

**10<sup>TH</sup>**  
ANNIVERSARY



**Neighbourhoods Alive!**

Report to the  
Community



.....  
**Manitoba** 

# Revitalizing Communities



## Message from the Minister

The 10th anniversary of Neighbourhoods Alive! is an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the efforts and accomplishments of the many community members and organizations that have invested countless hours in improving life in communities. Since the inception of Neighbourhoods Alive!, government has championed the importance of local citizens taking the initiative to revitalize their communities and neighbourhoods.

Neighbourhoods Alive! has been successful as a long-term, community-based neighbourhood revitalization strategy for neighbourhoods and communities in Winnipeg, Brandon, Thompson, Flin Flon, Dauphin, Portage, Selkirk and The Pas. Partnerships in communities between residents, organizations, local businesses and other stakeholders have created change in priority areas such as resident engagement and leadership, safety, housing, arts and culture, youth resources, community economic development, and quality of life.

As of March 31, 2010, the government of Manitoba had committed more than \$60.3 million through nine funding programs that support community revitalization. These commitments make us realize that healthy communities are built by investing in the people and families who live in the cities and towns throughout our province.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerri Irvin-Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Minister Kerri Irvin-Ross

# Manitoba Residents Breathe New Life into Communities

## A Decade of Change

### 10-year anniversary reflects positive change

Since 2000, the Manitoba government, through its Neighbourhoods Alive! program, has worked directly with communities looking to improve conditions in their neighbourhoods. Over the past 10 years, Neighbourhoods Alive! has made it possible for residents, volunteers and local organizations across the province to make a variety of improvements and bring new life to their neighbourhoods. Neighbourhoods Alive! was created by the government to demonstrate the importance of local residents being involved in projects to improve their communities. We are all working together to achieve a better quality of life.

The past decade has seen Neighbourhoods Alive! grow from five to 13 communities. Seven of these are located across Manitoba: Thompson, Brandon, Flin Flon, The Pas, Portage la Prairie, Selkirk and Dauphin. Six of these communities are in Winnipeg: Spence, West Broadway, North End, Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews, Central Neighbourhoods and Elmwood.

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

## Neighbourhoods Alive! builds on neighbourhood strengths

Neighbourhoods Alive! recognizes that because each neighbourhood has its own strengths and its own set of priorities, successful community renewal will look different in each neighbourhood. The best ideas for neighbourhood renewal come from the community.

Neighbourhoods Alive! builds on the strengths of the community, helping to improve community health, safety and stability. Neighbourhoods are physically transformed through housing improvements and greening projects. Recreational, cultural and arts programs are created to offer young people positive alternatives for their free time. Revitalized public spaces provide opportunities for residents to get together, which helps strengthen community relationships and pride.

## Communities celebrate achievements

This report highlights some significant contributions Neighbourhoods Alive! has made to the neighbourhoods, homes and lives of Manitoba citizens in these communities since 2000. The 10-year anniversary offers neighbourhoods and communities a chance to reflect on the positive steps taken, celebrate their hard work and achievements, and look to the future with renewed energy and purpose.



## Revitalizing communities through a number of programs

**Neighbourhood Renewal Fund** assists neighbourhood organizations in strengthening local capacity through community projects that respond to identified priorities in designated neighbourhoods. Since 2000, more than **\$20.2** million has been committed to support 639 community-led revitalization initiatives in Manitoba.

**Neighbourhood Development Assistance** provides core operating funding to 12 Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, to support their coordination of local revitalization efforts in the designated neighbourhoods. Since 2000, over **\$9.6** million has been committed to support the establishment and ongoing operation of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations in communities across Manitoba.

**Neighbourhood Housing Assistance** provides funding to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, non-profit community housing corporations and private landlords/developers to renovate, rehabilitate or construct new housing units and promote homeownership. To date, Neighbourhood Housing Assistance has contributed over **\$16.4** million to the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 1,950 housing units in Neighbourhood Alive! designated communities. This does not include properties that have received financial assistance through the exterior fix-up programs administered by the Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations.

**Community Initiatives** supports a range of projects that strengthen community health and resiliency broadly in the inner city of Winnipeg. Since 2000, over **\$2.9** million has been committed to 90 inner-city projects in Winnipeg.

**Lighthouses** Program helps reduce youth crime by working with community partners to offer young people constructive, alternative recreation outlets. Since 2000, more than **\$4.0** million has been committed to establish over 55 Lighthouses across the province.

**Training Initiatives** provides individuals in designated communities with skills and access to new career opportunities in areas of labour market demand. Since 2000, over **\$5.4** million has been committed to provide more than 523 graduates with training.

**Community Youth Recreation** provides support for increased recreational opportunities for youth in urban centres outside of Winnipeg. Since 2008/09, **\$183,703** has been committed to 16 projects across seven communities.

**Urban Art Centres** supports community-based non-profit groups providing arts-based programming to high needs populations across the province. Since 2000, the Urban Art Centres has committed over **\$1.2** million and is currently supporting seven community organizations: Art City, Graffiti Arts Programming, West End Cultural Centre, Ndinawe, Osborne Village Cultural Centre and Red Road Lodge.

**School Resource Officers** works with students, staff and parents to address crime and safety concerns and provides a range of legal services. Since 2007/08, Neighbourhood Alive! has committed **\$284,484** for two projects under the School Resource Officers program. Previously, Neighbourhood Alive! supported two additional School Resource Officers projects through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. In total, Neighbourhood Alive! supports the deployment of eight community constables in Winnipeg neighbourhoods.

# Neighbourhood Development Assistance

## Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation - City United

Through targeted support from programs like the Neighbourhood Development Assistance and with municipal co-operation, Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation has developed long-term goals to promote community safety and pride, affordable housing, and cultural acceptance.

### Thompson Before and After

**Before:** A network of overgrown, unlit and underutilized pedestrian corridors crisscrossed the city. Residents felt that they were dark and dangerous.

**After:** The corridors are in frequent use with proper lighting and cleared underbrush.

**Before:** The city experienced an economic boom. It led to a housing shortage, leaving many low income families displaced, with no hope.

**After:** A community-led housing model called Our Home Kikinaw based on Winnipeg's Habitat for Humanity, created a community option. The city provided land, the community bought in and one house is being built in the fall of 2010 with a second to follow in the spring of 2011.

**Before:** A disconnect existed between municipal and community development activities.

**After:** The Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and the City of Thompson signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Each will pledge to work together to achieve affordable accessible housing, public safety and cultural acceptance. The result is successful collaboration and a commitment to future partnerships.

## Spence Neighbourhood Association - Neighbourhood transformed

Ten years ago, Spence neighbourhood residents reported the community was struggling – physically, socially and economically. A decade later, thanks to the continued investment of resources, including the Neighbourhood Development Assistance contribution to Spence Neighbourhood Association, the neighbourhood has been transformed into a vibrant, attractive, welcoming community.

## Spence Neighbourhood Before and After

**Before:** The neighbourhood was home to more than 50 boarded up houses.

**After:** The number of boarded up houses has been reduced by 65 per cent and of those remaining, 11 have plans for action. Overall, Spence Neighbourhood Association and partners have renovated or built 106 houses for homeownership and 125 units of rental housing.

**Before:** There were many empty lots overgrown with weeds – community eyesores.

**After:** Three lots are now mini-parks and eight are community gardens. Others were used for development of new houses.



**Before:** Residents felt isolated. They were afraid to answer the door and rarely talked to neighbours. Many wanted to move out of the neighbourhood.

**After:** People now choose to move to, and stay, in Spence neighbourhood. There are currently 360 active volunteers engaged in renewal activities through Spence Neighbourhood Association. Community meetings are now regularly filled with people actively involved in revitalizing their community. On average, four community events occur a month in addition to regular programming activities. The Spence Neighbourhood Association has become a well-known and vital resource in the community.

The goal of **Neighbourhood Development Assistance**, is to provide funding to support the setup and operation of Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, which are run by local residents to help advance community economic development activities.

Neighbourhood Development Assistance provides core funding to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations since:

## **2000**

- Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- North End Community Renewal Corporation (Winnipeg)

- Spence Neighbourhood Association (Winnipeg)
- West Broadway Development Corporation (Winnipeg)

## **2007**

- Central Neighbourhoods Development Corporation (Winnipeg)

## **2008**

- Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association (Winnipeg)
- Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation

## **2009**

- Selkirk Community Renewal Corporation
- The Pas Community Renewal Corporation
- Dauphin Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Flin Flon Neighbourhood Revitalization Corporation

## **North End Community Renewal Corporation - Creating Food Security Network**

Food security is important to community. Margo Malabar is the co-ordinator of the North End Food Security Network, established by the North End Community Renewal Corporation. Since receiving support for the project, she has seen great interest and involvement from the community. Many have participated in the variety of food security initiatives. "Community kitchens, Stone Soup Mondays, teen cooking classes, a community cupboard, food handlers' certification classes and food security workshops on traditional and medicinal plants, are just a few of these."

*" What I am hearing from many people is that the community wants to see change. The food security movement is seen as a way that the community can empower itself to be part of a change in a narrow and broader sense. . . Food security initiatives such as collective kitchens, community gardens and pre-employment training, that create community development and social enterprise, create a sense of dignity and self worth, and allow people the freedom to begin to dream and move into a healthier tomorrow."*

One of the newest projects in partnership with the North End Food Security Network, is the summer farmer's market which runs every Friday at 1085 Main Street. The market provides an opportunity for residents and their families to connect with local farmers, purchase local goods and sell their produce and baking.

The North End Food Security Network has received funding through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund since 2009/2010. The **Neighbourhood Renewal Fund** helps neighbourhood organizations carry out community-led projects that encourage residents to be involved in revitalizing their communities. Since 2000, Neighbourhood Alive! has committed over \$20.2 million to hundreds of locally planned and supported projects that increase the physical, social, economic and environmental health of designated communities.



# Community Initiatives

## Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre - Positive Athletic Cultural Experience Program - Is all about balance

Every Thursday evening, Nick and Brady get together with youth from three other inner-city neighbourhoods for a floor hockey tournament. Nick and Brady both participate in the Positive Athletic Cultural Experience program, which Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre operates out of four communities in Winnipeg: Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Turtle Island Community Centre, Weston Community Centre and Win Gardener Place. The Positive Athletic Cultural Experience has received funding annually through Community Initiatives since 2002.

*"If it wasn't for the Positive Athletic Cultural Experience hockey tournaments, I wouldn't have as many friends as I do now," says Nick. "It taught me how to interact with other youth and how to deal with problems like fighting. I think that the Positive Athletic Cultural Experience hockey program is good because it keeps me out of the streets."*



*Back row (left): Josh St. Germain, Brady Rondeau, Brennon Green, Gaylene Butler, Terrance Bushie, William Smith, Dustin Leach, Kyle Williams, Brandon Barron.*

*Second row (left): Eugene Monkman, Noah Daly, Uselva Abdolla, Peter James, Morris James, Chad Kakegumick.*

*Front row (left): Nathan Ostamus, Nico Fiddler.*

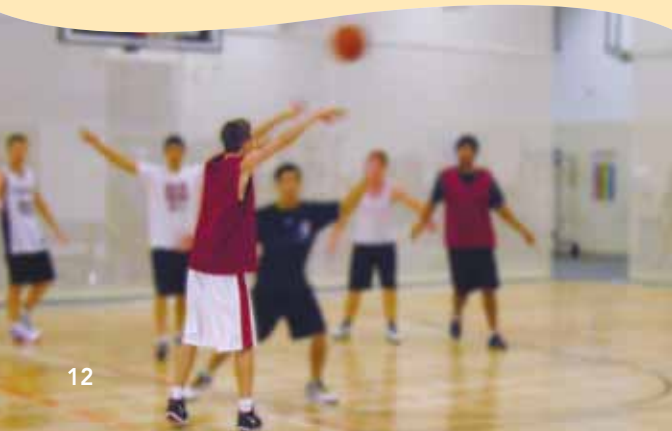
The Positive Athletic Cultural Experience programs incorporate the teachings of the medicine wheel and stress the importance of balance in all areas of life: physical, emotional, cultural and spiritual. The Positive Athletic Cultural Experience provides sport, recreation and cultural activities for children and youth aged six to 17. Every year, approximately 8,000 young people participate in Positive Athletic Cultural Experience.

**Community Initiatives** supports projects that have a broad impact on Winnipeg's inner-city. It funds a range of activities and projects that advance economic development, increase safety and prevent crime, reduce at-risk behaviour, contribute to better health practices, strengthen tenant-landlord relationships and improve co-ordination and co-operation.

## Community Youth Recreation

**Kelsey Recreation Commission - After School Programming does more than sport**

Matthew is a teenager living in The Pas. "If you're a big sports fan like me," he says, "you're always looking for a new place, team



or community to play the sport you love. In a smaller town, that's not exactly easy to find."

That's why Matthew is so glad to have the After School Programming in his community. Offered by Kelsey Recreation Commission, the program is free and open to all youth aged 14 and 18.

"There's no pressure," says Matthew. "Whether you want to come every day, once a week, or whenever your favourite sport's being played, it doesn't matter. Sometimes we decide on which game to play once we get there. Other times, the sport is set on a certain day. The most popular games we usually end up playing are either floor hockey or basketball."

The After School Programming uses Facebook and other social media to attract youth in The Pas.

"If you want to get in shape, learn a game, practise a sport, or just have fun," says Matthew, "the Wellness Centre gives you a safe environment to do it in. The After School Programming does more than just sport. For a program that hasn't been running for a very long time, it is doing everything right!"



The After School Programming has been supported by the Community Youth Recreation. Community Youth Recreation was established in 2008 and provides funding to support additional recreation programs in Neighbourhoods Alive! communities outside Winnipeg. Community Youth Recreation increases the number of activities offered and the access to these activities for at-risk youth.

## **Daniel McIntyre/ St. Matthews Community Association - Exterior housing fix-up grants a success!**

When Kumari, her daughters, Nisa and Divyani, and their cousin, Thiwanka moved to Winnipeg from Sri Lanka in 2004, they bought a house in the Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews area. They had long been wanting a fence because people were always walking through their yard. They knew, too, that a fence would provide greater safety for the children and improve the look of the overall yard.



One day, Kumari and Nisa noticed a flyer in the neighbourhood. It said that a group was being formed to help residents upgrade their houses and clean up the streets. Subsequently, Kumari and her family were able to get a grant to build a fence and improve their new home.

This fence was one of many projects funded by the Exterior Housing Fix-Up Grants in the Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews community.

The grants, distributed by the Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association had an immediate and significant impact on the neighbourhood. Local residents report that the grants have been used for painting, repairing, and building exterior features. The ongoing renovations have had tremendous success at bringing community members together, helping homeowners and physically transforming neighbourhoods, one house at a time.

These grants are part of Neighbourhood Housing Assistance that operates in 12 communities, providing opportunities for local homeowners to visibly improve their homes and communities.

Each neighbourhood has its own way of distributing grants that reflect that community's local priorities. Many neighbourhoods also offer residents opportunities to gain new skills through homeownership workshops.





### **Neighbourhood Housing Assistance**

helps revitalize housing in designated neighbourhoods that are considered to be in decline. The program provides funding to Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations, non-profit community housing corporations and private landlords/developers to renovate, rehabilitate or construct new housing units and promote homeownership.



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