



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Report on Five Year Community Plan & One Year Work Plan

Results of Year 4 (2012-13)

March 31, 2013

Introduction

In 2007, Neighbourhoods Alive!, a department of Manitoba Intergovernmental Affairs (now Manitoba Housing and Community Development), announced an expansion to their program to five new communities, including Portage la Prairie. Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) is a program of the Manitoba Government that provides support to urban neighbourhoods through community-driven revitalization efforts.

To develop the neighbourhood renewal plan, an Interim Advisory Committee partnered with the Portage Community Network to determine the community revitalization priorities in our community. The partnering with the Portage Community Network provided an opportunity to contract with the University of Winnipeg, Institute of Urban Studies to conduct Community Forums, Focus Groups and One on One Interviews to identify key priorities for the community. As a result of these activities, a list of priority areas was created for social planning in Portage la Prairie. All findings can be found in the *Social Planning Initiative Phase I Report (2009)*.

In July 2008, the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC) was incorporated with the members of the Interim Advisory Committee forming the first Board of Directors. Based on the priority areas and recommendations listed in the Social Planning report, the PCRC Board of Directors developed priority areas and goals to guide the activities of the PCRC over the next five years documented in the ***PCRC Community Plan 2009-2014***.

Significant progress has been made towards the goals and objectives listed in the Five Year Community Plan in our first four years of operation. This document, the ***Results of Year 4 (2012-13)***, documents some of the PCRC's successes and challenges to date in implementing the 5 Year Community Plan.

Thank you to the PCRC Board members & staff, both past and present, funders, community partners and citizens of Portage la Prairie for working together to Revitalize Portage!

PCRC Mandate, Priority Areas and Goals

The mandate of the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC) is to strengthen the well-being of Portage la Prairie by empowering citizens, enhancing neighbourhoods, fostering community spirit and building the capacity of community organizations.

Priority Areas and Goal Statements

1. Housing

Goal #1: To improve the quality of existing housing stock while encouraging the creation of additional safe, affordable and appropriate housing.

Goal #2: To ensure the establishment of a community infrastructure to facilitate the development and management of emergency, transitional and affordable housing.

2. Poverty Reduction

Goal: To facilitate opportunities that link lower income residents with activities to improve their economic situation; and to address barriers to economic security.

3. Community Engagement

Goal #1: To engage citizens and organizations within Portage la Prairie in community initiatives to foster participation and a stronger sense of community and pride.

Goal #2: To promote initiatives that enhance a feeling of safety and well-being.

Goal #3: To build awareness of social and cultural diversity within the community to reduce discrimination and racism.

4. Affordable Recreation and Leisure

Goal: To encourage the creation of affordable recreational opportunities and the development of physical spaces with a focus on the needs of families and youth.

5. Capacity Building

Goal: To provide resources to build the capacity of neighbourhood groups and social service organizations to together develop sustainable solutions to community issues.

6. Organizational Development

Goal: To operate an effective community revitalization organization that meets the goals in the Community Plan while remaining accountable to the community, funders and government.

1. Housing

Goal #1: To improve the quality of existing housing stock while encouraging the creation of additional safe, affordable and appropriate housing.
 Goal #2: To ensure the establishment of a community infrastructure to facilitate the development and management of emergency, transitional and affordable housing.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>1A. Home Beautification (HB)</p> <p>Grants of up to \$2500 for homeowners and \$1000 per unit for landlords to make exterior improvements</p>	<p>Beautification of 12 owned homes and 4 rental units in 2012 brings the total to 71 owned homes and 23 rental units to date.</p> <p>33 homeowner applications were received. This is consistent with the previous year</p> <p>7 rental applications show an interest in the program but are not reflective of the high number of rental units needing repairs.</p> <p>Over \$29,000 were distributed in grants this year and property owners contributed over \$23,000 of their own funds into the renovations plus labour.</p>	<p>Home Beautification grants are making a visual impact on the appearance of neighbourhoods, with the beautification of 94 properties to date: 71 owned homes and 23 rental units.</p> <p>The grants have improved the condition of existing housing stock, both owned & rental.</p> <p>Homeowners have been able to expand their renovations due to discount programs from local businesses</p>
<p>1B. Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (NHA) funding</p> <p>Grants of up to \$10,000 for improvements to residences and/or rental units or towards creation of new units</p>	<p>Not a priority in Year 4</p>	<p>Changing staff and leadership at the department of Manitoba Housing and Community Development - Housing Programs made the process of securing NHA funding for Portage la Prairie more difficult than anticipated in Years 1 & 2.</p> <p>Changing priorities of the PCRC have resulted in the decision to not pursue this program in Years 3-5.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>1C. Portage Housing Coalition (PHC)</p> <p>In partnership with community residents and organizations the PHC will facilitate the development and management of interim and supportive housing</p>	<p>The Portage Housing Coalition is not currently active, as the management of the emergency and transitional housing units in the new housing complex is the responsibility of the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA).</p> <p>Hosted a Housing Forum in partnership with MAFRI, Central Plains Inc., the Chamber of Commerce and Heartland Community Futures attended by 50 participants.</p>	<p>PCRC provided assistance in the formation of the Portage Housing Coalition, made up of interested stakeholders and citizens.</p> <p>The Housing Coalition provided guidance to the preliminary design stage of the CMHA housing complex to ensure it will meet local needs</p> <p>The Housing Coalition also provided support and lobbying required to secure interest by the key federal and provincial governments</p> <p>The PCRC Executive Director compiled the housing business plan and feasibility study used to approach funders and provided a high degree of support in the development of detailed funding proposals for the federal and provincial funding sources</p> <p>Resulting from the above activities CMHA secured funding from the 3 key funding sources (federal, provincial and mortgage) for the \$1.9 million Housing project</p> <p>CMHA completed the housing project, which includes 23 suites including 3 emergency suites as well as transitional and affordable suites.</p> <p>Interim and supportive housing needs may be reassessed in the future after the completion of the CMHA Housing Complex.</p>
<p>1D. Housing and Building Resources</p> <p>Information on housing resources and funding programs for residents and landlords</p>	<p>PCRC office has information and pamphlets on housing available for residents and landlords to access, including RRAP and Hydro grants</p> <p>Information on other programs was provided to all Home Beautification applicants to help improve the condition of housing stock in the community</p>	<p>The office has calls throughout the year asking for information on other housing programs and information on the RRAP program and MB Hydro programs was provided, however no statistics are kept on the number of property owners who applied to or secured other sources of funding</p>

2. Poverty Reduction

Goal: To facilitate opportunities that link lower income residents with activities to improve their well-being and economic situation; and to address barriers to economic security.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>2A. Food Security</p> <p>Initiatives to provide greater food security (e.g. community gardens, food co-ops, etc.)</p>	<p>Due to staffing issues, this project was not addressed this year.</p>	<p>In year 2, 15 community partners interested in food security discussed food security strategies and goals.</p> <p>In 2010-11, Create Action intern researched food security projects in other communities and created a report of successful projects and a listing of existing food security programs in Portage la Prairie was compiled</p> <p>A subgroup of the food security committee met to design a strategy to gather information on food security needs and interests from potential users of such programs.</p> <p>Due to lack of resources, this project stalled after the end of the Create Action Internship (March 2011)</p> <p>In Year 2012, partnerships were formed with the Central RHA – Healthy Living which resulted in funds to hire a coordinator in 2012-13 to conduct a food security assessment. Due to staffing issues, this project was not started.</p>
<p>2B. Transportation</p> <p>Provide an advocacy role in the issue of transportation in relation to poverty</p>	<p>Although we planned to arrange meetings in partnership with the City of Portage la Prairie to determine expectations of a transportation study this was not completed this year.</p> <p>Transportation barriers and potential solutions were discussed in the focus groups and key informant interviews conducted as part of the Momentum project. The results will be documented in the project report and shared with the community.</p>	<p>Transportation was raised as a key social issue during the 2010 municipal election and 2011 provincial election via PCRC Candidate Forums. Candidates running for election were asked to review the Portage Social Planning Initiative Study and identify their platform in relation to social issues.</p> <p>All 21 candidates running for mayor and council attended the 2010 PCRC Candidate Forum held at North Memorial School and all 3 candidates attended the 2011 Provincial Forum at the Glesby Centre.</p> <p>In 2011, “Supporting a Transportation Study” was listed as one of the priority areas on the City of Portage la Prairie Strategic Plan.</p> <p>Transportation continues to be noted as a key need in a variety of community conversations including ones on childcare, education, employment, recreation and economic security.</p>

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<p>2C. Employment and Training</p> <p>Partnering with organizations / projects that provide employment and/or training opportunities to reduce poverty</p>	<p>Provided funding for the Portage and Area Labour Market Needs Assessment 2011 through a Revitalize Portage Grant. The results have been released and have been shared with community partners.</p> <p>Attended initial meetings to develop an IANE (Interprovincial Association of Native Employment) chapter in Portage la Prairie.</p> <p>The Senior Life Skills class at Portage Collegiate Institute was provided with funds to pilot a Coffee on the Go social enterprise to build their skills in customer service and business.</p>	<p>By participating as a member of the Youth Employment Advisory Committee in 2011, the PCRC helped guide the study of youth at-risk employment and the development of a 5 Year Plan to meet these needs.</p> <p>The PCRC was asked to consider taking ownership of the Youth Employment Plan once completed to ensure the continuation of the committee and meeting of goals. At the time the PCRC did not have the resources to commit to this responsibility and the committee stopped meeting.</p> <p>Although the Youth Employment Advisory Committee stopped meeting after the completion of the Youth with Barriers to Employment study, the contacts and the report itself were a valuable starting point for the Momentum: Economic Security for Young Women project.</p> <p>The Portage and Area Labour Market Needs Assessment 2011 outlines need and demand in the labour market and provides recommendations to guide the community, including those related to community development.</p>
<p>2D. Momentum: Community Plan on Economic Security for Women</p> <p>A 3 year project to support women and community partners to work together to develop and implement a community plan to promote women's economic security and prosperity in Portage la Prairie and area.</p>	<p>The research phase of the Momentum project was completed. Literature reviews and a documentation of best practices related to Economic Security for Women were completed.</p> <p>47 low income women between the ages of 18 and 35 participated in focus groups to talk about economic security. 11 men also participated in focus groups and 20 key informant interviews were completed.</p> <p>A five member Working Group with community representatives and a broad based Advisory Committee have been formed and are working together to advise the project.</p> <p>A Gender based Analysis report of the research findings has been drafted and will be presented to the community in the next year as a basis for the creation of a community plan.</p>	<p>Women, community stakeholders and community leaders are becoming engaged and beginning to work together on building economic security for women.</p>

3. Community Engagement

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Goal #3: To build awareness of social and cultural diversity within the community to reduce discrimination and racism.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>3A. Neighbourhood Building</p> <p>Projects to build relationships within a neighbourhood (eg. block parties, BBQs, etc.)</p>	<p>In conjunction with the community clean-ups, PCRC hosted four BBQs over the summer of 2012 with 100 people participating.</p> <p>Three Neighbourhood Building projects were funded through the Revitalize Portage! Program this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert in the Park series • Portage Potato Festival • National Aboriginal Day Celebrations 2012 <p>The Revitalize Portage! Block Party program was replaced by the Neighbourhood Action Grants program, which encourages citizens to plan actions to strengthen their neighbourhoods. This project was not successful, as the community did not apply for it. A new approach will be explored for the next year.</p> <p>In partnership with the Chamber of Commerce, PCRC partnered in Positively Portage, a program to coordinate and facilitate projects which engage the overall community in taking personal ownership and responsibility in community pride.</p>	<p>Revitalize Portage! Block Parties held in Years 2 & 3 increased connections within neighbourhoods. 19 block parties were held, and over 1160 neighbours participated.</p> <p>Block parties provided an important connection between residents and the RCMP, as block parties were requested to have a presentation on crime prevention</p> <p>A Block Party Planning Guide was created, and users of the have found it useful in giving contacts for permits, ideas for invitations / posters, websites for information, etc.</p> <p>14 Revitalize Portage! Grants have supported Neighbourhood Building projects including Portage Potato Festival, National Aboriginal Day Celebrations, Time 4 Kids Halloween Bash and Concert in the Park series.</p> <p>Over 200 people took part in two community sports evenings arranged by the PCRC in 2010 (150 for soccer at North Memorial and 50 for baseball at LaVerendrye School)</p> <p>Neighbourhood Building activities allowed participants to meet their neighbours and for families and people of all ages to participate together.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Building events have also provided an opportunity for the PCRC to be more visible and credible in our neighbourhoods.</p>

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<p>3B. Safe Neighbourhoods</p> <p>Projects to increase the feeling of safety in a neighbourhood (eg. Safety audits, community clean-ups, graffiti removal, etc.)</p>	<p>A Graffiti Removal Program was implemented this year. Over 300 incidences of graffiti were identified. Green Team summer students promoted the program, and were able to remove 20 incidences of graffiti. We found letters left in mailboxes were not effective, and that the staff needed to make direct personal contact for property owners to engage in the program.</p> <p>A large focus of the program this year was creating communications material and setting up databases and project material.</p> <p>Four community cleanup days were held during the summer at Fort la Reine School, PCI, Red River College and PCRC, with 100 community volunteers taking part. They picked up 55 bags of garbage, and 20 bags of recycling.</p> <p>10 areas have been adopted through the Keep It Clean campaign, and a number of individuals and groups have been identified who are interested in partnering in activities next year.</p> <p>A number of businesses contributed to the safety programs.</p> <p>Difficulties were encountered recruiting volunteers to conduct the safety audits. Only one area was completed and then the focus was changed to focus only on identifying graffiti.</p> <p>The Public Safety Task Force, composed of key stakeholders in safety including RCMP, Fire, City of Portage, By-law Officers and Health Inspector, met twice to review all safety audit results and responded to issues in their mandate identified in the audits including removal of derelict vehicle, filling sinkholes, patching sidewalks, replacing street signs, and trimming trees and bushes.</p> <p>A series of safety tips was run in the local paper over the summer promoting CPTED principles.</p>	<p>A graffiti removal program was created and over 300 incidences of graffiti were identified. 20 incidences were removed through the program.</p> <p>39 community volunteers have been trained in CPTED and form part of our Safety Audit Team. Participation of residents and stakeholders on this team builds a feeling of ownership in community safety issues and solutions. All team members receive a two day training in CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design).</p> <p>The Public Safety Task Force members have responded to issues that fall within their jurisdiction. Some issues will take longer to respond to as they have budget implications (such as lighting and sidewalk repair).</p> <p>Army Cadets took on the job of doing some graffiti removal and general clean up in the audit area as their Community Services Day project in 2011.</p> <p>Excellent participation from the RCMP and Fire Departments on the Safety Audit Teams and at community clean-up days has given credibility to the project.</p> <p>Over 300 volunteer have assisted in 7 community clean-up events.</p>

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<p>3C. Social and Cultural Diversity Projects</p> <p>Projects to build awareness of social and cultural diversity within the community to reduce discrimination and racism</p>	<p>The 3rd Annual Sharing Our World event was held on May 11th to highlight cultural diversity and had participation of local groups and citizens in planning & implementing.</p> <p>Over 700 participants enjoyed the Sharing Our World event throughout the day to experience the cultural diversity of Portage.</p> <p>Over 120 volunteers were involved in the event, building a feeling of belonging in the community and cultural pride</p> <p>17 cultural groups and 3 community organizations had displays, 9 cultures provided food for a free food sampling, and 9 groups provided free cultural entertainment</p> <p>The event received \$8500 from Canadian Immigration and Culturalism, \$500 from City of Portage, \$500 from Immigrant Resource Services at the Portage Learning & Literacy Centre as well as \$1400 from local businesses in support of the various activities throughout the week. Over \$300 in donations was received at the event.</p> <p>5 Social and Cultural Diversity projects were funded through the Revitalize Portage! Grants program in 2012-13:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aboriginal Day 2012 Celebrations • La Pan’Cirr – Awakening the Artist • Hand Drumming Workshop – Portage Friendship Centre • International Women’s Day 2012 • PCI Drama – Teen Social Awareness 	<p>In 2010, the first Sharing Our World event was held to highlight the cultural diversity in Portage la Prairie. Feedback after the event was so positive that it has become an annual event, with the fourth year currently being planned.</p> <p>Community participation in the Sharing Our World events has raised awareness of cultural diversity in Portage la Prairie and pride in the community.</p> <p>The 2nd Annual Sharing Our World event was a kickoff event to Multicultural Week in Portage in 2011, with activities happening every day at the Collegiate, as well as some other cultural activities throughout the week in the community, culminating with the Citizenship Ceremony at the end of the week.</p> <p>9 social and cultural diversity projects have been funded through Revitalization Portage Grants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing Our World 2010 and 2011 • Aboriginal Day Celebrations 2011 and 2012 • Forgiveness Project • La Pan’Cirr – Awakening the Artist • Hand Drumming Workshop – Portage Friendship Centre • International Women’s Day 2012 • PCI Drama – Teen Social Awareness

4. Affordable Recreation and Leisure

Goal: To encourage the creation of affordable recreational opportunities and the development of physical spaces with a focus on the needs of families and youth.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>4A. Affordable Recreation and Leisure Projects</p> <p>Programs and physical spaces and facilities to provide affordable recreation and leisure to underserved populations</p>	<p>In the past year seven Revitalize Portage Grants allowed community organizations to implement affordable recreation and leisure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concert in the Park series • Meshing Creative Diversity – Portage and District Arts Centre • Summer Activities – Big Brothers Big Sisters • Summer Activities – Youth for Christ • La Pan’cirr – Awakening The Artist – Neemu Egwak Inc. • LaVerendrye School Parent Council – Basket Ball Nets • Hand Drumming Workshop – Portage Friendship Centre <p>The City of Portage approached the PCRC to assist with consultation regarding North End Parks. Two community forums were held, attended by 135 people. In addition, youth were engaged through schools. 229 surveys regarding North End Parks were completed, 158 by youth.</p> <p>The PCRC worked with a North End Parks Committee to develop recommendations based on the consultations and presented these back to the City of Portage and the community.</p> <p>PCRC will be providing support to the North End Parks Committee in developing plans and securing funds for the parks.</p>	<p>Fourteen Revitalize Portage Grants allowed community organizations to implement affordable recreation and leisure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBBS Mentor Activity Boxes • The William Glesby Centre Ballet Performances (three years) • Grants to the Centennial Community Club Inc. for a sound system and ice edger • Youth for Christ – Skate Ramp • Concert in the Park series • Meshing Creative Diversity • Summer Activities – Big Brothers Big Sisters • Summer Activities – Youth for Christ • La Pan’cirr – Awakening The Artist – Neemu Egwak • LaVerendrye Parent Council – Basket Ball Nets • Hand Drumming Workshop – Portage Friendship Centre <p>Four affordable recreation and leisure projects have been funded through the Neighbourhoods Alive! NRF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yellowquill School Natural Playground • Centennial Community Club Inc. – Sticks and Pucks Program • Red River College Playground • North End Active Transportation Routes <p>The PCRC Community Sports events hosted in Year 2 brought over 200 community members together to participate in informal soccer and baseball games.</p> <p>Citizens are taking ownership in the creation of parks in the North End of the Community.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>4B Walking Paths</p> <p>Paths to connect areas of our community and provide active transportation opportunities as well as recreation and leisure</p>	<p>The PCRC has been working with the Portage Bike and Walking Path Committee on a plan for additional bike/walking paths to connect all segments of the community.</p> <p>PCRC has provided advice on funding sources and assisted with a community consultation to gather further community input into the plan.</p> <p>PCRC acted as the sponsoring agency to allow the group to receive funds to send two members to a workshop on bike paths, and to bring in an expert to facilitate a workshop targeted to building the pathway network in Portage la Prairie.</p>	<p>Citizens are taking ownership in the creation of active transportation routes to connect all areas of the community.</p> <p>Funds have been secure to go towards pathways in the North End.</p> <p>Skills are being built locally in relation to active transportation routes and pathway development.</p>
<p>4C Addressing Barriers to Participation</p> <p>A strategy to identify and address barriers to participating in recreation and leisure opportunities.</p>	<p>All applicants to Revitalize Portage! and NRF were asked how barriers of income, transportation and lack of awareness was addressed in the planning of their recreation and leisure projects</p>	<p>Although conducting a recreation and leisure scan was identified in the 5 Year Community Plan, the creation of the Portage Regional Recreation Authority and the completion of the PCU Centre by the City and RM of Portage la Prairie in the same timeframe as Year 1 & 2 of the plan, this priority was determined to be a low priority for the PCRC at the current time.</p> <p>PCRC continues to create awareness of the barriers of income, transportation and lack of awareness of programs to service providers and applicants seeking funds through Revitalize Portage grants and NRF grants by asking applicants to identify how they are addressing those issues.</p>

5. Capacity Building

Goal: To provide resources to build the capacity of neighbourhood groups and social service organizations to together develop sustainable solutions to community issues.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>5A. Proposal Development Assistance</p> <p>Assistance to proponents in developing proposals for Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) and other funding sources</p>	<p>PCRC staff have given presentations to groups and had one on one meetings to talk about the NRF and Revitalize Portage Grants. Particularly to groups focused on poverty reduction and employment and training. Unfortunately these presentations have not resulted in applications in this area to the NRF this year, although the efforts may show in applications in the next several years.</p> <p>PCRC has been able to refer a number of groups to a variety of funding sources.</p>	<p>The PCRC has worked with over 25 organizations on proposal development. Not all of these organizations applied to the NRF.</p> <p>PCRC also played a role in identifying other appropriate potential funding sources for projects.</p> <p>PCRC has hosted a Funders Forum, with training on grant writing as well as a presentation from Neighbourhoods Alive to help build capacity in proposal development and fund seeking.</p> <p>PCRC also helped to arrange a presentation by Neighbourhoods Alive! at a Network of Non-Profits luncheon in 2012 to speak about the NRF. The presentation was attended by 26 people.</p> <p>Organizations have gained some increase in knowledge and skills to develop successful proposals to together develop sustainable solutions to community issues.</p>

5. Capacity Building

Goal: To provide resources to build the capacity of neighbourhood groups and social service organizations to together develop sustainable solutions to community issues.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>5B. Training Opportunities</p> <p>Training opportunities to increase the capacity of local organizations</p>	<p>PCRC hosted an Executive Director Leadership Group series of four workshops. Executive Directors from 11 organizations attended. Not only did these individuals gain skills to make them more effective in their work, but they made valuable links between organizations and have been providing each other with resources and support after the conclusion of the meetings.</p> <p>In the past year a number of training sessions have been offered in Portage la Prairie through other groups including Central Plains Inc. and Women In Business, which has resulted in training becoming less of a priority area for the PCRC.</p>	<p>“Funding Your Community Project” was held March 2010 and included presentations from seven funding organizations and drew the participation of 25 participants representing 18 organizations</p> <p>Red River College gave a presentation on grant seeking/proposal writing as an afternoon session to “Funding Your Community Project” that drew 20 participants representing 16 organizations.</p> <p>The PCRC hosted a Board Development workshop in October/November 2009 – 25 board and staff members representing 13 local organizations</p> <p>Co-hosted an Effective Fundraising Workshop with Central Plains Inc. Whitehorse Plains Community Futures and MAFRI in 2011 (30 participants)</p> <p>With a committee of stakeholders, assisted in arranging a Keep the Change workshop on low-income financial management for 40 service providers by Community Financial Services. This was partially funded through a Revitalize Portage! Grant. Service providers gained skills and tools to help their clients with barriers gain financial management skills.</p> <p>Assisted in promoting training opportunities offered in Portage through other organizations</p> <p>A survey of non-profits was completed and identifies local training topic needs and wants.</p> <p>Community groups have gained useful skills through training opportunities.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>5C. Coordination and Communication</p> <p>Opportunities for social service groups to network and develop partnerships to meet the goals identified by the Social Planning Initiative and PCRC 5 Year Plan</p>	<p>Four networking lunches of the Network of Non-Profits and Social Services were held. In April, 24 people attended the “Meet Your Fellow Non-Profit” lunch; in June, 21 people attended the lunch with a presentation from the Momentum and Harmony Projects; in December, 23 people attended a Christmas Meet and Greet and in February, 21 attended a presentation by Wendy Mousseau on Aboriginal Culture and presentation about aboriginal based services.</p> <p>The e-mail network for local groups to promote events, programs and funding opportunities, has a membership of 77 people, and sends out an average of 15 e-mails per month on behalf of members.</p> <p>Strategic planning assistance was provided to three groups over the past year as a fee for service for non-profit organizations.</p>	<p>The Networking for Non-Profits and Social Services lunches have been offered 10 times in the past three years, drawing from 20-32 participants at each.</p> <p>Information sharing time at Networking lunches have resulted in non-profits and social service organizations being more aware of each other and working together to develop sustainable solutions to community issues</p> <p>A survey of the networking group and non-profits in Portage identified key coordination and communication needs to guide the Committee. The survey identified priorities of: networking lunches, an e-mail distribution list, “lunch and learn” and formal training opportunities</p> <p>Partnerships to support the Social Plan have been fostered during the past 4 years, and non-profit and social service agencies are responding to the recommendations.</p> <p>Assistance in strategic planning and committee development has been provided to several groups to maximize opportunities for partnering and working together.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>5D. Revitalize Portage! Grants</p> <p>Grants of up to \$5000 to be provided to neighbourhood groups and social service organizations to support projects that address the PCRC priority areas</p>	<p>Final results of the 2011/12 program (running July 2011-June 2012) show over 4900 people participated in the 15 projects which received a Revitalize Portage Grant.</p> <p>Preliminary results of the 2012/13 (running July 2012-March 2013) program show over 4300 people participated in the 16 projects which received a Revitalize Portage Grant.</p> <p>Over 165 volunteers enabled the projects to be successfully completed in 2012-13</p> <p>\$26,908 in 2012/13 grants was more than matched by approximately \$84,000 worth of funds from other sources</p>	<p>Results of the first four years of the program show over 19,000 people participated in the 60 projects which received a Revitalize Portage Grant. (2012/13 program is still awaiting final reports)</p> <p>Over 1130 volunteers enabled the projects to be successfully completed.</p> <p>\$111,274 in grants in the first 4 years was more than matched by \$198,000 worth of funds from other sources (2012-13 program still awaiting final reports)</p> <p>As of July 2011, the maximum grant was increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000, due to an increase in the total allocation from Neighbourhoods Alive! This has allowed the PCRC to support some larger projects in the community.</p> <p>RP! projects have addressed all applicable priority areas of the Community Plan</p> <p>Community groups and organizations address community needs, engage more community members, build local capacity and increase community pride</p> <p>Applicants indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the program and many indicated their project would not have taken place without the grant.</p> <p>Suggestions on how to improve the project included more promotion of the program and type of projects it would cover, having more funds available and having longer time periods to complete the projects.</p>

6. Organizational Development

Goal: To operate an effective community revitalization organization that meets the goals in the Community Plan while remaining accountable to the community, funders and government.

Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6A. Governance & Policies</p> <p>Structure to ensure effective and accountable functioning of the PCRC</p>	<p>The Board membership remained consistent this year, with no new additions and two resignations.</p> <p>The mandate was reviewed and changed this year to further define the role of the PCRC. A vision and values statement was also created with all Board members participating.</p> <p>An Executive Committee began meeting this year to review Board skill development (including the annual Board self-evaluation), and draft the annual budget and workplan</p> <p>Job descriptions for all officers of the Board have been adopted.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Committee underwent some significant changes this past year, with a new membership structure added. The Committee will guide the community consultation process over the next year.</p> <p>The Personnel and Policy Committee, Fundraising and Development Committee and Networking and Capacity Building Committee continued to meet, with new membership added.</p> <p>The Board participated in an annual strategic planning session to determine priorities for the next year.</p>	<p>The PCRC Board of Directors has a variety of skills and is representative of many interests in the community</p> <p>The Board through the Nominating Committee will continue to monitor the gaps it has in its membership and seek to address these gaps.</p> <p>A Committee Structure with terms of reference for each has been developed to guide the operations of the PCRC</p> <p>PCRC Committees engage Board members and other skilled volunteers to help PCRC reach our goals and objectives.</p> <p>An active Policy Committee creates formal policies to allow the organization to function most effectively while remaining accountable to the community, funders and government. This has included creating and updating:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PCRC by-laws • Personnel Policies • Fiscal Policies • Revitalize Portage Grants Policy • Home Beautification Grants Policy <p>A Board section of the website was designed to replace Board binders. Although we have had some growing pains learning how to post items, it will serve as a useful way to keep up to date information, policies and resources for the PCRC Board in an easily accessible place.</p>

6. Organizational Development

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6B. Partnerships & Sustainability</p> <p>Partnerships and funding to support PCRC operations and projects</p>	<p>PCRC projects have a wide variety of local partners and funders – too numerous to list them all</p> <p>A major new funding source this year was Status of Women Canada, with a 3 year contract for \$300,000 for the Momentum project.</p> <p>A fee for service strategy has been implemented this year, with three contracts for strategic planning and one contract for workshop facilitation.</p> <p>No fundraising took place this year, however several projects are being planned for the upcoming year.</p>	<p>Increasing support locally for the PCRC is allowing funding from NA! to go further in the community</p> <p>Partnerships that are beneficial to all partners are being formed, allowing PCRC to support the goals and mandates of other organizations while also having our goals and mandate supported</p> <p>Raised awareness of PCRC's goals and successes is resulting in local support for PCRC activities, including in the business community</p> <p>A new larger office space provides opportunities for the PCRC to expand by bringing on new staff and seeking new funding sources.</p> <p>A fundraising strategy has been implemented to provide addition funds for community projects and to allow community members to show their support for PCRC activities.</p> <p>City of Portage la Prairie signed a 3 year commitment to provide PCRC with \$10,000 towards operating costs, continuation of payroll services and participation on the Public Safety Task Force.</p>

6. Organizational Development

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6C. Membership & Accountability</p> <p>A strong membership representative of the community to guide the activities of the PCRC</p>	<p>PCRC membership is currently 158 members</p> <p>The Annual AGM was attended by 41 people, plus staff and was held as a BBQ lunch.</p> <p>The new Community Engagement Committee will play a vital role in involving all segments of the community in PCRC activities and communications to ensure representation from a wide sector of Portage.</p>	<p>The PCRC membership helps the PCRC Board to make decisions relevant to the needs and will of the community.</p> <p>The membership receives updates on PCRC activities and is invited to provide input to PCRC initiatives and participate in activities</p> <p>Approximately 60% of members are associated with non-profit and social service organizations.</p> <p>Informal AGM formats such as BBQ lunches have been chosen to attract a variety of participants and build awareness of PCRC activities to new members.</p> <p>The new Community Engagement Committee will play a vital role in involving all segments of the community in PCRC activities and communications to ensure representation from a wide sector of Portage.</p> <p>A community survey was used to gather input on PCRC programs and priorities for Year 4. 91 responses were received, and this information was used by the Board during Strategic Planning</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6D. PCRC Communications Strategy</p> <p>A communications strategy to raise awareness of the PCRC and increase participation in PCRC initiatives</p>	<p>Media response to PCRC activities has continued to be excellent with newspaper articles and radio interviews highlighting key activities of PCRC.</p> <p>PCRC continued monthly appearances on the Mix 96 Morning Show and a monthly 90 second spot on CFRY, to highlight activities. This has been an effective mode of communication.</p> <p>Four newsletters were produced this year and delivered to each household in Portage. The newsletters have proven to be a very effective communication method.</p> <p>The Facebook page currently has 145 members. Staff have received training on social media, and our page is beginning to be more active.</p> <p>PCRC Website has become increasingly used over the years and allows the public to access relevant information and documents such as application forms. Keeping the website updated has been a challenge we need to continue to address. Plans are in process to make it more user friendly (both for the public and our staff) over the next year.</p> <p>The use of a Display Board and brochures at public presentations has not been used as widely as we had anticipated this year.</p> <p>PCRC entered a float into the Santa Claus parade this year, raising our visibility in the community.</p>	<p>PCRC has been working to use a wide range of communications methodology reach a broad audience</p> <p>Positive media response to PCRC activities helps raise the awareness of PCRC activities and priority areas and raises the credibility of the organization</p> <p>Newsletters delivered to each household have been an effective way of reaching a broad audience</p> <p>PCRC Website has become increasingly used over the years and allows the public to access relevant information and documents such as application forms. Keeping the website updated has been a challenge we need to continue to address</p> <p>Signs placed at Home Beautification locations has increased the public's awareness of the program</p> <p>An Annual Report is now being created, and is useful in applying for funding</p> <p>Communications remains an area of strength as well as an area that needs to be continually improved as it is one of the most important means of building and keeping community engagement</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6E. Board and Staff Capacity Building</p> <p>Provision of opportunities to increase the skill level of PCRC Board and staff to create a functioning, effective organization</p>	<p>Staff identify training needs at their annual performance evaluations and as opportunities arise. This year staff took part in training including the CCDENet annual conference, Women In Business Lunches, and a variety of short workshops.</p> <p>The ED took part in a 5 day Management for Non-Profits training session that was highly useful.</p> <p>The ED also took part in a series of 4 Executive Director Leadership workshops which provided resources and made connections with other Executive Director who are available to share knowledge and resources.</p> <p>Board members built skills through planning sessions to create a vision and values statement, as well as the annual strategic planning.</p>	<p>PCRC Board and staff have received training to increase their effectiveness</p> <p>Timing and location of workshops make it difficult for PCRC Board members to attend outside Board meeting dates due to conflicts with employment and other commitments, however several Board members have attended workshops</p> <p>In Year 5, the Executive Committee will work on implementing Board development activities at more regular intervals</p> <p>Annual Board self-evaluation and annual staff performance evaluations are used to identify Board and staff development needs and wants.</p> <p>The Board strategic planning session increased knowledge of the PCRC's goals and objectives.</p> <p>Training in Facilitation taken by the ED in 2011 has been put to use in the facilitation of a number of strategic planning sessions for local organizations.</p> <p>Social events for Board and staff provide the opportunity to get to know one another better and build the trust and rapport of Board members.</p> <p>Board members are provided with opportunities to increase their skills and knowledge through an annual orientation session for both new and existing members, as well as the annual strategic planning.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6F. PCRC Workplans</p> <p>Workplans for PCRC priority areas which are reviewed and updated regularly to address changes in the community, as well as successes and challenges of previous strategies and initiatives</p>	<p>This Results Report for 2012-13 (Year 4) serves as a valuable tool for the PCRC Board and staff to evaluate our successes to date, as well as being accountable to our funders</p> <p>The One Year Workplan for 2013-2014 (Year 5) has been completed, based on input from the community, Board and staff.</p> <p>During strategic planning, PCRC Board and staff determined the priorities for Year 5 will be engaging community member and financial sustainability.</p>	<p>Annual workplans allow the ED and Board to identify what financial and human resources are needed to meet the objectives</p> <p>The process of community feedback allows PCRC initiatives to be responsive to changes in the community and address areas of greatest concern to residents</p> <p>Annual Workplans reflective of community priorities provide guidance to PCRC staff and Board</p> <p>In Annual Results Reports, successes in attaining outcomes are documented to be celebrated and challenges are documented which provides a valuable planning tool</p> <p>As well as allowing for planning the upcoming year, the strategic planning process is a valuable teambuilding and learning activity for PCRC Board and staff</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6G. Staffing</p> <p>Hiring of staff as necessary and feasible</p>	<p>The Executive Director position was increased from 30 hours/week to 37.5 hours / week. Increasing the hours of this position has allowed the PCRC to take on additional projects</p> <p>The full-time Community Facilitator (37.5 hours/week) and part-time Administrative Assistant (15 hours/week) remained staffed</p> <p>Significant difficulty was faced this year in staffing the Neighbourhood Safety Coordinator position (renamed Community Engagement Coordinator). This put other PCRC staff behind in their own workloads, as well as unable to meet the goals on the Neighbourhood Safety program. A strategy to keep a consistent staff person in this position, and meet the contract commitments for the position, will be a priority in Year 5.</p> <p>Two summer students were secured through Green Team funding for community clean-up activities in July and August</p> <p>Two short-term practicum students from Red River College's Business and Administration program allowed for progress on PCRC goals and objectives, as well as a student learning experience</p> <p>A full-time project coordinator has hired for the Momentum: Economic Security for Young Women project, funded by Status of Women Canada</p> <p>A staff benefits package was secured and will take effect in Year 5.</p>	<p>Retaining the current ED and CF as full-time staff has provided continuity to PCRC programs and operations, allowing the PCRC to grow and maintain a consistent level of service</p> <p>It was difficult to retain an Administrative Assistant in Year 2 due to the low number of hours available (7-14 hours/week). Having a consistent Administrative Assistant in Year 3 & 4 has allowed the ED and CF to become more productive in focusing on program outcomes and strategic operations rather than administrative activities.</p> <p>Funding for a summer student from Service Canada in Year 2 and two students through Green Team in Year 3 & 4 allowed for the completion of several projects in June – August as well as the mentoring of youth in community development and leadership</p> <p>A 6 month internship and three short practicum student positions have allowed for progress on PCRC goals and objectives, as well as a student learning experience</p> <p>The new office space secured in December 2010 has provided the PCRC with the room to grow and take on new projects requiring staff. The space can accommodate additional staff if needed.</p> <p>As part of a staff retention strategy, a benefits package has been secured that meets the needs of our small staff.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 4 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-4)
<p>6H. Linkages with City of Portage</p> <p>Working partnerships with City of Portage on mutual goals</p>	<p>The working relationship between the PCRC and the City of Portage la Prairie continues to be strengthened through communications.</p> <p>The PCRC and the City of Portage la Prairie partnered in North End Parks consultation in this year, and will continue to build and clarify the relationship on this project in the next year.</p>	<p>A good working relationship between the PCRC and the City of Portage has been fostered</p> <p>Having an appointed City Liaison has made it easier to communicate with City Council, and we will continue to explore ways to increase the effectiveness of communications.</p> <p>Partnering on the Public Safety Task Force is an important linkage to address community safety.</p> <p>The PCRC Candidates' Forum 2010, attended by all 21 candidates for mayor and council provided a valuable opportunity to educate about the social needs in the community and have candidates publicly express their views on these issues.</p>