



# MANITOBA'S NEIGHBOURHOODS ALIVE! INITIATIVE HELPS NEIGHBOURHOODS thrive

**NA!** projects have ranged from rehabilitating housing, enhancing neighbourhood parks and facilities and establishing safety and wellness initiatives, to training residents for employment opportunities and sponsoring after-school recreation programs for children and youth. An interdepartmental initiative, NA! works collaboratively with communities, not-for-profit organizations and the private sector to provide funding for a wide range of innovative projects.

Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs) are supported by NA! to spur local community involvement in revitalization efforts. With a membership that includes residents, business representatives, service providers and other stakeholders, the NRCs are responsible for developing five-year neighbourhood plans to guide revitalization efforts in their communities. Ongoing involvement at the grass-roots level has been central to these neighbourhoods achieving meaningful and lasting change.

## AS A RESULT...

The NA! initiative has helped the designated neighbourhoods make visible gains that have led to a growing sense of vitality among local residents and community organizations. Housing values and local investment in housing have increased dramatically in Winnipeg's inner city. Improvements to parks, play structures and housing stock have re-energized Brandon's core area for the benefit of its growing number of families. Thompson is enjoying enhanced recreation facilities thanks to partnerships between the local NRC and community schools and organizations.

But, in the end, it's not just improvement projects that make the difference. It's neighbours helping neighbours, taking ownership of their communities and working together for positive change. These are the real successes of the NA! initiative.



## Neighbourhoods Alive!

Financial Summary  
to March 31, 2005

### COMMITMENTS BY PROGRAM

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL FUND	\$ 7,995,319
NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE	\$ 2,503,205
COMMUNITY INITIATIVES	\$ 1,600,763
TRAINING INITIATIVES	\$ 2,972,035
NEIGHBOURHOOD HOUSING ASSISTANCE	\$ 9,943,358
LIGHTHOUSES	\$1,517,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$26,531,680</b>



### TO CONTACT NEIGHBOURHOODS ALIVE!

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## A Report to the Community

volume 2

# 5<sup>th</sup>

anniversary

## Beginning the journey

The provincial government launched Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) in June 2000 as its long-term social and economic strategy to support and encourage community-driven revitalization efforts in designated older neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. The idea was to help build healthy communities by providing local residents with the tools they need to make a difference in their own environments. It's been an exciting time for everyone involved in this initiative and the results have borne out the original vision.



AUSSI DISPONIBLE EN FRANÇAIS



Building for the Future

## Supporting community projects



The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) is designed to assist the physical renewal of community facilities, local economic development, safety and well-being, and personal and community capacity building. The fund supports a broad range of locally planned initiatives in designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg (West Broadway, Spence, William Whyte, Lord Selkirk Park and Point Douglas), Brandon (core area), and Thompson.

### SPECIAL DAY CELEBRATES HERITAGE

Powwow and square-dancing demonstrations and an authentic trapper's tent set the tone for the first ever Brandon Aboriginal Day Celebrations, held this past June. Over 300 people flocked to the Brandon Friendship Centre to take part in the activities and feast on a hearty lunch of soup and bison burgers.

The NA! Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) provides Brandon's Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (NRC) with \$50,000 annually to support community celebrations, arts and culture initiatives, and recreation projects. With this funding, the NRC has created a Community Projects Fund that provides community organizations in Brandon's core neighbourhoods with grants of up

to \$5,000 for projects that encourage community interaction.

### POLICE IN SCHOOLS A SUCCESS

In partnership with the Winnipeg Police Service and the Winnipeg School Division, NA! provided three-year NRF funding to the North End Community Renewal Corporation for a pilot project to strengthen relations between the police and students and increase community safety. Three school resource officers were recruited to work with students, staff and parents and provide services from law enforcement to mediation. As a result of the program, students reported feeling safer and participating schools reported a decline in vandalism and bullying.



Financial assistance from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund has helped support the operation of West Broadway Development Corporation's 'greening' initiative since 2001. A notable project has been the creation of Spirit Park on four vacant lots. Consultation with area residents determined that the priority for this land was green space for the community. With their help, the park was established in 2003. It is beautifully landscaped and contains a play structure for local children, community gardens and picnic tables.

**SPRIT PARK RAISES  
spirits**

## Renewing pride, renewing homes

Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) provides grants to NRCs, not-for-profit community housing corporations and private landlords/developers to rehabilitate housing units, convert or construct new housing units and promote homeownership. To date, NHA has committed funding to the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 1,700 housing units in Thompson, Brandon and Winnipeg's inner city.

### NEIGHBOURHOOD IMPROVES ITS IMAGE

The Spence Neighbourhood Association is helping improve the area's appearance, one house at a time.

With funding of \$30,000 annually from NA! Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA), the association has been able to provide modest, housing fix-up grants to local homeowners and landlords to enhance their properties' exteriors. This project, which requires matching contributions from property owners, is making a noticeable impact on the



appearance of individual homes and the overall neighbourhood.

Maximum grants are \$2,500, though most grants are \$1,000 or less. In 2004, 23 homeowners and 15 landlords received fix-up grants from the association.

## Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations get core support

### NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE (NDA)

Supports Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs), responsible for coordinating revitalization efforts in designated neighbourhoods in need, in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. The NRCs received a five-year funding commitment – from \$75,000 to \$200,000 annually – for their core operations.

NDA currently supports:

- North End Community Renewal Corporation
- West Broadway Development Corporation
- Spence Neighbourhood Association
- Brandon Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation
- Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation

## Strengthening the social economy

Community Initiatives (CI) supports projects that have a broad impact on Winnipeg's inner city or target specific groups in the city's core. Projects that CI has funded range from arts, first aid and youth recreation and leadership, activities to home-ownership training and community economic development.

### GATHERING FOCUSES ON SOCIAL ECONOMY

CI funded United Way of Winnipeg's second annual Community Economic Development (Maintaining Momentum) Gathering in 2004. The event brought service providers, business owners and individual citizens together to hear speakers and participate in workshops and discussions on the local social economy. One of the participants was from the North



End Women's Centre. The centre's Up Shoppe is a social enterprise that recycles previously worn clothing, trains and employs local women and generated \$45,000 in revenue for the centre last year.

## Keeping doors open for youth

The goal of the Lighthouses program is to reduce youth crime by offering an alternative to hanging out on the streets. Working with community partners, the Lighthouses initiative provides community-based, after-school, recreational and educational programming in schools and other neighbourhood facilities. To date, 32 Lighthouse sites have been established across Manitoba.

### LIGHTHOUSE SITE ATTRACTS AREA YOUTH

Every Saturday, about 50 young people come to Winnipeg's Indian and Métis Friendship Centre for a game of air hockey, a cooking lesson or just to chat with friends or consult the Elders. One of NA!'s Lighthouses sites, the centre operates its program on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to

11:00 p.m. for youth 13 to 18 years old. Neighbourhood teens can also take part in powwows or outings to a swimming pool or family-themed event, such as a youth and parent team pool tournament.



## Training for Careers



Training Initiatives (TI) supports the training of neighbourhood residents for career opportunities in high-demand fields. The program has funded training for family support workers and health care aides with Urban Circle; youth recreation activity workers with the Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs; and mental health support workers with the Canadian Mental Health Association. To date, more than 300 participants have received training through TI.



### THOMPSON YOUTH BUILD FUTURES

With the assistance of NA! Training Initiatives, the Thompson Boys and Girls Club has established a Youth Build program. Now in its third year, Youth Build offers local residents, aged 16 to 30, training in academic, technical and life skills along with work experience in housing construction and renovation. Recently,

participants helped renovate the Thompson Homeless Shelter.

Some Youth Build graduates have been hired by employers such as Burntwood Custom Builders, Mystery Lake Lodge and Canadian Tire. Others have chosen to continue their high school studies and eventually consider college or university.

**Neighbourhoods Alive!  
TAKING PRIDE IN OUR COMMUNITIES**