

**REGINA NORTH CENTRAL
COMMUNITY VISION AND ACTION PLAN REPORT
May 2003**

Prepared for
Regina Inner City Community Partnership

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Forward

“The two roads diverged in a woods, and I took the one less traveled by. And that has made all the difference.” - Robert Frost

In 2000, City Council initiated the Mayor’s Task Force on Housing. Four sub-committees were established to address housing issues in all areas and sectors of Regina.

I had the honor of serving as Chair of the Sub-Committee on Inner City and Social Housing from which came a significant number of the overall 81 recommendations for change. In the committee’s final session we endorsed the value of having been through the process, acknowledged the frustration that the mandate of the committee was limited to housing issues only and expressed a fervent hope that the report would lead to revitalization and community development. We celebrated the fact that council wholeheartedly endorsed the report and did begin the process by implementing some of its recommendations. For example: The formation of the Regina Housing Advisory Committee, the creation of a housing coordinator position for the City and a review of the Inner City Housing Stimulation Strategy

Subsequently, The Minister of Public Works, Ralph Goodale and North Central alumnus, Mayor Pat Fiacco shared a common vision for Inner City and North Central Regina that would support the community in keeping with City Council’s endorsement of a far-reaching, holistic approach.

Finally, after years of local leaders and various groups trying to make a difference in their own little area of North Central, the momentum started to build toward genuine change based on a grass roots process of community development. The critical next step began in partnership with the three levels of government, Aboriginal leaders, citizens and the business community.

The process of doing “with” the community rather than “for” the community requires faith, determination and desire to put aside one’s personal agenda in favor of the greater good of the community. This partnership has set out to establish a model for the continued process of community based revitalization not only for North Central but also for all other inner city neighborhoods ready to accept the challenge of being a better place for people to live.

This first phase of the community consultation to establish a vision and an action plan is just a step along the way. It is my deepest hope that the process continues, not only as an exciting journey for those involved, but also one that remains true to its principals until it ultimately achieves success. Let us vow to be an example to other communities also embarked on their journey along the road less traveled.

Acknowledgements

This community project has truly been an inclusive collaboration of all levels of government, non-government organizations, business and the North Central residents. I would like to thank The Right Honorable Ralph Goodale, Minister for Public Works, His Worship Mayor Pat Fiacco and City Council and The Honorable Glen Hagel, Minister for the Department of Community Resources and Employment, for their wholehearted endorsement and support of this project.

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The business community was also very much interested and involved, special thanks to CEO Harvey Granatier and his committed team at Conexus Credit Union. Thanks are due to Vic Huard at the United Way, Kim Sutherland at Street Culture Project, Kathleen Donauer at Community Action Coop, Helen Finucane at Ehrlo Services and Lorne Dunsmore.

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The biggest thanks go to our Creator who has given us the roadmap to follow and the choice to reach the destination in good ways or bad ways. We don't always take the right road but I believe that in the end that is how we want to reach our destination.

A final thank you to the residents of North Central Regina. Your resilience, your willingness to give the process another chance, your support of each other and the richness of your community spirit is what ultimately will lead to the shaping of a community that will be an example for the whole city.

Jeremy Parnes

Executive Summary

1. By conducting an exhaustive consultation process, the North Central Community Partnership Project has determined that Regina North Central faces formidable challenges. However, those challenges can be surmounted because residents, government agencies, service organizations and others have demonstrated a willingness to meet the difficulties faced by this community. The potential for community development is great in Regina North Central.
2. Community development is a process whereby community members come together to take collective action and generate solutions to common problems. It is a long-term conscious and conscientious endeavour with the principle aim being an improved quality of life.
3. The North Central Community Partnership Project has laid the groundwork for future community development by creating a Vision Statement, an Action Plan and Action Plan Pillars for Regina North Central. The Vision Statement and the Action Plan are based upon the goals and values of Regina North Central as ascertained through the consultation process. The Action Plan Pillars in turn are derived from the Action Plan.
4. The community values of Regina North Central that were ascertained are community pride, respect for cultural diversity, cooperation, caring, confidence in the future, and being forward looking. A premium was placed on the value of family, seniors, children, and youth.
5. The goals of Regina North Central that were ascertained are: greater safety, a good physical environment, a healthy community and good human services, a higher proportion of home ownership, a high level of employment and business development, extensive community participation, quality education, and ease of access to facilities and services both within and outside of the community.
6. The Action Plan Pillars devised for Regina North Central are Housing and Infrastructure, Crime and Safety, Business and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Education, Community Development.
7. While not a pillar per se, "Financial Resources" is a support mechanism essential for the achievement of the goals set forth in the Action Plan and in order to establish sustained community development.
8. Action Plan Tables derived from the process outlined above are presented in Appendix I. Those tables note an overall goal statement, set short-term, medium range, and long-term targets within realistic time frames. The tables suggest how those targets may be achieved and potential key players are identified in each of the pillars and in the "support mechanism" category.

9. The Regina North Central Community Partnership took a principled approach to the Project. Continued adherence to the principles set forth in the recommendations is advocated to ensure the successful revitalization of this community in the years to come.
10. It is recommended that the Vision Statement and Action Plan be pursued and that the Action Plan Pillars be established. It is further recommended that a consultant position be established forthwith for the initial implementation phase of this process (up to three years) which will ensure that the goals of the project have begun to be fully realized.
11. The primary duty of the Consultant should consist of acting as a liaison between the proposed Action Plan pillar groups and between those groups and the City of Regina, the Province of Saskatchewan and the Federal Government. It is also recommended that the Consultant ensure that results are measured, tracked and communicated to stakeholders as per the approach outlined in the "Interim Report of the Prime Minister's Caucus Task Force on Urban Issues, April 2002. Additional duties of the consultant and implementation steps are detailed in the Report.