

COMMUNITY CONTACT

For and About
Local Government
Development

Manitoba
Aboriginal and
Northern Affairs



Welcome to Community Contact!

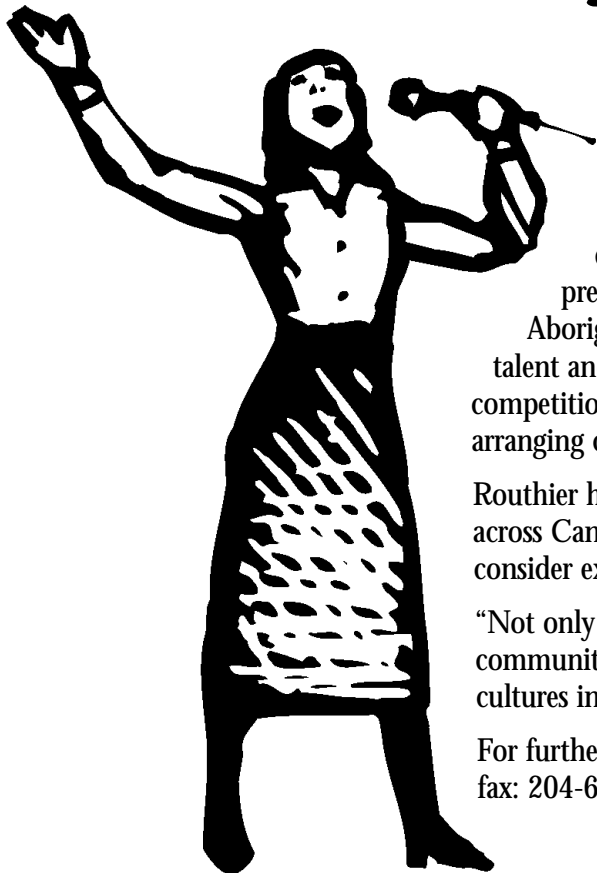
Welcome to this issue of *Community Contact* in which we focus on economic development. This issue features community initiatives in Wabowden and South Indian Lake. The initiatives make two things particularly clear. One, community economic development cannot take place in isolation. Partnerships are essential and there are many resources available to communities. If a regional approach makes sense in your area, regional partnerships may be the key to successful economic development.

Two, community economic development must be community-driven. Outside partners can help, but the ideas and motivation must be homegrown for it to succeed.

We thank everyone who contributed to this issue, your efforts are greatly appreciated. We hope others out there will also contribute and share your news with *Community Contact* in the future.

Ray Irvine
Editor

Get Ready to Celebrate



Spring is officially here and the Dauphin Friendship Centre is already planning for the annual Aboriginal Festival. It will be held May 31, June 1 and 2, at the Selo Ukraina site in Dauphin. The Friendship Centre's executive director Gisele Routhier says preparations are well under way to promote Aboriginal talent, including artisans, crafters, amateur talent and musicians, along with a square dance competition and a Pow Wow. Festival organizers are arranging camping facilities and food booths for visitors.

Routhier hopes this event "will bring people together from across Canada and the United States. Next year, we may consider expanding our horizons.

"Not only will the economic support bolster the entire community," she adds, "it will also showcase Aboriginal cultures in a new and exciting venue."

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Creating Partnerships for Employment

The Wabowden community has demonstrated how different organizations can successfully come together to create employment and develop human resources in the North. Representatives from five separate organizations worked together to help a Wabowden woman realize her goal – her very own business.

Cindy McIvor, who has been on social assistance, on and off, for five years, decided she would like to start her own taxi business. She realized that starting a business could be a daunting task, so she approached Wabowden's economic development officer, Diane Delaronde-Colombe, for help.

Delaronde-Colombe contacted Oswald Sawh of the TEAM program to help McIvor develop a business plan. The three developed and finalized a business plan that allowed McIvor to secure micro loans from the Wabowden Community Development Corporation (WCDC). The loan allowed her to purchase a taxi.

North Central Development (NCD) financed the radio equipment; the Manitoba Métis Federation (MMF) funded Delaronde-Colombe's participation; and TEAM provided the operating capital to get the business started.

Representatives from five separate organizations worked together to help a Wabowden woman realize her goal – her very own business.



From left to right: Vicky Rose (Social Assistance Office), Diane Delaronde-Colombe (Wabowden EDO), Cindy McIvor, Liz Sousa (North Central Development), Oswald Sawh (TEAM Coordinator), Reg Meade (Wabowden Mayor).

When her taxi business was ready to go, McIvor received more financial support. With the help of Delaronde-Colombe, McIvor became the first northern Manitoba beneficiary of a new social assistance program. The program allowed her to maintain her social assistance payments (through the social assistance office in Thompson) for an additional 12 months as long as she reinvests all net income from her taxi service in her business to develop it further.

This story shows how five different organizations – the MMF, WCDC, NCD,

TEAM and the Thompson social assistance office – worked together to make a difference for one northern

Manitoban. So, if you're looking to start your own business, don't be afraid to ask for help and look for all the resources available. Look at what it's done for McIvor.

Contact Information

Community Council members and staff and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit comments, suggestions, articles and ideas to the editor.

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Bayline Communities form Regional Roundtable

On December 5, 2001 representatives from 6 communities along the Hudson Bay rail line came together through formal community resolutions and formed the Bayline Regional RoundTable. Regional roundtables are community development organizations that bring several communities together to pursue common goals, through collaborative planning and projects with each other and outside organizations.

The Bayline Regional RoundTable (BRRT) includes representatives from Cormorant, Wabowden, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, War Lake and Ilford. The Wabowden Development Corporation has contributed the services of its local community economic development officer to help with administration until the BRRT secures funding for its own officer.

The Community Collaboration Project, a joint federal-provincial initiative, has provided seed money to support the group's meetings. BRRT has initiated three projects:



— a regional health forum in Thompson
— a Ted Longbottom performance in Wabowden and Pikwitonei with support from the Manitoba Metis Federation, Wabowden Local and the Wabowden and Pikwitonei Community Councils.

— set up a youth initiative through Community Connections, hiring three young people to develop community and regional Web sites and encourage the use of the Internet at the community level

The BRRT has elected an executive including Reg Meade, from Wabowden, as its president;

Warren Pagee, from Pikwitonei, as treasurer.

For more information contact:

Diana Delaronde-Colombe, Community Economic Development Officer at 204-689-2063; e-mail cedo689@hotmail.com or Bayline Regional RoundTable, Box 130, Wabowden MB R0B 1S0.

Province and Burntwood Sign Agreement

Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Eric Robinson and Burntwood Regional Health Authority (BRHA) vice-chair Lloyd Flett have signed an agreement to increase the number of Aboriginal people employed by the BRHA.

The agreement, signed in Thompson February 13, 2002, provides BRHA with \$50,000 to support the province's Aboriginal Employment Strategy. BRHA is the largest regional health authority in Manitoba and the region's population is 65 per cent Aboriginal.

"Having a health care workforce that represents and reflects the community it serves ensures the health care needs of northern Manitobans continue to be met," said Robinson. "This initiative complements our government's

Northern Development Strategy by increasing Aboriginal employment in the region, while providing benefits for all Manitobans. The province is pleased to partner with the Burntwood Regional Health Authority in this important initiative."

The BRHA also regards the initiative as an important step for northern Manitoba. "The stated vision of the Burntwood Regional Health Authority is *Northern Health in Northern Hands* and, with the signing of this agreement, that vision is one step closer to fruition," said Flett.

This agreement, he adds, will prompt partnerships between Manitoba Health, Education, Training and Youth and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs as well as representatives from unions, businesses and the Aboriginal community.



OFC

Interest in Home Inspections on the Rise

The Office of the Fire Commissioner has had a significant bump in the number of fire departments eager to do home inspections under the Home Inspection Program.

The inspection process includes a complete interior and exterior inspection of a residence to identify fire hazards. Along with the inspection, the program incorporates an education component that is even more important. Educating occupants is essential to fire prevention. Making occupants aware of hazards and how to reduce them is integral to prevention. Educating occupants on handling fires when they do occur can save lives and reduce the amount of damage caused.

Before announcing your Home Inspection Program, you must make your local council aware of your plans and explain the benefits:

- The program is proactive because it educates the public on preventing fires, before they happen, and minimizing the damage when fires do occur.
- Education can reduce injuries and fatalities if a fire occurs.
- Prevention programs reduce property loss.
- The program creates a stronger connection between the public, the council and the fire department.

To ensure the program is effective, there are several requirements:

- Fire department members must be trained in offering the home education component. Block 19 of Level 1 Fire Fighting covers fire prevention and public education.
- Inspectors must have a standard checklist to complete when doing inspections.
- Information sheets and/or brochures with fire prevention information should be left with the occupants after the inspection is complete.
- Publicize your program in the community. Posters or ads can be placed in local papers, on radio or announcements can be made at community functions. Make sure your information sheets, posters and ads include a contact number for information and inspection appointments.
- “Sorry we missed you” cards are important if you’re doing a door-to-door campaign. They advise the occupants that you’re doing inspections and how to contact you to book an appointment.
- A record keeping system for completed inspections and to monitor subsequent inspections is necessary.
- Your program should also include the Learn Not To Burn Program for your local schools.

It is important to remember home inspections are not legally required and you must be invited into a residence to do an inspection. *The Fire Prevention Act* only applies to inspections of public buildings.

The Office of the Fire Commissioner or Aboriginal and Northern Affairs can provide the following education materials:

Pamphlets

- Smoke Alarm Facts
- 10 Fire Safety Tips
- Kitchen Fires
- Fire Consumes Jobs
- Office Fire Safety Tips
- Fire Escape Planning
- Baby Sitter Fire Safety Tips
- Portable Fire Extinguishers
- Fire Safety Tips for Older Adults
- Cooking on a Barbecue

Programs

- Matches & Lighters Safety
- Home Safety Safari
- Farm and Fire Safety
- Learn Not To Burn
- Older and Wiser

Courses

- Youth Fire Stop
- Fire & Life Safety Educator
- Fire Inspector Levels 1&2

For help setting up a home inspection program, contact :

Garry Nabess – Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Protective Services Consultant 204-677-6790
Hessel Dethmers – Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Protective Services Consultant 204-622-2150
Office of the Fire Commissioner 1-888-253-1488

TEAM Wabowden Wins Business Game

Team Wabowden has won a spot in the provincial Business Competition game to be held April 26 in Brandon. The computer-simulated business competition, sponsored by Junior Achievement, challenges participants to make decisions on pricing, marketing, production, capital investment, research and development for a business product. About 16 teams from various Northern communities and organizations took part in the competition.

TEAM Wabowden co-ordinator Oswald Sawh says it was apparent as the game progressed that the players saw how their decisions affected their company profits, which determined their standing in the game. "At the end of the game," he said, "they all came away with a better understanding of how a business operates."

Young people are the largest and fastest growing population segment in Northern Manitoba. As a result, business and

entrepreneurial training programs geared towards them particularly interest TEAM members. Junior Achievement of Manitoba is an excellent example of such a program.

Junior Achievement of Manitoba sponsors many educational youth programs. Programs are not limited to business. For more information on Junior Achievement programs call Shaun Hampton, toll free, at 1-800-565-0406.



From left to right: Robyn Becker, Bonnie Becker, Travis Woods, Trevor Woods, Amy Clearwater, Sharon Mowat, Derek Garrick, Katie Nacbaur and coach Oswald Sawh.

Creating Opportunities in South Indian Lake

The community of South Indian Lake is developing a construction company that will allow the community to bid on contracts. To get started, the community has purchased a grader to work on the highways contract with subcontractor Sigfusson Northern Ltd.

The community has a \$1.1 million contract to work on the road construction portion of the Phase 4 highways project. It has also signed a contract with Manitoba Transportation and Government Services to construct the community's winter road. As the community builds the capacity to take on larger projects and bid with confidence, more and bigger projects are likely.

The community's strategy is to focus on promoting the use of local skills that can be used on prospective community

development projects. This approach has created two jobs for grader operators over the next six months and possibly longer. Other jobs will be created under the agreement with the subcontractor. What these jobs are will be determined when the contract starts in early spring.

The community's actions are a reflection of its desire to be sustainable. It received technical assistance from Aboriginal and Northern Affairs and Transportation and Government Services to take on the new ventures. This partnership of community and government evolved as community leaders defined and planned for future needs of the community. The use of community and regional round tables has allowed South Indian Lake to focus on economic prospects that will help build the community.



RURAL FORUM TURNS TEN

Manitoba Rural Forum has spent the past 10 years growing into one of the province's largest networking events of its kind and it's time to celebrate its accomplishments.

**Rural Forum 2002 will mark its
10th anniversary April 25 to 27 at the
Keystone Centre in Brandon.**

All Manitobans are invited to come and experience the forum for themselves. It combines three days of seminars and workshops, exhibits, the ever-popular Flavour of Manitoba food court, demonstrations, and two-full days of activities and events especially for young people.

Regional Challenges, Co-operative Solutions

is this year's theme. Dozens of seminars and workshops are planned to help participants identify the skills they need to increase regional participation and opportunities. Seminars will highlight telecommunications and technology, co-operative solutions, dealing with change, mentorship, succession planning and growing to meet global opportunities.

Members of the tourism industry will also offer a series of adventure travel, ecotourism natural attractions workshops. Local businesses and community organizations are joining the tourism associations in regional exhibits of more than 300 products and services.

The food court will again feature Manitoba's finest cuisine prepared by restaurants, eateries and festivals from around the province. The second annual Wheat City Culinary Classic, where contestants transform a box of mystery ingredients featuring Manitoba foods into culinary delights promises to be a hit with everyone. Visitors will also enjoy free regional entertainment on the main stage each day.

For 2002, youth from all regions of the province have an opportunity to participate in a variety of fun and educational challenges, games and competitions on entrepreneurship, technology, the global economy and the environment.

The forum is open
11 a.m. to 6 p.m.,
Thursday and Friday;
10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday.

Registration is \$175
for three days including
seminars and workshops;
daily admission is \$3;
children under 12 and
seniors get in free.

For more information:
204-726-6242; or e-mail
ruralforum@mb.sympatico.ca;
Web site www.ruralforum.mb.ca.

MANA and Community

Partnering on Engineering Project

The community of South Indian Lake and Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (MANA) technical staff have completed a request for proposals (RFP) to design and construct a new water treatment plant, sewage lagoon and piping upgrade.

What was unique about this particular project was that MANA technical staff worked closely with South Indian Lake's mayor and council. From the beginning, the goal

was to work as a team to develop an RFP to meet the community's water and waste water service needs. It was also intended to help the community understand the RFP process so they are able to execute future projects with minimum MANA assistance.

The process took place from September, 2001 through the awarding of the contracts in January, 2002. MANA technical staff, the mayor and council members, and Manitoba Conservation officials collaborated to decide on the type of facilities needed, a project schedule and the involvement of other regulatory agencies.

MANA technical staff drafted an RFP for the water services project. The final document will also serve as a template for future projects in other MANA communities. The Manitoba Water Services Board (MWSB), Manitoba Conservation, Manitoba Hydro and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) were all consulted throughout the process. The final draft was presented to the South Indian Lake community for review. The community and MANA issued the RFPs in early December.

Before the RFP went out, the competing proponents were required to visit the proposed construction site because the community believed bidders needed to understand the community in which they would be working.

Community Places

Building for Tomorrow

The *Community Places Program* helps nonprofit organizations to improve quality of living within their communities. The program provides funding support for the upgrading, construction or acquisition of sustainable buildings and other facilities that provide lasting, long-term benefits to community residents.

Under Community Places, grants of up to 50 per cent of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$50,000, are available to recreational, cultural, heritage and other nonprofit community organizations in Manitoba.

For more information or an application package, please contact the Community Places Office in Winnipeg at 945-0502. Outside Winnipeg, call toll-free 1-800-894-3777.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: MAY 6, 2002



Co-operation between MANA staff, the community and regulatory agencies turned a possibly difficult process into a smooth, successful one. Other communities will do well to adopt this team approach on similar projects. The project team acknowledges the efforts of all the participants, particularly South Indian Lake councillor Mike Nateways.

One Community's Experience

Economic Development Works

Kendi Clearwater

Ido not believe northern communities can afford to wait for government and government initiatives to ensure our economic viability and the sustainability of our communities. It is up to community leaders to take the initiative, to identify and make use of available support and resources necessary to develop business, jobs and training opportunities for our communities. And we need to do it while preserving our environment and traditions. It's not an easy task, but one we must pursue.

The north is resource rich, with opportunities in logging, fishing, mining and tourism. Traditionally the majority of the jobs and income have come from big companies harvesting the resources and when they moved on, so did the jobs. This is slowly changing.

When REPAP moved out of the Wabowden area, several local loggers seized the opportunity to form their own logging companies. Grass River Logging and Nelson River Logging hold the biggest contracts in the prairies.

The knowledge of the land, the resources and the opportunities exist in our communities. What we lack is the knowledge and support to prepare a business plan, establish accounting policies and prepare marketing strategies. We also lack some support industries and infrastructure available to southern communities such as couriers, packaging, office services, etc.

Although some of our residents may not be familiar with the language and culture of business, they certainly have the interest, enthusiasm and ability. Low taxes, accessible property, and resources are just some of the benefits of doing business in the North. We need to address the challenges of bringing in and establishing new business and industries.

Wabowden Community Council believes the answer lies in individual and community-driven initiatives, that support small business and partnerships. The support needs to come from local, provincial and federal levels. Communities and individuals know their regions and can define local opportunities. Partnerships with other local or outside individuals or groups can provide the necessary resources, support, training and finances to make things happen.

Wabowden hired a community economic development officer and found a year's funding for it through a Manitoba Metis Federation/Human Resource Development Canada (MMF/HRDC) initiative. On a local level, the development officer Diana Delaronde-Colombe, has already:

- accessed funds for a hot lunch program at the school
- helped a single mom on social assistance start her own taxi business
- initiated a day care to be established in the next year

- partnered with HRDC for 11 residents to get local training so they could pass their Class 1 drivers' licenses; assisted 4 residents get their class 7 licenses.
- begun to help local entrepreneurs explore the possibility of a golf course, auto repair shop and local business expansion
- submitted various proposals for community improvements

On a regional level, Delaronde-Colombe has:

- co-ordinated the Bayline Regional RoundTable
- developed and submitted funding proposals for projects such as recycling and further training for home care workers
- begun to explore the possibility of establishing a freight transfer station

All of these ideas came from the community, but needed support to get them connected, to assist with the red tape and encourage them through all the unknowns. I can safely say that none of these initiatives would have been more than just an idea without Delaronde-Colombe's work.

It's obvious communities are able to identify their own solutions and, with right support and resources, make them a reality. Economic development, driven by the community, in supportive partnerships with regional, provincial and federal agencies, really works.