

# Spence Neighbourhood Association's 2016 Annual Report



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Cover Page: Community Incentives Program recipient, artist Cash Akoza, beautified our community with this bright, colourful mural at the corner of Furby and Ellice. SNA youth apprenticed with Akoza on this community-connecting project. Photo: Adam Kelly.

# WELCOME HOME

Spence neighbourhood is on historic Anishnaabe, Nehiyawak, Dakota, Nakota, and Dene lands, and the Metis homeland.

SNA works with the people of Spence to revitalize and renew their community in the areas of Holistic Housing, Community Connecting, Community Economic Development, Environment and Open Spaces, and Youth & Families.



Winnipeg Arts Council's *Opening Doors to Youth WITH ART* large-scale outdoor mosaic project. Artist: Dimitry Melman with Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA) children and youth program participants. Photo: Jamil Mahmood.

# OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The SNA Board is made of representatives from the community. The board consists of area directors from different geographic areas of the neighbourhood and director-at-large positions. All board members live, work, or volunteer in the community. The board meets once a month to oversee the organization and provide direction and ensure that all the work done, represents the vision of the community.

## BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2016

President and Director at Large:	Gerry Berard
Vice President and Director at Large:	Annamaria Johnson
Secretary and Area Director:	Sara Walker
Treasurer and Area Director:	Joe Kornelsen
Area Director:	Dave Newsom
Area Director:	Etiene Serpa
Area Director:	Alicea Anderson
Area Director:	Michael Belhumer
Director at Large:	Mark Stewart
Director at Large:	Harold Dyck
Director at Large:	Jack Jonasson

The board is supported by the Holistic Housing Committee, Environment and Open Spaces Committee, Youth and families Committee, Community Economic Development Committee, and Community Connecting Committee. These committees are made up of community residents, resourced by SNA staff members, and meet monthly to review programs, current issues, plan, and make recommendations to the board.

## GRATITUDE

The work our agency is able to do and the success we are able to achieve, are fully due to the tireless efforts of our community members and volunteers.

Being a community led organization, it takes a hard work, passion and leadership volunteers bring day in and day out to power the work we do as a community.

There is not one part of our organization that doesn't engage and rely on volunteers - whether it is to provide insight, input or guidance, or to provide the energy, hard work, and sweat it takes to make all the community efforts become a reality.

Thank you to all those who have volunteer(ed) to make the Spence Neighbourhood Association and the Spence neighbourhood stronger, brighter, and the amazing community we love.

Complete listing of our 2016 volunteers, may be found on page 37.

# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome everyone to our 2016 Annual Report!

We have had another great year of programming here at SNA.

This year, we are thrilled to bring you our new Community 5 Year Plan and I am very excited to share it with you all. In it, we acknowledge the new goals for our work with the community for the next 5 years.

I would like to thank everyone who has had a role, or interest in what we have been accomplishing as a community, and anticipate working together in the coming year.

Thank you to our current board members and all the SNA staff and volunteers for their hard work this year and thank you for allowing me to serve as your president for the last 2 years.

Gerry Berard, President  
Spence Neighbourhood Association Board of Directors



Photo credit: Jillian Ramsay

# EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

2016 was an exciting year for the Spence Neighbourhood Association and the community!

As always, our commitment and passion to being led by the community was at the core of all we do. I am fortunate to come to work everyday and connect with the amazing people in this community. This year, we launched two new programs (West End 24 Hour Safe Space for Youth and Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program) and planned and developed our Community 5 Year Plan.

In June, we opened the doors of the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) overnights to operate the West End 24 Hour Safe Space (WE24). WE24 is an overnight safe space for youth 13-24 years old and provides youth with food, clothing, shelter, hygiene products, transportation, and employment, health, education, and housing support and resources. MERC is our children and youth program hub and with WE24 running, we now offer a dedicated crew of outreach workers 11PM to 7AM on Fridays, Saturdays, and school holidays. Overnight programming presented a number of logistical and programmatic challenges - all of which we have overcome.

WE24 is a thriving and growing program that we are proud of. I wish to send a big thank you out to all of those who have supported, donated and encouraged the startup and success of WE24.

After 3 years of development, we started Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program. Wahkohtowin is an intensive family wraparound program offered across the inner city in partnership with Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., Ndinawe, The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc. (IRCOM) and SNA. Each agency runs the program in their respective communities. This program is really exciting for us as it provides 2 youth mentors and 2 adult mentors supporting a whole family. During our first Fall-Winter session, great connections

and achievements in our families and communities were made. We are eager for this program to support hundreds of families over the 5 year funding cycle.

We completed our third 5 year plan this year and embarked on our fourth. This was a challenging and interesting task. We wanted learn from for our past 5 years and asked ourselves what worked, what didn't, and what we could we improve on.

Learning from our past, and being accountable for it, allows us to be, and continue to be, successful - as we move into our 20th year as an incorporation. To conduct our Community 5 Year Plan, we worked with graduate students from the University of Manitoba to do an extensive review of our work for the past 5 years. These students provided us insight into our accomplishments and challenges as well as how we may move forward.

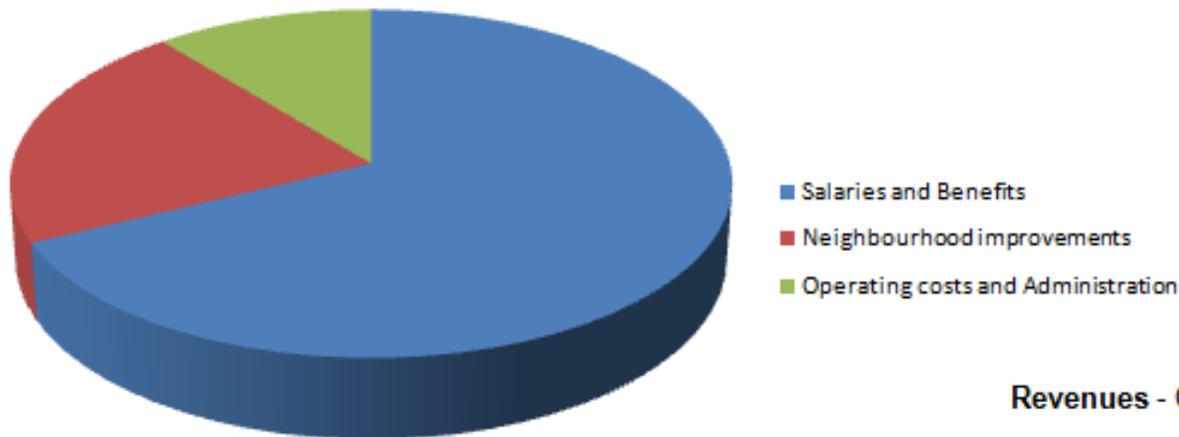
From there, we embarked on an ambitious community consultation plan - we knocked on every door in the community and survived residents; held focus groups and open house consultations; and collected constructive feedback from all kinds of community members. The big difference in this plan, from past plans, is that each area of work will be available to pulled out and use as an individual plan. We hope this will feature will make the 2017-2022 Spence community plan a super versatile document that will support us in achieving the ambitious goals of the plan.

2016 has brought it's share of challenges for us. Thankfully SNA and our community has been able to rise to many of them, as we are resilient. I am in awe with how amazing our Staff, Board of Directors, Volunteers and community members are and what they do each and every day! With a bright outlook, a new community plan, and big dreams in hand, I am excited for what's to come for Spence in 2017.

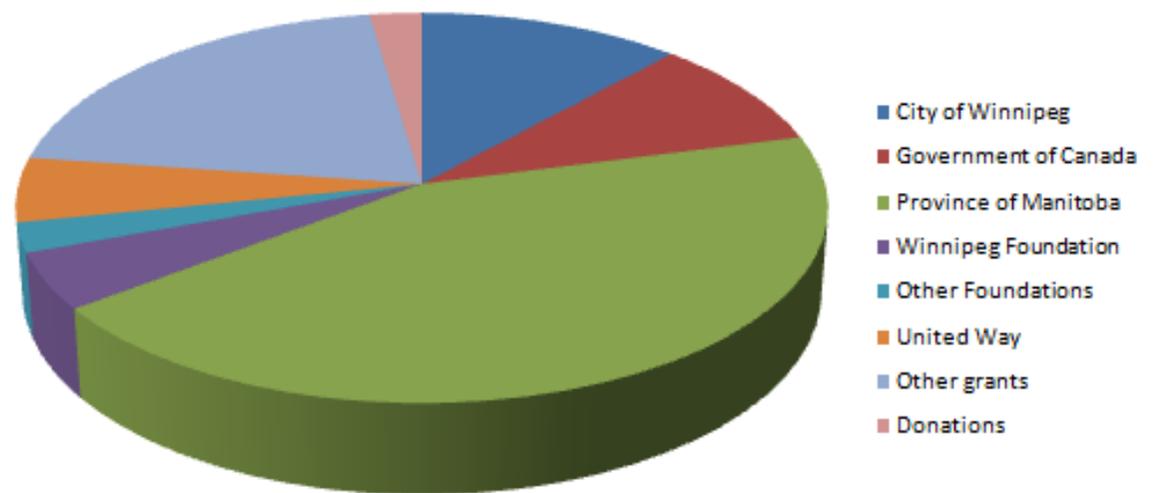
Jamil Mahmood, Executive Director  
Spence Neighbourhood Association

# OUR FUNDING REVENUE & EXPENSES

**Expenses** - October 1st, 2015- September 30th, 2016



**Revenues** - October 1st, 2015- September 30th, 2016



# OUR STAFF

The work we do requires staff to invest into an idea of community that is committed to taking the vision from the residents and making it reality. It is work that makes your heart stronger while you pour it into the work you do each day. Good staff make the work we do even better, while we can't always keep staff around forever each person that comes to work for SNA brings skills and attributes that leave a lasting effect on the community. Thank you to all the staff who have given to the community.

## CURRENT STAFF:

Executive Director: Jamil Mahmood

Bookkeeper: Denise G.

Building Belonging Activity Coordinator: Allison Besel

Building Belonging Program Coordinator: Makaria A. Labun

Community Connecting Coordinator (CCC): Mareike Brunelli

Community Liaison & Communications: Rune Breckon

Community Sports Program Coordinator: Kieran Rice-Lampert

Environment & Open Spaces Coordinator (EOS): David Heinrichs

Financial Office/Human Resources: Robin Falk (Maternity Leave)

Financial Officer & Administration: Vanessa Meads

First Job 4 Youth Coordinator: Aaron Maciejko

Gang Action Interagency Network Inventory & Mapping

Coordinator: Joe Wasylycia-leis

Gang Action Interagency Network Program Coordinator: Robyn Dryden

Homeless Outreach Mentor: Terry Prociuk

Housing Coordinator: Isabel Jerez

Newcomer Youth Outreach Worker: Katie Boyd

Rental Safety Coordinator: Cortney Sinclair

Sports Program: Meghan Lemoine

Wakhotawin Adult Mentor: Laura Kathler

Wakhotawin Adult Mentor: Mischa Putsogorodsky

Wakhotawin Site Coordinator: Kristen Wiltshire

Wakhotawin Youth Mentor: Richard McCrae

Wakhotawin Youth Mentor: Sheila Soulsby

West End 24Hour Safe Space (WE24) Manager: Lin Howes

WE24 Outreach Worker: Alexandra Yugbovwre

WE24 Outreach Worker: Huy Nguyen

WE24 Outreach Worker: Pamela Ledoux-Kishiqueb

Youth Crew Program Assistant: Raphael Buscio-Lacombe

Youth Crew Program Coordinator: Ana Cotton

Youth Drop-In Programmer: Rachel Burant

Youth Employment Hub Coordinator: Leslie Kwok

Youth Program Manager: Mubo Ilelaboye

## JR. STAFF:

Hannah Mohammed, Ibranim Mohamed, Isayas Tekeste, Mahirah Rakhshani, Omar Shariff, and Omer Mohamed

## SNA CASUAL STAFF:

Elisheba Tait, Jenelle Sammurtok, Lana Johnston, Ralph Letander, and Samantha Letander

# OUR STAFF

## FIRST JOBS 4 YOUTH STAFF:

Anak Akeen, Senica Bear, Nathanael Budlong, Amber Bull, April Bull, Christine Daniels, Destiny Daniels, Brady DesJarlais-Moar, Nathaniel Harris, Susanna Kim, Daniel Kim, Sydney Mentuck, Jordan Mitchell, Greg Napoakesik, Kirklin Nepinak, Pablo Perdomo, Fabian Smith, Isayas Tekeste, and David Weiss.

## YOUTH CREW STAFF :

Kustrim Ajvazi, Zack Anderson, Juana Arias, Senica Bear, Quintina Berens, Sebastien Bouvette, Carl Brinez, Raphael Buscio-Lacombe, Randi Bushie-James, Ricki Bushie-James, Shylah Chartrand, Terah Chartrand, Sekou Cissay, Ana Cotton, Christine Daniels, Destiny Daniels, Brady DesJarlais-Moar, Jalen Depass, Nathaniel Harris, Dakota Harper-Barten, Gwen Head, Jerad Hill, Ahzarni Htoo, Lahmay Paw Htoo, GayNay Htoo, Evan Hunter, Gwen Hunter, Tiffany Hunter, Evadina Jerez-Opaleke, Jeremy Kemble, Abigail Letander, Zachery Letander, Gloria Luna-Aguilar, Donovan Mason, Sydney Mentuck, Jordan Mitchell, Tim Moar, Ibrahim Mohamed, Omar Mohamed, Hannah Mohammed, Greg Napoakesik, Gay Nay Say, Kirklin Nepinak, Vince Paupanakis, Mahirah Rakhshani, Mehr Aryan Rakhshani, Mehr Rakhshani, Ada Scriver, Fabian Smith, Jayda Tait, Kaydre Tait, Barac Thon.

## SNA STAFF THAT MOVED ON IN 2016:

Alaya Mcivor, Alison Jonk, Almera Oduca, Andrea Dick, Cotelle Mackintosh, Craig Settee, Isabel Jerez, Joe Wasylcia-leis, Kayla Penelton, Laura-Lynne Hildebrand, Lauren Baker, Matt Gillies, Morgan Brightnose, Paul, Randi Bushie-James, Ryan Lindsay, and Tanya Suderman

Photo: Youth Crew at March for Peace! Photo credit: Rune Breckon





# SNA BY THE NUMBERS - 2016

**24,241** HOURS of DIRECT SERVICE in our neighbourhood, with community



**3,077** COMMUNITY PARTICIPANTS were served by us and our work

**539** COMMUNITY DONORS, FUNDERS, & PARTNERS make our work possible

**353** COMMUNITY EVENTS (including community meetings & initiatives)

**170** VOLUNTEERS put their heart into our community

# COMMUNITY INCENTIVES

The Spence Neighbourhood Association continues to administer The Community Incentives Program which uses \$50,000 in funding from Neighbourhoods Alive! to provide financial encouragement for community projects in the neighbourhood. The program was established to facilitate local community based groups, organizations, and residents within the Spence neighbourhood to undertake small projects that enhance the strength and cohesion of our community.

This year, SNA gave out 27 individual incentives to organizations and groups in the Spence community for community building and community connecting projects in the areas of well-being, community economic development, stabilization, and capability building. Incentives ranged from a few hundred dollars up to a maximum of \$5000. This year's funding leveraged \$400,000+ back into the Spence community and 10000+ community members engaged through the various projects.

Community Incentives Program 2016 Recipients - Organizations, Community Groups, Residents:

25 Not 21  
 Altered Minds  
 Chief Grizzly Bear Garden Equinox Ceremonies  
 Daniel McIntyre/St Matthews Community Association's Our West Central Times  
 Friends of Sherbrook Pool  
 Smudge the Streets  
 Spence St. Block Party  
 St. Matthews Maryland Community Cafe  
 The W.R.E.N.C.H.  
 West Central Community Program

West End Biz  
 West End Cultural Centre  
 Wii Chiiwaakanak Learning Centre

Each year, a certain amount of Community Incentives are dedicated to each of the eight areas of the Spence neighbourhood. Board members from those areas direct the funds. This year, area director funded:

Cash Akoza Mural Project  
 Community Holiday Event  
 Garden Infrastructure  
 March for Peace  
 Music Lessons  
 Neighbourhood Block Parties  
 Our Place Safe Space  
 Spring Clean Up

Each year \$5000 is set aside for youth-led projects. This year, the youth of the Spence neighbourhood drafted proposals and budgets for a neighbourhood Halloween Party and Kids Garden Shed. They presented their proposal to the SNA Board and were approved.

Highlights include, but are not limited to:

Children's Pow Wow (Gifts of the Children)  
 Ellice Street Festival  
 Farmers markets  
 Music programs  
 Pop-up bike repair workshops

# HOUSING

The year 2016 was an exciting time for housing because the three year Housing Plan - People and Housing wrapped up and we moved on to SNA’s new 5 year housing plan. Thus, aligning with the Community Plan, which identifies our goals and guides our housing work for the next 5 years. We reported back on what we have accomplished in improving the quality of the neighbourhood housing, stabilization of units and the efforts around increasing the number of units available, affordability and the work that encourages everyone to do their part in taking responsibility for housing.

Achievements such as new partnerships with The Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA), LIPP, and the Canadian Mental Health Association strengthened our capacity and knowledge base as workers therefore were better equipped to provide a connection to various resources, provide better advocacy and learning opportunities. Furthermore, with the hiring of a new Homeless Outreach Staff (HOM) staff, we were able to really focus on providing the tools and encouraging people of the community to participate in their housing experience. We helped more than ever to navigate systems so that assistance was provided, resources were accessed or justice was served. We directed people to the request for repairs through The Residential Tenancies Branch (RTB), to grants at the community level and the provincial level, to conflict resolutions and mediations, to public hearings on zoning issues, to the 311 system for reporting, in accessing benefits that individuals might be eligible for such as income taxes, old age benefits and The Employment and Income Assistance Program (EIA) benefits, as well as social connections and many more.

We continued to share our knowledge and perspective from the neighbourhood’s point of view by sitting on different committees such as: the Rooming House Task Force, Winnipeg Rental Network, EIA Advocacy Network, Community Advisory Committee with Cindy Gilroy, Visitability Task Force and Bed Bug Network. Understanding the importance of networking and coordinating efforts also led us to participate in housing research projects as well as speaking with planning and Community Economic Development (CED) students to ensure that the voice of the community that we represent is part of the housing work for the future. Various conversations with correctional institutions, property developers, new property owners and other housing workers also took place.

**Numbers:**

- 8** property owners received rooming house grant assistance
- 8** landlord financial assistance letters of support were written
- 9** owners received assistance and follow up with their Rooming House Assistance Program (RHAP) grant applications
- 4** owners received high priority roofing assistance
- 7** seniors were provided with housing assistance
- 650** hours were worked
- \$146 354** was invested into Spence housing infrastructure through the Community Housing Improvement Initiative (CHII) incentives.

**Events :**

- 11 SNA Housing Committee meetings
- Workshops: Rooming House Grant
- Focus Group: Housing for Seniors
- Focus Group: Housing Service Providers

**2016 CHII Fix Up Incentives\* - Homeowners:**

\$39 260 worth of approved projects  
 \$37 627 worth of owner contribution  
 \$76 887 invested into homeowners properties in Spence

**2016 CHII Fix Up Incentives\* - Rental Properties:**

\$19 525 worth of approved projects  
 \$49 942 worth of owner contribution  
 \$69 467 invested into rental properties in Spence  
 \*For the exterior of properties.

# RENTAL SAFETY

The Rental Safety Coordinator plays a key role of supporting tenants to feel safe in the community, resolving conflicts between landlord and tenants, and supporting community members with connection to resources and information.

Over the past year, the Rental Safety Coordinator has worked with a number of tenants and landlords in resolving disputes and providing resources to both parties that have nurtured relationships that have resulted in safer housing.

This year we were able to offer our landlord's access to the Residential Tenancy Branch Order Systems to help reduce the vacancy turnover. Access to the Residential Tenancy Branch Order System is one more tool for landlord's to screen tenants. The yearly subscription can cost each landlord \$250 if not accessed through SNA.

We also wanted to show landlord's how valuable this tool can be when seeking good tenancy.

As for tenant's, SNA has teamed up with Residential Tenancy Branch in our monthly Tenant's Committee to talk about the services provided, including when and how tenants can use the Residential Tenancy Branch to help them when landlords are not taking their responsibilities and obligations seriously. Over the year, tenants have learn about Acts and regulations that are set in place to protect both parties.

## Events :

Workshops: Bed Bug Prevention, Fair Practice Office, Social Services Appeal Board, & CHII Rental and Homeowner Fix Up Incentive  
10 Tenant Committee Meetings: Tenancy Agreements, Condition Reports, Security Deposits and Claims, Rent Increase, Hearings, Abandon Property, & Repairs. Meetings featured speakers from RTB.

## Numbers:

**209** renters dropped-in for advice and/or support  
**56** tenants mediated with their landlords, supported by Rental Safety  
**35** community members were connected to Connect 2 Voicemail  
**41** tenants sought assistance with personal taxes  
**43** names submitted for potential tenancy  
**1680** hours in programming for community members  
**10** deadbolts distributed  
**5** motion detector lights distributed  
**76** people attended the Tenant's Committee meetings (with an average of  
**7.6** attendees per meeting)  
**28** bed bug covers distributed to tenants  
**9** participants were assisted with subsidy application  
**4** participants received EIA Volunteer Benefits

Photo: RTB presentation at Tenants Committee Meeting.  
Photo credit: Cortney S.



# HOMELESS OUTREACH

Our Homeless Outreach Mentor (HOM) continued to assist individuals, who are/were under-housed and homeless, access housing. Connections and networks were made around the individual's needs.

## Numbers:

- 218** Housing Outreach participants
- 78** participants saved from evictions
- 24** participants that recurred EIA Volunteer Benefits
- 29** home visits were completed
- 1500** hours in programming for community members
- 12** working relationships with neighbourhood landlords

## Events:

Under the Housing Outreach program, registered volunteers on disability, can receive the EIA Rewarding Volunteer Benefit. They do various volunteer jobs and earn a monthly top up payment of up to \$100.

The last Thursday of every month, there is a Housing Outreach Volunteers meeting. The importance of these meetings is to maintain rapport, accountability, clarity, and for community building between the Housing Outreach Mentor and each other. With having a sense of community, brings also a sense of belonging, and kinship. These are very important facets of having a reliable and happy team of volunteers. During the meeting we discuss how their jobs are going, trouble shoot issues and concerns. We also discuss current events and topics and brainstorm of how and what we can do as a team to better the volunteers' experience. Sharing of the monthly light and nutritious meal also provides an opportunity to build strong relationships.



Photo: HOMs Mentor & community member enjoying Aboriginal Music Week. Picture by Isabel J



# COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

The Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA) has been working on various economic initiatives over the last ten years. We had a number of successful projects in that time, such as the Skills Bank and I.D. programs, however, it became clear that such programs were not fully addressing the economic development issues of the neighbourhood in a holistic or sustainable way.

Many of our community members are living in poverty, Spence has higher unemployment rates, and lower average income rates than the rest of Winnipeg. Opportunities for adequate employment and skills training, financial support programs, and entrepreneurship are also in need. Local businesses would also benefit from a skilled workforce who can contribute to create a healthy, diverse, and vibrant economy as both employees and customers.

Therefore, SNA has decided to engage in Winnipeg's first community-led CED strategy to address these issues and promote a healthy, stable local economy over the long-term. Developed through an inclusive engagement process, the strategy will outline a five year plan to mindfully direct CED priorities in the Spence neighbourhood and greater West Central community.

Community Economic Development (CED) uses local action to create local economic opportunities and improve the social and environmental conditions of a neighbourhood. The CED process relies on the knowledge and resources of local residents, businesses, and organizations to identify economic, social, cultural, and environmental needs of the community.

## Events:

Over the course of two months, the businesses and residents of the Spence community were consulted regarding their opinions and ideas about the future of CED in the neighbourhood. The community was consulted in a variety of ways, including: in-person interviews and surveys, focus groups, open houses, and a public consultation booth. 381 community members participated! The primary source of data was collected by surveys, which were developed with input from the CED Committee. These surveys were designed to gather information about how participants felt about the neighbourhood, and prioritized future directions for CED. Two surveys were developed: one for local businesses, and one for local residents.

## Numbers:

Number of Surveys Consultation Method

**19** Door-to-Door Businesses

**49** Focus Groups

**29** Open Houses

**46** Public Consultation Booth

**238** Door-to-Door Residents (separate survey to determine priorities)

# ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES

The Environment and Open Spaces department (EOS) works to provide community members with opportunities to access good food, places to be outside, places to grow food, enhanced waste management opportunities, and improved active transportation.

EOS provides community members with garden space to grow their own food. We have gardeners that range from new gardeners to the most experienced gardeners in the neighbourhood. Spending time in gardens is so important to so many people because it improves mental health, and provides access to fresh and good food. There are gardeners in the neighbourhood who are able to produce enough food that they are able to cut down on their food bills at the grocery store. This year we were able to support experienced, and new gardeners grow food by supplying seeds, providing workshops to increase gardening skills, repairing garden beds and compost bins. The University of Winnipeg Biology Department generously donated seedlings to the kids garden and community members. We also received donations of seeds from Sage Gardens and Jensen's Nursery and Garden Centre. These seeds helped community members grow great produce. In addition to these material donations, we were grateful to receive a donation from the Winnipeg Home Depot stores; they helped us buy new garden equipment to better look after our spaces.

Our team of youth who worked in EOS through the First Jobs 4 Youth (FJ4Y) program were able to work in gardens for 2 months and learn basic skills about garden maintenance, as well as attend community workshops to expand their knowledge base. The four youth, we had this year, were a great group who worked hard and enthusiastically and gained a great understanding of what having a job entails. We are confident that they have developed skills that will help them in future employment.

The 20th Annual West End Spring Clean Up was a great success this year thanks to: a Community Incentive from SNA; the help of DMSMCA; generous donations of waste receptacles from Johnson Waste Management; garbage bags, gloves, and other supplies from Take Pride Winnipeg; garbage pickers from the City of Winnipeg. Of course, the biggest thing that made it possible was the 135 volunteers that took part in the event to clean up! Without help of community members we would not have been able to collect loose litter and bulky waste and make our community shine.

We are excited for another spring, when we all be able to dig our hands in the soil again, and grow delicious food for the community!

## **GOOD NEWS STORY:**

This summer the EOS department was able to connect multiple newcomer families to community gardens. Our greenhouse site saw a few families from Syria get garden plots. The first day I met them was with a settlement worker from WCWRC and an interpreter. It was great to see the families dig into the soil; they were extremely experienced gardeners, they just had never gardened in Canada before. Even though we couldn't speak the same language, and had to use an interpreter, we were able to communicate about the garden by showing pictures of the plants on the seed packages and giving seedlings to the families. In a time when the families were going through an adjustment to a new place, they were able to dig their hands into something familiar.

*I appreciate having the garden because it is something to help us keep busy and gives us something to do - Spence community gardener*

# ENVIRONMENT & OPEN SPACES



## Numbers:

- 52 community gardeners
- 11 community gardens
- 435 hours in gardens
- 25 hours in planned community workshops
- 75 hours in Kids Garden
- 128 hours with First Jobs 4 Youth
- 10 Workshops
- 63 workshop participants
- 70 drop-in inquiries about gardens between January & November 2016



## Events:

- Workshops: Spring Seed Starting, Permaculture, Tree Pruning, & Naturally Carbonated Sodas
- 20th Annual West End Spring Clean Up
- Ogimaa Gichi Makwa Gitigaan (Chief Grizzly Bear Garden) - Spring, Summer, Fall, and Winter solstice ceremonies were held at the garden.
- West End Farmer's Market
- Fall Clean Up

# COMMUNITY CONNECTING

The scope of Community Connecting program is to connect community members and create a safe and welcoming space for all, through community-led events and initiatives.

2016 was a busy and exciting year for Community Connecting.

After a consultation process, in the fall, we presented the newly developed Spence Community Safety Charter, funded by the City of Winnipeg Safety Committee. It is a bold and exciting document that hopes to shape the community in the years ahead. Every individual, family, organization and business is invited to reflect on it, and sign their commitment. We will work with the community on how to implement this vision together.

In 2016, the Community Connector organized, often in partnership with other community groups, several opportunities for community members to connect. These consisted of election forums, the Annual March for Peace, several special safety meetings, including a community meeting with the Winnipeg Police Community Support Unit, and much more.

During the summer we carried out our Community Walkabouts. Once again, staff and community volunteers walked down every back lane in Spence, identifying safety concerns, such as lack of back lane address plates, graffiti, maintenance concerns, bulky waste and arson risk. This year we started tracking back lane maintenance, and we carried with us containers, gloves and tongs for safe needle disposal. Some of SNA youth program participants joined us for one walkabout. They learnt what constitutes a safety concern, what to do about it, and what not to do. They then helped us on the audit, walking, watching, and pointing at those concerns they just learnt about.

The Community Connecting Committee continued advising the Community Connector, identifying needs and opportunities for relationship building and increasing safety in Spence. The SNA Kitchen Circle, initiated in 2015 by the Committee, received funding through the Healthy Together Now program, which was renewed for 2017. This has proven to be a successful program, with average 10 participants per session. Once a month, a group of community members comes together to learn a new, healthy recipe from another resident, then have dinner together and socializing, at no cost.

In March 2016, Community Connecting started a new program, called Our Place Safe Space, in partnership with the Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association, Klinik and Sunshine House. Our Place is a weekly drop-in and a safe space for those who identify as sex trade workers, experiential folks, victims/survivors of sexual exploitation or victims/survivors of human trafficking. Our Place Safe Space is open to all ages, genders, and Nations. We provide participants with harm reduction supplies, cultural and fun programming, educational workshops, and a free meal every week. We are very proud of this new program, the impact it is having on our participants and on the community at large, and we are especially thankful for the support received so far! Finally, this year we have been able to provide access to harm reduction to the broader community through safer sex supplies and guides, available at 615 Ellice office during opening hours.

# COMMUNITY CONNECTING

## Numbers:

**177** office visits  
**860** hours of direct programming  
**36** partnerships  
**16** recurrent volunteers  
**12** Community Connecting Committee members  
**46** Community Connecting events  
**40** hours spent on safety audits  
**496** letters written and delivered to residents as a result of community walkabouts (safety concerns and resources)  
**48** graffiti waivers delivered to residents (West End Biz free removal program)  
**33** new back lane address plates  
**193** bulky waste reports made to 311  
**5** containers (approx. **150**) needles collected  
**25** hours supporting WE24  
**10** hours providing street outreach  
**300+** 6th Annual March for Peace attendees  
**10+** participants per Kitchen Circle sessions; **16** recipes shared  
**37** Our Place Safe Space drop-ins; **10** participants per drop-in; **3** new participants monthly

## Events:

**8** Community Connecting Committee Meetings  
**9** Community Walkabouts  
**11** Kitchen Circle sessions  
**3** Holiday Events  
**2** Election Forums  
**2** Fundraisers for Our Place, including a very successful car wash and bake sale event in September  
**5** Community Consultations for Safety Charter  
 Spring Clean Up  
 6th Annual March For Peace  
 Safety Meeting with Winnipeg Police Service & Liquor & Gaming Authority  
 Youth Photo Voice  
 Personal Safety & Lighting Audit  
 Community Meeting with WPS Community Support Unit  
**4** Workshops (Beading, Valentine Cards, Holiday Cards, Small Grant Writing)

## GOOD NEWS STORY:

Community Connecting creates initiatives and events for everyone in the community, in a social environment that is safe and welcoming of every individual. After receiving funding from the City of Winnipeg Safety Committee in 2015, the Community Connector started working at a safety charter for Spence, with guidance from a community Advisory Committee. Through focus groups, community consultations and surveys, we asked what safety means to you, what makes a community safer, where you do not feel safe and what you would like your community to be. We gathered the data and in the fall of 2016 we were able to present our Community Safety Charter. Individuals, agencies and organizations, institutions and businesses, everyone can sign onto the Charter and commit to work together towards a community that is connected, street safe, inclusive, maintained and proactive. The Charter is available to consult at our SNA locations and on SNA's website. You can sign your commitment online or in person at the 615 Ellice office. We already collected almost 100 signatures! We are proud of this Charter and of this vision of the community we all strive to create. At the same time, this is just the beginning, as we are working towards the implementation of this vision.



# COMMUNITY SAFETY CHARTER

I/We commit to creating and promoting a community that is:

## Connected

All community members have opportunities to be involved in events and activities to get to know other members of the community, and build networks of safety and support.

## Street Safe

All community members are able to move about the neighbourhood without fear or exposure to harassment, violence, or crime.



## Inclusive

All community members are supported and respected in being themselves. All community members can engage in work, recreation, spiritual, and cultural activities without fear or exposure to harassment or harm.

## Maintained

All community members have access to information and support to help maintain properties and keep the neighbourhood as clean and physically safe as possible.

## Proactive

All community members have the opportunity to create and participate in community led initiatives to respond to concerns and improve the safety of the community.



# COMMUNITY LIAISON

## SNA HAS A NEW PHONE SYSTEM.

When you call 204-783-5000, a recorded message will greet you with a menu of options. You may:

1. Enter a staff member's 3 digit extension. You will be automatically connected that person. Extension numbers are available via [www.spenceneighbourhood.org/contact](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org/contact)
2. Follow the menu prompts and make your selection. You will be automatically connected to your chosen staff member.
3. If you are unsure who to connect with, not to worry, enter 0 and the Community Liaison will assist you.

Please disregard previous individual phone numbers. Thank you for growing with us.



**SNA'S MAIN PHONE NUMBER  
IS NOW 204-783-5000.**



The Community Liaison is the first point of contact when you connect with Spence Neighbourhood Association - whether that be on the phone, electronically (through our social media, email, website) or in person at City of Winnipeg's Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC). They greet folks with a warm welcome to SNA and do their best to seamlessly link people to SNA staff or programs together. The Community Liaison also supports SNA staff and volunteers in their abundant endeavours, handles SNA's day-to-day office administration, and manages the branding, social media, website, and communications of SNA.

In partnership with The City of Winnipeg, the Community Liaison is responsible for the Monday to Friday space management of MERC. This increases positive experiences, communication, and relationships with community members, participants, and user groups and decreases stigmas about our neighbourhood.

In 2016, the Community Liaison published 8 SNA newsletters, coordinated and contributed SNA content for 3 Our West Central Times Newspapers, regularly posted on SNA social media platforms and website, created posters for SNA programming and events, co-facilitated the Community Incentives Program (formally called the Small Grants Program) with a team of excellent people, engaged the WestCentral Connect Google Group with SNA updates, and participated in a number of SNA community activities, initiatives, events (including but not limited to the annual Aboriginal Music Week's Spence Neighbourhood Block Party, Community March for Peace, Community Holiday Party, and Winnipeg Art's Council's Opening Doors Launch at Spence Neighbourhood's Fall Community BBQ).

In December 2016, SNA implemented a new phone system to accommodate our growth. This graphic details how it works.

### Numbers:

**8** SNA Newsletters; **13 400** Delivered in Spence  
**4** OWCT Newspapers; **5 025** delivered in Spence  
**744** Facebook Friends; **1,367** Facebook Page Likes  
**1895** Twitter Followers

# BUILDING BELONGING

Building Belonging (BB) offers free after school and summer programming for kids ages 6-12, Monday to Friday at the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre. Daily, we provide a nutritious meal and weekly cooking classes, thanks to support from Winnipeg Harvest and the Winnipeg Foundation's Nourishing Potential Grant. BB and City of Winnipeg staff share four expectations: be respectful, be safe, be engaged and be accountable, which helps us provide a positive, caring environment. This year we expanded our behaviour management system to include community building circles to build trust within the group and prepare kids for responsive circles, which are used to deal with serious behaviour issues in our restorative justice model. We also offer pickup from school and drive or walk home to help bring kids across the neighbourhood safely and regularly to program.

We encouraged creativity with weekly Art City outreach programming, music instruction in singing, guitar, piano, drums and handbells with Music @ MERC and Tune-in at the West End Cultural Centre, hip-hop dance workshops, and a Freeze Frame clay-mation movie making workshop.

We promoted healthy life-long activity with monthly swimming at Cindy Klassen Recreation Centre during the school year and weekly swimming at pools across the city during summer, weekly outings to Fit Kids, Healthy Kids at the University of Winnipeg (UofW) RecPlex, gymnastics workshops with Gymkyds Gymnastics Centre, visits to the North End YMCA, sledding outings and free skates and helmets for all to use at the MERC rink. Kids from our weekly skateboarding club received an SNA Small Grant to purchase new equipment and run a skateboard competition. BB was selected by the Goodlife Kids Foundation as one of ten finalists for their national Win for Kids grant because of our commitment to getting kids active. After participating in a national vote, BB received \$5000 for our recreation programming. We thank all those who voted and promoted the value of our work in the community. Support from the Winnipeg Foundation's Camp and Summer Program Grant, and our generous donors, filled our summer with incredible experience with outings to a Fringe Festival play, Wheelies, the Mexican Pavilion at Folklorama, the Living Prairie Museum, Assiniboine Park Zoo, and the Manitoba Museum Main and Science Galleries. Central Neighbourhoods generously shared their school bus with us so we could bring as many kids as possible to Tinkertown and Fun Mountain. Our partners with the City of Winnipeg took kids to SPIN Paddling weekly during the summer and out fishing with the Learn to Fish Program. We brought four kids to the camp on Moose Lake, for three days of swimming, biking, kayaking and making new friends through the Youth Agencies Alliance.

We fostered curiosity and learning with outings to Let's Talk Science at the UofW's Wii Chiiwakaanak Learning Centre, and incorporated reading and computer time into our program. Our Tech Time programming allowed kids to join in massive video game tournaments and sing their heart out at karaoke dance parties. In partnership with SNA's Environment and Open Spaces our kids planted, watered, weeded and harvested our own vegetable in the Kids Garden while learning about healthy food and the environment. We made jam with strawberries we picked from Boonstra Farms and grapes harvested from the garden, picked buckets of tomatoes and kale and visited the pigs and rabbits on a tour of Fort Whyte Farms and Fort Whyte Alive.

We welcomed new friends into our community and shared cultural traditions. UofW's English Language program brought over 20 international students at a time into our program to practise English conversation while running activities with our kids. We partnered with N.E.E.D.S Inc.'s Community Connector program, which supports recently arrived refugee children, to introduce newcomers from Syria to our programming. Both groups joined us at our Community Holiday Party. We also celebrated with our partners and friends at community events including the Sister Mac Family Fest, JMK Family BBQ.

# BUILDING BELONGING

## GOOD NEWS STORY:

The playground outside the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC), was burned down in 2014. Playground repairs were on a set schedule and there was nothing to do but wait.

Building Belonging has tried to make up for this loss by bringing our kids regularly to local parks and recreation programming at the University of Winnipeg's Recplex, but the number one request from our participants to make our program better continued to be for a new playground.

We were so excited when construction for the final stage in was announced for Summer 2016. The basketball court had been recently redone and we were on our way to making the space outside the MERC as welcoming as the programming inside.

SNA was able to provide input on the design and layout of the park to make it more functional and safe for our community members. Opening up sight lines and taking down the fence that surrounded the wading pool makes it easier for our staff to supervise kids and the new tables provide space for activities outside. The new fence along the east side keeps kids and equipment away from the busy street.

The playground gives active kids a great way to burn off energy and brings in new kids and families from the surrounding area into our programming.

## Numbers:

**115** registered participants  
**853.5** hours of programming  
**32** participants attend daily during the school year  
**22** participants attend daily during the summer  
**36** volunteers; **392** hours volunteers contributed  
**6** practicum students



## Events:

Outings: Festival du Voyageur, Swimming, Carnival, Children's Museum, Roller Skating, Art City Halloween Party, John M King BBQ, Sister Mac Fun Fest, UofW Holiday Party, UofW English Language Program, and Wellington School Syrian refugee visit with N.E.E.D.S  
 Community BBQ Youth With Art Mosaic Reveal and Playground Opening  
 YAA Junior Camp



# YOUTH / NEWCOMER YOUTH DROP-IN PROGRAM

Our Youth / Newcomer Youth Drop-In Program continued to engage neighbourhood youth (12-18 years old) in activities and opportunities that nurture accountability, belonging, community, safety, trust, and worth. Such activities and opportunities included, but were not limited to:

**Workshops:** Spoken Word and Hip-Hop with The Lytics (local hip-hop artists), Canadian Mental Health, Know Your Rights with a Michael Dyck (local lawyer), and West Broadway Scavenger Hunt with West Broadway Community Ministry.

**Youth led-event:** Large Halloween party with DJs from studio 393, a photobooth, lots of prizes and food.

**Ongoing Programming:** rock climbing, ping pong, video gaming, skating, sweat lodges, Cooking with Rachel, weekly summer picnics and swimming at 3 Manitoba beaches, tobogganing, movies, and Karaoke.

**Girls Night** is a weekly program that we offer to all women, aged 12-18. Participants participate in art projects, self-defense workshops, sharing circles, tarot cards reading, song writing workshops, and so much more.

**Short term Programming:** T-shirt and poster making with Justin Larrivee and Martha Street Studio, Farming with Fort Whyte, and Winnipeg Arts Council's Youth WITH ART tile project with Dimitry Melman.

While driving the youth to/from activities, we connected through singing at top of lungs, being silly, conversation and being real, without outside influences/gaze/pressures.

SNA also provided opportunities for youth to participate (volunteer, employment) in planning programming and preparing program meals. By allowing youth to participate and lead the program, we are ensuring that programming meets their needs and entrusts them to be leaders - both in the program and community.



# GOOD NEWS STROY: YOUTH / NEWCOMER YOUTH DROP-IN PROGRAM

Devoted youth participant Kylla Harper, was nominated for and, won the Personal Achievement (Junior) Award at the 22th Annual Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Awards (MAYAA) on November 24, 2016. In her acceptance speech, Kylla affectionately acknowledged and thanked SNA, MERC, and Cadets for her ability to accomplish her personal goals, strong sense of community, and pride in being Indigenous.

MAYAAs are presented to 15 outstanding Indigenous youth between the ages of 16 and 24 excelling in a wide array of categories from cultural to academic. The awards were founded in 1994 as a way to combat negative images of Aboriginal youth and draw attention to youth in the community who excel in their activities.

Photo: Kylla Harper (front centre) at the 2016 MAYAAs. Photo credit: Michelle S.

## Numbers:

**175** Youth / Newcomer Youth Drop-In Program participants  
**635** hours of Youth / Newcomer Youth Drop-In Program programming  
**760** hours Junior Staff worked  
**\$400-\$2200** earned by each Junior Staff  
**\$8200** total earned by all Junior Staff  
**30** Girls Night participants  
**62** hours of Girls Night programming



# THE WEST END 24 HOUR SAFE SPACE

The West End 24 Hour Safe Space (WE24) is an overnight safe space in the heart of Winnipeg's West End. WE24 operates 11PM to 7AM on weekends and 7 days a week during school holidays. These are the hours when being on the street can be extremely dangerous and, unfortunately, many youth have no other option.

By providing a welcoming, safe, and non-judgmental space for all youth, we address their most basic needs (food, clothing, shelter, hygiene, transportation) and offer supports by connecting participants with employment, health, education, social support, and housing resources. Participants often come to WE24 to just be with other people, to feel belonging.

Through our community outreach, we connect with and support individuals in the Spence Neighbourhood who are living on and working in our streets. These individuals are often sexually exploited and very vulnerable. WE24 creates a safer, stronger, more connected and healthier community.

WE24 works closely and is proud of our ties with other community organizations like Resource Assistance for Youth (RaY), Rossbrook House, Bear Clan Patrol and Ndinawe Resource Centre. WE24 would not be possible without the generous donations from our GoFundMe funders, individual community members, and Manitoba Provincial Government.

## Numbers:

**1917** visits to WE24

**161+** users

**896** overnight hours open

**112** nights

**224** meals (not servings)

## Events:

Funding Announcement, Opening Night (June 17, 2016), Fall Family Dinner, Winter Holiday Family Dinner, WE24 Celebration, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Years' Eve Celebration

## Quotes:

*I just wanted to say Thank you very much for letting me stay when I needed a place to stay, food in my stomach and shelter over my head - then (instead of) me being on the streets - S.S.*

During a CBC radio interview in August 2016, when asked about WE24, a participant replied: *It means everything to me [and] all of my friends. We all just walk in a group like one big family.*



thank you  
for supporting  
our WE24  
community



# SPORTS PROGRAM

The guiding principle around Spence Neighbourhood's Sport Program is to offer barrier free sport opportunities to youth within the West Central/Inner city. With youth ranging in ages from 5-18 years old, they are offered opportunities to play organized sports such as soccer or basketball or learn sports on a more drop in basis and gain the confidence and skills to develop long lasting relationships within the community and to pursue their sporting goals as far as possible.

SNA also has a very close and important partnership with the University of Winnipeg. Our Community Sports Coordinator also acts as the liaison between community groups and the management at the university's Axworthy Health and Recplex to ensure community users access the state of the art facility at no cost and can utilize the different spaces within the facility including a community gym, multi-purpose room, track, and a full sized indoor soccer field that can be converted into 3 separate fields.

One prime example of this is through our Inner-city Futsal program. Registered youth get connected with University of Winnipeg soccer players as they learn the skills of soccer and connect to a neighbourhood institution through a 4 month summer program that includes a skills academy and league organized thereafter. Knowing that playing sports at this institution, located right in their own neighbourhood, can, and is, a great way to motivate the youth on a path that will lead them to success in the future.

None of what has been built in SNA's Sport Program or the potential to expand, would not be possible without our many generous funders who make our ambitious and exciting sport programs possible. These include but are not limited to: Sport Manitoba, University of Winnipeg Wesmen Athletics, Graham C Lount Foundation, Candian Tire - Jumpstart, Broadway Neighbourhood Centre, Youth Agencies Alliance, and Winnipeg Minor Basketball Association.

As well, we would not be able to function without the many dedicated volunteer coaches and assistants that make these programs possible.

## **Events:**

The Junior Coach's Program offers youth the opportunity to build leadership skills, meet mentors, make newfounded connections, get NCCP certificates, and connect further with our bustling community all while working towards a variety of incentives including but not limited to: sports equipment, team fees, facility memberships etc.

For youth who are too busy with school or other activities to fully commit to a job, the JCP program offers an opportunity to develop a versatile set of skills that can be applied in many facets going forward in life.

Connected with our Sport Program it gives the youth, many of whom were involved in SNA sport programming at younger ages the opportunity to become major leaders for the younger children within our community.

# SPORTS PROGRAM

## GOOD NEWS STORY:

The Dunsford girls have collectively been participating in our Basketball Program and playing on the MERC Girls basketball teams for 10+ years. To mention each of their individual skills sets would be a story better given in person, so, simply, each of these girls - Justine, Callie, Alicia, and Rachelle - are hardworking, focused, responsible, and mature individuals who are passionate about basketball and are willing to put in the work that's needed in order to achieve their personal dreams of being elite athletes. Over the last couple of years, Justine and Callie played for the MERC girls basketball teams while Alicia and Rachelle were members of the Anishinabe Pride Basketball Club in addition to the U of W Collegiate Basketball team. This year, all of these girls will be on the 2017 Team Manitoba North American Indigenous Games (NAIG) Teams. Justine is a member on the 14U team, Callie on the 16U team, and Alicia and Rachelle on the 19U team. It goes without saying, this is a family of athletes and we are excited for them to help represent Manitoba at the games in Toronto in Summer 2017.

## Futsal Numbers:

**115** participants  
**14** coaches  
**4** volunteer coaches  
**24** sessions; **48** hours

## Flag Football Numbers:

**10** participants  
**2** volunteer coaches  
**15** hours total in practice sessions, **20** hours total for games  
**10** week season; **1** practice per week; **2** games per week

## Basketball Numbers:

**10** teams  
**102** participants  
**13** volunteer coaches  
**10** practice sessions; **10** games; **3210** total hours (for each participant)





# FIRST JOBS 4 YOUTH & YOUTH CREW

The First Jobs 4 Youth Program (FJ4Y) supports youth in the community with getting their first work experience and sets them up to be employed and be good employees moving forward in their lives.

Our FJ4Y Program has assisted 20 Youth with their identification, employment search, and education goals over the last year. We provided 20 employment opportunities for Youth this summer in the areas of environment and open spaces, sports, our children's program, our newcomer outreach program, as front desk receptionists at both our community office and the Magnus Ellison Recreation Centre, and as urban community workers.

The summer program leads to fall work experience placements at businesses requested by Youth such as Art City, Diversity Food Services, Strong Badger Coffeehouse, The University of Winnipeg's Axworthy Health & RecPlex, The University of Winnipeg WESMEN Men's Basketball Team and The Winnipeg Repair Education 'N' Cycling Hub. Every February Youth have the opportunity to apply to the City of Winnipeg for summer jobs as Recreation Technicians. We help them to prepare for this work by assisting them with their applications, supplying them with current certification in First Aid/CPR, and mock interview practice.

The Youth Crew Program is a odd jobs for youth program providing pre-employment work experience for youth 12-18.

Our Youth Crew program has engaged over 52 Youth to develop and hone their skills, obtain their identification, and build confidence in their abilities. These Youth have developed skills in community relations, food handling; cooking, baking and catering, surveying local residents, yard care including mowing and raking, snow and ice removal, the repair and maintenance of equipment and machinery, quality control, taking inventory, urban forestry, and community events such as clean ups, festivals and celebrations.

## Quotes:

*First Jobs for Youth and Youth Crew have helped me to gain experience in a group setting .*

*I want to thank Leslie and the First Jobs 4 Youth program for coming into my life. I am grateful to have this experience. Leslie you are amazing and beautiful, also a hard worker and a very good cook.*

*This program has given me a chance to work in a real work environment and to work with others in a team.*

*I have a lot more experience in cooking and catering. It has added to my self-experience in everyday life.*

*It has given me more skills in cooking and baking and way to gain money.*

# FIRST JOBS 4 YOUTH & YOUTH CREW



## Numbers:

**100** participants (youth & clients)

**10,500+** hours of programming

**90** catering & yard care jobs performed by Youth Crew participants

**52** youth participated in Youth Crew jobs

**20** youth enrolled, worked, and graduated the FJ4Y summer program

**22** youth received First Aid/CPR/AED, Workplace Safety & Health, Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS) Awareness, Personal Money Management & Banking, and Cross Cultural Awareness & Life Skills training

**15** youth in Fall work placements

**13** youth were provided with Child Abuse and Criminal Record Checks

**12** youth were assisted in getting obtaining legal identification

**50+** youth were assisted with employment resources

**\$15,000** paid to youth for Youth Crew jobs.

**\$50,000** paid to youth in the First Jobs 4 Youth program.

## Events:

Annual FJ4Y Job Fair

Youth Employment Open House Consultation

# WAHKOHTOWIN STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program is a skills development program for families of all kinds to attend together. Wahkohtowin is a Cree word meaning “kindship” or, “the state of being connected”. The program honours the unique connections within families and engages parents or caregivers and youth ages 11-17 in skill building in areas such as communication, bonding, mindfulness and conflict resolution. Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program runs three sessions per year, and each session is 14 weeks long. Each week families gather for a community feast, sharing circles, youth and adult workshops, and a family practise workshop.

The program is staffed by two youth mentors, two adult mentors, and a site coordinator. In addition to weekly gatherings, each family in the program is visited by staff throughout the week for ongoing support. Families involved with Child and Family Services (CFS) are advocated for to receive additional visits each week of the program. This year, we ran our first ever session between September and December. Program staff put a lot of time and energy into creating culturally appropriate, empowering, and engaging workshops for families. The workshops created space for important dialogue, community connecting and support between families, and a unique time for parents and youth to learn and practise new tools for living well together.

A highlight of the session was a cultural event that involved a potluck of foods important to each family’s cultures and/or traditions. For this event, we were joined by an Elder who gave teachings and a song to the group. Four amazing families graduated from the program on December 15th, and staff have learned so much from their determination in doing all of the work of the program and their love and care for each other.

The Wahkohtowin Strengthening Families Program is delivered to several communities in Winnipeg through a partnership between Spence Neighbourhood Association, Ka Ni Kanichihk Inc., The Immigrant and Refugee Community Organization of Manitoba Inc., Ndinawemaaganag Endawaad Inc., and the University of Manitoba.

## **GOOD NEWS STORY:**

Gathering at the West End Commons on a weekly basis, the program begins with time spent sharing a meal. Feasting together has served as a key component of the program, bringing families of all kinds together to share their stories of struggle, strength and reunification. This time allows participants and mentors a like to come together as equals and build the positive relationships that have become so integral to the program.

The strength and resiliency of the diverse families that we have had the incredible privilege of knowing serves to highlight the gifts our community has to offer. Overcoming great barriers, families show up each week ready to learn tools around strengthening familial relationships so they can be their highest and best selves. Through the course of our first session, we saw families reunited for the first time in a year, youth step out of their comfort zones to share their experiences and parents go out of their way to help each other out, showing care not only for their own families, but for the community at large.

# WAHKOHTOWIN STRENGTHENING FAMILIES PROGRAM

## Numbers:

23 participants; 9 adults & 14 youth

105 hours of programming

35 individual workshops

37 skills/tools taught in workshops

4 families graduated from program (Session 1)

13 referrals to resources/advocacy opportunities

33 additional visits for families involved with CFS

1440 hours sharing information and recruiting

youth and families through presentations and time spent in the WE24

## Events:

13 lessons

1 cultural event

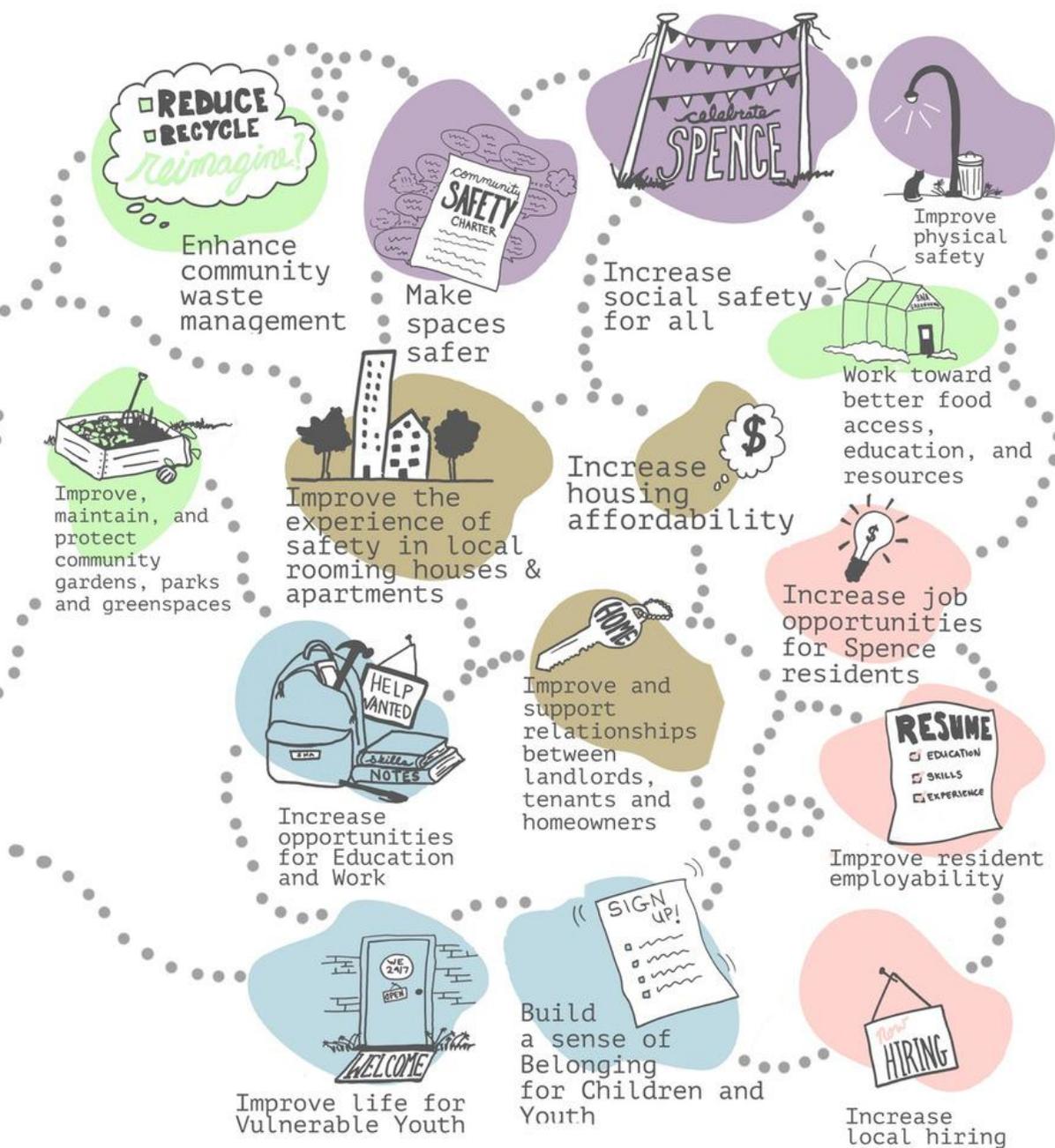
1 graduation celebration

41 weekly family visits



Every five (5) years, the Spence Neighbourhood Association undergoes a process of re-evaluating our work and the overall vision of community development in the Spence neighbourhood. We do so by consulting community members and stake-holders about their ideas and hopes for a better Spence neighbourhood. After consulting, we embark on compiling a comprehensive plan which informs the next five (5) years of our work.

This illustration, created by Jillian Ramsay, represents Our Community 5 Year Plan for 2016-2021. For more information, please visit call our Community Liaison at 204-783-5000 (extension 109) or visit our website at [www.spenceneighbourhood.org/5-year-plan](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org/5-year-plan).



# SNA's 5 Year Plan

# OUR VOLUNTEERS & PRACTICUM STUDENTS

Abby  
Abel Arefayne  
Abel Temelso  
Aime G.  
Aken Tong  
Akon Ding  
Al Rutherford  
Alicea Anderson  
Alicia Dunsford  
Andrew Letkeman  
Angel G.  
Annamaria Johnson  
Anthony Adigun  
Aryan Rakhshani  
Babala Ali  
Ben  
Bethanne  
Beverly F.  
Binh Nguyen  
Brian Gosselin  
Bronwyn  
Callie Dunsford  
Carol Barron  
Carolyn Bourque  
Cate  
Chantel Daniels  
Chantille Tonne  
Charmaine Boittiaux  
Cheryl Martens  
Chris Schollenberg  
Chris Wait  
Corinne Gibson  
Crystal Equash  
Crystal Hughes  
Damian Peck  
Danielle Koop  
David Newsom  
Debbie Tweedie  
Delaphine  
Deng G.  
Diane Durban  
Diane Plante  
Diane Schreier  
Eleanor Ulasy  
Eliza Tru  
Ester M.

Etiene Serpa  
Eugene  
Evadina Jerez-Opaleke  
Faek Aslan  
Fiona Jackson  
Georgina  
Gerry Berard  
Gino Sossai  
Gloria Luna-Aguilar  
Gordon Halushka  
Grimmsley Feng  
Hakim Hedoon  
Hannah Mohammed  
Harold Dyck  
Harriet Crockford  
Helena Kelly  
Henok Temelso  
Holly Steel  
Isaya Tekeste  
Issaiah G.  
Ivy Rusu  
Jack Jonasson  
Janice  
Jeannette Thompson  
Joan Hay  
Joanne  
Jodie Layne  
Joe Kornelsen  
John Goshluck  
Joseph Smith  
Josh Robinson  
Justin H.  
Justine Dunsford  
Kaed Aslan  
Kara Harper  
Karlie Blahut  
Keesha Daniels  
Keishawn Mitchell  
Kristen  
Lamont Everd  
Lance Rodgers  
Larry Thompson  
Lavonne Alexander  
Lenore Sylvester  
Linda Blahut  
Lindsey Camejo

Lisa Forbes  
Loius K.  
Lorna Murdoch  
Lynne Somerville  
Maggie Friesen  
Mahirah Rakhshani  
Marie Fougere  
Mark Stewart  
Mary Peck  
Mavis Sanders  
Mearon Meresi  
Mégann Lajeuness  
Mehr Rakhshani  
Melissa Crait  
Melvin  
Mey Chiali  
Michael Belhumer  
Michael Courchene  
Mike B.  
Milena Okbe  
Milton Thomas  
Missa Chippeway  
Mitch Gusdal  
Moe Smeby  
Mohamed Osman  
Monica  
Monika Buissereth Carter  
Morgan Barbanchon  
Moses Shyllon  
Myles Blahut  
Mzna Mohamed  
Neil Shah  
Nicolas Geddert  
Olamide Ajibola  
Patrick Polvorosa  
Quincy McIntyre-Brandt  
Rachel  
Rachelle Dunsford  
Ralph Letander  
Ronaldo Trias  
Ruth  
Samantha Letander  
Sara Walker  
Sarah-Anne Bartram  
Scott Stone  
Sean Ledwich

Sean Sousa  
Seim Habte  
Selestin Niyon  
Seth Kamabu  
Shania C.  
Sharon O.  
Sheila Hazzard  
Sheila Laquette  
Stephanie Unger  
Steve Tait  
Susan Witherley  
Susanna  
Tesfa Debele  
Tessa Nanton  
Thomas Fleury  
Thomas Kane  
Tolu Ilelaboye  
Tony Wong  
Travis Unger  
Trevor Sims  
Trey Elisha  
Tristan Elisha  
Trudie  
Tyra Cox  
University of Winnipeg English Language  
Program Students  
Vianna and children  
Wahid Baksh  
Will Barr  
William Macsymic  
Yolanda Chitohwa  
Youness Moustarzak  
Yvette B.

# IN HONOR OF A VERY THOUGHTFUL COMMUNITY MEMBER AND VOLUNTEER WHO RECENTLY PASSED...

## Ray St.Cyr

We can never thank you enough for your hard work and efforts you contributed to your community.

Over the years of getting to know you, you have given us great memories. You have demonstrated what it takes to be a community and to build community. From your passion for gardening to your kind-heartedness to help those in Spence, when they couldn't help themselves. For being a strong person to speak out and to others to respect the space and the rules of the Greenhouse (689 Maryland St.).

Our greatest memory is working with you side by side cleaning our community together for the past 5 years.

You will be missed, you will be remembered as *Our Ray of Sunshine*.

Photo: 2016 Spring Clean up with Ray St.Cyr (centre back row). Photo credit: Kristen A.



# OUR FUNDERS & PARTNERS

## Funders

Assiniboine Credit Union  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation  
Canadian Tire  
Carolyn Sifton Foundation  
City of Winnipeg – Housing  
City of Winnipeg - Oshki Annishinabe Nigaaniwak  
City of Winnipeg - Winnipeg Committee for Safety  
Community Housing and Improvement Initiatives  
Dairy Farmers of Manitoba  
Government of Canada  
Graham Lount Foundation  
Local Investment Towards Employment  
Manitoba Association of Friendship Centers  
Manitoba Bed Bug Strategy  
Manitoba Health, Seniors, and Active Living - Healthy Together Now  
Manitoba Homelessness Partnering Strategy  
Manitoba Housing  
Manitoba Justice  
Province of Manitoba - MB4Youth  
Province of Manitoba - Neighbourhoods Alive!  
Province of Manitoba - Urban Hometown Green Team  
Royal Bank Foundation  
Sport Manitoba  
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Age and Opportunities  
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Fort Whyte Farms  
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Graffiti Gallery  
GymKydS  
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# CALL TO ACTION

## Community work, is heart work.

At Spence Neighbourhood Association, we know about heart work. Our staff, Board of Directors, volunteers, and supporters are committed to revitalizing and renewing our community as well as activating and engaging our community members (who live, work, and visit here) in building and rebuilding our neighbourhood. We strive to achieve this through caring, connecting, and communicating.

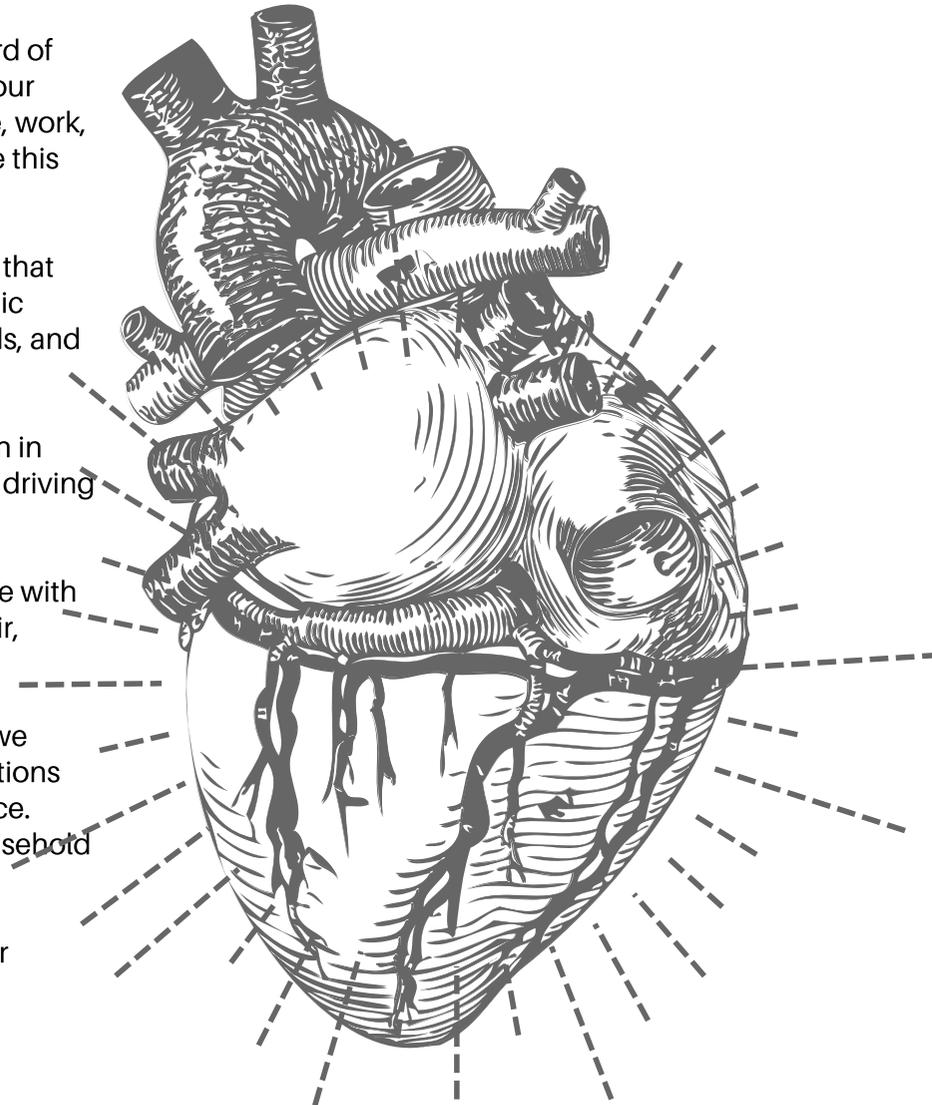
We believe in meaningful volunteer and donation opportunities - especially those that enhance our Community Connecting, Community Economic Development, Holistic Housing, and Children, Youth and Families programs, meet our community's needs, and affirms our Community 5 Year Plan. Please consider helping us.

Volunteer opportunities, include but are not limited to: being a positive connection in someone's life, coaching a sports team, conducting neighbourhood safety audits, driving community members home from programming, editing a community newspaper, gardening, leading a community event activity, partaking in committee meetings, preparing and serving program and/or event food, sharing skills and/or knowledge with community members, clearing snow, showcasing SNA at a community event or fair, tackling administrative duties, and so much more.

We welcome monetary and material donations. If you wish to monetarily donate, we encourage cash, cheque, money order, gift certificates/cards, and online contributions through Canada Helps (SNA page) and United Way's Donor-directed Giving Service. Gardening supplies, clean seasonal clothing, personal and hygiene products, household items, and children's toys are just a few material donations that we are seeking.

Every contribution counts. To find out how you may contribute, please contact our Community Liaison at 204-783-5000 (extension 109), email [liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org](mailto:liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org), or visit our website [www.spenceneighbourhood.org](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org).

Thank you for supporting us.



# Spence Neighbourhood Association (SNA)

Treaty 1 Territory, Original Lands of Anishinaabeg, Cree, Oji-Cree, Dakota, and Dene Peoples and Homeland of the Metis Nation

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Head Office & Adult Programming: 615 Ellice Avenue

Gang Action Interagency Network (GAIN) Office: John Howard Society - 583 Ellice Avenue

Youth Employment & Wakhotawin Strengthening Families Program Offices: WestEnd Commons - 641 St. Matthew's

Youth Programming & West End 24 Hour Safe Space: Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) - 430 Langside Street

Community Sports Program: Axworthy Health & RecPlex -350 Spence Street

Phone: 204-783-5000 | Email: [liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org](mailto:liaison@spenceneighbourhood.org) | Website: [www.spenceneighbourhood.org](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org)

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Spence Neighbourhood Association  
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