

NECRC/NERI

ANNUAL REPORT

2023
2024



ABOUT US

The North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC) is a not-for-profit organization established in 1998 through collaborative efforts among various community organizations in Winnipeg. Our mission is to foster economic, social, and cultural renewal in the North End of Winnipeg, which encompasses eleven partner neighbourhoods: William Whyte, St. John's, St. John's Park, Dufferin, Dufferin Industrial, Lord Selkirk Park, Inkster-Faraday, Robertson, Burrows Central, Luxton and North Point Douglas. At NECRC, we are dedicated to promoting equity and inclusion for all residents, including Indigenous peoples, newcomer communities, and low-income Manitobans.

NECRC actively works towards promoting a diverse workforce that reflects the North End community, allowing us to better understand and respond to the unique needs and perspectives of North End residents. NECRC is committed to addressing the needs of newcomer communities, providing support and resources to foster a healthy community.

NECRC is dedicated to supporting all low-income Manitobans, regardless of background, by providing access to essential services and resources. NECRC strives to create an inclusive and supportive environment where all residents can thrive and contribute to the ongoing renewal of the North End community. NECRC is committed to responding to the 94 calls to action outlined by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, actively engaging in initiatives aimed at reconciliation, healing, and building stronger, more inclusive communities.

MISSION & VISION

NECRC is committed to the social, economic and cultural renewal of the North End of Winnipeg.

NECRC defines its development goals through annual consultations and ongoing networking with North End residents and businesses. The corporation works with community committees to plan and implement development strategies in its goal to revitalize the North End.

NECRC operates on the principles of Community Economic Development using a development system approach to bring about renewal in the North End. Our development themes combine to maximize the impact of our community initiatives.



DEAR NORTH END,

Boozhoo Indinawemaaganidog Ozaawii Makwa Bimose Nindishniikaaz Makwa Doodem
North End Doonji

Hello, all of my Relatives, My name is Brown Bear Walking. I come from the Bear Clan, and my home is Winnipeg's North End, which I fondly call North End First Nation. I am anishinaabe, and my English name is Rylee Nepinak. I have proudly lived on Mountain Avenue, Akins Street, Salter Street, and Bannerman Avenue. I want to acknowledge our ancestors who stewarded this land since time and memorial, and looked out for each other as a community so that we can be here today following in their footsteps.

I also would like to acknowledge the voices, the energy, the good thoughts and intentions, and the many mornings and nights dedicated by the staff of NECRC advocating, helping, and spreading goodness to our community members in every way they can and did. GOOD JOB AHO!

Last year, I had the honor of being nominated by my peers to serve as the Chair of the North End Community Renewal Corporation (NECRC). This is a responsibility I do not take lightly. Holding this position in an organization that serves such a vibrant and resilient community is a privilege. The North End has been the cornerstone for many inner-city families, including mine, and it fills me with great pride to give back to a place that has given me so much.

A warm welcome and miigwetch to all the relatives attending the Annual General Meeting of the North End Renewal Corporation, and for your unwavering help to our community. Coming together like this is an act of support for our community and as my mentor Mitch Bourbonniere would say, "when you help others, you bring joy to yourself." I pray and hope that each and every one of you have good health and happiness come your way.

I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our dedicated helpers of NECRC, the Board of Directors, our funders, and all those who walk alongside NECRC in a good way. On behalf of the Board and myself, I will say that each of us are committed to thoughtful reflection and making intentional choices that will enable the organization to be more flexible and responsive to the needs of everyone that NECRC impacts. Gitchi Miigwetch for your love and commitment to the North End. I look forward to the year ahead and to seeing what we will accomplish together as we continue to strengthen each other in our community.

Rylee Nepinak
Board Chair

DEAR NORTH END,

It is a pleasure to welcome you all to the North End Community Renewal Corporation's 26th annual general meeting. My name is Brenda Cameron and I am the Acting Executive Director of NECRC.

Firstly, I did not expect to still be the A/Executive Director....yet here we are. Not for lack of effort though. The board is putting serious effort into recruiting our next Executive Director. Given that our budget is quite limited, as we are non-profit, that is not quite as easy as it sounds. Having said that, I thank the Board for their support and leadership during this year. It has been a year of empowerment and teambuilding. For the first time in many years, we are almost 100% staffed which brings our staffing complement, including BCMP trainees, to almost fifty.

I am very proud of the process the organization collectively has made in stabilizing both our operations and staffing. This was my intent when I agreed to take on the task. It is so true that if we create an organizational culture where people feel seen and heard... Good things will follow. We have grown both in the number of employees and programs at NECRC. The staff reports included in this Annual Report, speak to that. I am honoured to work this amazing group of people. I cannot commend our team enough. We live in increasingly trying times and the needs of North End Community seem to become more and more multi-layered. The good work of organizations like NECRC is critical to ensuring community needs are heard. We do this through both daily contact via our programming like Tenant Landlord Cooperation Program, Building Construction Mentorship Program, Food Security of the North End, just to name a few.

I need to acknowledge and extend NECRC's gratitude to our many funders and donors without whose support, we cannot continue to do what we do.

I thank everyone who has taken the time and opportunity to join us here today – to share a meal with us, to celebrate our successes, to continue to build community.

Miigwetch,
Brenda Cameron
A/Executive Director

MEET OUR TEAM

OPERATIONS

Brenda Cameron - Acting Executive Director & Finance Controller

Muriel Lamy - Payroll/Accounts Payable

Talia Syrie - Human Resource Manager

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING

Deana Paisley - Community Development Manager

Meagan Vickers - Community Development Worker (on maternity leave)

Mary Alagao - Community Development Worker

Shayla Lacoff - Community Housing Liaison

Lindsay Schaitel - Lead TLC Coordinator

Jace Kettner - TLC Advocate

Emmy Sky-Gaskin - TLC Support Admin

Ruth Hiebert - Energy Advocate

Brandy Bobier - Food Security Coordinator

EMPLOYMENT & TRAINING

Addie Ducharme - Citizen's Bridge & PATH Program Manager

Citizen's Bridge (607 Selkirk Ave):

Eva-Marie Stewart - Team Lead/Driving Instructor

Sophie Stevens - DEC Case Worker/Intake Worker

Natasha Halayda - Drivers Ed Reception/Admin

Gloria Cook - Administrative Assistant

Diane Thomas - Case Worker

Maddy Piltzmaker - Outreach Worker

Jazmine Steinke - Support Worker

PATH Employability Centre (627 Selkirk Ave):

Fatima Rodrigues - Team Lead/Employment Counsellor

Debbie Rego - Receptionist

Cheryl Morgan - Employment Counsellor

Abby Nicholls - Work Placement Coordinator

Ashley Thickfoot - Employment Counsellor

Hassan Sheikh - Employment Counsellor

SOCIAL ENTERPRISE

Dean McIvor - BCMP Program Manager/Safety Rep

Calvin Monkman - Building Maintenance Supervisor

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Rylee Nepinak

Chair, Youth Anishiativ

Michael Redhead Champagne

Vice Chair, Community - Fearless R2W

Ashley Pankiw

Secretary, Member @ Large

Alexis Tachnak

Treasurer, Indigenous/Community Resident

Haven Stumpf

Director, Indigenous - Urban Circle

Mary Burton

Director, Resident - Dufferin

Wayne McIntosh

Director, Spiritual - The Anglican Parish of St. Francis

Sheldon Bayer

Director, Business - Me-Dian Credit Union

Ricky Ann Nepinak

Director, Indigenous - Ma Mawi

Jeremy Raven

Director, Community - Whistling Wind Action Therapy

Alana Ollinger

Director, Community - CEDA Pathways

Arthur Gunn

Director

OUR STRUCTURE



ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Citizens' Bridge

The Citizens' Bridge program plays a vital role in supporting individuals with limited financial resources. Engaging yearly with **over 2000 community** members at their 607 Selkirk Ave. location, their comprehensive range of services is specifically designed to assist low-income clients in **obtaining crucial identification documents, establishing bank accounts, and acquiring driver's licenses**. Through strategic partnerships and collaborations with **over 152 referral organizations**, Citizens' Bridge facilitates connections between individuals and various resources, such as **employment skills training, identification assistance, financial literacy programs and Manitoba Public Insurance Adult Education Drivers' courses**.

1031

Participant
Intake

811

utilized the
I.D. program

163

utilized the
Bank Account
Program

125

utilized Short-
Term Driving
Training

32

utilized Pre-
Employment
Prep

PATH

PATH Employability Centre completed **503 intakes**, **328** of those include **case management** and **485** of those intakes **resulting in assessment & employment plans** with participants using PATH's SMART goals. Plans include targeting entry-level positions in the industry of participants choice to acquire skills and achievements needed to pursue larger employment goals, incorporating volunteer experience when needed. Plans also include **referrals to mental health, addictions, food & housing support**, as well as skills upgrading, training and/or education based on interest and need.

508

Participant
Intake

- **485** - Assessment & Planning (Job Search Program)
- **485** - Job Search Assistance (Job Search Program)
- **70** - Employability Workshops (P2S Program)
- **29** - Short Term Skills Training
- **70** - PATH2SUCCESS
- **67** - Employment
- **10** - Referral for Further Training/Education
- **62** - Referral to another agency based on initial assessment

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



NERI Storefront Grant Program

North End Revitalization Inc., in partnership with the Province of Manitoba Department of Municipal Relations and in cooperation with the North End BIZ and Selkirk Avenue BIZ, facilitates the distribution of **\$58,000** in cost sharing grants with the objective of supporting economic development and renewal within the North End.

The Storefront Enhancement Grant program (SEG) promotes local community investment by providing cost-sharing, non-repayable funding grants to eligible North End small businesses and organizations for exterior renovations to the frontage of their property. The SEG grants are intended to enhance the appearance, safety, and value of the property belonging to small businesses and organizations in the North End. The program is administered by the North End Community Renewal Corporations North End Economic Development Centre. Grants are provided on a cost sharing basis up to a **maximum grant of \$5,000**.

22
GRANTS
APPROVED
—
45%
NEW
APPLICANTS

In 2023-2024, the SEG committee approved 22 grants that leveraged approximately **\$147,273.52** in total investment toward the exterior of small business in the North End of Winnipeg.

45% of awarded grants went to first time applicants.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Building Construction Mentorship Program

Our **Building Construction Mentorship Program (BCMP)**, Supportive Employment Training Program is open to residents of the North End and surrounding area. People who qualify experience barriers to employability and have an interest to work in the trades. Candidates for this opportunity must demonstrate motivation to further develop interpersonal and trade skills. BCMP offers **paid training for 1 – 2 years**; possible **apprenticeship registration**; and support including **on-site essential skills training**.

BCMP hires and works with people:

- Who have little or no experience in the formal labour market
- Who have encountered barriers to gaining and keeping meaningful employment
- Who live in the North End or are in the continuum of our services with North End Community Renewal Corporation

BCMP aims to prepare these workers for:

- Building new skills or expanding their existing skills, preparing them for the workforce
- Further advancing their technical skills in building maintenance, painting, locksmith, clerical or pest control

Our Mentorship and Training Programs include:

- Painting
- Pest Control
- Building Superintendent
- Clerk
- Locksmith

BCMP partners with **Manitoba Housing** where together we offer the opportunity to work in an environment that provides support and training to enhance sustainable employment.

North End Community Renewal Corporation offers wrap around supports to assist with any at-work or personal help needed.

HOUSING

The Tenant Landlord Cooperation

The Tenant Landlord Cooperation is an eviction prevention program. TLC staff mediate landlord and tenant conflicts and provide direct advocacy to ensure both tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities are upheld. TLC works to support positive solutions that focus on preventing displacement/homelessness of individuals and families.

**In 2023-2024,
TLC supported 139
households**

These households composed of:



Of the 139 households, **76** identify as **Indigenous**, **34** identify as having a **physical disability** and **40** identify as having a **mental disability**

The Tenant Landlord Cooperation provided **704** services to **tenants** and **140** services to **landlords**.

Tenant Landlord Cooperation saved and helped tenants access **\$88,177.04** and saved **\$7,750.77** for landlords.

- **51 Evictions** were prevented
- **54 clients** were connected to income supports
- **5 damage deposits** returns were supported

Additionally in 2023-24, the TLC program provided the following services:

- Provided **direct advocacy** at the Residential Tenancies Branch to help support **tenants and landlords** in **understanding their rights and responsibilities** under the **Residential Tenancies Act**.
- Supported **tenants and landlords** navigating other **systems that impact housing** (e.g. CFS, EIA, Hydro/City of Winnipeg Water, mental/physical healthcare) to **prevent displacement and encourage healthy tenancies**
- TLC gave **financial support** towards rent arrears, utility bills, and rehousing funds.
- TLC provided **cleaning kits** and storage bins for those struggling to purchase supplies and trying to manage a pest infestation that affected their tenancy.
- TLC provided **new single beds, bed bug mattress covers and bed bug traps** for those who had lost their bed due to severe bed bug infestations.

HOUSING

The Exterior Home Improvement Program (EHIP)

The Exterior Home Improvement Program (EHIP) is a **grant incentive** available to all **homeowners and property owners** in the **William Whyte** and **North Point Douglas** communities for the last 22 years. The program aims to **encourage and support maintenance** of existing housing stock by incentivizing **exterior repairs**, in goal to infuse a sense of **pride, renewal, and safety** in the North End. The North End Revitalization Inc. partners with the City of Winnipeg, William Whyte Neighbourhood Association (WWNA), and Point Douglas Resident's Committee (PDRC) to run the program year-to-year.

Before & After Window Repair:



51 PROJECTS COMPLETED

- 10 major repairs
- 10 maintenance repairs
- 4 safety repairs
- 4 accessibility repairs
- 23 energy efficient upgrades

38 GRANTS AWARDED

- 13 to fixed-income homeowners
- 15 to general-income homeowners
- 10 to property owners

Housing Network Meetings

North End Community Renewal Corporation hosts regular housing network meetings to gather leaders in the community, share common goals, collaborate, and collectively advance our housing practices. In 2023-24, we hosted **4 meetings** with a total of **55 attendees**.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Recreation

- A **Recreation Grant of \$500.00** was given to the **Newcomer Network of R2W** in support of their **Bike Bazaar** event. This event gives the opportunity for youth to take home a free bicycle or trade in for a larger bike as they grow. Bike maintenance, locks and helmets were provided to the youth who received a bicycle. This event offered supports and connections for newcomers in the area, as well as lessen barriers to cycling as an activity for youth. We also participated in the **Newcomer Network Bike Bazaar** event. An estimated **200-225 participants**, with a split of **35% newcomers** and **65% settled community members**. There were **10 organizations** participating and providing resources to community members.
- We are part of the Winnipeg **ParticiPark** Advisory Committee. The committee is working with the City of Winnipeg to design the park outside Sargent Tommy Prince Place on the Old Ex campus. It will be co-designed with the local advisory group, to ensure community voices, wants, and needs are well-reflected in the design. The group hosted a public engagement session in June 2023, this event seen **120 community members** participate to give their input in the space.

Community Clean-Ups

- We supported the **North End wide community spring clean-up** which included; Lord Selkirk Park, William Whyte Neighbourhood Association, Luxton Resident's Association, North Point Douglas Residents Committee, St. John's Resident's Association, and Inkster North End Residents' Association. Each event seen **20-50 community members** participate. We donated a **garden prize pack** at each clean up, which was given by random drawn to volunteers. NECRC staff also participated in each clean-up.
- The Lord Selkirk Resource Centre's community clean-up also held a community bbq, which NECRC staff helped facilitate. **300 hotdogs and hamburgers** were given out to community members.
- We collaborated with **Indigenous Vision for the North End** and **Urban Circle Training Centre** for a **Selkirk Avenue Community Clean-up**, community members worked to remove garbage from the community, creating safer environment for residents. We package and distributed **150 hot dog bag lunches** for volunteers and community members following the clean-up.



COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



Events

- Hosted the **23rd Picnic in the Park and 15th No Stone Unturned** event on Saturday, August 12th, 2023 in St. John's Park, running from 1:00PM until 11:00PM. We partnered with the **Coalition for Murder and Missing Manitobans** to host a **free event** for families with a wide variety of activities, resources, food, games, and live entertainment. We concluded with a **vigil** for those who've have gone missing and or have been murdered. **19 community organizations** had resource tables with a variety of activities. We had face painting, snow cones, bouncy houses, popcorn, and a bike tune up station. **Two free meals** were available to community members, a **hotdog meal for lunch and taco in a bag for the dinner service**. There was also **live entertainment** from **1PM until 10:30PM** and ended with a **fireworks** show. The event seen around **3000 community members** throughout the day.
- Assisted **Steinbach Community Christmas** to deliver and distribute toys for families within the North End before the holidays. Over **250 brand new toys** donated to North End families in December. NECRC distributed to **housing clients, Fearless R2W** and **North End Women's Centre** toy drive.
- Hosted a **community Feast** at **Turtle Island Community Centre** to launch our new 5 Year plan. This feast served **100 community members** and had guest speakers from **Community Helpers Unite & Fearless R2W**.
- Held the **Spring Feast** at **St. Tommy Prince Place** on March 27, 2024. Total of **80 community members** in attendance. There was drumming and stories by **Four Sacred Hearts**. Gave away **Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra tickets** and **zoo passes** as door prizes and provided **medicine bundles** for those in attendance.

Food Security

- The **North End Farmers market** was held **weekly** from **July until end of August**. The market had on average **6 local vendors** selling goods, such as **hand made jewelry, beading supplies, fresh vegetables, and baked goods**. Tables at the market are **free to local vendors**. We provide the tables, chairs, and canopies. This year we partnered with **Community Helpers Unite** and introduced "**pay what you can**" for local produce, making it accessible and affordable for all community members.
- Our Staff assisted with food distribution at **Andrew's Family Centre** and **Bear Clan Patrol Selkirk** office with **Community Helpers Unite (CHU)**. Distributing **100 hampers**.
- We attended **Main Street Community Walks** with OPK and CHU, provided food and water distribution, safe needle disposal, garbage clean-up, and harm reduction and peace-keeping. Handed out food, water and hygiene supplies to **100 community members** with OPK and CHU.
- We had **16 cooking classes** for families to learn how to make the most of their food hamper. We provided these classes for **10 families**, and they received a **crook-pot** at the end of the class.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT



NERI Small Grants

The **North End Revitalization Inc.** in partnership with the **North End Community Renewal Corporation** and the **Province of Manitoba**, has established a **Small Grants Fund (SGF)**. The SGF operates on a fiscal year from April 1 to March 31st annually.

The SGF is available to local groups and organizations within the William Whyte, Lord Selkirk Park, Point Douglas, St. John's and Dufferin neighborhoods. Organizations who reside outside these areas, but provide service within these communities may also apply. The **purpose** of the SGF is to support small projects that **bring people together** and **respond to priorities** of local groups that require short term project funding less than \$5000. The project must **benefit** the community.

Members of the NERI Board of Directors along with a review committee made up of local residents from the William Whyte, Lord Selkirk Park, Point Douglas, St. John's, Dufferin and other neighborhoods within the north end that meet regularly to review proposals. They allocate funds based on the needs of the community and the track record of the sponsoring organization.

\$43,378.36 in funds leveraged

\$107,498 SGF paid to community groups

Over **22,952** community members served

670 volunteers

7 projects under **Capacity Building**

25 projects under **Well-being**

1 project under **Stability**

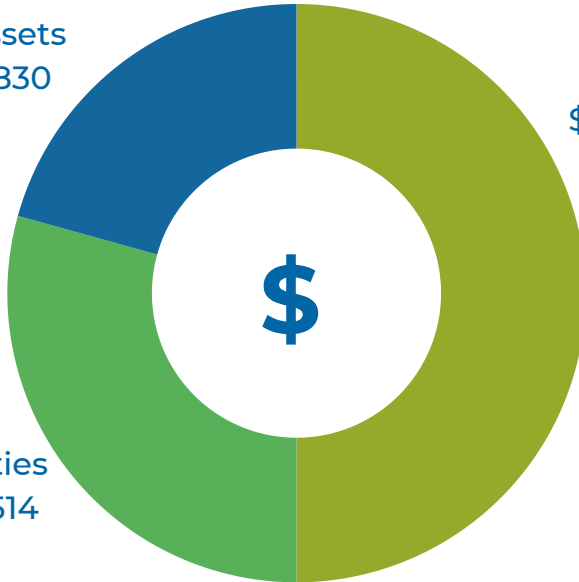
4 projects under **Community Connecting**

4 projects under **Economic Development**

FINANCES

NECRC

Net Assets
\$253,830



Assets
\$613,344

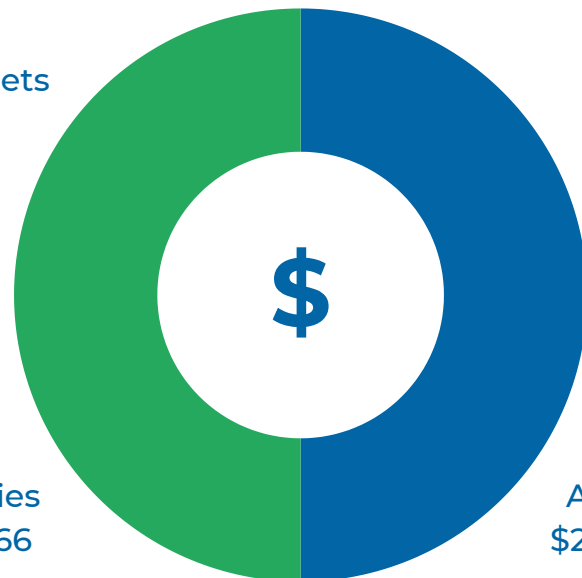
Liabilities
\$359,514

AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please see audited financial statements for complete picture of finances

NERI

Net Assets
\$0



Liabilities
\$214,266

Assets
\$214,266

MNP

Thank you to MNP for being our auditors!

5 YEAR PLAN

The purpose of this strategic plan is to bring together North End community organizations, stakeholders, members and residents to coordinate, design and consult a North End-wide neighbourhood renewal plan that focuses on building a sustainable community.

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION: The Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action will be considered in community planning, activities & initiatives.



INCREASE AFFORDABLE & ADEQUATE HOUSING

- Physical improvements to inadequate housing
- Develop affordable housing units
- Resources for residents experiencing homelessness
- Better communication between property owners/tenants



INCREASE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

- Labour market participation rates & job creation
- Training/employment preparation & adult education opportunities
- Increased jobs for youth transitioning into workforce
- More childcare options for working parents



IMPROVE NEIGHBOURHOOD SAFETY

- Reductions in crime including fires/arson
- Improved security measures: street lighting, community safe walks, etc.
- Overall greater perception of safety



RECREATION & WELLNESS

- Improvements to parks & greenspace
- Increase in activities & programming for youth
- Regular updates on community programs & activities
- Reduce barriers: transportation, access to equipment, etc.



FOOD SECURITY

- Increase access to affordable & healthier food options
- Increase accessibility to food resources: food hampers, meal programs, etc.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



We thank our funders for their continued support.