

Sustainable Development Innovations Fund
Fonds des innovations de développement durable
Manitoba

Annual Report
2013-2014

Rapport annuel
2013-2014

Manitoba 

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**MINISTER OF
CONSERVATION AND WATER STEWARDSHIP**

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

The Honourable Philip S. Lee, C.M., O.M.
Lieutenant Governor of Manitoba
Government House
Winnipeg MB R3C 1S4

Your Honour:

I am pleased to present you with the Annual Report for the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund for the period of April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

"Original signed by"

Gord Mackintosh
Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship





**Conservation and Water Stewardship
Deputy Minister**
Room 332 Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3C 0V8

The Honourable Gord Mackintosh
Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship
330 Legislative Building
Winnipeg MB R3C 0V8

Dear Minister:

I am pleased to present the Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) for the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Mandated under *The Sustainable Development Act*, the Fund's purpose is to contribute to Manitoba's environmental sustainability, while considering the economy, human health and social well-being. The Fund achieves its purpose through targeted funding initiatives and programs, implemented through and application of proposal process.

During 2013-2014, the SDIF provided grant funding for innovative projects and supported other significant initiatives that contributed to the province's environmental sustainability.

The Fund continues to support Manitoba communities, which benefit from research and studies, educational initiatives, technology development and application, environmental improvements, and resource conservation and protection.

Respectfully submitted,

"Original signed by"

Grant Doak
Deputy Minister



TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
PREFACE	2
PRÉFACE	4
TARGETED FUNDING INITIATIVES:	8
- MANITOBA CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FUND (MCCAF)	9
- WASTE REDUCTION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION (WRAPP) FUND	10
DEPARTMENTAL AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES:	
- AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM	14
- BEAR SMART INITIATIVE	16
- WOODLOT/PRIVATE LAND RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM	18
APPENDIX I FIVE YEAR PROJECT SUMMARY	20

PREFACE

Organization of Report

The format of the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) 2013-14 Annual Report is similar to previous Annual Reports in that funded projects are presented by category and program areas.

Purpose

In 1989, the provincial government created the Environmental Innovations Fund under *The Environment Act*. The Environmental Innovations Fund was repealed from *The Environment Act* in 1992/93 and the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund (SDIF) was established under Section 17(1) of *The Sustainable Development Act*, which came into force on July 1, 1998.

As stated in *The Sustainable Development Act*, the purpose of the Fund, is to “provide grants in support of innovative projects, activities, research and developments that further the sustainability of Manitoba’s economy, environment, human health and social well-being and support environmentally sustainable economic growth; and support any other sustainable development innovation purpose that the Lieutenant Governor in Council considers necessary or advisable”.

The goal of the SDIF is to contribute to Manitoba’s environmental sustainability. This approach indirectly takes into account the economy, human health and social well-being. The SDIF achieves its purpose through targeted funding initiatives and programs, implemented through an application or proposal process. These designated programs align with Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship priorities, as well as other government initiatives. The SDIF supports Manitoba based projects or projects that will be of benefit to Manitoba and contribute to meeting the objectives of the SDIF:

1. To support and promote innovation in the environmental and sustainable development industries.
2. To encourage environmentally sound decisions and actions.
3. To promote research and demonstration of new initiatives not addressed by existing programs.
4. To stimulate economic development and diversification that will improve the quality of life, and strengthen community identity, throughout Manitoba.
5. To demonstrate new approaches to prevent waste and pollution, and conserve resources.
6. To support activities that may benefit both the global and local environment.

The SDIF’s funding initiatives and departmental and government strategic priorities contribute towards the protection, enhancement, conservation, or rehabilitation of Manitoba’s environment. Funding support is provided for the development, implementation and promotion of innovative environmentally sustainable projects delivered by local government and provincial government departments, business and industry, community and youth groups, Aboriginal organizations, First Nation communities and educational institutions. Programs help address various environmental issues, including:

- waste reduction and prevention;
- climate change;
- aquatic invasive species prevention, and
- natural resource conservation.

Source of Revenue

The amount appropriated to the SDIF through the annual Estimates process is notionally linked to the anticipated revenues derived from Environmental Protection Taxes (EPT) on alcohol beverage containers and from the Provincial Sales Tax (PST) on Environmental Handling Charges (EHC) for stewarded products.

Process and Fund Management

The Environmental Programs and Strategies Branch, in partnership with the Comptrollership, Grant Accountability and Contract Review Branch, of Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship provides overall administrative support to the Fund, including responding to inquiries and reporting.

Environmental Programs and Strategies manages the Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund and the Manitoba Climate Change and Action Fund (MCCAF). The Aquatic Invasive Species Program and the Bear Smart Initiative are managed by the Water Stewardship Division and the Wildlife Branch of the Department, respectively, while the Woodlot/Private Land Resource Planning Program is managed by the Manitoba Forestry Association.

The Minister has delegated approval authority for projects or initiatives receiving funding of \$25,000 or less. Projects to be awarded funding in excess of \$25,000 are subject to Treasury Board approval.

Manitobans are major beneficiaries of the SDIF with the intended direct impact of the funded projects being on the natural environment. By supporting environmentally sound and sustainable practices, the SDIF facilitates behavioural changes of individuals, households, businesses and institutions.

HIGHLIGHTS

The SDIF supported projects and programs under the following categories:

1. Targeted Funding Initiatives

- Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF)
- Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund

2. Departmental and Government Strategic Priorities

- Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- Bear Smart Initiative
- Private Land Resource Planning Program
- Sustainability Initiatives
- Special Initiatives

Approximately \$3.4 million was expended under the SDIF. Under the Targeted Funding Initiatives, nine projects were awarded grant funding, expending \$394,000.00. Projects funded under this category included key initiatives that continue to deliver “Beyond Kyoto” action items on climate change, and waste reduction and pollution prevention activities.

A summary of expenditures under the Fund’s Targeted Funding Initiatives and Departmental and Government Strategic Priorities is presented on the following pages.

PRÉFACE

Structure du rapport

La structure du rapport annuel 2013/14 du Fonds des innovations de développement durable est semblable à celle des rapports précédents : les projets financés sont présentés par domaine de programmes et par catégorie d'attribution.

Objet

En 1989, le gouvernement provincial a créé le Fonds des innovations environnementales en vertu de la *Loi sur l'environnement*. Après la révocation des dispositions de la *Loi* s'y rapportant en 1992/93, on a créé le nouveau Fonds des innovations de développement durable en vertu du paragraphe 17(1) de la *Loi sur le développement durable*, qui est entrée en vigueur le 1^{er} juillet 1998.

Tel qu'énoncé dans la *Loi sur le développement durable*, le Fonds a pour objectif « de verser des subventions à l'appui de projets, d'activités, de programmes de recherche et de développement innovateurs qui améliorent le caractère durable de l'économie, de l'environnement, de la santé et du bien-être social au Manitoba et encouragent une croissance économique respectueuse de l'environnement; et de favoriser tout autre objectif en matière de développement durable innovateur que le lieutenant-gouverneur en conseil juge approprié ».

Le but du Fonds est de contribuer à la viabilité de l'environnement du Manitoba. Cette approche prend indirectement en compte l'économie, la santé et le mieux-être social. Le Fonds atteint son but au moyen d'initiatives et de programmes de financement ciblés, auxquels on peut accéder au moyen d'un processus de demande ou de proposition. Ces programmes désignés sont conformes aux priorités de Conservation et Gestion des ressources hydriques Manitoba, ainsi qu'à d'autres initiatives du gouvernement. Le Fonds soutient les projets mis en œuvre au Manitoba, ou les projets qui sont à l'avantage de la province et qui contribuent à remplir les objectifs du Fonds suivants :

1. appuyer et promouvoir l'innovation dans les secteurs de l'environnement et du développement durable;
2. encourager des prises de décision et l'adoption de mesures respectueuses de l'environnement;
3. promouvoir la recherche et la mise à l'essai de nouvelles initiatives ne faisant pas partie des programmes existants;
4. favoriser le développement et la diversification de l'économie afin d'améliorer la qualité de vie et de renforcer notre identité collective partout au Manitoba;
5. adopter de nouveaux moyens d'éviter le gaspillage et la pollution et de conserver les ressources;
6. soutenir les activités pouvant être avantageuses pour l'environnement à l'échelle mondiale et locale.

Les initiatives de financement du Fonds et les priorités stratégiques du ministère et du gouvernement contribuent à la protection, à l'amélioration, à la conservation et à la remise en état de l'environnement au Manitoba. Un soutien financier est accordé pour l'élaboration, la mise en œuvre et la promotion de projets novateurs et écologiquement viables menés par les administrations municipales, les ministères du gouvernement provincial, les entreprises et l'industrie, les groupes communautaires et les groupes de jeunes, les organismes autochtones, les collectivités des Premières Nations et les établissements d'enseignement. Les programmes contribuent au règlement de diverses questions dans le domaine de l'environnement, y compris :

- la réduction et la prévention des déchets;
- le changement climatique;
- la prévention des espèces aquatiques envahissantes;
- la conservation des ressources naturelles.

Sources de revenus

Le montant revenant au FIDD établi dans les prévisions budgétaires annuelles est lié en théorie aux recettes prévues tirées des taxes destinées à la protection de l'environnement imposées sur les contenants de boissons alcoolisées, et de la taxe de vente provinciale sur les droits environnementaux de manutention des produits gérés.

Processus et gestion du Fonds

Relevant du ministère de la Conservation et de la Gestion des ressources hydriques, la Direction des stratégies et des programmes environnementaux, en collaboration avec la Direction du contrôle financier, de la gestion des subventions et de l'examen des contrats, fournit un soutien administratif général au Fonds, notamment en répondant aux demandes et en présentant des rapports.

La Direction des stratégies et des programmes environnementaux gère le Fonds pour la réduction du volume des déchets et la prévention de la pollution et le Fonds d'action sur le changement climatique du Manitoba. Le Programme de lutte contre les espèces aquatiques envahissantes et l'initiative Gare aux ours sont gérés par la Division de la gestion des ressources hydriques et par la Direction de la faune respectivement, tandis que le Programme de planification des ressources de terrains privés et des boisés est géré par la Manitoba Forestry Association.

Le ministre a reçu le pouvoir d'approuver les projets ou les initiatives bénéficiant d'un financement maximal de 25 000 \$. Les projets devant recevoir plus de 25 000 \$ doivent être approuvés par le Conseil du Trésor.

Les Manitobains et les Manitobaines sont les principaux bénéficiaires du Fonds, qui veille à ce que les projets financés aient un impact direct sur le milieu naturel. En appuyant des pratiques respectueuses de l'environnement ayant un effet durable, le Fonds favorise des changements de comportement, aussi bien au niveau des personnes que des ménages, des entreprises et des établissements.

FAITS SAILLANTS

Le Fonds a appuyé des projets et des programmes dans les catégories suivantes :

1. Initiatives de financement ciblées

- Fonds d'action sur le changement climatique du Manitoba
- Fonds pour la réduction du volume et de la production des déchets

2. Priorités stratégiques du ministère et du gouvernement

- Programme de lutte contre les espèces aquatiques envahissantes
- Initiative Gare aux ours
- Programme de planification des ressources des terrains privés
- Initiatives de développement durable
- Initiatives spéciales

Environ 3,4 millions de dollars ont été dépensés au titre du Fonds des innovations de développement durable. Neuf projets ont reçu une subvention dans le cadre des initiatives de financement ciblées. Le total dépensé est de 394 000 \$. Les projets financés dans cette catégorie comprennent des initiatives clés visant le changement climatique qui assurent le suivi du plan d'action « Au-delà de Kyoto » et des activités de réduction des déchets et de prévention de la pollution.

Les pages suivantes présentent un résumé des dépenses dans le cadre des initiatives de financement ciblées du Fonds et des priorités stratégiques du ministère et du gouvernement.

TARGETED FUNDING INITIATIVES

Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund:

A total of \$200,000.00 was expended for two key initiatives under the following priority areas: education and outreach, impacts and adaptation, and sustainable transportation.

Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention Fund:

A total of \$194,000.00 was expended for seven projects. A total of \$59,000.00 was recovered from Green Manitoba, Waste Reduction and Recycling Support (WRARS) Program to support additional projects. Priority areas include organic waste management and composting; construction and demolition (C&D) waste management; education and information; model integrated waste management system development and planning; regional recycling and waste reduction; and pollution prevention.

DEPARTMENTAL AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Aquatic Invasive Species Program:

A total of \$30,157.35 was expended to support the Aquatic Invasive Species Program, whose primary goal is to slow and/or prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS), including zebra mussels, in Manitoba.

Bear Smart Initiative:

A total of \$16,995.43 was expended to support the Bear Smart Initiative in Manitoba, whose primary goal is to prevent human-bear conflicts.

Private Land Resource Planning Program:

A total of \$170,000.00 was expended to support the Manitoba Forestry Association's Woodlot/Private Land Resource Planning Program, whose primary goal is to encourage private landowners in Manitoba to use Agro-forestry and woodlot management practices to diversify farm income and maintain wildlife habitat.

Sustainability Initiatives:

A total of \$2,410,000.00 was expended and recovered by Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship to support departmental commitments, including the International Institute for Sustainable Development, to continue the promotion and integration of the principles and practices of sustainable development within and between the public, private, and voluntary sectors on a national and international basis, and Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation, to provide operating funds for the delivery of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan in Manitoba. Additional information on these initiatives is available in the 2013/14 annual report for Conservation and Water Stewardship.

Special Initiatives:

A total of \$437,555.42 was expended for the Newspaper Recycling Agreement which supports the newspaper industry stewardship obligations to Multi-Material Stewardship Manitoba (MMSM) for packaging and printed paper, in line with a 1993 government commitment.

Table 1: Summary of SDIF Supported Projects and Programs

Project Categories	Number of Projects Allocated Funding in 2013/14	Amount Expended
1. Targeted Funding Initiatives		
Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF)	2	\$200,000.00
Waste Reduction and Pollution Prevention (WRAPP) Fund - Amount recovered from Green Manitoba, WRARS Program	7	\$194,000.00 (\$59,000.00)
Total	9	\$335,000.00
2. Departmental and Government Strategic Priorities		
Aquatic Invasive Species Program		\$30,157.35
Bear Smart Initiative		\$16,995.43
Private Land Resource Planning Program		\$170,000.00
Sustainability Initiatives		\$2,410,000.00
Special Initiatives: - Newspaper Recycling Agreement		\$437,555.42
Total		\$3,064,708.20
Grand Total for SDIF		\$3,399,708.20

TARGETED FUNDING INITIATIVES

DETAILED LISTING OF PROJECTS ALLOCATED

FUNDING DURING THE 2013/14 FISCAL YEAR

MANITOBA CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION FUND

Administering Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Date Approved: 2013/14 Estimates
Total Amount Expended: \$200,000.00

The Manitoba Climate Change Action Fund (MCCAF) continued to support initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in targeted sectors consistent with the goals outlined in *Tomorrow Now*, Manitoba's Green Plan for protecting the environment while ensuring a prosperous and environmentally conscious economy. Annual funding support was provided to two key initiatives under priority areas of education and outreach and impacts and adaptation.

Brief descriptions of the initiatives supported under the MCCAF are as follows:

CLIMATE CHANGE CONNECTION

Proponent: Manitoba Eco-Network Inc.
Priority Area: Education and Outreach
Total Amount Approved: \$100,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$100,000.00

An annual grant of \$100,000.00 was approved to continue with Manitoba's climate change public education and outreach hub, the Climate Change Connection. The vision is to ensure Manitobans are aware of climate change facts related to Manitoba and to reduce greenhouse (GHG) emissions, both individually and as a community. Climate Change Connection acts as a clearinghouse of information, coordinates outreach, builds awareness and promotes individual and community actions to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promotes changes necessary to live more sustainable and climate-friendly lifestyles. Areas most likely to be impacted by climate change and sectors with significant contributions to GHG emissions in Manitoba will continue to be targeted.

Climate Change Connection will continue to build a partner network and public awareness through the collection and dissemination of information on causes and effects of climate change, GHG sources, host workshops and participate in speaking engagements; and encourage active involvement through the creation or support of organized activities that get Manitobans working together to reduce GHG emissions. The Climate Change Connection was established as part of a national network of hubs responsible for climate change education and outreach coordination.

GHG REDUCTIONS THROUGH SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION INITIATIVES

Proponent: Green Action Centre
Priority Area: Impacts and Adaptation
Total Amount Approved: \$100,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$100,000.00

An annual grant of \$100,000.00 was approved for the coordination and delivery of climate friendly transportation initiatives related to active transportation and green driving public education and outreach. In light of the critical importance of the transportation sector as a source of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Manitoba, the Green Action Centre will continue to undertake and implement strategic GHG reduction initiatives, including: the Year-Round Commuter Challenge Campaign, the Workplace Commuter Challenge, and Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS).

WASTE REDUCTION AND POLLUTION PREVENTION (WRAPP) FUND

Administering Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship
Date Approved: 2013/14 Estimates
Total Amount Expended: \$194,000.00

The WRAPP Fund continued to be an integral program for supporting waste reduction and pollution prevention activities in Manitoba, as municipalities, businesses, communities and other organizations continued to seek alternative ways to manage waste materials and protect the environment.

The WRAPP Fund supported projects in the following areas: construction and demolition waste management; education and information; waste reduction services, model integrated waste management system development and planning; organic waste management and composting; and regional recycling; and waste reduction and pollution prevention.

An annual budget within the WRAPP Fund allocation supports administration costs, as well as activities related to the development and implementation of the branch's priority areas.

Total Allocation for 2013/14	
Applications Processed	20
Applications Approved under WRAPP	7
Total Amount for Grants Expended	\$194,000.00
Total Amount Recovered from Green Manitoba, WRARS Program	(\$59,000.00)
Total WRAPP Allocation Expended	\$135,000.00

Brief descriptions of the seven projects supported under the WRAPP Fund are as follows:

EDUCATION AND INFORMATION

WASTE REDUCTION IN MANITOBA THROUGH MENU PLANNING, REDUCED PACKAGING AND COMMUNITY FOOD SKILLS

Proponent: Food Matters Manitoba
Date Approved: September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved: \$20,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$20,000.00

A grant of \$20,000.00 was approved to host a series of community-based food-skill workshops to minimize food waste and partner with Green Action Centre to promote backyard composting. The food-skill workshops will demonstrate different approaches to reduce food waste and will focus on topics such as composting, menu planning, and environmental awareness. Low-income families and youth will be provided with gardening kits to teach them how to grow and compost their own food. By gaining this knowledge, participating families will be able to reduce the amount of food waste produced, decrease the packaging used, and divert kitchen food waste from landfill to household or neighbourhood composting facilities.

WASTE REDUCTION SERVICES

Proponent:	Green Action Centre
Date Approved:	July 25, 2012
Total Amount Approved:	\$300,000.00
Total Amount Expended:	\$100,000.00

An annual grant of \$100,000.00 was approved over three fiscal years to support Waste Reduction Services, including Environmental Information Services (EIS), the Compost Action Project, Environmental Speakers Bureau (ESB), and the coordination and promotion of Waste Reduction Week (WRW). Support to the Green Action Centre assists in the maintenance of core services, such as research, resource material development, and volunteer coordination for various projects and services. The Compost Action Project focuses on education, consultation, referral, training and the provision of resources that target residential, as well as institutional and commercial organic wastes, and those who either produce or manage these streams of organics. The ESB provides environmental education support for schools on sustainability issues which include educational materials and classroom presentations on waste minimization and pollution prevention, water conservation, climate change, energy, and other related topics. WRW promotes waste reduction activities throughout Manitoban communities, businesses and schools. As the organizing agency in Manitoba, the Green Action Centre coordinates the flow of information and materials between the national Waste Reduction program and Manitoba participants, and distributes waste reduction information to schools, municipalities, and businesses in Manitoba.

MODEL INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING

ALTONA WASTE DISPOSAL GROUNDS WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

Proponent:	Town of Altona
Date Approved:	September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved:	\$25,000.00
Total Amount Expended:	\$25,000.00

A grant of \$25,000.00 was approved to support the Town of Altona and its municipal partners, the Rural Municipality of Rhineland and the Town of Gretna to maximize the diversion of waste from its shared landfill with the installation of a weigh scale. This initiative is part of a five-year plan to upgrade waste disposal ground (WDG) operations to meet provincial Class 1 WDG requirements. The scale installation is the first step in an improvement plan that will potentially reduce overall waste going to landfill and will assist with the implementation and monitoring of programs promoting consumer/public awareness of waste reduction, recycling and reuse. In conjunction with implementing landfill tipping rates specific to waste type, the scale will aid in streaming waste into the site or divert waste to a more appropriate location or purpose (i.e. recycle or reuse). In addition, a scale software package will be used to provide a realistic measure of the landfill capacity, accurately calculate the WRARS levy, and measure the effectiveness of the municipal partners' waste reduction programs.

HERB LAKE LANDING RECYCLING PROGRAM

Proponent: Herb Lake Landing Community
Date Approved: September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved: \$9,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$9,000.00

A grant of \$9,000.00 was approved to divert waste from landfill with the implementation of a community recycling program. A mobile recycling trailer with recycling bins will be established at a convenient and accessible location for residents. Currently, residents have been transporting their own recycling materials to a recycling facility approximately 55 km away. The trailer will be used to collect and transport recyclable materials from the community to a recycling depot in The Pas.

ORGANIC WASTE MANAGEMENT AND COMPOSTING

NORTH END COMPOSTING PROJECT

Proponent: The North End Community Renewal Corporation
Date Approved: September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved: \$10,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$10,000.00

A grant of \$10,000.00 was approved to raise awareness and encourage participation in organic waste diversion in the North End of Winnipeg. In partnership with Urban Eatin' Gardeners Worker Co-op, compost bins will be built from salvaged and re-purposed pallet wood and distributed to residents, community centres, and small businesses at no cost. Short tutorials on various aspects of composting, as well as community garden workshops, will be offered to local residents. Compost bins will be placed at as many resource and community centres as possible.

UNIVERSITY OF WINNIPEG WASTE STREAM BIN INFRASTRUCTURE UPGRADE

Proponent: University of Winnipeg, Campus Sustainability Office
Date Approved: September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved: \$25,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$25,000.00

A grant of \$25,000.00 was approved to improve the University's waste diversion bin infrastructure system and enhance its organic waste diversion program within the main campus buildings. The current bin infrastructure is hindering the University's ability to maximize the amount of institutional waste it collects and sends for recycling. Significant contamination has been occurring with post-consumer organic waste with materials that should either be recycled or sent to landfill. A new collection system for organics will assist in determining the viability of post-consumer compost collection in large institutions, serving as a case study for other large institutions seeking to implement a post-consumer composting program.

WAPANOHK COMMUNITY SUPPORTED GARDEN PROJECT

Proponent: Wapanohk Community School
Date Approved: September 18, 2013
Total Amount Approved: \$5,000.00
Total Amount Expended: \$5,000.00

A grant of \$5,000.00 was approved to engage the community to act as local stewards in creating a community green space and implementing a school wide composting program that will divert organic waste from the school's gardens, grounds, and from the school's breakfast and lunch programs. The initiative also aims to address the issue of food security in the community of Eastwood, Thompson, the city's neighbourhood with the largest concentration of low-income households.

DEPARTMENTAL AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2013/2014 FISCAL YEAR PROGRAM RESULTS

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM

Administering Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Fisheries Branch
Date Approved: 2013/14 Estimates
Total Amount Expended: \$30,157.35

Aquatic invasive species (AIS) can severely impact aquatic resources and can have significant economic costs to Manitoba. They can aggressively invade, alter aquatic habitats, and threaten native fish species and valuable recreational resources. Once established, these aquatic invaders cannot be eradicated so prevention is the best defense. There are huge financial costs associated with dealing with aquatic invasive species, such as Zebra and Quagga mussels once they establish in the province. According to the recently published Zebra and Quagga Mussel Risk Assessment conducted by Fisheries and Oceans Canada, all water bodies in Manitoba, except for the Winnipeg River system, are considered at high risk for colonization by these invasive mussels. The Winnipeg River system is considered a medium risk. It is expected zebra mussels will have similar economic and environmental impacts as in the Great Lakes region.

Manitoba is extremely vulnerable to invasion by AIS given the large number of watercraft transported into the province. From watercraft survey data, a high percentage of trailered watercraft entering Manitoba are coming from jurisdictions (mainly the U.S.) that have aquatic invasive species, such as Zebra and Quagga mussels, Asian Carp, and Eurasian Watermilfoil, that as of fall 2013, were not present in Manitoba.

In October 2013, a mussel brought in from a vessel docked at Winnipeg Beach Harbour was confirmed as a zebra mussel. This is the first occurrence of zebra mussels in Manitoba. A Rapid Response Protocol was quickly implemented which included the formation of a Science Advisory Committee. All other program efforts were re-focused on delineating the magnitude and range of the infestation; implementing containment measures as required; analyzing the results to assess available management options and increasing communication to the public and stakeholders.

Goal and Objectives:

The primary goal of the AIS program is to slow and/or prevent the introduction and spread of AIS in Manitoba. With the recent invasion of zebra mussel in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg, this program goal shifted to focus solely on assessing the risk and management options available to address the zebra mussel invasion and how best to contain the spread from Lake Winnipeg to other water bodies. These goals were achieved through the following objectives:

1. Educating, inspecting and surveying trailered watercraft and water-based gear users at high-traffic international border crossings, the Whiteshell Provincial Park and other popular recreational destinations for visitors and Manitobans through the Watercraft Inspection Program. The program promotes the clear message – “Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose” to try to prevent the spread of AIS in Manitoba.
2. Participating in a number of ongoing monitoring and outreach initiatives to stop or prevent the spread of AIS in Manitoba. For example, monitoring and routine sampling the Red River at Emerson, Manitoba to test for the presence of Zebra Mussels veligers, collect Spiny Waterflea

samples aboard the Namao, the research vessel on Lake Winnipeg, and conducting Rusty Crayfish monitoring in the Birch River, near Prawda and Falcon Lake.

3. Organizing, developing educational information, and providing presentations on AIS at public events, to stakeholder groups and angling tournaments, trade shows and conferences and in Manitoba's Provincial Parks throughout the year, as well as advertising in the Manitoba Angler's Guide and the Fishing and Hunting Guide.
4. Developing and distributing AIS material to key stakeholders and the general public.
5. Employing students under the STEP Employment Initiative as Watercraft Inspectors.
6. Implementing a Rapid Response Protocol which included the creation of a Science Advisory Committee to address the occurrence of Zebra Mussels in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg.

Program Results 2013/2014:

Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship continued with its AIS Inspection Program to inspect water-based equipment at popular recreational areas. 2013 marked the 13th consecutive and successful year conducting Canada's only Watercraft Inspection Program.

- A total of 176 watercraft were inspected at the Emerson Border and no decontamination was required, as no invasive species were found. Forty-eight percent of all boats entering Manitoba intended to launch in Manitoba waters.
- Surveyed watercraft users about their general knowledge of AIS, provincial regulations regarding the zero possession limits for crayfish, prohibited species, and proper steps to take when launching or leaving a boat launch to ensure they do not transport AIS.
- Distributed brochures outlining the steps boaters can take to prevent accidental introductions, floating key chain with the message "Stop Invasive Species," or angling card holder with tackle-box ID cards inside which highlight 10 invasive species of concern to Manitoba. Materials provide a toll free number to report an AIS sighting or to get more information about the AIS program.
- Continued 2012 efforts to delineate the range of Rusty Crayfish within the Birch River near Prawda; Rusty Crayfish were removed when captured as part of a reduction program.
- Created and printed the Zebra Mussel Fact Sheet to distribute to stakeholders and the general public. The fact sheet provides information on the species, the concern and promotes the Clean, Drain, Dry and Dispose measures that watercraft users can take to prevent the spread of Zebra Mussels to other water bodies.
- Determined the magnitude and extent of the Zebra Mussel infestation by physically checking infrastructure, dry docked boats, and shoreline at accessible sites from Gull Harbour on the west side of Lake Winnipeg to Seymourville on the east side of Lake Winnipeg. Collected and analysed veliger samples within and adjacent to a number of harbours in the south basin of Lake Winnipeg.

BEAR SMART INITIATIVE

Managing Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Wildlife Branch
Date Approved: 2013/14 Estimates
Total Amount Expended: \$16,995.43

The *Bear Smart* Initiative continued to support activities that focus on proactive prevention to reduce conflicts with black bears as most conflicts are preventable and arise from improperly stored food and other attractants. By practicing *Bear Smart* principles, bears are less likely to become food conditioned and human habituated, thereby enhancing public safety, reducing property damage and the frequency of human-black bear encounters.

As cottage and acreage development expands into bear habitat, the frequency and intensity of negative human-bear interactions is expected to increase. Black bears sometimes cause damage to apiaries, leafcutter bees, crops, livestock, and private property. On rare occasions, they may also be a threat to human safety in parks, campgrounds, cottage developments, rural sub-divisions, remote areas and even towns and cities. Minimizing conflict between humans and bears will result in fewer bears being destroyed needlessly.

An estimated 27,000 to 33,000 black bears live in Manitoba. The population continues to be stable in most non-agricultural areas. However, in some agro-fringe areas, the population is believed to have increased in recent times. The variability in human-bear conflict is largely influenced by the density and recruitment of bears in response to natural food availability, along with the level of bear presence and nuisance activity that the public is willing to tolerate.

In 2013/14, over 1,000 problem black bear occurrences were reported to Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship district offices. Preliminary results indicate approximately 21% of the occurrences were associated with recreational areas, 21% rural agricultural areas, and 56% rural residential areas. Rural residential areas may be an increasing source of complaints with urbanization in the agro-forest fringe areas, as well as more permanent residents in some provincial parks.

Be Bear Smart priorities include:

- enhancing education and awareness through public outreach programming, including highway, traffic and pedestrian signs, posters, booklets, brochures, advertisements, website and workshops;
- identifying effective strategies to encourage *Bear Smart* behavior over the long-term;
- showcasing positive outcomes to Manitoba communities, including the installation of necessary infrastructure for bear-proofing initiatives; and
- implementing bear-proofing initiatives in provincial parks and other high use recreational areas.

Program Results 2013/14

- Two magazine advertisements were published to remind people of ways to reduce bear-human conflicts during the summer and fall, the time of year when bears are preparing for hibernation.
- Promotional materials, such as booklets, pamphlets, magnets, tattoos, and aprons, were developed to assist in getting the *Bear Smart* message out to the public. The booklets were revised to include detailed information about the purchasing, storage and proper use of bear deterrent spray.
- Parks and Protected Spaces Branch interpretive staff continued to play an important role in the delivery of the *Bear Smart* message. *Bear Smart* presentations were delivered to 2,181 park visitors across Manitoba. Interpretive events focused on areas where the potential for conflicts with black bears are likely to occur and included: Birds Hill, Grand Beach, Whiteshell, Spruce

Woods and Hecla/Grindstone. Many of these events involved amphitheatre presentations, guided walks, family and school presentations and inspections in campgrounds at camp sites.

- The *Bear Smart* display was exhibited at the Brandon Royal Winter Fair, The Cottage Living Show in Winnipeg, the Intermountain Conservation District Water Festival in Ethelbert, and at Cabela's in Winnipeg, with approximately 5,000 individual contacts made.
- *Be Bear Smart* workshops and presentations were delivered to several educational institutions and at Manitoba Hydro's Keeyask field camp.
- *Be Bear Smart* activity booklets continued to be distributed throughout the province. The booklet is a very popular educational tool for all ages and children can remit the completed booklets to Parks and Protected Spaces Branch for various rewards. The booklet is also now available on the website to print.
- *Be Bear Smart* principles were previously incorporated in the Human-Black Bear Conflict Management Policy and Procedures, as well as the draft Wildlife-Human Attack Response Policy and Procedures and a broader *Be Wildlife Smart* campaign. These initiatives are intended to reduce the number of human-wildlife conflicts and wildlife species removed. This year, staff attendance at the Eastern Black Bear Workshop in Millinocket, Maine was facilitated through the *Bear Smart* Initiative to keep apprised of current trends in black bear population management, research and human-black bear conflict mitigation. This will help to ensure that Manitoba's policies and procedures incorporate the most recent scientific developments and knowledge.

WOODLOT/PRIVATE LAND RESOURCE PLANNING PROGRAM

Managing Department: Manitoba Conservation and Water Stewardship, Forestry Branch
Date Approved: 2013/14 Estimates
Total Amount Expended: \$170,000.00

Funding is allocated annually to the Manitoba Forestry Association (MFA) to administer the Woodlot/Private Land Resource Planning Program. In 2011, the program was redeveloped to include private land resource planning to meet the needs of landowners in its delivery area. The program was enhanced to address woodlot owner concerns, funding partner needs and consider new and emerging program areas. The new program is based on stakeholder input, assessment of other woodlot programs and woodlot management plans (WMPs) being offered across Canada and emerging trends related to forest certification, carbon accounting and ecological goods and services.

The Private Land Resource Planning (PLRP) Program promotes the wise management of private lands while meeting the needs of the landowners. The program focuses on preserving and/or enhancing natural biodiversity and assists landowners by promoting multi-land use benefits including harvesting, water quality, wildlife enhancement, tree planting (reforestation and afforestation), climate change (carbon sinks), and economic development, such as non-timber forest products, recreation and tourism.

PLRP is the provincial delivery mechanism ensuring that Manitoba's private land forest resource is managed sustainably. It seeks to change private landowner attitudes towards the need for active forest management, as ownership alone will not ensure long term forest ecosystem health. The new Resource Management Plan and delivery process allows PLRP to increase the number of actively managed woodlots, create a resource inventory on private land and increase the education and awareness of the importance of sustainable resource management. In conjunction with the delivery of resource management plans, PLRP will also focus on delivery of training and extension services.

Program Results 2013/14

Private Land Resource Planning (PLRP) Program delivered private land forest activities in three main areas: Resource Planning, Training and Extension; and Forestry Services in combination with professional development through staff training and workshop/conference attendance.

Resource Planning

- 2 Resource Management Plans
- 1 Harvest Plan
- 2 Timber Assessments
- 1 Tree Planting Plan

Training and Extension

- 5 Workshops
- Extension – response to inquiries regarding Forest health and pest inquiries, Business development, Market information, Tree Planting (species selection, site preparation, planting, maintenance etc), Trees for Tomorrow and Forest Management

Forestry Services

- 1 Forestry Services

Professional Development

- 16 Conferences/Workshops attended

Amazing Tree Quest

- Staff participated in and field verified nominated trees for the Amazing Tree Quest.

Heritage Trees

- administered and collected nominations for the Heritage Tree Program.
- worked to enhance the Heritage Tree Program, through amendment to *The Forest Health Protection Act*. The amendment allows the Minister of Conservation and Water Stewardship to designate Heritage Tree status. Any designated Heritage Tree on crown lands will be protected by the Province.

National Forest Week

- delivered seedlings to the Manitoba Legislature as a part of an annual tradition celebrating National Tree Day and National Forest Week.
- participated in free tree giveaways at the MFA office in celebration of National Forest Week.
- participated in tree planting coordination for Qualico Homes combined with youth education of tree planting and forestry basics.

**APPENDIX I -
Five Year Project Summary**

**Sustainable Development Innovations Fund
 Five Year Expenditure Summary (\$000)
 For years ending March 31, 2010-March 31, 2014**

APPROPRIATION	Actual/Adjusted Expenditures				
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14
Sustainable Development Innovations Fund	2,932.0	3,376.0	3,337.0	3,058.0	3,400.0
Total	2,932.0	3,376.0	3,337.0	3,058.0	3,400.0