	63.6%	36.4%	62%	28.6%	9.4%	29.4%	8.6%

The census data for WW and NPD helps to demonstrate that while there have been some gains in our core areas, the need for further supports is still palpable. We encourage the City of Winnipeg to continue this wise investment in housing, as the withdrawal of these supports would likely result is a rapid return to the continuous decline that was prevalent prior to the WHHI.

We would ask that you consider further increasing HIZ funding so that this renewal has a stronger chance of outpacing the decline. On average, the housing stock of WW and NPD is 93 years old, and it will take a continued and focused effort to beat the decline.



As in the past, NECRC is requesting that you seriously consider increasing the Housing Renewal Investment Reserve to $2 million in order to create a dedicated fund that non-HIZ communities can apply to in order to effect further change to the benefit of all the City. We would also request that you consider increasing the allocation for WW, a community that is significantly larger than some HIZs. The last table indicates the funding per person and per dwelling between WW and NPD. Many community members and visitors alike mention how they've notice improvements in NPD only to turn around and ask why WW is not enjoying the same perceived benefits. The difference between these two communities highlights the need to increase investment in WW on par with NPD. While research still needs to be done to determine whether housing has a causal relationship with health, it is widely recognized that those living in poorer quality housing suffer from more mental and physical illness and housing renewal has positive impacts on quality of life. Additional funding to WW could enable us to offer larger grants, a more robust landlord grant program, and subsequently a much more effective leveraging of grant money into neighbourhood investment through client contributions.

Thank you very much for your time. We very much appreciate the support and investment made by the City in our communities. Please don't hesitate to contact myself, or our Executive Director, Robert Neufeld with any follow-up, questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dale Harik
Lead Community Housing Coordinator
North End Community Renewal Corporation
927-2343

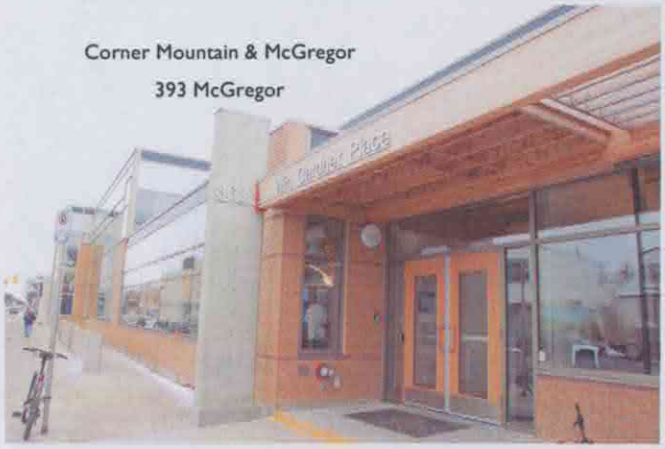
Spring 2010

ISSUE #29

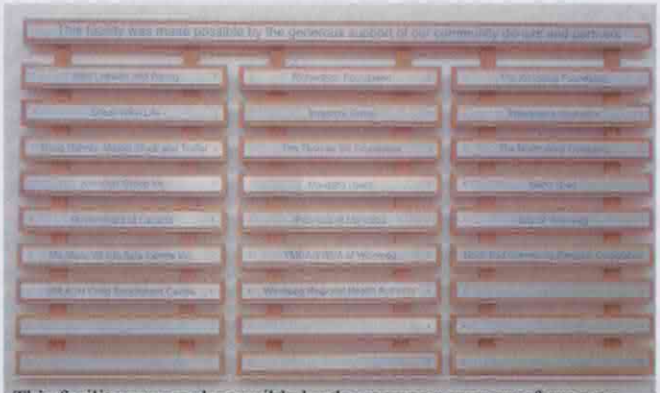
NECRC UPDATE

NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORPORATION

NORTH END WELLNESS CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS WITH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AND OPEN HOUSE



Community partners gathered December 4, 2009 to celebrate the grand opening of the *North End Wellness Centre* (NEWC). Renamed "*Win Gardner Place*", the centre showcases the pride; strength; capacity; and redevelopment of the North End community. The celebration brought project partners, dignitaries, staff, volunteers and community members together to officially open the 25,000 square foot multi-service facility.



This facility was made possible by the generous support of our community donors and partners: John Loewen & Family; Richardson Foundation; The Winnipeg Foundation; Great-West Life; Investors Group; Wawanesa Insurance; Doug Harvey, Maxim Truck & Trailer; The Thomas Sill Foundation; The North West Company; Johnston Group Inc; Manitoba Hydro; Gerry Gray; Government of Canada; Province of Manitoba; City of Winnipeg; Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc; YMCA-YWCA of Winnipeg; North End Community Renewal Corporation, SPLASH Child Enrichment Centre; Winnipeg Regional Health Authority.

Organizations occupying the wellness centre include Ma Mawi, the YM-YWCA, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and SPLASH Day care. "*Win Gardner Place* serves as a wonderful example of how people and organizations can come together to respond to the community needs and aspirations" states John Loewen, fund raising champion and President of the North End Wellness Centre Inc. Board.



L—R: John Loewen, David Young (YM-YWCA), Diane Roussin (MaMawi), Councilor Grant Nordman, Honourable Gord MacInkosh and dancers Jennifer and Stuart McKay

"Building first-class wellness centres in neighbourhoods like Winnipeg's North End, is improving the quality of life for all Manitobans by combining recreational facilities with day cares, social, and health initiatives that respond to the diverse needs of the community," said the local MLA, the Honourable Gord Mackintosh.

"Win Gardner Place is a welcome addition to the North End of Winnipeg" said Councilor Grant Nordman representing the City of Winnipeg. Honourable Vic Toews, on behalf of the Honourable Lynne Yelich, Minister of State for Western Economic Diversification, said "Win Gardner Place is an example of creating jobs and promoting the use of our recreational facilities for years to come."

Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre (Ma Mawi) has been designated by the partners to be the *Keeper of the Spirit* of the facility, and to ensure that community respect, values and expectations can be met through the facility and the partnership. Within all that will be done, the values that guide Ma Mawi, provide the principles that are central to the vision, design, planning and development of programs for youth and seniors.

(continued on page 3)



Margita Connected • • •

Margita Tobolkova, freelance writer & broadcaster, North End resident

Everybody Needs Some Doctor

North End is blessed with medical services. We have a few walk-in clinics, lots of dentists and lots of denturists. When I pass Main Street in a bus, once in a while I say "here is another clinic open". There is a whole bunch of pharmacies. If you are seriously ill, Seven Oaks General Hospital is close by, even if it is located outside of our area. Recently, Health Action Centre relocated to our neighbourhood, just south of Main Street underpass. I used to watch the construction in progress from the bus.

The crown of our medical services is Mount Carmel clinic on 886 Main Street. ***Did you know*** it is Canada's first community health centre? Isn't that something? It was built some 100 years ago to serve early settlers of North End. It is still providing services to new settlers, but it serves mainly the North End community.

I visited the clinic a few years back. I had no money, no insurance, but I needed a dentist. Unlike most services at the clinic, dental care is not free. It costs between $20 and $35 based on your tax assessment. Compare with regular dentist's fees: You can easily spend $180 for teeth cleaning alone. Mind you, Mount Carmel clinic provides only basic dental care. But if you need crowns, or some painful dental surgery, they will refer you to clinics that charge less. One of them is University of Manitoba dentistry department working out of Health Science Centre.

Mount Carmel clinic provides hundreds of services. Well, not exactly hundreds, but quite a lot. They categorize services into Primary Health, Community Services, and Early Childhood Programs. I don't have enough room to mention them all in this article. In addition, eight computers with full access are available to visitors. But, there is no walk-in clinic here. The place is quite pleasant to visit. You walk into the red brick building, and you see a lovely atrium that serves as a waiting room. Receptionist will provide you with necessary information and directions to your desired area.



If you are finished with your visit, you can do some shopping around the clinic. There is Spice World to the right (my favourite). Across the street is M&S Meat Store with lots of Polish style goodies. If you feel athletic, walk up to Selkirk Avenue. There you find our world famous Gunn's Bakery. Going in the opposite direction (south of the clinic), turn west to Dufferin. There is Neechi Foods community store. They always have fresh bannock. These stores have a lot to do with your health. Together, they handle all the proteins, vitamins and minerals your body requires. Besides, shopping is fun. Isn't it?

Back to the Mount Carmel clinic. If you just moved in to North End, you can travel there by buses number 15, 16, 18, 20 and 45. Coming from north side, it's the stop on Stella; going up from the south, the stop is on Euclid. Once you are inside the clinic, make yourself comfortable at one of the computers and check their website www.mountcarmel.ca. There you will find anything and everything about the clinic and services they provide. Or, phone them first on 582-2311.

NERI ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR 2010 SMALL GRANT FUND

The North End Revitalization Inc. / North End Community Renewal Corporation provides a small grant fund for 5 north end neighbourhoods within the north end. The fund is available to local community groups situated (or who provide service) within the St. John's, William Whyte, Dufferin, Lord Selkirk Park, Point Douglas neighbourhoods.

Eligible projects must demonstrate community connecting and capacity building and address the goals of the NECRC Five Year community plan. (For information on the Five Year Community Plan goals, see website, www.necrc.org). Local groups can apply for up to $5,000 per year; however the maximum amount per application is $2,500. Grant applications are reviewed monthly (except July & August) and the deadline for all projects to be completed is December 31, 2010.

Pennies Fundraising

ST. JOHN'S HIGH SCHOOL

Several years ago a group of staff members at St. John's High School set out on the ambitious plan of collecting one million pennies to donate for brain cancer research. This is being done to honour the memory of two much loved staff members who died of brain cancer in 2004. With the help of donations from students, staff and community members, we have been able to mass over 700,000 pennies.



Our goal is to have the million pennies ready to help celebrate St. John's 100th Anniversary in June, 2010. This goal can be achieved, but we will need the help of other Division schools and the community at large. Organizers are asking if other schools, individuals, and companies will join in the penny collection. We will also accept silver, which will be used to buy pennies. We will drop off a bin at any school or business and collect full containers upon request. To join the cause, call the school at 589-4374 or email Randy Cameron at rcameron@wsd1.org.

Every penny counts, please give us a hand to reach our goal.

Thanks for your help.

NORTH END WELLNESS CENTRE OPENS ITS DOORS WITH COMMUNITY CELEBRATION AND OPEN HOUSE—(continued from page 1)

YMCA/YWCA offers the service capacity and experience from decades of operations across all parts of Winnipeg. The Y participation in the North End Wellness Centre provides children and youth in the north end with the same opportunities as are available elsewhere in Winnipeg including a skateboard park, gym, climbing wall, a children's play structure and exercise equipment.

SPLASH Child Care, Inc. is operating a state of the art child care in the building. With 20 years of experience in the neighbourhood at their adjacent location at Strathcona School, SPLASH embraces the spirit of the North End and its residents. The child care will eventually provide space for infants, pre-school children, and school age children.

The **Winnipeg Regional Health Authority** will be a significant tenant and support with second floor space for offices, community meeting and resource space. WRHA will connect with community, offer consistent core services and a diverse mix of learning opportunities that are developed in relation to community expectations.

NECRC salutes all the partners, community members, politicians and funders who persevered over the past ten years. Many thanks go to three levels of government, private funders, and dedicated community partners for the community organization, and dedication necessary for the realization of the Win Gardner Centre, ***"living room of the North End"***.



Ray Stevenson hand drum
Youths - Jennifer and Stuart McKay

Community Kitchens



*Cooking * Fun * Friendships*

A collective kitchen is a small group of people who pool their resources to make low cost delicious food in bulk, that they take home to their families. Friendships flourish in these kitchens.

Participating in a community kitchen:

- Increases food saving resources for the family
- Builds community by creating a network of people helping each other
- Encourages healthy food choices

The cost of a community kitchen

- Participants pay $5 to $10 per cooking session
- Cooking groups decide what to cook
- Costs are matched by North End Food Security Network

If you or your organization would like to would like to join or start a community kitchen please call:

Margo @ 927-2342
(North End Food Security Network)

Sponsored by: North End Community Renewal Corporation & Heifer International

NERI
NORTH END REVITALIZATION INCORPORATED

Attention: North End business & Non-Profit Agencies/Organizations

2010 Storefront Enhancement Grant (SEG) Program is now available

Neighbourhoods Alive! Manitoba

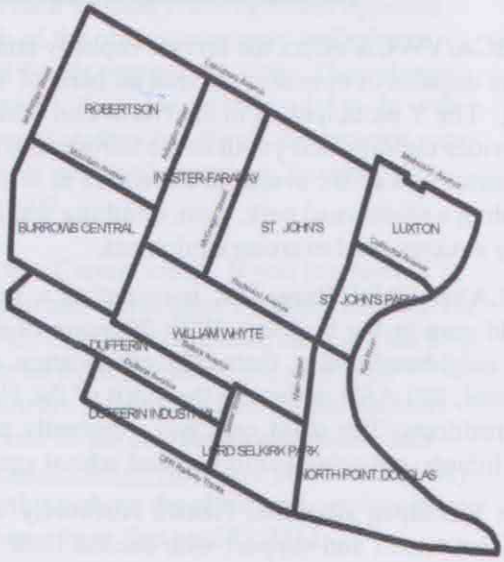
North End Revitalization Incorporated (NERI), in partnership with Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) and in co-operation with the Mosaic Market BIZ, Selkirk Avenue BIZ, and the Between the Parks Business Association have established the Storefront Enhancement Grant (SEG) Program for local small businesses and non-profit agencies/ organizations in the North End.

The SEG Program promotes local community investment by providing cost-shared non-repayable funding grants to eligible North End small businesses and non-profit agencies and organizations for exterior renovations that enhance the appearance, safety, and value of their property. Grants are provided on a 50/50 cost-sharing basis to a maximum of $3,000 from the program.

All local North End small businesses and non-profit agencies and organizations located within the NECRC catchment neighbourhoods are eligible to apply for a grant.

Businesses or non-profits that reside outside these communities are not eligible to apply. Vacant and/or derelict buildings are not eligible to apply. Please note that preference will be given to first-time applicants when selecting successful grant recipients. An applicant can only receive a grant from the SEG Program once within a two (2) year period. The deadline for applications is by 4:30 pm on Wednesday, March 31st, 2010. All 2010 SEG Program applications received after this date will not be considered eligible.

Map of NECRC North End Boundaries



For information on the boundaries and to obtain an application form, please contact Simone at NECRC (927-2336) or visit our website at www.necrc.org

TLC ACTIVITIES UPDATE

From May to the middle of August we have completed 55 rental inspections.

We have been active in the community with TLC inspections to accompany the Landlord Exterior Fix Up Grants. Successful landlord grants require that the rental property meet the criteria of TLC if needed. Any repairs that do not meet the criteria are required to be done first. This activity has kept us all very busy.

Activities that I am very proud to celebrate are having the youth involved in helping community members. The Urban Green Team youth volunteered to help move a community member when they could not do it themselves due to financial hardship. A big Thank – You to them for their valuable help.

We have been significantly ramping up our involvement in Community advocacy for tenants and landlords. With the current vacancy rate at less than 1 % (historical rate is +/- 2 1/2 %), we have found the function of TLC is a definite necessity. The response to our efforts from the Community is testimony to our focus on this issue. During the last three months we have a total of **95 advocacy files open,** 15 are landlords and 80 are tenants.

We have made direct personal contact with 114 Community members.

For Tenants

These files range from requiring the landlord to provide a working stove for a tenant to attending Residential Tenancies Commission to address appeals with tenants and in one case we attended a Court of Queen's Bench hearing with a tenant. In another we are attending the Court of Appeals .Unlawful rent increases and unlawful evictions along with repairs are the most common files that are opened for tenants.

For Landlords

We attended Residential Tenancies commission hearings with landlords, assisted with information on how to deal with a City Bylaw repair order and assisted with understanding how to fill out some of the more complex forms of the Residential Tenancies Branch. In one case we helped with the eviction of a problem tenant, this particular landlord file has been ongoing for several months..

We are very focused and dedicated to renewal of our community and the housing issues that are present in it. **Rental issues in their simplest form are actually people issues.**

Darrell Stavem
Tenant Landlord Cooperation (TLC) Coordinator
North End Community Renewal Corporation
Ph: (204) 927-2334 Fax: (204) 582-2801



Kaakiyow Limoond Likol Adult Learning Centre

Looking to go back to school?
Get your high school diploma for:

- **Employment**
- **College**
- **Skills Training**
- **Apprenticeship**

This free program features:

- **Academic assessment**
- **Computer classes for beginners**
- **Access to community programs**
- **Small class sizes**

For more information please contact:

Candi Beardy @ 582-9579

The Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre

Free Laundry, Clothing Depot, Community Phone, Employment Counseling, Individual & Youth Counseling on Site.

Or Just Drop by for a Coffee!

Location: Unit 6-119 Robinson Street

For more information call:
415-1147

RESOURCE CENTRE HOURS

Mon, Wed, Thurs Fri - 9-5
Tues - 1-5

Closed for lunch 12-1 pm.



Information about NECRC such as newsletters, annual reports, grant applications and NECRC programs can be found on our website at **www.necrc.org**

Any questions or comments you may have about our newsletter or website can be directed to **simone@necrc.org.**

NORTH END FOOD SECURITY NETWORK / NORTH END FOOD SECURITY GREENING PROJECT

What a whirlwind of a summer! New community gardens have been established, through the NEFSN 'Growing Green Together Project' at Main Street Age & Opportunity, Indian Métis Friendship Centre, Lord Selkirk Park and North End Stella Community Ministry. A fence was built for Hope Health Care Garden, so that they could have gardening success. Vegetables and traditional and medicinal plants were planted in all gardens. Thirteen groups of all ages have participated in this community gardening project. The gardens would not have been a success without the help from MMF "it's My Community Too', B.U.I.L.D. and the many volunteers from the gardening groups. Tim Jeffrey, a resident of William Whyte created the garden designs, and mentored the gardeners throughout the summer.

A new Farmers' market ran at 1085 Main Street Age & Opportunity once a week from mid-July to Mid-September. The community responded with enthusiasm in spite of the rain, wind and cold.

Food Security Workshops included a well-attended Standing Medicine People Workshop, Healthy Pizza Workshops, strawberry picking, overnights to an organic farm Co-op, outings to Fort Whyte Farms and Living Prairie Museum, a training kitchen for Zuken Days Fall Supper in Point Douglas, and a Food Handlers Certification course.

Community consultations included a MAFRA focus group in July, meeting with Environmental Health, Speak Up Winnipeg, and a Fall Planning session at Ma Mawi.

Currently, NEFSN has partnered with several groups to develop learning kitchens for youth and adults. Learning kitchens will be tailored to the needs of each group.

By Margo Malabar



Pizza Workshop



Dave Daniels facilitating the Standing Medicine People Workshop



Stella Avenue Community Garden



Youth at Organic Farm



LIGHTING UP THE AVENUE



Aboriginal Visioning with the help of The North End Community Helpers Network held "Lighting up the Avenue" on December 10, 2009.



This event has been going on for the last 6 years in partnership with different businesses and organizations on Selkirk Avenue from Salter Street to McGregor Street.

The planning committee, consisted of staff from Aboriginal Visioning, NECRC, Ndinawe Youth Resource Centre, City of Winnipeg, Dufferin Residents Association, and The Woman's Transition Centre. Lights were donated and hung for the different businesses and organizations on Selkirk Ave.



On December 10th the lights were lit up, the community sang Christmas carols, had a feast and the children saw Santa.

Gift bags were given out and free draws were held for the adults.

We had a great turn out and we fed more than 400 North End Residents.

The Employment Development Systems Committee

is pleased to announce the

4th Annual North End Community and Family Resource / Career Fair

The Fair will be held on

Thursday, April 29, 2010

12:00 noon to 4:00pm at

R.B. Russell High School, 364 Dufferin Avenue

and will coincide with

R.B. Russell's Annual Open House.



Looking for Work?

Don't know what kind of work you would be good at?



Contact us about job search and mentorship programs

NECRC PATH
Resource Centre
627 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, MB
Tel: 927-2330
Mon—Fri 8:30am—4:30pm
Fax: 582-7397

NECRC PATH
Resource Centre

Come by and check us out!

WELCOME TO NECRC's NEW STAFF

Melanie Thorassie-Duck joined NECRC on May 22, 2009 as Safety Coordinator. She works with residents and stakeholders to address safety issues and to build safer neighbourhoods within the North End. Melanie provides ongoing support to North End neighbourhoods and resident associations by building on their existing strengths and by taking a proactive approach to crime prevention.



Margo Malabar joined NECRC on May 13, 2009 as the new North End Food Security & Greening Coordinator. She works with community residents to improve food security, facilitating capacity building. She is involved with food projects such as community kitchens, farmers markets, traditional plant workshops as well as community gardens. Margo is working with other food security groups throughout the city and province to develop long term food security improvements for north end residents.



NECRC welcomed **Maia Graham-Derham** on March 1, 2010 as the new Community Development worker for the St. John's neighbourhood. She will be working with local stakeholders to set & achieve priorities in the areas of safety, housing and capacity building. Maia is excited to start work with NECRC after working in a partnership with them at the Community Financial Services Centre.



On November 18, 2009 NECRC welcomed **Kali Martin** as our new Housing Resource Coordinator. She is responsible for the housing coordination and administration of Exterior Fix-up grants in the communities of Dufferin, St. John's and Lord Selkirk Park. Kali will be promoting and assisting North End clients in accessing Building Urban Industries for Local Development's (BUILD) Warm Up Winnipeg program. Kali is a homeowner in the St. John's community and is passionate about contributing to a stronger, safer and more vibrant North End.



Serena Hickes joined NECRC on February 8, 2010 as the new Community Development worker for the Dufferin area. The purpose of the Community Development worker is to support and work with local residents and stakeholders to build community capacity and to implement priorities that address housing, safety, recreation and economic goals. Serena is a Southern Inuk, mother of three and has spent the majority of her career in the North End.



PATH welcomed **Delores Amos** on October 5th, 2009 as the Resource Receptionist.

Chris Mott also joined NECRC on November 9, 2009 as the new Employment Development Director at PATH.

Selkirk Ave Mural Project

Graffiti Art Gallery, MCC Thrift shop, Ndinawe Youth Centre, and North End Community Renewal Corporation all came together to create murals to hang at the back of the NECRC office located at 509 Selkirk Ave and MCC Thrift Store. This was a partnership project with all people involved from the planning, painting and installation of the murals. In the fall of 2009 the murals were hung followed by a reception to celebrate this event.

Graffiti is a major problem in the back lane of Selkirk Ave and we are hoping to combat this with murals to cover the open space, which is usually used for graffiti. Our aim for our community is to enhance and beautify our community locally and with local resources and local people.



Rental Network Develops Discussion Forum

January 15, 2010 | Winnipeg Rental Network

The Winnipeg Rental Network is developing an on-line discussion forum for agency workers that work in the area of housing or client support. This will be a cross-sector initiative reaching all agencies that are struggling to find affordable housing for clients. Partners will include agencies that work with youth, newcomers (immigrants and refugees), first-nations, seniors, ex-offenders, mental health clients, people with disabilities, women, low-income households, and the homeless. Members will assist each other with daily, practical issues of housing help work, providing feedback to any question or issue that arises in daily work.

This discussion forum will be a first step to help build the capacity of the housing help sector by facilitating a peer-learning network in which coordinated resource development is a priority. Housing help workers and colleagues in other social service sectors who work daily and directly on issues of housing and homelessness are eligible to join the Network. For further information contact Gord McIntyre at 927-2335 or email at contact@winnipegrentnet.ca.

Winnipeg Rental Network

HOUSING RENEWAL IN NORTH POINT DOUGLAS

By: Dale Harik, Community Housing Coordinator, North End Community Renewal Corporation

The Point is one of Winnipeg's oldest communities, and prior to being cut in half by the Canadian Pacific Railway, it was an upper-middle class community and home to some of Winnipeg's founding families. As the railway expanded, foundries, saw mills, cement plants and soap factories, among other industries, began to emerge in the areas around the rail yards. As the population became more mobile and the city expanded, the upper-middle class residents moved elsewhere and were replaced by working class newcomers. Many of these newcomers were drawn to the area for its affordable housing and close proximity to employment, characteristics that are still a draw today.

The Point Douglas Residents Committee (PDRC) is among Winnipeg's most active and passionate residents associations and is continuously working towards creating a safe and welcoming neighbourhood. This constant focus on improvement combined with renewal efforts from local community organizations and investment from all three levels of government has contributed to the Point becoming more and more recognized as an attractive character neighbourhood.

In addition to the great people, new residents are still drawn into the area by the affordability of its homes. NPD is one of five Winnipeg communities defined by the City of Winnipeg as a Housing Improvement Zone (HIZ) which means that the declining state of the housing



37 Grove prior to reno-

stock merits focused rehabilitation efforts to prevent further decline and foster community renewal. This can actually be a draw for potential new homeowners as it provides increased access to resources and assistance for property owners within the community.

Of course, its not all sunshine and rainbows; the neighbourhood has its challenges. The same factors that foster new homeownership can also encourage landlords from outside the community, and often outside the province or country, to purchase homes in the area to be used as revenue properties. As indicated in the 2006 census, 58 % of dwellings within NPD are rentals. This can be problematic as some landlords are operating on a purely financial bottom line with a complete disregard for the quality of housing they provide. When rentals are of a very low quality, tenants often do not take pride in their home. This can result in further property decline as tenants don't respect their housing and fail to maintain it. Low quality rentals command low rents which often fail to cover the costs of necessary maintenance and can contribute to a cycle of decline that adds to further wide-scale neighbourhood deterioration. This issue is worsened when the vacancy rate is very low. Winnipeg currently has a vacancy rate below 1%, indicating renters have little choice and often need to settle for substandard housing in order to find something they can afford. This desperation for housing, combined with low awareness of tenant's rights, can often result in tenants who are intimidated and afraid to demand required repairs of their landlords out of fear of being put out on the street.



37 Grove after reno-

The Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI) is a partnership between the Governments of Canada, Manitoba and the City of Winnipeg. Established in 2000, and renewed in 2003 and again in 2008,

this initiative demonstrates the three levels of government's commitment to revitalizing Winnipeg's inner-city neighbourhoods. The WHHI serves as a Single Window for community to access funding from the three levels of government to address housing decline, create affordable housing and help those at risk of becoming homeless. As a result of this dynamic partnership, residents of NPD are able to access programs such as the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance (RRAP), Neighbourhood

Housing Assistance (NHA) and Minimum Home Repair programs among others.

Residents of NPD may have already noticed the results of these resources within the Point. 37 Grove Street is a prime example. Up until 2008, this property was being used as a rooming house and was a constant source of community discord. The owner, based out of Vancouver, failed to maintain his rooming house license and had little to do with the property aside from collecting his tenant's social assistance payments. 37 Grove was home to drug dealers and users, as well as other, decent, low-income individuals who simply could not afford better housing. The house was a source of violence, including a stabbing, and was a routine stop for local police. That all changed when the home was purchased by local landlord Gord Simms.

This is where change begins. Gord had a vision for this house. Stricken by the beauty of the area, with a direct view of the Red River and located on a popular walking path, Gord was able to see beyond the severely distressed building to the promise of what it could be.

Gord's first step was to assist some of the existing tenants in finding suitable housing. Gord credits local community members, particularly Sel Burrows, former Chair of PDRC, with helping him find dignified housing for these tenants. The next step would be to put together a rehabilitation plan and get to work.

Gord called me to enquire if I knew of any resources available to assist him in the process. Determined to create high quality, but affordable, housing, Gord realized that the project would cost upwards of a quarter of a million dollars to complete. Prepared to personally invest $225,000, he felt he would need gap funding of $50,000 to make the project work.

We approached the PDRC to seek their support to include in funding requests to the government. The residents committee recognized the merits of the project and provided support, as well as funding.

(Continued on page 11)

HOUSING RENEWAL IN NORTH POINT DOUGLAS (con't from page 10)

As an HIZ community, NPD receives $160,000 a year from the City of Winnipeg to address housing decline and foster renewal. PDRC is able to allocate this funding towards housing initiatives such as Exterior Fix-up grants, Minimum Home Repair grants and new home construction/ rehabilitation. The residents association could allocate up to $10,000 per unit, but most of the funding had already been assigned, so PDRC was only able to provide Gord with $9,000.

The dedicated City staff assisting in helping to access Provincial NHA funding for an additional $10,000 per unit. Demonstrating the government's commitment to community renewal, the City provided a further $11,000 from Winnipeg's Housing Reserve Fund to bring the total funding to $40,000. This was $10,000 less than Gord was seeking, but it was enough to get the work done.

Gord was able to completely renovate the property. Aside from the foundation and some external framing, the majority of the home was newly constructed to create two three-bedroom units with high efficiency furnaces, high insulation values, hardwood floors and in-suite washer/ dryers. Each unit is 1225 square feet with luxurious open layouts.

This is a perfect example of how private and public investment can combine to benefit the community. To qualify for NHA funding, the recipient must commit to keeping rents below the Median Market Rents for 5 to 7 years.


37 Grove interior

Thanks to the vision of Gord Simms, the direction of the PDRC and the investment of $40,000 in public WHHI funding, over $200,000 of private money was invested in the community resulting in the rehabilitation of a problem property and the creation of two high quality, and energy-efficient, affordable rental units for NPD families.

Since its inception, the WHHI has resulted in the investment of more than $15.6 million in Point Douglas including the creation or renovation of 587 units of housing.

If you are interested in housing issues within your community and would like to provide input on how funding is allocated, get involved and join your residents association. You may be surprised how much impact you can have on your neighbourhood by volunteering on a Board or committee.

NECRC's 4th Year in the Manitoba Marathon Relay

On June 21st, 2009 NECRC and partner organizations participated in our fourth year running in the Manitoba Marathon Relay. Our team, the "North End Stars", seeks to encourage fitness, recreation and wellness in the North End through running. Many thanks to our team members: Karen Schlichting from *Art for the Heart*, Larry Morrissette with *Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin* (OPK) an Aboriginal Youth Employment Program, Robert Neufeld employed at *NECRC*, John Wilmot from the Luxton Community and former NECRC board member, Michael Champagne from *Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.* "Our Relative's Home". Larry's son accompanied him for the last leg of the relay. John ran the first leg and carried on to complete the ½ marathon.


KAREN


JOHN

So why do we run in the Manitoba Marathon?

Michael, a North End young achiever says, "I ran because it's important for our community to see young Aboriginal people contributing to a healthy lifestyle and participating in a good cause". **Karen** as a long time runner feels "It's great to give some positive public attention, small as it is, to the North End." **Larry** a respected elder in the community and former Manitoba boxing champion says "The relay is a way to support wellness in our community and bring visibility to OPK". As a disciplined runner and regular marathoner **John** says; "Some people have no choice with what they're afflicted. These are the ones that Society for Manitobans with Disabilities (SMD) (fundraising beneficiary) tries to help. Others do have a choice in how they spend their time and energy and this run and the example it sets is a positive way to direct that." For **Rob** as an employee of NECRC says, "Walking and running as a team promotes community and helps me stay fit. The *North End Stars* and the Marathon bring people together to enjoying recreation and wellness".

The fees to run in the Marathon were covered by funds raised by NECRC participation in the Run for Rights 10K run held every year a few weeks before the Manitoba Marathon. The goal of partner participation is to promote Recreation and Wellness in the North End as a part of the North End Community Five Year Plan (2006-2011).

If you would like to form a North End Relay team, and/or participate in the Manitoba Marathon call NECRC at 927-2331 for more information..


ROB LARRY

HOMEOWNERS!

Warm Up Winnipeg

Are your energy and water bills **TOO** high?
Is your house **COLD** and **DRAFTY**?
Are you **LOWER INCOME?**

If your answer is 'yes' to all three of these questions, you may qualify for a program **offered by BUILD** and be able to warm up your house for **free!**

Warm Up Winnipeg is run by the non-profit organization BUILD. It is an insulation and home efficiency program for lower income homeowners in partnership with Manitoba Hydro's Power Smart programs and also serves as a training program for local workers. Applicants must own their homes (mortgages are okay), not be on EIA, have an up-to-date account with Manitoba Hydro and must meet the lower income requirements (and be able to provide copies of 2008 income tax return documents). Income eligibility limits are based on all people living in the home (including children) and must include ALL incomes in the family added together.

Call Kali at NECRC to find out more information

High Efficient furnace for **$19 per month** ($1140 total)
Free insulation upgrades – Attic, Walls and Basement
Free Low-Flush toilets (including **free** installation)
Free CFL light bulbs and aerators for kitchen, bathroom and shower
* Based on individual needs as determined by ecoENERGY audit

The installation will be done by a group of supervised trainees who are also benefiting from the program by gaining skills and experience.

To receive an application package, you can **contact Kali at 927-2341 or drop by 509 Selkirk Ave.**

You can also check out our website at www.WarmUpWinnipeg.ca

Eligibly chart:

People in Household	1	2	3	4	5	6	7+
Total Household Income	27,714	34,501	42,415	51,496	58,407	65,872	73,340



NORTH END 5-YEAR COMMUNITY PLAN 2006-2011

NECRC is presently in it's 4th year of the North End 5 Year Community Plan. This plan is based on feedback and guidance of 40+ stakeholders from the north end. The following seven categories for renewal and development were identified by the community as:

- Building stronger communities
- Promoting a healthy economy
- Increasing employment opportunities
- Providing affordable housing for everyone
- Inclusive/accessible recreation and wellness activities
- Promoting safe and clean neighbourhoods
- Celebrating the culture and diversity of the north end

We want to thank Neighbourhoods Alive! for supporting this plan. We would invite all residents and stakeholders of the north end to join the plan and participate in working towards these goals. To hear a report on the five-year plan and help plan for the future, come to our AGM in June, 2010.

If you have questions, please contact Rob Neufeld, Executive Director, NECRC at **927-2331**.

NECRC
NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORP.

The NECRC is run by a community Board of Directors with core funding from the Province of Manitoba—Neighbourhood Development Assistance Program.

The NECRC began at a community meeting in November 1998 and works to improve issues identified in the North End 5 Year Community Plan.

NECRC is a non-profit charitable organization dedicated to the economic, social and cultural renewal of Winnipeg's North End.

The NECRC is open to ideas, comments and suggestions about the newsletter, the organizations or any projects it is working on.

Please feel free to get in touch with us at:
509 Selkirk Avenue
Winnipeg, MB R2W 2M6
Tel: (204) 927-2336
Fax: (204) 582-2801
Email: simone@necrc.org

NECRC BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

Lorne Belmore—Children of the Earth High School
Darrell Brown—Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce
Gerald Brown—Point Douglas Residents Association
Msgr. Michael Buyachok—Cathedral of St. Vladimir & Olga
Michael Champagne— Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.
Levett Demchuk—William Whyte Residents Association
Greg Johnson—D'Arcy & Deacon
Arlene Jones—Luxton Residents Association
Nona Pelletier—Ralph Brown Recreation Centre
Haven Stumpf—Urban Circle Training Centre Inc.
Gary Swanson—CUPE Local 500
Michael Wolchok—Pollock Hardware Co-Op



NECRC

NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORP.

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORPORATION

2008-2009 ANNUAL REPORT

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Message from the President of the Board of Directors

Astrid Lichti

At NECRC and NERI, different sectors join to promote the social, economic, and cultural renewal of the North End. As an organization of organizations, Board representative from Business, Resident, Aboriginal, Community Service, Religious & Fraternal, and Labour and Cultural organizations met regularly to give direction to NECRC. We recognize the need to engage the community, strengthen renewal, and communicate well with partners.

The past year has again been one of growth and development as an organization. We wish to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of everyone, past and present, which has brought us to this place today as we look forward to our journey ahead. Our challenges have made us wiser and stronger, and given us a sincere appreciation for each other's gifts and contributions.

Highlights of our achievements this past year include:

- Completion of the North End Wellness Centre, opening its doors this summer with the grand opening being planned for September 2009.
- Expansion of projects and services in Lord Selkirk Park.
- The continued success of the Storefront Enhancement Grants, Residential Housing Fix-Up Grants, the Small Grants Fund and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund
- The continuation of the Community Financial Services Centre
- The launch of the Building Construction Maintenance Program, in partnership with Manitoba Housing Authority renovating social housing in Lord Selkirk Park and Gilbert Park.
- The implementation of the Winnipeg Housing Rental Registry.
- The launch of the North End Food Security / Greening Program.
- A comprehensive Compensation and Policy Review.
- Board development with sessions on governance, corporate visioning, and unity of vision.
- Prudent financial management, resulting in a solid financial position.
- The continuation of partnerships and the development of new partnerships.

Our major challenge this year was business economic development and safety, and the Board has set these two challenges as a priority. A comprehensive plan will be developed in 2009, for implementation in 2010.

On a more personal note, I have had the pleasure of working with the board of Directors, Staff and Partners of NECRC, for 6 years. As such, I am at the end of my tenure. Senior board members will join new board members and continue to serve NECRC, working together with the community to achieve the needs and aspirations of our community.

Warmest Regards

Message from the Executive Director

Rob Neufeld

Welcome to NECRC's 2008-2009 Annual General Meeting. Once again, the theme for this year's AGM is *"Building Community Together"*. Our mission is to encourage the social, economic, and cultural renewal in the North End. It has been a privilege for me to work together with NECRC's dedicated Board, staff, community members, government, and partners to build community together.

Building Together: NECRC promotes the combined investment of community, organizations, and government for renewal in the North End of Winnipeg. The seven priorities of the North End 5-Year Community Plan (2006-2011) are: 1) *Stronger Communities & Capacity Building* 2) *Economic Development* 3) *Housing Development* 4) *Recreation & Wellness* 5) *Safety* 6) *Employment Development* and 7) *Culture & Diversity*. It is our privilege to build together on this community identified vision.

Partnerships for Renewal: Many partners put their hands together for the vision and investment towards building community. Residents, organizations, and staff did amazing work. The City, Province, Federal government, and private investors provided significant funding to implement community housing, economic, community, and employment plans. This report outlines our accomplishments.

Thanks: I would like to thank all of the Board and staff at NECRC for their patience and commitment in serving with the dedicated residents of the community. As special thanks to Astrid Lichti for her 6 years of service on the NECRC Board. Thanks to all our funders who have shown their solidarity to dream with us and invest towards North End Community Renewal. It has been a year of challenges, lessons learned, and growth. It is my privilege to work with you all.

History and Mission Statement

The North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) was founded in 1998 by a coalition of Winnipeg organizations who were concerned about some of 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 American were achieving in revitalizing inner city communities.

The NECRC was established to serve the community within the geographic area north of the CP tracks, south of Carruthers Ave., east of McPhillips Street and west of the Red River.

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 commercial and industrial areas, implementing employment development programs, improving the overall image of the community, and reducing crime in the community. The corporation provides co-ordination activities and a strategic focus for many of the other community improvement activities taking place in the north end.

Governance

The Board of Directors may be comprised of no more than thirteen (13) Directors, 12 (12) of whom shall be elected from the organizational class of membership. At least one position will be delegated from each of the categories of organizational membership, except for the Residents' organizations which will be represented in at least 3 positions, as follows:

- Aboriginal Organizations 1 (one)
- Cultural Organizations 1 (one)
- Business Organizations 1 (one)
- Community Service Organizations 1 (one)
- Labour Organizations 1 (one)

- Religious and Fraternal Organizations 1 (one)
- Resident's Organizations 3 (three)
- Directors from any of the above categories, but limited to 1 (one) Additional Director per Sectors

Nominations for candidates to unassigned seats can be from any sector such that the number of representatives on the Board, at any given time, from any one sector, not including the "Resident's' Organizations" is limited to a maximum of two (2) with "Resident Organisation limited to a maximum of four (4).

The Board may appoint one (1) Director-At-Large to the Board, based on their specific expertise or knowledge.

Our Development Philosophy

NECRC shall pursue its vision in accordance with the principles of good community economic development as identified by the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNet).

NECRC will:

- Use a multi-functional comprehensive approach to community economic development through equity investments in venture and property development, lending or other credit arrangements for local businesses, human resource development through training and counselling, and capacity developing functions (research, advocacy, planning and community development services);
- Merge economic and social goals to empower local people in the governance of NECRC and of the community as a whole;
- Use strategic planning and analysis to define and guide the Corporation's efforts as opposed to relying on an opportunistic and non-systematic approach;
- Strengthen its financial affairs through ownership of assets, building a wide range of financial supporters and not relying on a single or limited source of outside financial assistance;
- Develop strategies that arise from local leadership rather than top-down initiatives;
- Be led by "social entrepreneurs" who have a vision of both social and economic justice; and
- Maintain a non-profit, independent, non-governmental format.

Employment Development

The community within NECRC boundaries is an untapped resource for tomorrow's workforce. NECRC is dedicated to supporting meaningful sustainable employment for the North End community.

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PATH Resource Centre

Located at 627 Selkirk Avenue, PATH was created in response to a gap in services for individuals facing multiple barriers to employment. PATH offers services to help individuals overcome their long-term struggles to obtain meaningful employment and has been a critical revitalization component of the North End since October 2000.

PATH Resource Centre services include:

- In-depth career assessments and one-on-one counselling support
- Supported career and job placement
- Job search, personal development, and computer workshops
- Access to computers, fax, phone and printer
- PATH (Planning Alternative Tomorrows with Hope) – a goal setting tool for clients

2008-2009 Achievements

More than 845 individuals walked through the doors of the PATH Centre. There were approximately 10,000 participant visits for computer access, workshops, counseling, employment information and general services. The Job Search program helped approximately 200 North End individuals with obtaining employment. The Mentorship program provided counseling and other support services to 145 participants over the year. With the increase in employment activity, PATH was able to secure funding for two additional full-time positions and an Elder advisor.

Over 75 participants attended PATH's annual Client Christmas Open House. All participants received a small gift item and were eligible to win one of 15 food hampers and other larger prizes donated by staff. About 30 Mentorship participants enjoyed a bowling and luncheon activity in June.

Employment Development System Committee

The Employment Development System Committee (EDS) was first formed by NECRC in 2000 to identify and respond to gaps in services leading to the employment of North End residents.

EDS Committee goals:

- Identify services provided within the North End
- Identify and build on the strengths of existing services
- Identify and address gaps in service
- Implement action plans as a collective group
- Evaluate the results

North End agencies play an active role in developing employment and training strategies and generating projects to revitalize the North End. The unprecedented level of information sharing between agencies has allowed for effective strategic planning geared towards residents and businesses.

In May 2009, EDS hosted its North End Community & Family Resource Fair in partnership with R.B. Russell High School. Over 250 local residents, including children and youth, came out and met with area organizations, agencies and education institutes, along with several employers. About 50 booths registered for the event.

Employment Exchange Committee

In May 2005 a formal agreement was signed with SEED Winnipeg to act as a liaison between Social Purchasing Portal business partners and North End and Inner City employment agencies that have clients looking for work. From this initiative, the Employment Exchange Committee (EEC) was formed. The EEC now includes 25 member agencies and is growing. To date, 124 businesses participate as active members of the Social Purchasing Portal and circulate job postings through the EEC.

Economic Development

The North End is a historic neighbourhood with unlimited potential for business.

PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT

NECRC has as a goal of the revitalization of Selkirk Avenue. We have used our resources, and made partnerships toward the development of properties in commercial areas that will increase the vibrancy of the community, add to the "bustle" of the street, and make a safer, more welcoming place for businesses and their customers to operate. In February 2008, NECRC sold the 607 Selkirk Avenue property to Urban Youth Adventures.

NECRC is a key partner in the construction of the North End Wellness Centre. In 2006 architectural plans were finalized, and demolition of the old North End "Y" commenced in 2007 in anticipation of ground-breaking in 2008. The building is schedule to be completed and occupied in the summer of 2009.

Project Makoonsag

- This project is a daycare centre being organized by Urban Circle and supported by NECRC, the William Norrie Centre, Manitoba Day Care, and Red River College all of whom are represented on the Advisory

Committee. The centre acquired green space which is located on three empty lots behind Urban Circle. The inter-generational learning centre will also provide a training program for day care practitioners. It will be built in the former Red Apple building which was purchased by Urban Circle some years ago after community elders identified the need for the day care.

Amphitheatre Renewal

- NECRC, Aboriginal Visioning, community members, City Resource Coordinators, Parks and Recreation, and other partners continue to meet to plan the renewal of the Amphitheatre on Selkirk Avenue. The City of Winnipeg has also approved Powers Avenue as an official route for commuter cyclists. Parks and recreation have communicated their interest and potential funding for the space. An update was given to the community at Lighting Up Selkirk Avenue on December 11th. Next steps are to come up with revised architect drawings, and write a proposal to go to Community, City Council, and Parks and Recreation

We continue to look for opportunities to revitalize properties in the North End.

Culture & Diversity

NECRC, in partnership with local stakeholders, promotes the celebration of cultural diversity in the North End.

PICNIC IN THE PARK

Picnic in the Park is an annual event initially sponsored through NECRC in 2000 as a means to celebrate the cultural diversity of the North End.

This will be the 10th consecutive year that Picnic in the Park will be held at St John's Park. This year's event will be held on August 22, 2009, kicking off at 12:00 noon ending at 4:00 pm.

Picnic in the Park was established as family fun day at St. John's park for North End residents to enjoy free: food and beverages; entertainment; children's activities, games, and prizes; displays by local agencies and organizations; and an opportunity to purchase arts & crafts by local artisans.

The event has grown in magnitude and scope of both participants and partner agencies and organizations. Working in partnership with Mount Carmel Clinic, Graffiti Art Program, Aboriginal Visioning for the North End, Indian Family Centre, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and the City of Winnipeg, NECRC coordinates over 50 sponsors and 120 volunteers who donate time, prizes, and financial and/or in-kind contributions to support the Picnic in the Park event.

Highlights of the 2009 event will be:

- The return of multi-cultural entertainment venues to the main stage
- An upgrade to healthier food choices, as a result of increased sponsorship donations

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY SELKIRK AVENUE COMMITTEE

The Selkirk Avenue Committee has been hosting an annual National Aboriginal Day event since 2004. The event is specifically geared to lower-income North End residents who are unable to attend and participate in other city-wide National Aboriginal Day celebrations. For the past four years the event has been held at the amphitheatre on Selkirk Avenue and Powers Street and provides free food; drinks; Aboriginal cultural entertainment; job fair; children's activities, games, and prizes; and arts & crafts. The event also hosts display tables for local agencies and organizations, as well as vendor tables for North End artisans and merchants.

The Selkirk Avenue Committee is presently comprised of various local North End agencies and organizations such as the Indian Family Centre, Ndinawe, the Aboriginal Visioning Project, the North End Community Renewal Corporation, North End Stella Mission, the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, as well as representatives from numerous provincial and federal government departments.

A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY-WIDE ANTI-RACISIM STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH END

The North End Five Year Community plan lists an Anti-Racism strategy as a priority. NECRC is supportive of the recent creation of the Center for Anti-oppression Studies. For more information see www.anti-oppressioncentre.org. In 2008 two city-wide workshops were held and supported by NECRC. In the words of the workshop organisers:

"One of the key challenges for inner city educators and human service workers is the development of cross-cultural awareness, knowledge and skills that are required to work in diverse communities. We hope that this workshop provides participants with an opportunity to further develop their knowledge base in this critical area. It is also an opportunity for you to become involved in a network of people that are committed to providing ongoing leadership in our community regarding anti-oppression education, action and practice."

INVOLVEMENT OF YOUTH, SENIORS AND UNDER-REPRESENTED COMMUNITIES

NECRC recognizes the need for NECRC, neighbourhood groups, and partners to do more to develop and implement a comprehensive strategy to engage youth, seniors and under-represented communities in all areas of the Five-Year Plan. The recognition of youth, seniors and underrepresented groups in our community is important to celebrate culture and diversity in the North End of Winnipeg. We hope to improve our efforts in this area in the future.

Housing Development

The North End community consistently identifies affordable quality housing as an overall renewal strategy. Our programs cultivate a sense of pride and community ownership in the unique neighbourhoods of the North End.

The purpose of the North End Revitalization Incorporation's (NERI) housing department is to encourage the combined efforts of government, resident groups, and housing organizations to carry out strategic housing renewal in the North End of Winnipeg. While working together with housing partners, the objectives in 2008 were to:

- Comprehend and coordinate the strategic development of housing within the North End
- Update the housing plan priorities of the William Whyte (WW) and North Point Douglas (NPD) communities
- Administer Exterior Renovation Fix-Up grants through North End Revitalization Incorporated (NERI)
- Assist Dufferin, St. John's, and Lord Selkirk Park (LSP) residents in the implementation of their housing plans
- Assist other North End neighbourhoods in the development and implementation of housing renewal initiatives (e.g. LSP)
- Encourage housing renewal initiatives within North End communities (e.g. MB Hydro Low-Income Program, Housing Training Initiative, Tenant Landlord Cooperation, etc.)

NECRC facilitates many housing coordination activities for renewal and NERI administers housing grants.

Partnerships

In the interest of housing renewal, NERI has actively partnered with the following stakeholders: Canadian Mortgage Housing Corporation (CMHC); City of Winnipeg Property, Planning, and Development; City of Winnipeg By-law Enforcement Unit; City of Winnipeg; Federal Government of Canada; Habitat for Humanity; KINEW Housing; Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association (MUNHA); Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!); North End Housing Project (NEHP); Point Douglas Residents Committee (PDRC); Province of Manitoba; Manitoba Housing Authority (MHA); SISTARS Community Economic Development Co-Op Incorporated; St. John's Residents Association Incorporated; William Whyte Residents Association (WWRA); Dufferin Residents Association of Winnipeg (DRAW); Winnipeg Housing & Homelessness Initiative (WHHI); and the Winnipeg Housing and Rehabilitation Corporation (WHRC); Manitoba Hydro.

Coordination Activities

- ***Housing Networks:*** Informed community and strengthened cooperation between the city, provincial government, federal government, non-profit & private developers, and community leaders to: implement

housing plans; to prioritize and develop proposals; and to allocate funding in the Housing Improvement Zones (HIZ) of WW and NPD, and the Neighbourhoods Alive (NA!) improvement areas of Dufferin, St. John's, and LSP.

- ***Affordable Housing:*** Housing staff worked with community members to identify new infill lots. The network allocated ten new in-fill homes for empty lots; eight in WW, and two in NPD. This affordable housing went to low-income homeowners who qualified for a mortgage. Approximately one half the cost of building the house is to be forgiven over ten years.
- ***Rental Housing:*** Administered multiple programs geared towards rental issues. With funding from the Winnipeg and Thomas Sill Foundations, hired local area resident as full-time TLC Coordinator to encourage property maintenance. Maintained partnership with MHA through BCMP program to improve the quality of social housing. Hired a full-time coordinator to implement the Winnipeg Rental Network, a citywide web-based service to provide free vacancy listings for landlords with affordable rental housing.

Program Activities

- ***Tenant Landlord Cooperation (TLC):*** The North End TLC continues to improve relationships between landlords and tenants. With the support of an HRDC summer-student, TLC created a new Access-based landlord registry to map rental housing within NPD and WW. The new registry enabled program information to be mailed out to over 1,300 landlords within WW and NPD. The database was used again and additional information was sent out with the Exterior Fix-up Grants program. A landlord forum was held to solicit input on the program and was attended by over 35 landlords. In partnership with the RTB, delivered workshops in all five areas on Rights and Responsibilities for both tenants and landlords. Worked with all five residents associations to maintain priority access for TLC landlords to the fix-up grants, and expand the scope of work permitted to both exterior and interior repairs.
- ***Innovative Housing Renewal:*** NECRC continues to support the SISTARS Community Economic Development Co-Op house and daycare development.
- ***Housing Training Initiative (HTI):*** NECRC promoted the workshops through the Exterior Fix-up and TLC programs through mail outs that reached approximately 1,500 landlords and resident homeowners. Housing Coordinators continue to attend workshops and support the HTI program. Workshops take place at five community locations including; NECRC, Ralph Brown Community Centre, Spence Neighbourhood, Daniel Macintyre, and Centennial. Workshops continue to meet the needs within the community, and housing resource libraries are available at four of the five locations within participating communities.
- ***Building Construction Maintenance Program (BCMP):*** This program was carried out in partnership with the MHA and RB Russell High School as a training program for youth interested in carpentry and housing construction. The program provides hands-on experience through the maintenance and repair of MHA properties. Under the guidance of one journeymen carpenter and one lead hand, local North End students and/or graduates (many from RB Russell High School), participated in the program. In 2008-2009, the crew completed the renovation of 60 MHA units of housing at Carrigan Green Crest, and built front and rear fences on 256 units at Gilbert Park, thereby improving the quality of social housing within Winnipeg. The program operated on a budget of $500,000 in salaries for the '08-09 year and saw local North End residents hired to work and build their skills. As a result of the program, four trainees transitioned to permanent work with MHA and the lead carpenter joined MHA's staff in Thompson. The program's first student to be enrolled in the apprenticeship program at Red River Community College completed their first year of the program in September. Currently, BCMP has just signed a contract to employ 50 North End residents for a value of $1.5 million for employment, training and the interior renewal of MHA housing at Gilbert Park and Lord Selkirk Park.
- ***Winnipeg Rental Network:*** The Winnipeg Rental Network Coordinator position was a hire by a group of over twenty-one community-based organizations to research, plan, and implement a housing registry and website for median and lower-income renters in the City of Winnipeg. The project's goal is to improve community services and service delivery networks while creating a database of housing providers with vacancies. The WRN held a forum to solicit participation and input that was attended by over 45 organizations. The WRN website has been built and is receiving approximately 125 hits a day. The website provides links to housing resources for landlords and tenants as well as vacancy postings for affordable rental housing.
- ***New Neighbourhoods Initiatives:*** NECRC assisted St John's, Dufferin, and LSP residents with the implementation of their housing renewal plans, wrote proposals, and managed fix-up grants and TLC programming in their neighbourhoods.

- ***Vacant & Boarded-Up Properties:*** Properties are being monitored on a regular basis during the Exterior Fix-up Grant Program. Housing Coordinators in each HIZ neighbourhood worked closely with the City By-law Enforcement Unit while collaborating with resident groups to enforce the city by-laws as in-fill housing and new rental supply projects filled empty lots with new housing, and renovation projects renewed distressed properties. A boarded and vacant housing registry and mapping system was developed for WW, NPD, St. John's, Dufferin, and LSP to further track housing renewal.
- ***Referrals:*** Housing Coordinators advised residents on how to access city, provincial, and federal housing assistance. The Housing Coordinator updated and distributed housing resource information sheets for resident owners, landlords, and tenants.
- ***Community Audits:*** A general audit of housing and safety issues took place during the Exterior Fix-up Grant Program in the WW and NPD communities. NPD reported issues in the area on a regular basis, while staff reported and/or intervened on housing issues with city inspectors.
- ***Staffing:*** One full-time Housing Coordinator is dedicated to WW and NPD while a second coordinator is focused on Dufferin, LSP and St. Johns at half time. The remaining half of this full time position is spent facilitating the promotion and access to the MB Hydro Low-income Hydro Grants through the BUILD program. Full time coordinators were hired for the TLC and WRN programs.

With NA! And WHHI funding, NERI housing staff focused on coordinating and implementing the housing priorities of North End neighbourhoods. NERI, (the non profit/non charitable wing of NECRC), is dedicated to supporting the long-term combined investment of government, community, and developers to continue to bring neighbourhood renewal to Winnipeg's North End.

Recreation & Wellness

Recreation and wellness is a priority for the North End. NECRC continues its work to ensure that activities and services are inclusive and accessible for all North End residents.

NORTH END WELLNESS CENTRE (NEWC)

376 McGregor Street will be the site of a new 25,000 square foot multi-service North End Wellness Centre. The facility will be owned by North End Wellness Inc. and filled with dynamic programming by Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre, YMCA-YWCA, Splash Child Care Inc, and the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority. The centre will include: a gymnasium with a basketball court, game facilities, play structure, and "youth-sized" fitness equipment; a youth recreation centre with a climbing tower; an indoor skateboard park; a unique state of the art child-care facility; a community kitchen; and community meeting spaces.

The project addresses a community identified need for a local North End centre that focuses on wellness and is inclusive and accessible to all. The goals of this community-driven initiative include:

- Encouraging daily physical activity for children and youth
- Promoting recreation opportunities for persons of all ages
- Eliminating financial barriers to participation in recreational activities
- Providing increased quality child-care options in Winnipeg's North End
- Facilitating cooperation and sharing among established community organizations
- Creating increased opportunities for volunteerism

In 2006 NECRC signed agreements with the architect and demolition contractor, facilitated cash-flow, and wrote reports on funding received for the development of the project. In 2007 architectural plans were finalized and the demolition of the old North End "Y" was completed. In 2008 ground-breaking took place and the construction began. The building is now nearly completed. The Centre will open its doors this summer.

Community Development

NECRC continues to work with stakeholders to address the needs of the North End community through the development of partnerships, networking and building community capacity.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Demonstrated community development accomplishments and achievements in 2008 included the following:

- Distributed a quarterly newsletter, the "NECRC Update" to 15,000 North End residents and businesses
- Facilitated a 10-member Resident Advisory Committee, responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on neighbourhood revitalization projects
- North End Revitalization Incorporated (NERI) administered a Small Grants Fund for 5 neighbourhoods that approved $150,000 for 72 projects in 2008.
- Supported the residents of St. John's and Dufferin in their annual planning, and assisted in the implementation of community goals and activities

LORD SELKIRK PARK

Lord Selkirk Park (LSP) Resource Centre

The LSP Resource Centre continues to be the "hub" in the community and provides on-site counseling (through partner organizations), free laundry, clothing depot, community phone, monthly community feast, adult arts & crafts, educational/personal development workshops, and general drop-in. Staff also provided advocacy, referrals, volunteer opportunities, and resource materials. In 2008 the Resource Centre had 5566 visits from community residents, which represents a 26% increase over last year. An evaluation of the Resource Centre completed in 2009 demonstrated that the Resource Centre is performing well and meeting the needs of the community. As part of the vision for the community, the LSP Resource Centre will move under the auspice of the R.B. Russell Infant Centre in August 2009. Plans are underway to incorporate the Resource Centre as part of the infant/school aged child care services, located within the community.

Community Advisory Committee (CAC)

The Community Advisory Committee meets monthly to network, develop partnerships and address neighbourhood concerns. The committee is made up of residents and community based organizations that live and work in the community. In 2008, an evaluation of the CAC was conducted. Representatives from 25 community agencies/residents participated in the evaluation. It was determined that as a result of the CAC's work, coordination of efforts have improved, attitudes in the community have changed for the better and progress has been made in improving the LSP community.

Lord Selkirk Park Child-Care & Family Resource Centre

NECRC continues to work with the RB Russell Infant Centre, Provincial Daycare Office, Manitoba Housing Authority and other stakeholders, to plan and develop the LSP Family Resource Centre, located in the heart of the community, at 269 Dufferin Ave. The LSP Family Resource Centre will accommodate 24 infant spaces, 40 school aged spaces, along with the services of the current Resource Centre. Tentative date for completion of renovations is within the next 18 months.

Family Support Program

Through a partnership with the United Way of Winnipeg and the Mount Carmel Clinic, a full-time Aboriginal counselor/family support worker provided assistance/support to 345 individuals (children, youth and families) over the past year. An evaluation of the Family Support Program completed in 2009, indicated the Family Support program had a significant impact on those individuals/families who participated in the program. The Family Support Program will move under the direction of the R.B. Russell Infant Centre in summer of 2009, as part of the overall vision of the community.

Adult Learning Centre (ALC)

In 2008, a naming ceremony was held for the Adult Learning Centre. The Centre adopted a Michif name, **Kaakiyow Li Moond Likol**, which means "All People's School. During the year, 56 students registered, working

towards their Grade 12 diploma, with a regular attendance of 25-30 participants. Six students will graduate with their Grade 12 diploma in June 2009.

Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin, Inc. (OPK)

OPK's mandate is to provide employment, education, basic life skills training, and social support for at risk Aboriginal ex-offenders and Aboriginal youth. The project began in 2001 and was incorporated in 1994 as a non-profit organization. NECRC has provided letters of support for OPK, believes in this project, flows sustaining funding from the United Way to OPK and provides assistance as possible. Currently, OPK has two lead carpenters and lead hand who working with 9 trainees. From 2001-2008, OPK has worked with 56 gang members. The crew has a relationship with DOTC doing housing renovation of DOTC's aboriginal housing units. A key outcome of the program is that no participant has been arrested on a gang-related or gang-motivated charge or for planned or organized criminal activity. OPK held their AGM on April 29th where a pipe ceremony took place honouring OPK's important work. Annual reports and positive reviews by the auditor were approved by the 2009 membership meeting.

Safety

NECRC continues to work in partnership with local neighbourhoods in helping to make the North End a safer place to live, work, and visit.

Working with Local Neighbourhoods

In 2008 the Safety Coordinator continued to support resident associations as they implemented safety plans, community cleanup events and initiatives developed to meet the needs of the local neighbourhoods. Residents continued to take a proactive and comprehensive approach to safety concerns in their communities. NECRC supported 7 local resident groups to sponsor local Urban Green Team initiatives in their neighbourhoods. As a result, 20 UGT students worked throughout the north end on greening and community renewal activities.

School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

NECRC, in partnership with the Province of Manitoba, Winnipeg School Division, and the Winnipeg Police Service continues to operate the North End School Resource Officer Program in 15 North End schools. The SRO program, which was renewed for another three years in 2008, continues to be successful in strengthening relationships between police, youth, and community.

Networking and Partnerships

NECRC supported and developed safety initiatives within the North End through involvement on committees such as the Inner-City Safety Coalition, Winnipeg Committee for Safety, United Way Safety Policy Group. These partnerships provided the opportunity to share information, raise awareness, and strengthen policy in areas related to safety within Winnipeg's North End and inner-city. In 2008, the Neighbour to Neighbour Safety Strategy was established as a steering committee with a mandate to work collaboratively with community residents and the Winnipeg Police Service to build relationships that support community safety, specifically within the neighbourhoods of William Whyte, Point Douglas, Lord Selkirk, St. John's and Dufferin. The committee develops strategies to address awareness, education and appropriate interventions to improve community safety. Three priority areas identified are: drugs, gangs, sex trade. NECRC also partnered with the Inner City Safety Coalition to host a Forum on Police Governance in April 2009. 100 individuals attended the event.

North End Community Ambassador (NECA) Program

The NECA Program is a community-based volunteer foot patrol program, established in October 2006 to lower the incidence of crime through visible safety patrols, and to enhance the perception of safety in the North End. In 2008, an Ambassador Bicycle Patrol began operating within the north end. The Ambassador Program hosted a Community Meet and Greet to introduce new community based police officers to the community; 194 residents/ stakeholders attended the event. As well, a North End Safety Conference was held in April 2008, with 50 north end residents in attendance. A total of 50 volunteer ambassadors have been enrolled in the program since its inception.

Meet the NECRC Board & Staff

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Executive Committee

President, Astrid Lichti – Business Sector
Vice-President, Greg Johnson–Board Appointed
Secretary, Levett Demchuk–Resident Sector
Treasurer, Gerald Brown-Resident Sector

Resident Sector

Levett Demchuk – William Whyte Res. Assoc.
Gerald Brown – Point Douglas Residents Ctte.
Arlene Jones – Luxton Residents Association
Larry Kinnear –Dufferin Residents Association

Professional Appointment

Greg Johnson – Lawyer

Business Sector

Astrid Lichti – Mosaic Market BIZ

Labour Sector

Gary Swanson – CUPE Local 500

Aboriginal Sector

Rapheala Jonson Diesbourg – *Urban Circle*
Tammy Christensen – Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Incorporated

Cultural Sector

Vacant

Religious and Fraternal Sector

Monsignor Michael Buyachok – Ukrainian Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral of St. Vladimir & Olga

Community Organization

Lorne Belmore – *Children of the Earth School*
Mandy Richard

STAFF

509 Selkirk Avenue

Robert Neufeld – Executive/Housing Director
Janice Goodman – Community Development Director
Tara St. Laurent – Safety Coordinator
Muriel Lamy – Administrative Assistant

Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre

Dianne Barron – Community Outreach / Program Coordinator
Candi Beardy – Community Outreach Coordinator
James Morin – Family Support Worker

North End Community Ambassador Program

Hugh Coburn – NECA Program Manager

Building Maintenance Construction Program

John Webb – Journeyman/Supervisor

PATH Resource Centre

Betty Juselius – Employment Development Director
Lorna Johnson – Workshop Facilitator / Job Coach
Janilyn Smith-Epstein – Mentorship Coach
Vlessy Villanueva-Sanchez – Employment Development Officer
Gerry Hudson – Mentorship Coach
Bonnie Harper – Employment Support / Intake Worker
Myrna Sinclair – Resource Receptionist
Lianne Tetlock – Career Counsellor

Appreciation

Many individuals and organizations have contributed to the North End's growing strength and continued success. NECRC would like to extend a heart-felt thank you to the supporters who helped turn our goals into reality.

Board of Directors

Astrid Lichti	Business (President)
Gary Swanson	Labour (Vice-President)
Levett Demchuk	Resident (Secretary)
Gerald Brown	Resident (Treasurer)
Arlene Jones	Resident
Rapheala Johnson Diesbourg	Aboriginal
Lorne Belmore	Community Service
Michael Buyachok	Religious & Fraternal
Tammy Christensen	Aboriginal Sector
Nona Pelletier	Community Service
Darrell Brown	Business
Greg Johnson	Board Appointed

Province of Manitoba

Provincial staff and elected officials funded and partnered with NECRC to implement many key projects. We especially acknowledge the partnership of Neighbourhoods Alive! for both core and project supports.

Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative

WHHI is a partnership that comprises three levels of government, and provided funding to NECRC to deliver housing programs in the five designated North End Neighbourhoods Alive! neighbourhoods.

National Crime Prevention Centre

Provided funding for safety initiatives within the North End; a training package for the School Resource Officer project and support for the Comprehensive Community Initiative in Lord Selkirk Park, Burrows, and Dufferin neighbourhoods.

Employment Manitoba, Competitiveness Training and Trades

Provided funding for job search/job placement and mentorship in our Employment Development Program

The United Way of Winnipeg

Provided funding for Employment programs and the Lord Selkirk Park Family Support Worker position.

Assiniboine Credit Union

Provided in-kind contributions to the development of the Community Financial Services Centre.

The Jubilee Fund Inc.

Provided a loan guarantee through the Assiniboine Credit Union on NECRC properties.

Winnipeg Partnership Agreement

Provided core funding to the Community Financial Services Centre, an operational grant to the North End Ambassador Community project, and financial support for the coordination of the Lord Selkirk Park Adult Learning Centre.

Summer Student Employment for Youth

Funded summer students projects a NECRC, Employment Development and Community Development

Manitoba Housing Authority

Provided funding to the Building Maintenance Construction Program.

City of Winnipeg

Provided funding to Exterior Fix-Up Grant Programs in the neighbourhoods of William Whyte and North Point Douglas (administered through NERI).

The Winnipeg Foundation

Provided financial supports for the Community Financial Services Centre and Tenant Landlord Cooperation Program.

Community Committees

NECRC has worked with a huge network of North End and other local stakeholders over the past year, including; resident organizations, community centres, tenant groups, seniors groups, health & recreation organizations, youth organizations, employment agencies, housing agencies, business associations, coalitions, safety organizations, cultural & religious groups, civic organizations, researchers & schools including:

- Aboriginal Vision Partnership
- Board and Vacant Working Group
- Burrows Central Residents Committee
- Dufferin Residents Association
- Employment Development System Network
- Housing Steering Networks
- HTI Steering Committee
- Lord Selkirk Park Community Advisory Committee
- Lord Selkirk Residents Association
- Mosaic Market BIZ
- Neighbour to Neighbour Safety Strategy
- Neighbourhoods Alive! Review Committee
- North End Steering Committee on Safety
- North End Wellness Partnership
- North Point Douglas Women's Centre
- Point Douglas Residents Committee
- Selkirk Ave BIZ
- Selkirk Ave Task Force
- St. John's Residents Association
- TLC Steering Committee
- Turtle Island Integrated Team
- William Whyte Residents Association
- Winnipeg Rental Network

Civic Organizations

- City of Winnipeg Police Services
- City of Winnipeg Community Services
- Winnipeg School Division
- University of Winnipeg
- University of Manitoba
- William Norrie Centre – University of Manitoba

We would like to thank those who have offered their time, resources and skills to make events like our Picnic in the Park and 2009 AGM a success.

Thank you all!

North End 5-Year Community Plan (2006 - 2011)



In February 2006, the NECRC Board of Directors approved a planning process to build on past efforts, solicit critical input form community partners, and to set a broad strategic direction that could guide community renewal efforts by NECRC and its partners.

The planning process involved a large steering committee of approximately 40 individuals drawn from NECRC Board, staff, community partners, and stakeholders. The steering committee endorsed the planning process and met many times to come up with a new **Five-Year Strategic Plan from 2006-2011.**

This is a North End Community Plan Initiative coordinated by the North End Community Renewal Corporation, in consultation and collaboration with a wide variety of partners. The resulting goals encompass a broad range of planning and activities identified by community stakeholders.

These goals will be pursued collaboratively through communication and coordination among community stakeholders.

NECRC welcomes your input on this plan.

For more information call: 927-2333.