



**NECRC**

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**NORTH END  
COMMUNITY  
RENEWAL CORP.**

**2009-2010 ANNUAL REPORT**

# NORTH END COMMUNITY RENEWAL CORPORATION

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## Table of Contents

Message from the President of the Board .....	1
Message from the Executive Director.....	2
History and Mission Statement.....	3
Governance .....	3
Our Development Philosophy .....	3
Employment Development .....	4
Economic Development.....	5
Culture & Diversity.....	5
Housing Development .....	6
Recreation & Wellness.....	9
Community Development.....	9
Safety.....	11
Meet the NECRC Board & Staff.....	12
Appreciation.....	13

Audited Financial Statement

Enclosed

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## Message from the President of the Board

Gary Swanson

The North End Community Renewal Corporation Board is made up of members from different sectors that come together to promote the social, economic, and cultural renewal of the North End. As an organization of organizations, our Board is made up of elected representatives from these various sectors: Business, Resident, Aboriginal, Community Service, Religious & Fraternal, Labour and Cultural organizations. To fulfill the board's obligation to confirm or set policy direction for NECRC, we meet monthly. We also set aside a day annually for strategic planning.

I would like to thank the 2010 NECRC board, staff, community members, and funders for their dedication and investment in renewal over the past year. On behalf of the board, we are proud to be a part of NECRC's mission of social, economic and cultural Renewal in the North End. Thank you for your part in our common goal of "Building Community Together".

I would especially note the service of outgoing director Greg Johnson (Legal Counsel at Darcy and Deacon), who served as an appointed member of the board over the past three years. His legal perspective and advice was much appreciated. I would also like to recognize Astrid Litchi for her leadership as the outgoing chair from 2009. Her attention to detail and business acumen served our Board well in restoring the financial health of our organization.

The past year has again been one of growth and development as an organization. This AGM Reports highlight a productive year of NECRC's involvement with the Community.

### Highlights of our achievements this past year include:

- Completion of the North End Wellness Centre grand opening held December 4, 2009.

- The continued success of the Storefront Enhancement Grants, Residential Housing Fix-Up Grants, the Small Grants Fund and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund Grants (administered by NERI)
- The continuation of the Community Financial Services Centre (CFSC) (administered by NERI)
- The success of the Building Construction Maintenance Program (BCMP), in partnership with Manitoba Housing Authority renovating social housing in Lord Selkirk Park and Gilbert Park (administered by NERI)
- The Continuation of the Winnipeg Housing Rental Registry.
- The review and renewal of the PATH Centre Employment Programs.
- The Continuation of the North End Food Security / Greening Program.
- The review, revision and approval of Compensation and Personnel Policies.
- Board sessions on strategic planning.
- Prudent financial management, resulting in a solid financial position.
- The continuation of partnerships and the development of new partnerships.
- Supporting community development work in St. John's and Dufferin

Our major challenge this year was to see how NECRC could strengthen support to business, safety, recreation development. The Board set these challenges as priorities. Business Development and Youth committees came up with strategies and future direction. NECRC also joined the North End Recreation Plan Steering Committee to support the creation the plan.

Next year (2011), marks the last of the North End 5 Year Community Plan (2006-2011). To collectively build our new five year plan, we must engage each other to strengthen all of our renewal efforts. This AGM marks the beginning of this process to create our next "North End Five Year Community Plan (2011-2016).

Our 2010 annual meeting will allocate time to consult with you to know your thoughts regarding: 1) NECRC's Role, 2) how to engage community to form the next five year "*Building Community Together*" renewal plan and on an ongoing basis throughout the five years and 3) community renewal priorities for the next five years.

Thanks for your continued support for renewal in the North End of Winnipeg. Warmest Regards

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## Message from the Executive Director

### Robert Neufeld

Welcome to NECRC's 2009-2010 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 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 housing, economic, community, and employment plans. This report outlines our accomplishments.

**Thanks:** I would like to thank the Board, Executive, Management and Staff at NECRC for their dedication and commitment serving with the residents of the community to build community and facilitate renewal. 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 both challenges 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 America 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 community improvement activities taking place in the north end.

## **Governance**

The Board of Directors may be comprised of no more than thirteen (13) Directors, twelve (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 Organization 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.*

### 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 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

### 2009-2010 Achievements

There were approximately 10,000 participant visits for computer access, workshops, counselling, employment information and general services. More than 945 individuals walked through the doors of the PATH Centre seeking assistance from our two Employment Counsellors. Of these approximately 945 mostly north end residents, 230 were able to secure employment.

The Mentorship program’s two Counsellors provided counselling and other support services to approximately 200 participants over the year. Although there are no expectations of employment with Mentorship clients, we are pleased to report that 8 such clients were able to secure full time employment and, at the time of this report, continue to be employed.

Over 60 participants attended PATH’s annual Client Christmas Open House. All participants received a small gift item and one of 30 food hampers or a turkey or ham and all were eligible for one of 15 prize draws, with the bulk of the prizes donated by staff. In addition, approximately 30 Mentorship participants enjoyed a bowling and barbeque luncheon activity in June.

With the marked increase in employment services activities, PATH was able to enter into a dialogue with the funder to begin plans to evolve and grow the agency into an even more responsive entity for the north end. These negotiations are on-going. As of this report, the plan will see PATH grow from a two-program agency to a three-program agency which will include a skills –development component and the addition of two new full time staff positions.

### 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 April 2010, EDS hosted its 4<sup>th</sup> Annual North End Community & Family Resource Career Fair in partnership with R.B. Russell High School. Over 170 local residents, including children and youth, came out and met with area organizations, agencies and education institutes, along with several employers. There were 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 16 member agencies. To date, 124 businesses participate as active members of the Social Purchasing Portal.

## **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.

NECRC was 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. The building was completed and had a grand opening on December 4, 2009.

### **Project Makoonsag**

This project is a child care 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 11<sup>th</sup>, 2009. The community gave input to consultants working on the commuter cyclists route and an architect drawing was created for the space. The next step is to write a proposal to go to Community, City Council, and Parks and Recreation to seek funding for renewal of the space.

### **Business Development**

The NECRC board noted the need to strengthen its economic development sector work. The main initiative is the Storefront Improvement Grants administered by NERI, the non-charitable partner of NECRC. NECRC met with SEED Winnipeg to review roles of our organizations in business development. The Employment Development Director and Executive Director reviewed the business development archives and assess NECRC historic involvement. The Board formed an Economic Development sub-committee to review past involvement and make recommendations for the next North End 5 Year Community Plan. 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, established to celebrate the cultural diversity of the north end, is a 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. **2009 marked the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Picnic in the Park event, which was held on August 22, 2009.**

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.

In 2009, the event featured multi cultural entertainment on the main stage, along with healthier food choices, as a result of increased sponsorship/donations.

The 2010 Picnic in the Park event will take place on August 21<sup>st</sup> at St. John's Park. Bring your family for a fun filled day!

### **NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY SELKIRK AVENUE COMMITTEE**

The Selkirk Avenue Committee has been hosting an annual National Aboriginal Day event since 2004. The event has been community driven and held on Selkirk Avenue or other venues as necessary for the residents. Last year the NAD celebration took place on June 21<sup>st</sup>, (at the Indian Metis Friendship Centre on Dufferin Ave) with 1100 people in attendance. The event featured: free food; drinks; Aboriginal cultural entertainment; job fair; children's activities, games, prizes; arts and 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. 60+ individuals volunteered in organizing the event in 2009.

### **A COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY-WIDE ANTI-RACISM STRATEGY FOR THE NORTH END**

The North End Five Year Community plan lists an Anti-Racism strategy as a priority with a specific goal to design and implement a collaborative community-wide anti-racism strategy for the North End. NECRC is supportive of the recent creation of the Center for Anti-oppression Studies. For more information see [www.anti-oppressioncentre.org](http://www.anti-oppressioncentre.org). In 2008 and 2009 a number of city-wide workshops were held and supported by NECRC. In the words of one 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. In 2009 the NECRC board initiated a youth committee. 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 Incorporated (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 2009 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, Winnipeg Rental Network, Building Construction Maintenance Program, and supporting B.U.I.L.D. etc.)

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

### **Partnerships**

In the interest of housing renewal NECRC and 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, Building Urban Industries for Local Development (B.U.I.L.D.).

### **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 Lord Selkirk Park.
- **Affordable Housing:** Housing staff worked with community members to identify new infill lots. The network allocated ten new in-fill homes for empty lots; five in WW, and five 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:** NECRC administered multiple programs geared towards rental issues. With funding from the Winnipeg Foundation and Thomas Sill Foundation, we maintained a local area resident as full-time TLC Coordinator to encourage property maintenance and provide tenancy advocacy. We continued our partnership with MHA and strengthened the BCMP program to improve the quality of social housing. We maintained a full-time coordinator to continue 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 the City of Winnipeg, the TLC created a listing of North End rental properties in all five NA! Communities. The new registry enabled program information to be mailed out to over 1,300 landlords within WW, NPD, Dufferin, St. John's and LSP. The spreadsheet was used to send information out for the Exterior Fix-up Grants program. TLC delivered workshops to Neighbourhood Immigration Settlement workers on tenancy rights to assist them in dealing with newcomers with rental issues. In partnership with the RTB, delivered workshops in WW, NPD and LSP on Rights and Responsibilities for both tenants and landlords. TLC 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 HTI 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 took place at five community locations including: NECRC, Ralph Brown Community Centre, Spence Neighbourhood, Daniel Macintyre, and Centennial. Workshops met the needs within the community, and housing resource libraries were available at four of the five locations within participating communities. While the HTI program went on hiatus in October 2009, Housing Coordinators worked on proposals to rework the program and secure future funding the program is poised to get in 2010 back up and running.
- **Building Construction Maintenance Program (BCMP):** This program was carried out in partnership with the MHA and RB Russell High School as an employment and training program for youth and North End residents interested in the trade of carpentry and housing construction. The program provides hands-on experience through the maintenance and repair of MHA properties. Under the guidance of two MHA site supervisors/journeymen carpenters and NECRC lead hands, local North End community members (many alumni from RB Russell High School) participated in the program. From February 2009 to May 2010, the crew completed the renovation of 30 MHA apartments in the LSP Developments and 68 in Gilbert Park for a total of 98 units of quality social housing within the North End of Winnipeg (6-7 Units per month). The program operated on a budget of \$1,500, 000 in salaries for the '09-10 year and saw local North End residents hired to work and build their skills. Over the past two years, four trainees transitioned to permanent work with MHA and the lead carpenter joined MHA's staff in Thompson and the program had its first student enrolled in the apprenticeship program at Red River Community College. He completed his first year of the program in September 2008. BCMP currently has a contract to employ 60 North End residents to complete 250 apartment renovations.
- **Winnipeg Rental Network (WRN):** 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 website has been built and is receiving approximately 200 hits a day. The website provides links to housing resources for landlords and tenants as well as vacancy postings for affordable rental housing. The WRN has submitted proposals for additional funding to create a position to extend outreach across Winnipeg. Visit the WRN website at [www.winnipegrentnet.ca](http://www.winnipegrentnet.ca) for more information.
- **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 NA! neighbourhood worked closely with the City By-law Enforcement Unit and Existing Buildings Branch 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. These resource sheets were shared with residents associations and mailed out to all Exterior Fix-up grant applicants.
- **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. Staff reported on 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 was spent facilitating the promotion and access to the MB Hydro Low-income Hydro Grants through the B.U.I.L.D. program. This Housing Coordination/B.U.I.L.D. position was converted to a full-time Housing Coordination position for Dufferin, LSP and St. John's in May 2010, when the Federal EcoEnergy funding ended. Full time coordinators were maintained for the TLC and WRN programs.

With NA!, WHHI, Thomas Sill and Winnipeg Foundation funding, housing staff focused on coordinating and implementing the housing priorities of North End neighbourhoods.

## 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)**

Community partners gathered on December 4, 2009 to celebrate the grand opening of the North End Wellness Center (NEWC). After 10+ years of hard work, the Centre (renamed “Win Gardner Place”) displays the pride, strength, capacity and redevelopment of the North End community. The celebration brought project partners, dignitaries, staff, volunteers and community residents together to officially open the 25,000 square foot multi service facility. The facility is owned by North End Wellness Inc. and is 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 includes 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 addressed a community identified need for a local North End centre that focuses on wellness and is inclusive and accessible to all.

### **NORTH END RECREATION STRATEGY**

The City of Winnipeg has invited NECRC and other North End partners to assist with the creation of a North End Recreation Strategy. Community Stakeholders met on the evening of February 18, 2010 to set a steering committee. The steering committee has since met a number of times to review and discuss the Recreation and Wellness Strategy identified during the planning of the North End Wellness Centre almost 10 years ago. Some initial ideas and immediate plans are: 1) to take steps to create a N.E. recreation plan, 2) to partner with the City of Winnipeg to have a city “dash” bus link recreation facilities and community services in the North End and 3) to engage community stakeholders to brainstorm and finalize the plan. More consultation with the community is planned for the coming year.

## 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 2009 included the following:

- Distributed periodic newsletter, the “NECRC Update” to 15,000 North End residents and businesses
- Facilitated an 8-member Resident Advisory Committee, responsible for reviewing and making recommendations on neighbourhood revitalization projects intended for the north end
- North End Revitalization Incorporated (NERI) administered a Small Grants Fund for 5 neighbourhoods that approved \$150,000 for 72 capacity building projects,
- Updated the NECRC website and added the NERI website in 2009

### **ST. JOHN'S**

The St. John's Residents Association held its AGM in March 2009, with 9 members elected to the Board. The Association conducted a PATH planning session in May, and a subsequent workplan was developed, outlining specific goals and activities for the upcoming year. Activities of the Resident Association this past year included: development and distribution of a community newsletter, organizing a community clean up event, participating in the Picnic in the Park, providing student employment and community beautification through the Urban Green Team, promoting the Housing Fix up Grants, which provided 24 grants to homeowners and 7 landlords in the neighbourhood.

In March 2010, a full time community development worker was hired through NECRC to work with residents and stakeholders in St. John's to build community capacity and to implement community priorities that address housing, safety, recreation and economic goals. Since then, the focus has been to increase their volunteer base, organize a spring community clean up, develop a number of community gardens/community kitchens and sponsor an Urban Green Team student summer employment program. The Association plans to hold their AGM in the fall 2010.

## **DUFFERIN**

The Dufferin Residents Association held a PATH planning session in March 2009, with 20 residents in attendance. At this time the areas of health, safety, housing, food security, membership recruitment and capacity building were identified as priority areas. The Association held its AGM in September 2009, and elected 2 new members, for a total of 6 residents making up the Board of Directors. Over the past year, residents participated in community garden activities, community beautification/ graffiti removal, supervising 2 summer students through the Urban Green Team and participated in setting criteria for Housing Fix Up grants. A total of 17 fix up grants were approved to homeowners and 7 landlords in 2009.

In February 2010, a full time community development worker was hired through NECRC, to support the neighbourhood on community capacity building and community revitalization activities. Activities planned for the spring/summer include: resident participation in local community gardens, outreach/ volunteer recruitment and sponsoring an Urban Green Team, which will provide local students with summer employment opportunities.

## **LORD SELKIRK PARK**

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 September 2009, the LSP Resource Centre moved under the operation of the R.B. Russell Infant Centre, as part of the overall vision for the community.

In fall, 2010 the Resource Centre will host the Adult Literacy Program, currently operating out of David Livingstone School. The program operates in cooperation with the Kaakiyow li moond likol Adult Learning Centre and will provide adult learners the opportunity to attend classes 4 mornings per week

NECRC continues to work with the RB Russell Infant Centre, Provincial Daycare Office, Manitoba Housing Authority and other stakeholders, to plan and develop the Lord Selkirk Park Family Resource Centre, which is to be located in the heart of the community, at 269 Dufferin Ave. Renovations are scheduled to begin in the summer 2010. The LSP Family Resource Centre will accommodate 47 spaces (16 infant, 16 pre-school and 15 school aged) along with the existing LSP Resource Centre. The anticipated completion date is Spring 2011.

The Community Advisory Committee, which is made up of residents and community based organizations that live and work in the community, meets monthly to network, develop partnerships and address neighbourhood concerns. A Resident Planning/Safety committee was formed in 2009 to identify and address safety issues and participate in current community events/activities.

## ***Kaakiyow li moond likol Adult Learning Centre***

The **Kaakiyow Li Moond Likol** Adult Learning Centre (Michif name which means “All People’s School”) had 25-30 adult learners attending on a regular basis in 2009. The Centre is located at the Turtle Island Community Centre, and operates under the auspices of the Winnipeg School Division Adult Education Program. The program is staffed by two teachers and a full time student support/community outreach worker. 12 students are expected to graduate with their Grade 12 diploma in June 2010.

## ***North End Food Security/ Greening Project***

In 2009, NECRC received funding for a full time Food Security & Greening Coordinator to work in the North End to provide low income families the opportunity to access affordable, nutritious food through a variety of initiatives. Some of the accomplishments included:

- Working in partnership with agencies and schools to establish new community gardens in Dufferin, William Whyte, St. John’s, Lord Selkirk Park and North Point Douglas. All gardens have a vegetable and a traditional / medicinal plant component. –Supporting four youth groups and community members from B.U.I.L.D. to organize cooking classes, focusing on healthy eating habits; -Coordinating/organizing three adult community kitchens, where participants collectively choose the menus and contribute to the food costs.

- Organizing a Farmers’ Market that was held every Friday during the summer months in 2009 at 1085 Main Street (Age & Opportunity). In 2010, the Farmers Market Association of Manitoba has granted a \$5.00 cash incentive for 1800 North End residents to purchase fresh local food at the market. This year market runs every Friday, from noon to 4:00 p.m., until the end of September 2010.

-Providing community residents with the opportunity to attend/participate in Food Security workshops such as a "Healthy Pizza workshop" sponsored by the Canadian Diabetes Association; organizing two 'Standing Medicine People' workshops facilitated by two well known local experts on traditional plants; (over 100 community members attended) trips to U-pick strawberry farms and overnights to an Organic Farm. Eighty eight people obtained their Food Handlers Certificate.

### **Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin, Inc. (OPK)**

OPK has an official relationship with NECRC under our Charity Business # 88712 7223 RR0001. We provide assistance and consultation as time and resources allow. OPK runs as a project of NECRC and is included in our annual report. We believe their work coincides with the NECRC mission of encouraging social, cultural and economic renewal.

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 1994 and was incorporated in 2001 as a non-profit organization. From 2001-2009, OPK has worked with 64 former gang members. The crew has a relationship with Dakota Ojibway Tribal Council (DOTC) doing housing renovation of DOTC's aboriginal housing units. Attitudes and attendance for those in the program are reported to be good.

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 last AGM on April 29<sup>th</sup> 2009 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. In 2009-2010 OPK had a lead carpenter and one lead hand who are working with 9 trainees. The 2009-2010 Audit is underway and their AGM is planned for the month of June 2010.

## **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 2009 the Safety Coordinator continued to support local resident associations to implement their safety plans, organize community cleanup events, coordinate graffiti removal and other safety initiatives. Residents continued to take a proactive and comprehensive approach to address safety concerns in their communities. NECRC supported 7 local community/resident groups to sponsor local Urban Green Team initiatives in their neighbourhoods. As a result, 21 UGT students worked on improving the north end through activities that included community clean up events, graffiti removal, yard work for the elderly, and maintaining community gardens.

### **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. In 2009, the Management Committee expanded to include the Central and South Districts, who are working together with the North End to conduct an internal evaluation of their respective SRO programs. The current program, which is in place until June 2011, continues to be successful in strengthening relationships between police, youth, and community.

### **Networking and Partnerships**

NECRC continues to coordinate and support safety initiatives in the North End through partnerships with local residents associations as well as participation on the following committees: Urban Circle Safety Committee, Aboriginal Visioning for the North End, North End Justice Solutions, North End Community Helpers Network, Lord Selkirk Park Safety Committee, Women's Gathering Place, SOS Safety Committee, Citizens on Patrol. These partnerships provided the opportunity to share information, raise awareness on safety issues and work to address priority areas.

The North End Safety Network amalgamated with the Neighbour to Neighbour Safety Strategy (NNSS) committee in the fall 2009. This committee continues to work collaboratively with community residents and the Winnipeg Police Service to build relationships within the community and to develop strategies to address awareness, education and interventions that improve community safety. Specific emphasis is placed on working within the neighbourhoods of William Whyte, Point Douglas, Lord Selkirk, St. John's and Dufferin. In October 2009, the NNSS held a community forum on sex trade, with 170 local residents in attendance.

## **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.

The vision of NECA is that the North End is widely regarded as a safe place to live, work, visit and operate a business. The mission is to operate a visible street patrol in designated areas, drawing staff and volunteers primarily from the neighbourhood who are provided the skills training required to build positive community relationships and assist in a variety of safety situations. The guiding principles are that: the North End Ambassador Program will be representative of and respectful to the North End community, purposefully including Aboriginal people and that the program governance will be based on accountability to partners, funders and the North End community at large. The three-year strategic goals are: 1) to re-organize, re-start and re-invigorate the program, 2) to create a governance model that is representative, transparent and accountable, 3) to identify, pursue and obtain diverse funding sources and partnerships for program sustainability, 4) to create and implement an effective staff and volunteer recruitment campaign, primarily targeting people who live in the North End, 5) To develop the program's staff and volunteer leadership and employability skills through training and work experience, and 6) to promote the program within the North End and city-wide.

## **Meet the NECRC Board & Staff**

### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

#### **Resident Sector**

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

#### **Professional Appointment**

**Greg Johnson** – Lawyer

#### **Business Sector**

**Michael Wolchock** –  
Pollock's Hardware Co-Op  
**Darrell Brown**  
Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce

#### **Labour Sector**

**Gary Swanson** – CUPE Local 500

#### **Aboriginal Sector**

**Haven Stumpf** – Urban Circle  
**Michael Champagne** – 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  
**Nona Pelletier** – Ralph Brown Recreation Centre

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President**, Gary Swanson – Labour Sector  
**Vice-President**, Lorne Belmore – Community Sector  
**Secretary**, Levett Demchuk – Resident Sector  
**Treasurer**, Gerald Brown – Resident Sector

### **STAFF**

#### **509 Selkirk Avenue**

**Robert Neufeld** – Executive/Housing Director  
**Janice Goodman** – Community Development Director  
**Melanie Thorassie-Duck** – Safety Coordinator  
**Margo Malabar** – Food Security/Greening Coordinator  
**Maia Graham-Derham** – Community Development  
Worker  
**Jessica Leigh** – Community Development Worker  
**Muriel Lamy** – Administrative Assistant

#### **Lord Selkirk Park Resource Centre**

**Dianne Barron** – Community Outreach /  
Program Coordinator (Sept 2009)  
**James Morin** – Family Support Worker (June 2009)  
**Candi Beardy** – Community Outreach Coordinator

## **North End Community Ambassador Program (NECA)**

*Ian Steggle* – NECA Program Manager

## **Building Construction Maintenance Program**

*Contract staff of 60*

## **PATH Resource Centre**

*Chris Mott* – 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* – Workshop Facilitator / Job Coach

*Myrna Sinclair* – Employment Support/Intake Worker

*Lianne Tetlock* – Career Counsellor

*Delores Amos* – Resource Receptionist

# **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**

Gary Swanson	Labour (President)
Lorne Belmore	Community (VP)
Levett Demchuk	Resident (Secretary)
Gerald Brown	Resident (Treasurer)
Arlene Jones	Resident
Haven Stumpf	Aboriginal

Michael Buyachok	Religious & Fraternal
Michael Champagne	Aboriginal Sector
Nona Pelletier	Community Service
Darrell Brown	Business
Michael Wolchock	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 Construction Maintenance 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 to the Tenant Landlord Cooperation Program.

### **Thomas Sill Foundation**

Provided funding for the Tenant Landlord Corporation Program and the Energy Efficiency renovation of the NPDWC.

### **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 Visioning Partnership
- Board and Vacant Working Group
- Burrows Central Residents Committee
- CD/CED Intermediary (steering committee)
- David Livingstone Adult Literacy Program (steering committee)
- Dufferin Residents Association
- Employment Development System Network
- Housing Steering Networks
- HTI Steering Committee
- Lord Selkirk Park Community Advisory Committee
- Lord Selkirk Park Adult Learning Centre (steering committee)
- Lord Selkirk Residents Association
- Mosaic Market BIZ
- Neighbour to Neighbour Safety Strategy
- Neighbourhoods Alive! Review Committee
- North End Food Security Network (steering 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 from 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. The 2009-2010 NECRC AGM will begin the process for the development of the next 5 year plan 2011-2016.

NECRC welcomes your input on this plan.

For more information call: 927-2333