

5 Year

North End Community Plan Summary

2011 - 2016



Prepared through

Prepared by



Leskiw and Associates

January 2011

A. INTRODUCTION

The following presents a summary of the results of a community engagement and consultation process that has been used to define and describe expectations for the North End over the next five years (2011 – 2016). This North End 5 Year Community Plan is the result of a range of discussions, written input and broader community conversations which have set a number of priorities and directions for the community.

The community plan has been developed through the initiative of the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC). Its management and staff have been directly involved in the organization of the discussion circles, administration and tabulation of the surveys. External support has been provided by *Leskiw and Associates* with respect to the overall organization of the information gathering, conducting the discussion circles, and development of the final community plan.

It is well documented that the North End faces a number of challenges. Safety and crime concerns are both real and perceptual. Employment and education levels tend to be lower than much of Winnipeg, and consequently, income levels are also lower. There is a commonly held belief that the North End does not receive its equitable share of municipal services, and the general state of affairs needs a collective upgrading.

However, the majority of those who provided input into this plan also noted that there are more than enough opportunities to be capitalized upon. Pride and assertiveness to move beyond the current state of affairs was a keynote of all of the discussion circles. Strong community leadership is evident, particularly amongst the service organizations and resident associations who know and respect their members. There is a small, yet dedicated business sector, some of whose members stretch back over 70 years in the community.

History also drives the desire for renewal and change. History for many provides the remembrance of what the North End was, and the drive to bring back what works. The North End does not have aspirations of being like other Winnipeg neighbourhoods. It knows that it is unique and in spite of concerns, revels in this uniqueness. The will of those that contributed to this community plan is to maintain and enhance a cycle of collective renewal and redevelopment – building together on new strength and assets.

The five year community plan that has been developed is based on information gathered from community membership in three ways:

- ✓ Through table discussions at the Annual General Meeting;
- ✓ Discussion circles with individuals from nine (9) different sectors reflecting NECRC's membership; and,
- ✓ Written surveys administered by NECRC staff.

In total, the community plan was informed through feedback from nearly 400 individuals. The community celebration on January 26th, 2011 is an opportunity to hear what has been said through this process and for NECRC to get further feedback on priorities for the next five years.

The full community plan will soon be posted on the NECRC website (necrc.org), with hard copies to be made available at the NECRC office at 509 Selkirk Avenue. This summary report highlights those changes that were most consistently presented within the community, and those which need to be prioritized.

B. SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

The discussions at the Annual General Meeting focused on the roles that the community expects NECRC to play with respect to development within the North End. In summary, the three key roles expected of NECRC are:

To serve as a facilitator between groups and organizations and governments towards common goals; and, a facilitator of ideas and opportunities.

To act as an organizer and coordinator of meetings between groups; of supports for resident associations; of actions on issues that extend beyond individual neighbourhoods; of community-wide planning; and, of events and consultations with residents.

To focus communications and the sharing of accurate and timely information, with NECRC as the holder and distributor of information.

And, to take a strong role to ensure that development can take place, but not to develop or deliver if there are other groups that are capable of delivery.

From the sector discussions a total of nine (9) consistent and specific outcomes were identified, along with a number of individual indicators that can serve to measure the extent to which the changes are being achieved. Briefly noted the following describes these outcomes and their indicators.

1. Stronger, more capable, more interdependent neighbourhood associations that will:
 - ✓ Engage greater numbers of residents to be more active;
 - ✓ Be more representative of the demographics in their neighbourhoods;
 - ✓ Learn from each other and replicate successful actions and initiatives;
 - ✓ Establish and retain a larger volunteer body of residents;
 - ✓ Actively work within areas of safety, community cleanliness and pride;
 - ✓ Support local young people; and,
 - ✓ Support each other.

2. Young people that are actively involved in supporting each other and contributing to the vibrancy of the North End through:
 - ✓ Local youth groups developed in each of the neighbourhoods;
 - ✓ Establishment of a North End Youth Council consisting of representatives of the neighbourhood groups and local youth serving organizations;
 - ✓ An odd jobs form of programming that matches the needs of community members to odd jobs where young people can contribute and receive compensation and experience; and,
 - ✓ More organized recreational opportunities for all age groups.

3. A stronger mix of housing options that reflects the realities and aspirations of all residents, by:
 - ✓ Having a blend of owner occupied and rental accommodations;
 - ✓ Neighbourhood housing plans in identified neighbourhoods that reflects and seeks to accommodate the make-up of the population;
 - ✓ More opportunities for student housing; and,
 - ✓ Recognition that housing is a key element of personal and family growth, and needs to be integrated within all discussions on development.

4. A cleaner, safer and more vibrant community through:

- ✓ More responsive and effective bylaw enforcement, addressing issues such as garbage collection, vacant and boarded up buildings, and non-compliant property owners;
- ✓ A stronger overall voice that promotes the needs and opportunities within a collective North End; and,
- ✓ Non-tolerance attitudes towards crime, with natural surveillance developing amongst neighbours and a closer working relationship with the Police Service.

5. A coordinated economic development strategy that is inclusive of:

- ✓ Effective employment and training opportunities that focus on local residents, learning, training and job opportunities;
- ✓ A business community that serves a greater range of local requirements and works to become a destination; and,
- ✓ Integrated community and business sectors that recognize, value and support each other.

6. A free flow of timely accessible information with:

- ✓ Lists and promotion of local businesses;
- ✓ Maintenance of a common source of information on cultural events and area groups / programs including what is offered, when; and,
- ✓ A community service manual / guidebook on what is available and how to access services.

7. A community that is getting to know each other and is involved with each other by:

- ✓ Youth that are visible in positive community services and events;
- ✓ Neighbours who know each other;
- ✓ Cultural and faith based groups who share their gifts and enrich the community experience;
- ✓ Celebrations and events, including a major cultural celebration annually; and,
- ✓ Language and learning about culture (with an emphasis on the Aboriginal culture in local schools).

8. A community service sector that works together, cooperatively and collaboratively supporting residents through:

- ✓ Reduced competition for resources;
- ✓ Clear understanding of each other's roles and services;
- ✓ Clear commitment to partnerships;
- ✓ Growing relationships leading to jointly delivered services;
- ✓ Charity models replaced by capacity driven ones; and,
- ✓ Integrated health and social service systems.

9. Government policies that reflect and represent the realities and expectations of the North End by:

- ✓ Recognition of realities through the offering of programs and policies that support rather than impede development; and,
- ✓ Regular discussions between policy makers, residents and community organizations on matters of policy.

C. SETTING PRIORITIES

While it is recognized that each of these nine (9) areas is important to the development of the North End, it is also recognized that not all areas can receive the same level of attention.

Therefore, we ask that you let us know where you see NECRC and its community partners should be putting their energy and resources into over the next five years. These priorities will form the basis for a strategic plan for NECRC and help form its annual work plans for the next five years.