

# COMMUNITY CONTACT

For and About  
Local Government  
Development

Manitoba  
Aboriginal and  
Northern Affairs



August 2002

## Supporting Our Future

# Youth

Welcome to the August issue of *Community Contact*. Youth is the theme for August's issue. Young people are important in any community because they represent the future. It is important that young people receive opportunities to grow and develop into positive and productive members of society.

This issue features programs and opportunities available for youth in northern communities – from helping youth at risk to providing opportunities for post-secondary education.

We've also included two success stories featuring achievements by young people in northern Manitoba.

Many people submitted articles for this issue. Their contributions are much appreciated. We hope you and your community will find this issue informative and interesting. As always, we welcome your comments.

Regards,  
Ray Irvine  
David Lavallee  
Editors

## Wabowden's Young Entrepreneur

By Claudia McIvor

Damion Bayer, a 13-year-old resident of Wabowden, has started his own business – Damion's Pedal Boat Rentals. With his grandfather's encouragement and the help of Wabowden's economic development officer, Damion submitted a proposal to North Central Development and the Wabowden Development Corporation through their micro loans program.

On receiving his loan, Damion purchased a 3-person pedal boat, a 5-person pedal boat and lifejackets for safety. Damion also has an extra boat on hand in case of emergency.

With the help of his grandfather, Damion moves around to provide service to three areas:

Wayside Park at Setting Lake, Shaker Bay at Bowden Lake and The Point at Bowden Lake. He will also visit other areas by special request. Cold drinks are available at his rental sites and he also has plans to sell hot dogs in the future.

Damion's hours of operation are 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. daily, with half-hour rates of \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for children ten and under.

The entire community of Wabowden is proud of Damion and his enterprise, and they all wish him the best of luck. If you're in Wabowden this summer, be sure to stop by and enjoy a ride in Damion's boats.

Volume 2, Issue 6

Thompson Youth  
Services Coalition /2

Building Citizens /3

Inter-Universities  
North /4

4-H Thrives in  
Northern  
Communities /5

Aghaming Youth Make  
a Difference /5

The Thompson Boys  
and Girls Club /6

Ma-Mow-We-Tak  
Friendship Centre /7

New Recreation  
Leadership Program at  
KCC /7

Water Operators to  
Receive Training /8

# Thompson Youth Services Coalition

By Marcella Tait, TYSC Project Coordinator

**The Thompson Youth Services Coalition (TYSC) works to provide youth-in-general and youth-at-risk between the ages of 15-29 with community-based employment and education programs. Formed in November 2001, the TYSC is made up of partnerships between local youth service agencies and currently has a total of seventeen representatives.**

Since its creation, the TYSC has undertaken numerous tasks and created additional partnerships in Thompson and outlying communities. Some of their partners include:

- Manitoba Education and Training
- City of Thompson
- North Central Development
- Probation/Correctional Services
- RCMP
- Marymount North
- Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- Human Resource Development Canada
- Mystery Lake School Division
- Manitoba Métis Federation
- Boys and Girls Club
- MacDonald Youth Services
- Burntwood Regional Health Authority
- Manitoba Family Services and Housing

All of these partners strive to assist with the development of youth-friendly programs and services in the Burntwood region of Manitoba. One such task was a project called the Northern Youth Skills Enhancement. In January 2002, a proposal was drafted and submitted to Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) for the position of a project co-ordinator. On approval of funding, the position was filled and housed within North Central Development, one of the TYSC partners. The project co-ordinator then began to research, assess and develop a report in support of the project. Areas researched and reported on included:

- youth programs and services
- youth behaviour and health status
- youth criminal status
- education and employment status
- barriers to programs and services
- recommendations for future youth programs and services
- preparation of a youth database, to be used in determining potential

participants in upcoming or current youth programs and services offered through the TYSC

All partners in the TYSC have received reports on this project. The communities of Churchill, Leaf Rapids, Lynn Lake, Split Lake, Thicket Portage and Wabowden also participated.

Another program that will be in place by the end of 2002 is the Multi-Agency Youth Intervention Strategy (MAYIS). MAYIS will allow agencies that deal with the same youth on a regular basis to share information. This project applies only to agencies that deal with youth on a case management basis, however the project will generally be overseen by TYSC.

In response to this report, proposals have been submitted to various funding agencies. For more information, please contact the project co-ordinator, Marcella Tait.

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# Building Citizens

By Colleen Weibel  
Director, Career Studies Department  
Frontier School Division

## *Frontier School Division “Citizen Building” Programs*

In today’s society, education is increasingly important as a building block in the lives of young people. Schoolwork is important, but students must learn how to function positively and effectively in society, too.

The mission of Frontier School Division (FSD) is to provide, in partnership with parents and the community, high quality education for all students, so they can develop the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and character essential for successful participation in a changing society. To reflect this, FSD has developed a number of citizen-building programs for students. These programs help students obtain personal and professional objectives. They reflect the needs, aspirations and culture of communities. They promote life long learning and they respond to our changing society.

Programs offered by FSD include:

### ***Student Leadership Program***

A school-initiated credit within FSD, this program provides both theoretical and practical leadership skills for students. It combines inter-school workshops with classroom sessions, during which students receive instruction in positive self-esteem development, group dynamics, recreational leadership and first aid.

### ***Student Voice Conference***

The Student Voice Conference is part of the annual FSD School Committee Conference. It provides opportunities for high school students to learn leadership and communication skills, and to discuss issues affecting them in their schools and communities. Each high school in FSD is invited to send four students to the two-day conference.



### ***FSD Juried Art Show***

Students develop a sense of identity and self-esteem when they create through art. In support of this, a juried art show is held annually in February. Students from Grade 7 through adult education are invited to submit work in three categories judged by a panel of jurors.

### ***Teen Talk Workshop for Youth***

In this program, youth educators provide young people with accurate information and resources on sexuality, reproductive health, mental health and violence issues. Workshops on such topics as decision-making, teen dating violence, appreciating diversity, youth sexuality, essential communication skills in relationships, and mental health and illness have been delivered to communities all across northern Manitoba.

### ***Frontier Games***

The Frontier Games brings students together to compete in athletic endeavours, make friends and assume leadership roles. About 1,250 students, staff and community members attended the 28th Annual Frontier Games in 2002, where students from Grades 6 to 9 competed in events ranging from snowshoeing and cross-country skiing, to table tennis and trap setting.

Programs like these help youths to grow into strong and successful individuals. For more information on FSD and its programs, please call (204) 775-9741 or visit the FSD Web site at [www.frontiersd.mb.ca](http://www.frontiersd.mb.ca).

# Inter-Universities North

## *Post-Secondary Education in Northern Manitoba Communities*

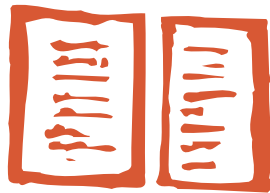
By Connie Pringle

Would people in your northern Manitoba community like to begin or continue post-secondary studies and stay close to home? Inter-Universities North (IUN) can help. "Bringing education to the people of the North" is our motto.

When classes begin in September, IUN will be involved in first-year university programs and full Bachelor degree programs in Cross Lake, Norway House, The Pas, Thompson and War Lake. Last year more than 400 mature and regular students in northern Manitoba took IUN courses, and similar numbers are expected for the coming year.

One program offered is the Bachelor of General Studies degree. In this program, students from several northern Manitoba communities get together to take courses for one week per month. For the rest of each month, they are back in their communities. Students gain valuable knowledge and skills, and can become positive role models for their families and communities. If you have a job, and have some university education already, this option may help you complete your degree.

IUN also has a full-time first year university program that allows northern students to complete their first year of university studies much closer to home in Thompson. Courses include Introduction to University, Native Studies, Sociology, Human Development, and Computers, among others.



IUN works with several partners such as the University of Manitoba's Northern Faculty of Social Work, which offers a Bachelor of Social Work degree. IUN helps out by offering the

Arts courses required for the degree. A similar arrangement exists with the Bachelor of Nursing degree offered by Keewatin Community College (KCC) and the University of Manitoba. The college offers the program and the Nursing courses, and IUN offers the Arts and Science courses needed for the degree. IUN also works with KCC to offer the Transition Year Program, in which students take college and university courses for a year to gain the skills needed for further post-secondary studies.

If the program you want is not offered in your community, it may be available in Thompson or The Pas. As well, representatives of any community interested in starting a new program in their community can meet with IUN to develop a proposal and to discuss details.

For more information on any of IUN's programs, please call 1-800-442-0462 or (204) 677-6740 and ask for Joan, Lavina or Connie.

## **'Blueprint for the Future' Coming to Winnipeg**

Blueprint for the Future is a career fair for Aboriginal youth in grades 10-12 that will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre Wednesday, November 6, 2002. Upwards of 150 information booths will be featured, and approximately 100 speakers will be giving presentations on topics such as business, finance, law, communications and agri-business. Approximately 1,700 urban and northern students are expected to attend the event, which will feature plenty of exciting entertainment and career information. To learn more about this event, call Marisha Roman at (416) 926-0775, e-mail [mroman@naaf.ca](mailto:mroman@naaf.ca), or visit [www.naaf.ca](http://www.naaf.ca) on the Web.

# 4-H Thrives in Northern Communities

By Marnie McCracken

It's important that young people have the opportunity to get involved in positive, productive activities. 4-H offers youth the chance to experience a wide variety of activities. The overall purpose of 4-H is to help young people develop as responsible and contributing citizens by contributing to the mental, emotional, social and physical growth of members and leaders. To offer youth this opportunity to grow, communities may want to consider starting up their own 4-H club.

4-H clubs run year round and can get together anywhere – in a community hall, a school or in someone's home. 4-H clubs offer young people aged 8 to 19 fun opportunities to learn leadership, management, communication and other skills. Adult memberships as 4-H leaders are encouraged, and parents and guardians are especially welcomed. Registration costs just \$12.00 annually per member. No fee is charged for adult members.

Young people who join 4-H in the northern region may be exposed to a wide variety of activities that involve learning by

doing. Learning activities may include things such as growing a garden, making clothing, preparing foods, working with wood or other materials, repairing small engines and automobiles, photography, outdoor living skills, and youth entrepreneurship. Youth will even be encouraged to design their own projects and learning experiences. Because 4-H is a provincial, national and international organization, there are opportunities for scholarships and travel to other communities and provinces for events like conferences and workshops.

Manitoba 4-H is co-ordinated and funded by Manitoba Agriculture and Food, with additional funding from Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, corporate, and individual sponsors. For more information on 4-H, visit [www.4h.mb.ca](http://www.4h.mb.ca) on the Web and contact Marnie McCracken, who would be happy to talk about 4-H in the Manitoba's northern region and meet with interested groups. Marnie can be reached by phone at (204) 627-8255, by fax at (204) 623-1839, or by email at [mmccracken@gov.mb.ca](mailto:mmccracken@gov.mb.ca).

# Aghaming Youth Make a Difference

By Murray Marchment

Young people from Aghaming and the surrounding area have really made a difference in their community – by planting an orchard. Area youth recently undertook a land-restoration project that included planting a variety of beautiful plants, and have made their community an example for others.

While Aghaming is surrounded by natural beauty, it also had unsightly areas of high grass and willow trees that were home to old cars, discarded construction materials and miscellaneous waste items.

Thanks to the efforts of motivated community young people, flowerbeds, fruit trees, sunflowers, ornamental trees and grapevines can now be seen growing in Aghaming. The project has become a source of inspiration for other communities looking into restoration or community-beautifying projects.

The project was inspired when a group of young adventure travellers who had paddled to Aghaming began swapping stories with local young people. The visitors shared their concern about how development had caused the loss of beautiful wild areas and orchards in their hometown. On



hearing the stories, Aghaming youth decided not to let it happen in their community and the land restoration project was born.

The project was completed in partnership with the Manitoba Model Forest Inc. and the Environmental Youth Corps. Both organizations helped through cost-sharing, providing information and development support.

Manitoba Model Forest Inc. is a partnership of forest industry groups and stakeholders who seek ways to achieve sustainable development by working together towards a common understanding of the processes and ecosystems of the forest.

Environmental Youth Corps is a Manitoba government program that encourages youth to develop and participate in local environmental projects. In the process, youth gain valuable education and experience, and their communities reap the environmental benefits.

Way to go, Aghaming!

# Going Places

## The Thompson Boys and Girls Club

By Craig Sharp

Young people need positive and stimulating experiences to help them achieve their full potential as they grow into adults. Due to financial and social barriers, not all young people receive such opportunities for personal growth. The Thompson Boys and Girls Club helps disadvantaged youth become involved in positive activities.

The Thompson Boys and Girls Club was established in 1992 by a group of concerned volunteers. Its goal is to offer children and youth of diverse social and cultural backgrounds a safe and challenging environment and the opportunities to acquire skills that will enable them to realize their potential. Last year, the club was visited by over a thousand youth.

The club recently gave presentations in Brochet and Split Lake on the possibility of developing a similar program in those communities. The club has also begun consulting with the Manitoba Métis Federation on developing programs in other northern communities.

The programs and services available to youth cover a broad range of activities from athletics to computers and more. There is something of interest for practically every young person. Here are a few examples:

**Youth Services Canada Project** – provides youths aged 18-29, who have barriers to employment, with meaningful educational and skill development opportunities.

**Sports Access Program** – provides youths aged 6-17, from low-income households, with opportunities to participate in organized sport by supplying equipment, transportation and registration fees.

**Computer Lab** – provides six networked and Internet-accessible computers for educational and recreational use.



**Young Eagles Program** – provides educational programming for youth that have difficulty functioning in a regular classroom setting.

**Lighthouse Project** – a late-night, drop-in program for youths at risk, giving them a safe and structured alternative to the street.

**Gym Nights** – youth have access to School District of Mystery Lake gyms and equipment three nights a week.

**Royal Bank After School Project** – provides youth at risk with educational programming, schoolwork support, cultural activities such as arts and crafts, and arranges time with Elders.

For more information on the Thompson Boys and Girls Club, please contact them by phone at (204) 778-7575 or by e-mail at [bgclub@mts.net](mailto:bgclub@mts.net).

## National Aboriginal Youth Strategy

### *Aboriginal Youth – We Want Your Opinion.*

The Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Web site, [www.gov.mb.ca/ana](http://www.gov.mb.ca/ana), now features a link to the National Aboriginal Youth Strategy. To collect as much feedback as possible, we are asking all Aboriginal youth to visit the site, review the strategy and fill out the accompanying questionnaire. Please be sure to visit the site and make your voice heard.

# Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre

By Renee Kastrukoff

In December 2000, the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre purchased a building, acquiring a permanent home for youth programs. The building is ideal for youth activities and is centrally located in Thompson to ensure easy access for all.

The youth centre houses the Northern Circle of Youth project, the Thompson Aboriginal Youth Justice project, the Northern Youth Councils project, and Futures Support Worker. The Manitoba Métis Federation, Thompson Local Management Board, also operates from the youth centre, providing employment programs, training and enhancement.

The Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre's youth centre is designed to serve as a one-stop-shop for Aboriginal youth. The youth centre delivers programs, services and activities in a holistic, inclusive and culturally sensitive manner to ensure that the physical, emotional, mental and intellectual needs of Aboriginal youth are met.

The youth centre offers programs focusing on youth-related issues, such as education, employment, recreation, health, justice, culture and youth leadership. Social issues like adolescent pregnancy, adolescent sexuality, addiction and suicide are also addressed.



The emphasis with all programming is on youth involvement. The youth centre continually works to empower youth by involving them in all aspects of the development, planning, implementation and evaluation of programs, services and activities. Youth participate in the joint management committee, which oversees the operation of the centre.

Along with regular programming, the youth centre also organizes special events and activities. These have included hosting an annual youth conference, holding National Aboriginal Day celebrations, hosting cultural events and activities, and much more.

New initiatives underway for the youth centre will include development of a mentoring program for young girls, addition of an employment preparation program for young offenders, and operation of an inter-agency classroom for youth having difficulty in the mainstream school system.

The youth centre will soon feature the services of an Aboriginal Health Foundation youth and family counsellor, a Parent/Child Centre co-ordinator, and a youth employment assistance services counsellor.

For more information on the Ma-Mow-We-Tak Friendship Centre's youth centre, please call (204) 677-0950, or visit the Web site at [www.mamowwetak.mb.ca](http://www.mamowwetak.mb.ca).

# New Recreation Leadership Program at KCC

By Kelly Barr, Recreation Leadership Program Instructor

This fall, KCC (Keewatin Community College) will begin offering a new Recreation Leadership certificate program at The Pas campus. The new program, starting September 3, 2002, will run for a duration of 38 weeks.

The new program was developed following extensive consultation with various communities and organizations. Much of the work in the program will focus on practical skills. Students will spend approximately 11 weeks gaining valuable experience in the field.

Kelly Barr, Recreation Leadership program instructor, says students will be away from home less than two months at a time, making it easier on the students. "Practical experience is extremely important to the students' learning," said Barr. "The program is designed so that students can learn the theory and skills of recreational leadership, and then immediately go to a

work setting where they can apply the knowledge and skills."

While much of the program is focused on developing practical skills, a significant portion of the workload is devoted to learning to lead, administer, manage, organize, plan and deliver high-quality recreation programs.

In addition to the 38-week program, KCC will be offering five modular courses. These are designed for individuals who are currently employed in the recreation field and are looking to obtain certification or update their skills. Each course is one week in length and will be offered during the 2002/2003 academic year.

For more information about the Recreation Leadership certificate program, please contact Kelly Barr toll free at 1-866-627-8500 (extension 8694) or by e-mail at [kbarr@keewatincc.mb.ca](mailto:kbarr@keewatincc.mb.ca).

# Water Operators to Receive Training

Manitoba Aboriginal and Northern Affairs has entered into an arrangement with Red River College (RRC) to train and upgrade community water and wastewater operators. All uncertified primary and back-up operators will be trained and certified to Level II accreditation in accordance with mandatory provincial certification regulations.

The training will be take place over the next three years. Primary operators will be trained first, followed by backup operators. Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (ANA) will

pay for the initial certification of the primary and backup operators. Any subsequent training and upgrading will be the responsibility of communities.

For the Northern Region, Keewatin Community College or the Manitoba Fire College in Thompson will host the training sessions. For the North Central Region, St. Benedict's Conference Centre in Winnipeg will be the training site. The schedule for the first two years of training is as follows:

## *Northern Region – Thompson*

Course	Date	Location
1. Refresher Math and Science	Sept. 9-13, 2002	TBA
2. Water Treatment/Distribution I	Sept. 30-Oct. 4, 2002	TBA
3. Wastewater Treatment/Collection I	Oct. 21-25, 2002	TBA
4. Water Treatment/Distribution II	May 2003	TBA
5. Wastewater Treatment/Collection II	May 2003	TBA

## *North Central Region – Winnipeg*

1. Refresher Math and Science	May 2003	St. Benedict's
2. Water Treatment/Distribution I	May 2003	St. Benedict's
3. Wastewater Treatment/Collection I	May 2003	St. Benedict's
4. Water Treatment/Distribution II	Oct. 2003	St. Benedict's
5. Wastewater Treatment/Collection II	Oct. 2003	St. Benedict's

RRC and ANA will contact community councils and operators in the near future with additional information on courses and arrangements for travel, accommodations, meals and reimbursements. Should you have any questions, please contact your regional director.



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Community Council members, community residents and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit feedback (comments and questions), suggestions and ideas to the editor.

