



Portage la Prairie
Community
Revitalization
Corporation

Report on Five Year Community Plan & One Year Work Plan

Results of Year 5 (2013-14)

March 31, 2014

Highlights of Year 5 (2013-14)

2013-14 has been another busy year for the PCRC. Some of the highlights of the year have been:

- Community consultations to provide input into the new community plan engaged over 800 community members, helping to define and plan a *vibrant community working together*. A Community Input Survey received 645 community responses, providing input on PCRC programs and areas that Portage la Prairie should focus on over the next 3 years. A youth survey with 188 responses and 5 youth focus groups provided the youth perspective. Combined with the results from existing reports and consultations held with lower-income women and men through the Momentum project, the PCRC has a wealth of community perspective to guide us as we move forward.
- The Momentum: Reducing Barriers to Women's Economic Security project moved into its 2nd phase this year, identifying the priority areas of child care and transportation. The project is exploring potential models for childcare and transportation to be piloted in the next year. As well, a Women's Leadership Group has been formed to provide 12 women with the skills and mentorship to plan their own projects to address economic security.
- PCRC partnered with the North End Parks Committee and Active Transportation Committee to see developments in the North East neighbourhood. A new park was created with a basketball court that can be used as a skating rink in the winter, as well as a new pathway and trees through the park. The pathways extend through the neighbourhood, creating a network that will eventually be connected to a loop linking the entire city.
- Our graffiti removal program gained popularity as it was extended to businesses this year. More people are calling the hotline to report graffiti, as well as use the program to have the graffiti on their property removed. Forty properties had tags painted over this summer, and two summer students were employed.
- Sharing Our World had another successful year with 19 cultural groups and 120 volunteers showcasing the cultural diversity of Portage through displays, entertainment, activities and food sampling. Over 750 people attended the event.
- Revitalize Portage Grants program provided support to 15 projects making a difference to the community this year. Over 75 projects have been funded by the Revitalize Portage! Grants over the past 5 years.
- Home Beautification Grants assisted 15 homeowners in improving their properties and beautifying their neighbourhoods. Over 100 properties have been improved over the five years this program has run.
- The Board has been very active in ensuring effective and accountable governance of the PCRC. Board capacity has been a focus this year with a formal Board Orientation and Board Governance training. Policies for the PCRC continue to be created and updated. Last year's AGM was attended by 78 people, the highest attendance to date.
- Although a very successful year, some challenges have included the need to update the computer network, as well as the need to redesign an outdated website that would allow for content to be easily updated. With a number of project contracts reaching their end over the next year, financial sustainability has been and will continue to be an area of focus to ensure the continuation of important projects and services.

Background

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 5 (2013-14)***, 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

Vision: A vibrant community working together.

Mission: The PCRC works with the community to create community.

No matter the issue, we believe community is the answer. Working together with the community of Portage la Prairie we empower citizens, enhance neighbourhoods, foster community spirit and build the capacity of community organizations.

5 Year 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.

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Initiatives	Year 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>1A. Year 5 Community Consultations</p> <p>A series of consultations with Portage residents to gather community input to inform a new Community Plan, with a focus on engaging specific groups including low-income, youth, aboriginal, seniors, immigrants</p>	<p>Community Engagement Committee was formed to guide the process including community members from a variety of backgrounds including youth, aboriginal and newcomer, as well as a City Councillor, City Manager, PCRC Board members and service providers.</p> <p>A Community Input Survey was distributed to each household in Portage la Prairie and was completed by 645 people, representing a diversity of residents in our community.</p> <p>Data from other local studies has been gathered to be included into the report, including the Momentum: Women`s Economic Security report which included focus groups with 48 lower income individuals and interviews with 20 service providers and community leaders.</p> <p>A youth survey was completed by 188 surveys at PCI.</p> <p>Five focus groups were held with youth from ages 13-19 in December 2013.</p> <p>We have begun to share the survey results, through one-on-one meetings and presentations. This will continue in April.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Committee has developed a strategy to present the community plan back to residents for input in the next fiscal year.</p>	<p>A wide representation of Portage residents provided input into the community consultations, to inform the community plan.</p> <p>Survey results are being shared with community partners for their input into actions in the community plan</p> <p>The community plan is being drafted and will be shared with residents for input in the new year.</p>

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<p>1B. Neighbourhood Building</p> <p>Projects to build relationships within a neighbourhood (eg. block parties, BBQs, etc.)</p>	<p>7 Neighbourhood Building projects were funded through the Revitalize Portage! Program this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potato Festival • TSFRC-Family Fun Event • Public Library – Summer Spectacular • National Family Day • Time 4 Kids – Halloween Bash • Louis Riel Day • 7th Street Neighbourhood Party <p>PCRC, in partnership with the North End Parks Committee, held 3 NE Parks celebrations at 9th Street NW Park, Prosvita Park and the new NE Park. Approximately 125 people took part in the 9th St celebration, 30 at Prosvita and over 180 attended the NE Park fun and movie night.</p> <p>PCRC also held 5 community clean-ups that included a BBQ and games, engaging 109 volunteers for the clean-ups and over 350 for the BBQ's and activities.</p> <p>A Good Neighbour Award program was created with residents nominating community members for monthly winners. All winners received gift certificates and had their story and picture in the paper.</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>21 Revitalize Portage! Grants have supported Neighbourhood Building projects including projects like Portage Potato Festival, Time 4 Kids Halloween Bash, National Family day, Louis Riel Day, Concerts in the Park, National Aboriginal Day, Block Parties, and TSFRC Family Fun Event.</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>At PCRC sponsored events, the Fire Department, EMS and RCMP are invited to participate. The opportunity allows the community to see emergency services in a positive personal role.</p> <p>Neighbourhood events allow participants to meet their neighbours and for families and people of all ages to participate together.</p> <p>Neighbourhood Building events have provided an opportunity for the PCRC to be more visible and credible in our neighbourhoods.</p>

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<p>1C. Neighbourhood Safety Audits and Community Clean-Ups</p> <p>Neighbourhood involvement in identifying and responding to safety issues, and improving the appearance of their neighbourhoods</p>	<p>Six community clean-ups were held between July – September 2013:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prosvita Park – 18 community volunteers, 10 blocks cleaned • Solid Rock Ministries – 9 community volunteers, 6 blocks cleaned • BDO Centre for the Community – 2 community volunteers, 5 partners – 8 blocks cleaned • LVS – 10 community volunteers, 7 blocks cleaned • Park on the corner of 7th Street NE and Saskatchewan Avenue (beside 7/11) – 30 community volunteers, 9 blocks cleaned • North Memorial School/ New North End Park – 40 volunteers, 9 blocks cleaned <p>Due to the low numbers we changed the timing of the clean-ups in August to start at 5:30 instead of 4:00. Also working to make them more fun with emphasis on the BBQ and activities.</p> <p>Working on plans to make the clean-ups a bigger event next year encompassing more than just litter.</p> <p>16 Keep It Clean Adopted areas have been adopted in 2012-2013</p> <p>The Safety Audit program stalled this year as the Public Safety Task Force was inactive. Community clean-up participants conducted mini-safety audits as they noted graffiti and other safety concerns as part of their clean-ups</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 450 volunteers have assisted in 13 community clean-up events.</p> <p>Community members are taking responsibility for community clean-up as evidenced by the 16 Keep It Clean Adopted areas that have been adopted by individuals and groups</p>

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<p>1D. Graffiti Removal Program</p> <p>Removal of graffiti from homes, businesses, community organizations and public areas</p>	<p>A Graffiti Removal Program was expanded to businesses this year</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 76 businesses and 178 homes with graffiti received Graffiti Removal Program information packages • 32 businesses contacted the Graffiti Removal Program for assistance in painting over graffiti • 8 homes contacted the Graffiti Removal Program to have the graffiti removed • 40 incidences of graffiti were painted over • 63 Reported incidences this year – incidences on public property were shared with the appropriate stakeholder (City, Hydro, etc) • 3 homes were tagged again after being painted over in 2012 and 3 businesses were tagged again after being painted over in 2013 	<p>The graffiti removal program was created in 2012 and over 300 incidences of graffiti were identified. 60 incidences were removed through the program.</p> <p>Public awareness of the program and the importance of removing graffiti promptly has been raised. The public rated the graffiti removal program as the highest value program of the PCRC in the 2013 Community Input Survey.</p>

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<p>1E. 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>4th Annual Sharing Our World, Multicultural Event was held on May 4 at the Canad Inns.</p> <p>19 different cultural and social groups were involved in the day, the goal was to reach 23 groups again but we had some groups that were not available to take part this year but hope to be involved in the next one. This will always be an issue as some of the groups are only two or three families and are not always available on the day of the event.</p> <p>We had over 125 volunteers helping to make the day happen, from preparing food for the food sampling, arranging displays, providing entertainment, doing demonstrations, creating activities for the young people and helping with the greeting, staging, information, cleaning and general assistance.</p> <p>We had 750 participants sign in for the day and the responses from those taking part were very positive.</p> <p>Board decision was made to move to an every 2nd year format, so will not be running the event in 2015.</p> <p>One Social and Cultural Diversity projects was funded through the Revitalize Portage! Grants program in 2013-14:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MMF Louis Riel Day 	<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 became an annual event, with 2013 being its 4th year.</p> <p>The number of cultural groups involved each year has ranged from (19-23), providing cultural entertainment, displays, activities and food sampling.</p> <p>In the 1st year 250 people attended. In the next 3 years over 700 people attended.</p> <p>Each year, over 100 volunteers helped the day happen.</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>11 social and cultural diversity projects have been funded through Revitalization Portage Grants</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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>2A. 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 Momentum project has made the transition between Phase 1 and 2. The first phase was research focused with an Executive Report being released at the end of March 2013. The next phase moves into implementation based on priorities set by the community.</p> <p>The final report for phase 1 was completed and released, describing barriers faces by women in relation to economic security</p> <p>A community meeting with 35 participants, including women facing economic insecurity, service providers, and community leaders, was held to set priorities for phase 2</p> <p>Childcare and transportation have been identified as the key priority areas for the second phase of the project as well as ongoing project goals of increasing collaboration and public education</p> <p>A contract position has been added to lead the childcare portion of the project. A study of the child care situation in Portage, along with potential models to address the issue is in progress.</p> <p>A discussion paper presenting various transportation models is being drafted for presentation to a working group tasked to look at the issue</p> <p>A Women's Leadership Group program has been designed to train women in leadership skills and have them design and implement community projects. 10 women are involved in this project.</p> <p>Collaboration Group is looking at designing an online resource guide.</p> <p>A public awareness strategy is currently being designed.</p>	<p>The research phase of the project engaged 47 lower income women and 11 men in focus groups, 20 key informants in interviews and 29 members on an Advisory Committee.</p> <p>A report for Phase 1 of the project outlined barriers women are facing in relation to economic security.</p> <p>Childcare and transportation have been identified as the key priority areas for the second phase of the project as well as ongoing project goals of increasing collaboration and public education. Plans for addressing these priority areas are underway.</p> <p>A Women's Leadership Group program has been designed to train women in leadership skills and have them design and implement community projects.</p>

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<p>2B. Transportation</p> <p>Provide an advocacy role in the issue of transportation in relation to poverty</p>	<p>The Momentum: Reducing Barriers to Women's Economic Security identified transportation as one of the key issues for the project to address over the next year</p> <p>The project is researching best practices in transportation in small cities, with a report due in April 2014. The project aims to pilot a transportation project.</p> <p>A meeting was hosted with 18 stakeholders to discuss the issues related to transportation from a variety of sectors.</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, although no action has been taken at this time.</p> <p>Transportation continues to be promoted as a key need in a variety of community conversations including ones on childcare, education, employment, recreation and economic security.</p> <p>A study of transportation models is in progress through the Momentum project.</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>Currently working with a committee to develop a youth co-op in Portage la Prairie.</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>PCRC partially funded the 2011 Portage and Area Labour Market Needs Assessment which outlines need and demand in the labour market and provides recommendations to guide the community, including those related to community development.</p> <p>Attended initial meetings to develop an IANE (Interprovincial Association of Native Employment) chapter in Portage la Prairie.</p> <p>Provided Revitalize Portage Grants to four projects for workshops and training including a supported employment workshop and training for Life Skills students at PCI to handle their own coffee cart business</p>

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<p>2D. Food Security</p> <p>Initiatives to provide greater food security (e.g. community gardens, food co-ops, etc.)</p>	<p>Not a priority in Year 5.</p>	<p>In year 2010, 15 community partners interested in food security discussed food security strategies and goals. A subgroup met to design a strategy to gather information on food security needs and interests from potential users of such programs.</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. 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>

3. 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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<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>14 homeowners completed home beautification projects this year.</p> <p>24 homeowner applications were received. This is slightly lower than the previous year</p> <p>3 rental applications showed an interest in the program but are not reflective of the high number of rental units needing repairs.</p> <p>Approximately \$28,000 was distributed in grants this year and property owners contributed over \$29,000 of their own funds into the renovations plus labour.</p> <p>3 accounts were set-up with building suppliers for recipients that could not pay for materials up front.</p> <p>One homeowner withdrew from the program as he did not have the funds to do the work over and above what was covered by the grant.</p> <p>The rental property owner withdrew at the deadline as he hadn't got the work done</p> <p>Some funds were redistributed to other projects and CHII approved PCRC holding the unspent funds of \$1,000 over for 2014 program.</p> <p>Three businesses offered discount programs to grant recipients.</p>	<p>Home Beautification grants are making a visual impact on the appearance of neighbourhoods, with the beautification of 108 properties to date: 85 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>Total amount of grants awarded over the last 5 years was \$235,368 and total investment over and above the grants for the 5 years equaled over \$300,500.</p> <p>PCRC office also has information and pamphlets on housing available for residents and landlords to access, including RRAP and Hydro grants</p> <p>Established a Local Retail Supplier Discount with three of our building/painting businesses in the community. Continue to work on increasing the number of businesses involved in the program.</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 5</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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<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 Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) has taken responsibility of the management of the emergency and transitional housing units in the new housing complex, and is developing a new transitional housing unit.</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>CMHA is developing additional transitional units adjacent to the initial housing development.</p> <p>PCRC assisted in hosting a Housing Forum in 2013 in partnership with MAFRI, Central Plains Inc., the Chamber of Commerce and Heartland Community Futures attended by 50 participants.</p>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>4A. North End Park Development</p> <p>Community involvement in the creation and upgrading of parks in the North End of Portage la Prairie</p>	<p>A North End Parks Community Committee of 12 members was established with representatives from the City, (Councilors Espey & Stasiuk and City Manager) PCRC, an Active Transportation Committee member and citizens at large.</p> <p>Trees, benches and picnic tables have been added to the 9th Street Park and Prosvita Park, and community BBQs held to celebrate the upgrades.</p> <p>The North East Park has the basketball court installed and walkway with trees through the park is completed. Funds have been secured to add fencing around the basketball court.</p> <p>The committee is moving forward with the next steps which includes establishing a fundraising committee to raise funds towards the NE Parks Development/upgrades.</p> <p>The Committee worked on a proposal to develop a spray park, and presented a motion to fundraise a matching amount with the City of Portage up to \$450,000 to see the creation of the park. The City turned down the proposal but allocated a sum of funds to “non-aquatic” park development.</p> <p>Launch of the NE Park was held on September 27 with a community cleanup, bbq, games, bouncy castle, and a movie (was to be an outdoor movie but weather lead to holding it in North Memorial School)</p>	<p>Citizens are taking ownership in the creation of parks in the North End of the Community.</p> <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>As part of the North End Parks Committee, 9th Street Park and Prosvita Park were upgraded with trees, benches and picnic tables.</p> <p>A new park in the North East area has been created, with a basketball court and walk way with trees. Plans for the next phase of this park are underway.</p>

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Initiatives	Year 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<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>Continued to work with a community committee on the extension of the Bike and Walking Paths in the North End.</p> <p>A path was installed from Goodale Drive to 3rd Street, as well as through the new park beside North Memorial School and towards McCains with funds from a NA! NRF grant and funds raised by the Rotary Club and PCRC at the Jail & Bail fundraiser in 2012.</p> <p>Two students were hired for a couple of weeks to provide them with the experience and training to build pathways, and meet one of the requirements of the grant. Unfortunately only one of the students showed up so she was extended to 4 weeks to complete the work. The student worked under the supervision of the City Parks Department.</p> <p>Assisted in writing a grant to Active Transportation Fund (with City as the applicant) for funds to create a formal plan for active transportation routes, as well as install a new stretch of pathway. Decision expected in April.</p>	<p>Citizens are taking ownership in the creation of active transportation routes to connect all areas of the community.</p> <p>The PCRC has been working with the Active Transportation (Bike & Walking Path) Committee on a plan for additional bike/walking paths to connect all segments of the community.</p> <p>Pathway has been installed from Goodale Drive to 3rd Street, as well as through the new park beside North Memorial School and towards McCain's.</p> <p>Skills are being built locally in relation to active transportation routes and pathway development.</p>
<p>4C. 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 4 Revitalize Portage Grants allowed community organizations to implement affordable recreation and leisure projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BBBS – Summer Activities • LVS – Basketball nets • NE Parks – fencing for basketball court • YFC – Recreational Equipment <p>The Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC) program received funding from the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund to be used to create partnerships and expand the recreational opportunities for lower income families</p>	<p>Eighteen Revitalize Portage Grants allowed community organizations to implement affordable recreation and leisure projects:</p> <p>Five 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 • Recreation Opportunities for Children (ROC) <p>The PCRC Community Sports events hosted in 2010 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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>4D 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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>5A. Network of Non-Profits / Coordination & 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 were held:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • June had the theme “Summer Activities” and guest presenters Youth for Christ and Big Brothers Big Sister – 15 people attended • October had the theme “Bring a Friend” – 24 people attended • December had a presentation from “The Well” - 15 people attended • February – Theme was “Collaboration”, with presenters from the Teen Clinic – 17 people attended <p>E-mail network remains active with an average of 20 e-mails being forwarded every month. For 2013-14 a total of 238 e-mails had been sent. September was the busiest month with 33 e-mails sent on behalf of the network.</p> <p>PCRC and Network membership current count is at 150 active members of which 89 are organizational.</p> <p>Assisted in planning a Volunteer Fair with 22 organizations participating. The Fair allowed local organizations to promote their volunteer opportunities and for community members to explore a variety of potential volunteer opportunities in one location.</p>	<p>The Networking for Non-Profits and Social Services lunches have been offered 14 times in the past four years, drawing from 15-32 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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>5B. 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 2012/13 (running July 2012-March 2013) program show over 4490 people participated in the 16 projects which received a Revitalize Portage Grant.</p> <p>Over 215 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>Preliminary results for the 2013-14 program show over 4100 participants and 250 volunteers involved in the 15 projects that were funded this year. (2013-14 program still awaiting some final reports)</p> <p>\$35,904 in 2013-14 grants was more than matched by approximately \$96,450 worth of funds from other sources.</p>	<p>Results of the first five years of the program show over 28,100 people participated in the 76 projects which received a Revitalize Portage Grant. (2013/14 program is still awaiting some final reports)</p> <p>Over 1500 volunteers enabled the projects to be successfully completed.</p> <p>\$146,990 in grants in the first 5 years was more than matched by \$394,829 worth of funds from other sources (2013-14 program still awaiting some 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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>5C. Proposal Development Assistance 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.</p> <p>PCRC staff assisted two groups in applying to the NA! NRF, October deadline: Portage Daycare and ROC (Recreation Opportunities for Children).</p> <p>Had been working with groups for upcoming NRF deadlines, but unfortunately none applied to the March 1st deadline.</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 30 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 in 2010, 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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>5D. Training Opportunities Training opportunities to increase the capacity of local organizations</p>	<p>Hosted a Board governance training session in December 2013. Along with 9 of PCRC's Board members, 14 community members attended the session.</p>	<p>Community groups have gained useful skills through training opportunities.</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 workshops in 2009 and 2013– 39 board and staff members representing 24 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.</p> <p>Assisted in promoting training opportunities offered in Portage through other 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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>6A. Governance & Policies</p> <p>Structure to ensure effective and accountable functioning of the PCRC</p>	<p>Recruited 3 new members to the PCRC Board with a diversity of skills.</p> <p>A Board Orientation Session was held for all new Board members, and was also attended by existing Board members.</p> <p>The Policy Committee continues to work on creation of policies – financial policies were a priority this year.</p> <p>The AGM had a great attendance of approximately 78 people-highest to date</p> <p>Rhonda Lorch was used to give a Board Governance Training session. 9 of 12 Board members attended. This was also opened to 14 community members.</p> <p>The Board hosted several social occasions to build Board relations.</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. We have had some growing pains learning how to post items, however 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> <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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<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>The Fundraising Committee raised \$1625 for the PCRC, through the Titanic evening in partnership with Portage Ukrainian Nursery.</p> <p>The Jail and Bail in partnership with Rotary was held March 7th. The proceeds will be evenly split between the two groups. PCRC will use 30% of our portion of funds to go towards operating costs, and the remainder will go towards pathways and parks. While final numbers for the event are still being processed, it appears the day will have brought in approximately \$20,000, reaching target of \$3,000 to go towards operating in 2014-15.</p> <p>Rhonda Lorch has forwarded information from discussions with other NRCs applying for charitable status regarding questions they have been asked and criteria they need to meet. A committee will examine this in the new year.</p> <p>Investment options were explored for the funds that were received in lump sum payments and sitting for most of the year in our bank account and were transferred to a GIC in November to start to accumulate interest.</p> <p>The working relationship between the PCRC and the City of Portage la Prairie continues to be strengthened through communications and partnerships on North End Parks and Pathways. A City staff member now sits as an ex-officio member of the PCRC Board.</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>In 2012, the 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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>6C. PCRC Communications Strategy</p> <p>A communications strategy to raise awareness of the PCRC and increase participation in PCRC initiatives</p>	<p>PCRC continued monthly appearances on the Mix 96 Morning Show and a monthly 5 minute interview on CFYR, to highlight activities. This has been an effective mode of communication.</p> <p>Three 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 194 members.</p> <p>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>Presentations were given to Rotary and other groups on PCRC projects</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 as well as informing members and partners of our progress</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>

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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>6D. 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>Board members built skills through a Board Governance session attended by 9 of 12 Board members.</p> <p>Staff identify training needs at their annual performance evaluations and as opportunities arise. The variety of understandings of community development / community economic development in staff was identified as an area for training. Staff took part in training including the CEDNet annual conference, Women In Business Lunches, and project planning workshops.</p> <p>Hosted a staff development day and are looking at doing this quarterly.</p> <p>Annual Board self-evaluation was used to identify areas of need for training. Understanding financial statements was identified as an area of development for the upcoming year</p>	<p>PCRC Board and staff have received training to increase their effectiveness</p> <p>Timing and location of many workshops make it difficult for PCRC Board members to attend outside Board meeting dates due to conflicts with employment and other commitments, so PCRC has brought in training for Board members and opened it to other organizations in the community.</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 annual strategic planning sessions increase knowledge of the PCRC's goals and objectives, and engage all Board members in setting the direction for the PCRC.</p> <p>Staff receive annual training in areas identified in annual performance reviews, which has resulted in increased capacity.</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.</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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>6E. Community Plan & 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>Extensive community consultations took place this year to create a new Community Plan to guide the PCRC for the next 3 years. The process engaged over 800 community members.</p> <p>This Results Report for 2013-14 (Year 5) 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>During strategic planning, PCRC Board and staff determined the priorities for PCRC to focus on out of the Community priorities identified through community consultations.</p> <p>The Board is planning a celebration of the 5 Year Anniversary which will highlight the 5 Year results and launch the new community plan</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> <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> <p>An extensive community consultation process, engaging over 800 residents was used in Year 5 to identify the priorities for the new community plan.</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 5 Outputs	Outcomes To Date (Years 1-5)
<p>6F. Staffing</p> <p>Hiring of staff as necessary and feasible to accomplish the goals of the Community Plan</p>	<p>The full-time Executive Director (37.5 hours/week), Community Facilitator (37.5 hours/week) and part-time Administrative Assistant (15 hours/week) remained staffed by the same individuals.</p> <p>The Community Engagement Coordinator position was filled, and extra funds were found to make this position full-time for this year.</p> <p>Secured 2 summer students through 2013 Green Team: for community clean-up and graffiti removal program.</p> <p>Application to Canada Summer Jobs 2013 was not successful. Applying again for 2014.</p> <p>Secured a 5 month internship through the Canada CED Network to work on a variety of projects including the community input survey.</p> <p>Filled the Momentum Project Coordinator maternity leave position for January – December 2014.</p> <p>Filled a contract position to work on the childcare component of the Momentum project.</p> <p>Began to review and update all job descriptions</p>	<p>In 5 Years, the PCRC has grown from one part-time staff person to in the past year having 4 full-time and one part-time staff, along with a contract worker and 3 summer students/interns</p> <p>Retaining the current ED and CF as full-time staff for the past 4 years 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 - 5 has allowed the ED and CF to become more productive in focusing on program outcomes and strategic operations rather than administrative activities, although an increase in hours for this position would be beneficial (currently 15 hours / week).</p> <p>Funding for a summer student from Service Canada in 2010 and two students through Green Team in 2011- 2013 allowed for the completion of several projects in June – August as well as the mentoring of youth in community development and leadership</p> <p>Two 4- 6 month internships and four 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>