

NORTH CENTRAL NEWS

FALL 2005

NORTH CENTRAL COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

Get ready for Discover Manitoba Conference & Expo

Planning for the 4th Annual 2006 Discover Manitoba Conference & Expo is underway with some new features and partners to make this an event you will never forget! The conference is to be held on April 6th and 7th with the expo following on April 8th and 9th. Both events take place once again at the Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg.

The 2006 Discover Manitoba Conference & Expo is a joint venture of North Central Development, Wheatbelt Community Futures, Travel Manitoba, Southwest Trails Association for Regional Tourism (START), Tourism North, the Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM) and Manitoba Tourism Education Council (MTEC). This year's event is building on the success of the past and using valuable feedback from past participants like you to provide an even more exciting program for 2006. It will be an experience not to be missed! Avoid disappointment and be sure to register early.

The conference promises to add a series of useful hands-on sessions and presentations to educate tourism business owners and tourism industry practitioners with tools to market and develop this exciting industry. We will offer top-

notch keynote speakers and insightful facilitators to enthuse and inspire you to take on the challenges and opportunities in your own "tourism niche".

A new feature of the Discover Manitoba Conference & Expo that we are pleased to announce is the Annual Travel Manitoba Tourism Awards Banquet that will be held in conjunction with the conference and expo on Thursday, April 6th.

The Travel Manitoba Tourism Awards is an annual program recognizing excellence and implementation of high standards in the promotion and delivery of tourism experiences in Manitoba. Winners in several categories will be identified at this gala event!

Following the 2-day conference and Tourism Awards Banquet is the Discover Manitoba Expo. This is your chance to target your most affluent market, as Winnipeg families are the number one travelers visiting Rural and Northern Manitoba. Visitors of the show will walk into a setting of excitement and adventure as they discover the wonders of the province. We will showcase Rural and Northern Manitoba at its finest with regional displays, live demonstrations and hands on activities for the young and the young at heart! Whether you are promot-



NCD volunteer Patti McIntyre and TNRC Manager Jim Stewart stop for a visit at the City of Thompson booth during the Discover MB Expo.



Catering to families, the Discover Manitoba Expo provided a wide variety of children's entertainment.

ing a region, community, attraction or a tourism business, we will surely have a spot waiting for you on the grounds of our exposition hall at the Canad Inns Polo Park. The exhibition hall will be transformed into an epic adventure for your target markets - families, couples, seniors and other great explorers - who are planning their next vaca-

tion to visit Rural and Northern Manitoba in 2006.

Watch for more information on the program in the near future and feel free to visit www.discovermb.mb.ca or www.travelmanitoba.com for regular updates.

We look forward to seeing you in April!

CHAIRPERSONS MESSAGE

Tansí!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of North Central Community Futures Development Corporation Inc., operating as North Central Development, I am pleased to extend warm greetings and an introduction to our Fall Newsletter.

The Board of Directors had the opportunity at our Annual General Meeting held in Thompson last June, to see the first Newsletter. I am pleased to advise that it was a resounding success and feedback indicated a desire by our clients and entrepreneurs to continue with the publication. The Board of Directors agreed and here we are with the Fall edition.

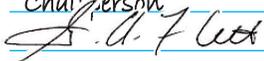
I want to acknowledge the work and efforts of our staff in developing the concept and producing the Newsletter. A job well done!

As the weather gets a little cooler and our thoughts turn back to business following the summer break, I would encourage you to take the time to review our Newsletter which highlights some of the current and proposed programs.

All the best

Glen Flett

Chairperson




Spirit Way walkway taking shape!

For over two years a dedicated group of volunteers has worked towards planning and developing the Spirit Way walkway through the City of Thompson. The walkway is an initiative of Spirit Way Inc., a not-for-profit organization driven by volunteers and has admin support



Site #3 of the Spirit Way walkway - The Manitoba Hydro sponsored Bateman Mural

provided by North Central Development. It is this group's objective to create new pride and spirit in the community by promoting and highlighting art, culture and heritage. This unique walkway will, over the next few years, incorporate 18 major points of interest including a world class tribute to firefighters, the restoration of the Bailey Bridge, Canada's largest rockface sculpture and much, much more!

The walkway is beginning to take shape! Site #3 - The Bateman Mural, on 10-story high Highland Towers was completed this past summer. The Manitoba Hydro sponsored mural is Canada's largest photo-real mural and is a reproduction of the Robert Bateman "Wolf Sketch" that was drawn in 1990.

The wolf image, which peers mysteriously over the northern wilderness, is expected to act as a beacon for the walkway.

In addition to this, work is underway on the Great Kids Slide that is directly below the watchful eyes of Bateman's wolf,

welcoming Thompson's families this winter.

It is the Board's goal to have a number of sites along the walkway completed for Thompson's 50th anniversary celebrations this coming summer. They have fundraised an astonishing \$453,000 so far to make this vision a reality.

For more information on North Central Development's role with Spirit Way, check out

www.thompson-spiritway.ca or call Community Development Officer, Charlene Grant at 677-0203.



ABC helps Aboriginal businesses get established

Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC) support focuses on a set of priorities intended to promote the establishment, growth and expansion of Aboriginal firms. These priorities are innovation, trade and market expansion, tourism, youth entrepreneurship

development and strengthening Aboriginal business and financial development organizations.

Clients must be individuals of Canadian Indian (on or off-reserve), Metis or Inuit heritage, or majority-owned aboriginal business and financial organizations

or development corporations.

If you have a business concept, and you want to find out whether it might qualify for Aboriginal Business Canada assistance, call us at (204) 677-1499. We are always ready to discuss your ideas with you.

Junior Achievement takes off in the North!

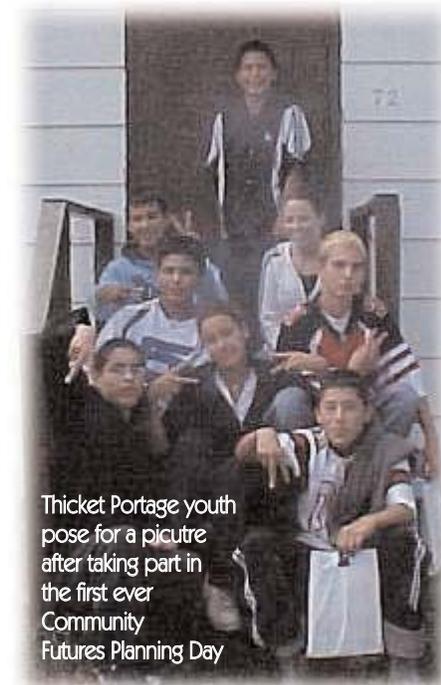
The 2005/2006 school year marks the third consecutive year in which North Central Development (NCD) has coordinated Junior Achievement (JA) programming in Northern Manitoba.

JA is business-based programs delivered to school age youth, most often during class time, and in some cases, during special events. It is the goal of JA and NCD that by introducing business at a young age, entrepreneurship will be considered an option, no matter what community they call home.

A number of events are being planned for the year and a number have already taken place. Below are just a few highlights:

World of Choices Symposium

The World of Choices Symposium is a one-day event that has female youth listen to successful, professional women in non-typical jobs speak about their careers. The goals of the day are to open the eyes of young women to the endless career possibilities available today and also to give them access to the resources necessary to make their dreams become a reality. In hosting this event, JA hopes to empower youth to be proactive about their future, providing them with



Thicket Portage youth pose for a picture after taking part in the first ever Community Futures Planning Day

the tools to better meet challenges of today's work world, and capitalize on career opportuni-

ties in emerging, traditional and non-traditional fields. The benefits of these outcomes directly extend to the community at large and help to develop future business leaders.

Camp Hope

Each year the Northern AIDS Initiative hosts Camp Hope, a camp for youth affected by HIV/AIDS. Children who attend the camp are encouraged to discuss the disease, learn from professionals and elders and bond with others experiencing similar struggles. This year NCD participated in the camp by delivering the Junior Achievement Business Basics program to the group.

Community Futures Planning Day

The community of Thicket Portage gave a warm welcome to NCD staff on arrival at the airport this past July for the first annual "Thicket Portage Community Futures Planning Day". The day consisted of separate youth and adult community planning sessions, a lunch sponsored by NCD and JA presentations for the youth in the afternoon.

If you are interested in having JA in your community, or having local youth attend a JA event, contact **Charlene Grant at 677-0203**.

It's great to be nowhere!

On October 13-15th, 2005 North Central Development hosted four individuals from Asahi TV, a Japanese film production company based in Tokyo on their journey to film train travel in Canada for their up-and-coming feature titled "See The World By Train". This feature program airs in Japan in January and will be viewed by 8% of the Japanese market. With a population of 33 million people in Japan...that's a huge market!

The Japanese film crew set foot on Canadian soil at the end of September to begin their journey of taking footage of train travel and communities visited within Canada. The program showcases three focal points of the countries they visit; the landscape, the people and the culture. While in Canada, they fo-

cused on several cities across Canada including Thompson and Churchill, Manitoba.

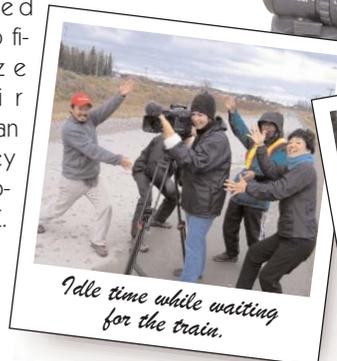
While in Northern Manitoba, the crew spent some time in Churchill to document the polar bears. They proceeded south to Thompson to take video of the trains southbound and northbound from the City to Wabowden and Ponton. When asked about what they liked about Northern Manitoba best, their response was, "its great to be nowhere". Now this might take a bit of explanation! As we learned, in Japan it is so busy and densely populated that getting out to the middle of nowhere is impossible. They loved the wide open space and the feeling of "being nowhere". Our vast and pristine landscape was a highlight of their tour and a

hot commodity for Japanese travel markets.

The crew wrapped up their Northern Manitoba piece and headed west to finalize their Canadian journey in Victoria, BC.



Liz Sousa, NCD Development Officer's next career move?



Idle time while waiting for the train.



Whatever it takes to get the shot!

PEER CREDIT

Did you know artists and crafters can be eligible for a nominal loan through North Central's Peer Credit Program?

Are you looking for web design and development services? Call North Central Development or log on to www.thompson.ca

Did you know that North Central Development can offer small business loans?

- NCD CURRENTLY HAS**
- 34 active regular loans
- 6 youth loans
- 2 disability loans
- 5 Peer Credit loans

NCD Mission Statement

The North Central Community Futures Development Corporation Inc. will endeavor to bring together to support, develop, and promote communities, individuals, or organizations, business and other appropriate stakeholders within the north central region (of Manitoba) to encourage self reliance and viability of the social and economic quality of life.



North Central Development

Cross Lake First Nation celebrates purchase of Tree Suns Junction

On November 4, 2005, amid overcast skies and a fairly strong breeze, Chief John Muswagon, of the Pimichikamak Cree Nation (Cross Lake First Nation) welcomed dignitaries, members and guests as they celebrated the purchase of Tree Suns Junction. Situated at the junction of highways #6 and #39 and commonly known throughout the North as Ponton, the service station and motel complex is now owned and operated by the Cross Lake First Nation. The chief indicated that the location of this business venture is in the traditional lands of the First Nation and he is hopeful that at some point in the future, it will receive reserve status. He mentioned that one of the key factors in the purchasing decision was the positive economic and employment opportunities this venture will create for the Cross Lake membership. Former owners, Al and Huguette Collette were thanked and recognized by Chief Muswagon for their patience shown throughout the purchasing process.

The new manager, Marilyn Miles, on behalf of the staff, welcomes everyone who is travelling throughout the North to stop in, fill up and grab some coffee and enjoy some Cross Lake hospitality.



Above: Previous owner Al Collette shakes Chief John Muswagon's hand to seal the deal, Al's wife Huguette looks on.



NCD staff Martin Chitohwa (pictured right with Grand Opening sign) and Jim Hagan (pictured bottom right with new manager Marilyn Miles) were on hand to celebrate the exciting new venture.



IN MEMORY "Jim" Clarence Hagan

The Board and Staff of North Central Development are saddened by the sudden passing of our friend and coworker Jim Hagan on Thursday, November 10, 2005. Jim was employed

at North Central Development as a Business Development Officer. In lieu of flowers, if so desired, memorial donations may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation.



Demand for apprenticeship training in Northern Manitoba on the rise

Apprenticeship is hands-on training for people who enjoy learning by doing. The training provides access to well-paying jobs that demand a high level of skills, judgment and creativity. Apprentices are paid while gaining work experience, and their wages increase with their level of skills.

About 90 per cent of appren-

ticeship employers or sponsors who provide training to standards of skill provide training in the workplace and safety set by industry. The remainder involves classroom instruction on theory, which is usually given at a local community college or provided by another approved training organization.

If you are interested in any of

the trades call Manitoba Advanced Education and Training at 677-6667.

After being hired, many apprentices will, because of their skills, be asked to train new apprentices, or will find opportunities to manage operations, start their own businesses, or use their experience as a base for technological or engineering studies at a college or university.

NORTH CENTRAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD MEMBERS

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THOMPSON

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WABOWDEN

Northern communities ship out scrap metal

WINNIPEG.CBC.CA News - Tonnes of scrap metal from Northern Manitoba are being brought south as part of a pilot recycling project. Trucks, trains and barges are being used to bring old vehicles, appliances and building materials to Selkirk for recycling.

"There's a lot of scrap metal in Northern Manitoba, and it's just sitting there and accumulating over the years," says Kim Hickes, a community development officer with North Central Development, the Thompson company managing the project.

"Some of our places have had scrap metal in their communities for 40 or 50 years. A lot of times, industry will go in to do stuff and just leave their equipment there when they leave, put it back on the community. There just wasn't

enough funds or co-ordination to be able to get it out there."

Hickes says it's dangerous to have scrap metal sitting in these remote communities because people can injure themselves on it, and toxins can get into the soil and water.

Last year, more than 1,000 tonnes of scrap metal have been taken out of Gillam, and another 16,000 kilograms have been shipped down from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. Organizers expect to remove another 1,100 tonnes of scrap metal from Churchill, Rankin Inlet and Coral Harbour in 2005.

The provincial, federal and territorial governments are providing funding for the project, as are Manitoba Hydro and the Churchill Gateway Development Corp.

NCD hosts Small Business Workshops

Interested in starting your own small business? NCD is hosting a number of workshops this winter to discuss entrepreneurship, cash flow, market research and more:

Tuesday, Nov 22, 2005
Split Lake First Nation

Thursday, Nov 24, 2005
Nelson House

Wednesday, Nov 30, 2005
Cross Lake First Nation

Thursday, Dec 1, 2005
Cross Lake

Wednesday, Jan 11, 2006
Pikwitonei

Wednesday, Jan 18, 2006
Ilford / War Lake First Nation

Thursday, Jan 19, 2006
York Landing First Nation

Tuesday, Jan 24, 2006
Norway House First Nation

Wednesday, Jan 25, 2006
Norway House

Thursday, Feb 9, 2006
Gillam / Fox Lake First Nation

Thursday, Feb 23, 2006
Churchill

For more information on these workshops, contact Liz Sousa at 677-0204 or email: lsousa@northcentraldevelopment.ca.

SEA Program successful venture for the quarter

The Self Employment Assistance Program (SEA) delivered by North Central Development (NCD) on behalf of Manitoba Advanced Education and Training (MAET) is a program designed to help the unemployed achieve labor market self-sufficiency by creating their own job.

The SEA program enjoyed overall success this quarter. One SEA client, Carol Pelton officially opened her doors to the public on the 3rd day of October 2005. Carol operates a travel agency out of the City Centre Mall.

TravelOnly Thompson owned and operated by Carol is a "full-service travel agency" where bookings range from train, airline and bus tickets to hotel accommodations,

l to r: Candice Bercier, Barb Turton, Carol Pelton and seated is Stephanie Noseworthy.



vehicle rentals, cruise and vacation packages.

A former educator and travel enthusiast, Carol Pelton is a SEA client

who has had an opportunity to work with North Central Development throughout her business start process. She is in the monitoring

stage of the SEA program whereby NCD will analyze her monthly financial reports and provide advise when needed.

At TravelOnly Thompson its "one ticket at a time" says Carol Pelton. TravelOnly has managed to obtain a reasonable amount of traffic since its inception.

Contact TravelOnly Thompson by calling 677-0790, toll free, 1-866-876-7794, or by fax, 677-0799 or via email, onlyinfo@mts.net.

For more information on the SEA Program you can reach Martin Chitowha at the following numbers: 677-1496, 679-5362 or via email at mchitowha@northcentraldevelopment.ca

Contact us at 677-1490

-- Administration --



Tim Johnston
Manager



Tamy Burton
Administrative Officer



Leann Brown
Book Keeper



Tara Ellingson
Administrative Assistant

-- Community Development --



Laura Finlay
CEDO



Charlene Grant
CEDO



Leslie Tucker
CEDO

-- Business Development --



Martin Chitowha
BDO - SEA Program



Liz Sousa
BDO



Peter Rosenfeld
Aboriginal Business Canada



North Central
Development

**GOOD
LUCK KIM!**



Kim Hikes was part of the North Central team for a number of years, on both the Board and Staff sides. Most recently Kim headed up the Environment Portfolio and made amazing headway on unique initiatives throughout the North Central Region.

Kim is now the Executive Director at a daycare in Thompson. Congratulations on your move and good luck in all your endeavors! North Central will miss you.