

# Learning Across The Community

A planning workbook and questionnaire for a community learning centre in North Central



What's inside:

## About the Concept for Learning

- We all learn differently, and we learn all the time
- We learn through apprenticeship
- We learn through projects that engage our personal passions
- We learn through a connection to our culture and place
- We learn from daily interactions with the community organizations and businesses in our neighborhood

## Service Transformation

- Integrated services, sharing space, governance, and learning programs
- The "it takes a village" concept of learning applied to buildings

## Building and Neighborhood Concepts

- Nurturing a neighborhood learning network
- Design patterns for interdisciplinary learning and service

## Community Voices

- Comments from people living and working in North Central
- A platform for your feedback now



Fielding Nair International

Architects and change agents  
for creative learning communities

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# What does it mean to learn across community?

**We all learn differently, we learn everywhere, and we learn all the time.**

We learn through apprenticeship

We learn through projects that engage our personal passions

We learn through a connection to our culture and place

We learn from daily interactions with the community organizations and businesses in our neighborhood

*Above right: during the dinner theater in April, 2008, students at Scott Collegiate learned from the national media, Regina Public School teachers, from each other, and from the elder that blessed the evening.*



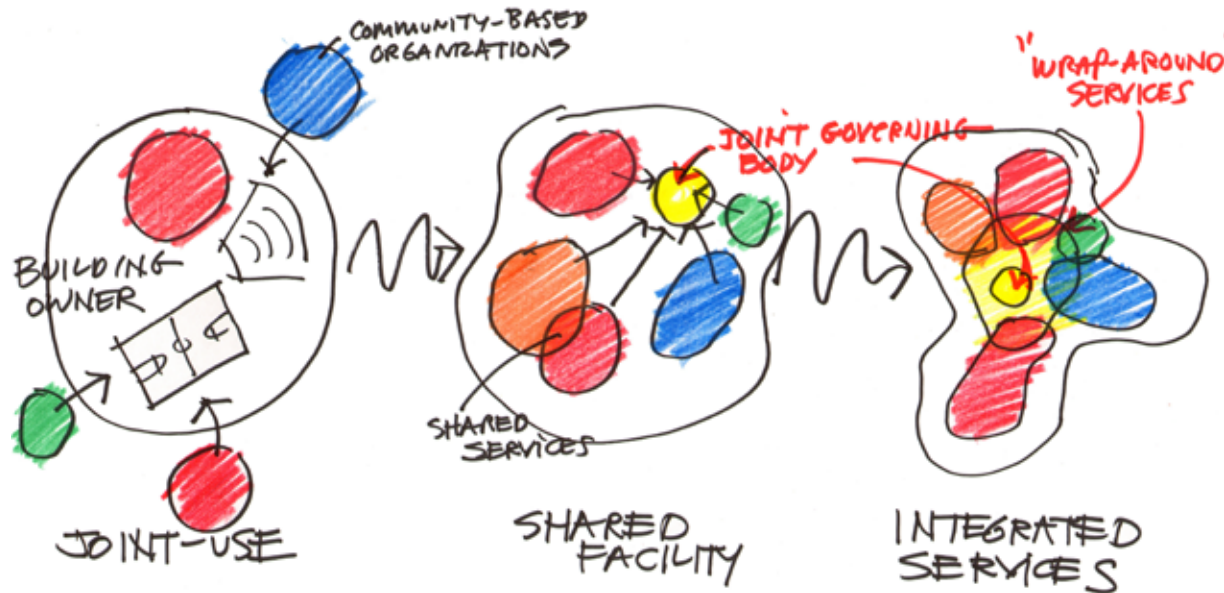
*Above left: students at Scott Collegiate learning hands-on skills.*

*Below center: a fabulous meal at the April dinner theater was prepared by students*

*Below right: infant dream catcher the Four Directions Primary Health care, where students learn to take care of themselves and their families*



# Can we transform community services?



## COMMUNITY VOICES

"As a parent, I fear that the shared facility will keep the community dependent on social services."

FNI response: Fear can be a healthy emotion that helps us avoid mistakes and plan for better outcomes. Let's talk about our fears together. What is best for North Central in 2010? In 2020?

*Right: Integrated Global Learning Centre in Melbourne, Australia. Students staff the cafe, which is used by members of the community of all ages.*



## JOINT-USE:

- Do you take turns using the couch in your living room, or sit on it together?
- Joint-use of facilities is like taking turns using the couch.

## SHARED FACILITY:

- When you sit on the couch together, do you each do different activities--one watching TV while another reads or talks on the phone?
- Shared use is like sitting on the couch together but doing different things at different times

## INTEGRATED SERVICES:

- Do you sit you the couch together and talk and laugh and learn together?
- That's the idea for integrated services.



# Neighborhood Learning Network

Just as it takes a village to raise a child, it takes a whole neighborhood to revitalize a community.

The dotted red lines represents a learning network that extends through the streets of North Central--a realization of the North Central Partner's vision to "Learn Across Community."

## Commercial Redevelopment:

Nearby sites are to be identified for redevelopment. For example, a tenant may be sought for the building currently occupied by Four Directions Community Health Centre to the North--one that can contribute to the revitalization of the neighborhood.

## Front Porch Network:

Houses along paths to new anchor developments may be encouraged to improve their yards and front rooms--creating spaces with eyes on the street. Improved street lighting and sidewalk landscaping will also contribute.

## Street Curriculum:

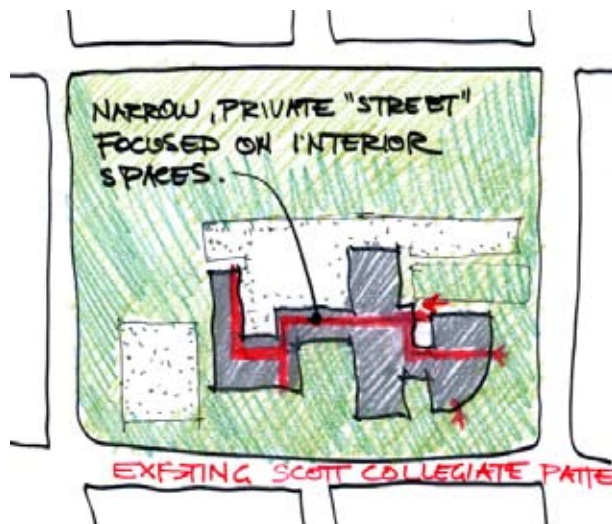
Selected spots along the learning network can include a focus for student projects, such as a bird feeder or weather station, engaging students in natural observation, data aggregation, and interaction with residents.



# Streets, Edges and Boundaries

## INSIDE STREET

*Existing Scott Collegiate floor plan and circulation*

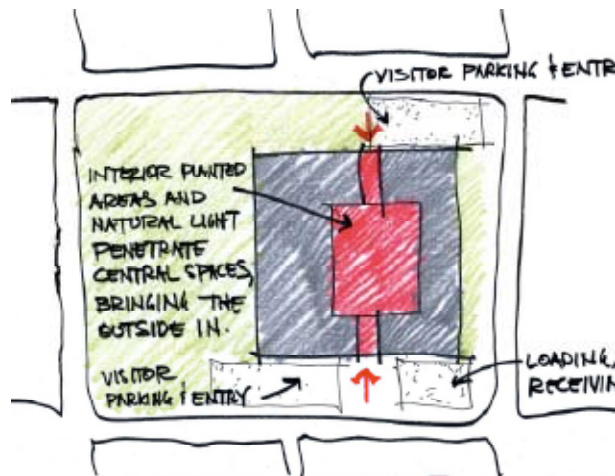


The Inside Street Pattern represents the existing pattern of Scott Collegiate in which a narrow, private street or circulation corridor is focused on interior spaces.

The implications are that what happens inside takes precedent over what happens outside the building.

## ACTIVE CENTER

*"Protected Heart"*



The Active Center Pattern represents another pattern in which an interior area provides a "heart" at the centre of the building providing natural daylight into what could be a large building site footprint.

The implication is that the building could become inwardly focused and protected from the surrounding neighborhood.

## ACTIVE STREET EDGES

*"Open Heart"*



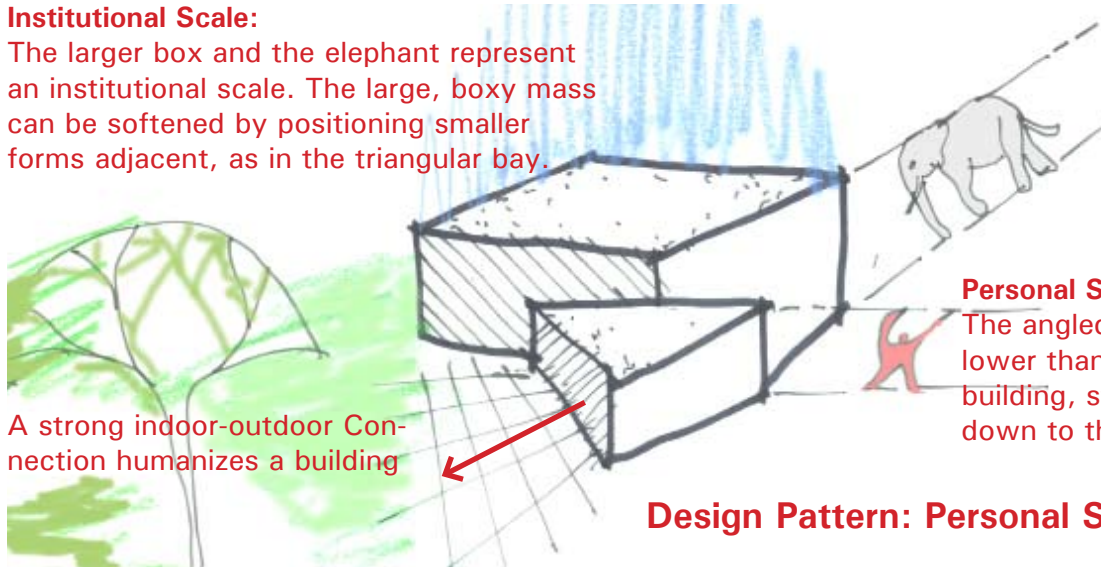
The Active Street Edges Pattern is a third alternative way of expressing the relationship between inside and outside, between building and community. Major spaces have direct visual connection to the neighborhood and make gestures to the community by providing active street edges that invite community.

The implication is that the building and the activities and services inside are connected to, and embracing, the community as a whole.

# Using Design Patterns for Innovation

## Institutional Scale:

The larger box and the elephant represent an institutional scale. The large, boxy mass can be softened by positioning smaller forms adjacent, as in the triangular bay.



A strong indoor-outdoor Connection humanizes a building

## Personal Scale:

The angled bay is lower than the main building, stepping down to the street.

## Design Pattern: Personal Scale

Feeling safe, secure and comfortable is a key condition for learning. The scale of the buildings and the configuration of the entry will be configured for human comfort and delight. The photo below illustrates how this was accomplished at a primary school in Argentina using local, inexpensive materials.

(Photo courtesy design-share.com)



The entry should be friendly and not institutional looking. It will also include some "signature" elements that speak to what makes the centre special. Signature elements need not be confined to a single entry point.

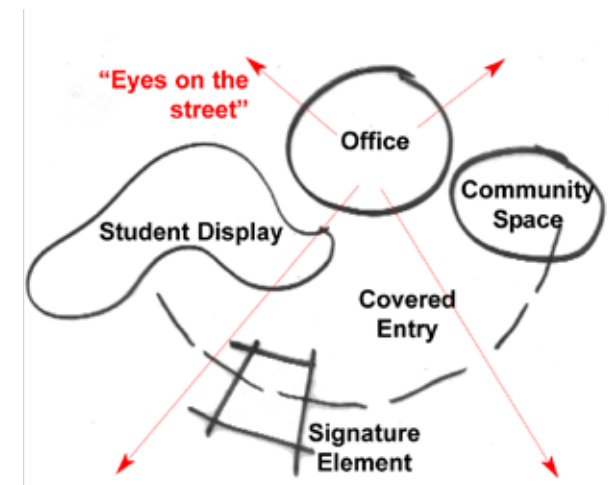
For example, a series of sculptural elements around the building represent culturally significant aspects of North Central. When The FNI team met with the community in September 2007, one of the elders told the story of the Sevens Stones, representing the qualities of Growth, Order, Adequacy, Love, Social Approval, Security, and Self-esteem. Seven Stones could be located around the periphery of the building, each with a marker illustrating these key values.

## Community Concerns and Design Responses:

At an April meeting at the Albert Scott Community Centre, one of the North Central residents expressed concern about the size of the new building.

"The community will not feel welcome going to the new big building."

The patterns at left and below illustrate design approaches that reduce the scale of the building and create a welcoming presence.



## Design Pattern: Welcoming Entry

# "Global Village" Pattern

*Learning Network + Active Edges + Personal Scale*

A new community learning centre can include space for cultural activities such as a round dance inside and outside.

A variety of spaces can be provided, including learning studios, offices, small social spaces and a larger gathering area.



Path of the sun

Sunny spaces with strong street connections will be developed. A south-facing community cafe could be staffed by students.

## Conceptual Building Concepts:

This pattern builds on the Learning Network, Active Edges, and Personal Scale patterns. Rather than a large boxy facility, the centre can be an assemblage of architectural forms of different sizes--like tepees or houses in a multi-cultural village. All of the North Central Partners listed below may be accommodated in a design that is friendly to the neighborhood. Much of the centre could be two-story, while other elements might be one-story, stepping down to a personal scale.

## North Central Community Partners

- North Central Community Assoc (NCCA)
- City of Regina
- Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger (REACH)
- Regina Police Service
- Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
- Regina Public Schools
- Regina Public Library
- Scott Infant and Toddler Centre
- Other Community Organizations

## Tear Down or Reuse?

The existing Scott Collegiate Gymnasium and Auditorium (shown in a dashed black line) may be incorporated into this design concept if it is cost effective.

North Central residents have asked where the school will be relocated if the building is torn down. Various options are being considered, including maintenance of the existing facilities while a new structure is built adjacent.

# Four Directions Primary Health Care Centre Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region

## Vision/Mission

North Central primary health care is to be an accessible comprehensive service, culturally respectful, collaborative approach/interdisciplinary, education and awareness, recognize determinants of health.

Objectives: Sustainable quality services, positive innovative work environment, aboriginal health, primary health care, specialized services, knowledge, teaching and research, client and public confidence, client-centred care.

## Programs/Services

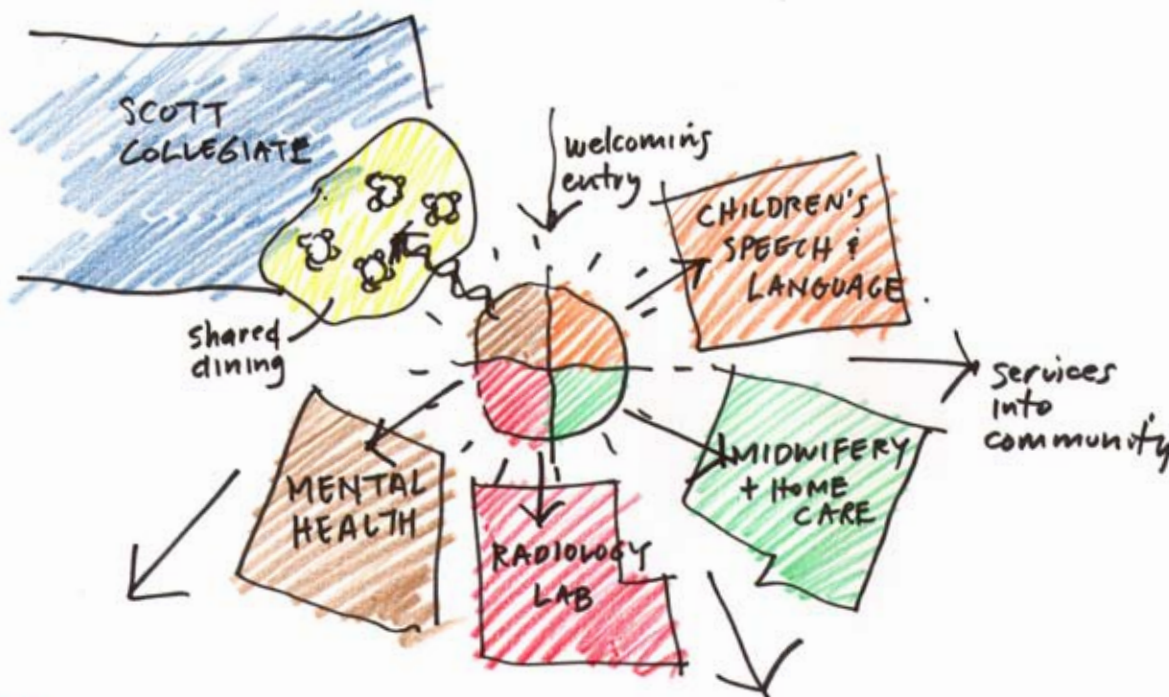
Home care, Nurse practitioners / physician services, midwifery, children's speech and language program, specimen collection, radiology laboratory, mental health and addiction services, visiting services, outreach and community development.

## Space Needs

Offices for nursing, nutritionist, social workers, managers and clerical. Workstations for nurse practitioners and physicians.

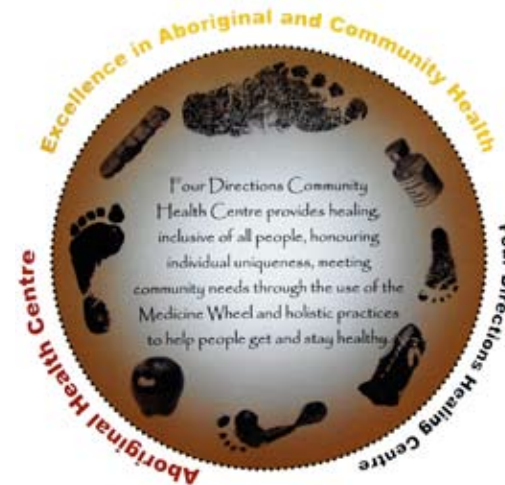
Clinical treatment and support space, workrooms, staff lounge, equipment and file storage.

Shared Space reception/waiting, children's play area, meeting, consult and teaching rooms, Elder and traditional healing rooms.



*Four Directions Community Health Centre currently has their facilities a few blocks away. Do you use Four Directions health services. Is it convenient for you? Are you comfortable going / being there? How could it be made better?*

**Notes:**





# North Central Service Centre

## Regina Police Service



North Central Community Police Station has an office at the Albert Scott Community Centre. Do you like that, or not. Do you feel comfortable bringing your concerns to the police. What would make you more comfortable coming to or being at the police station.

Notes:

### Vision/Mission

We will accomplish our goals through the power of partnerships and strategic neighborhood change. We will reduce opportunities for crime through CPTED. Increase our visibility in the community. Maintain better communication between the Regina Police Service and all Aboriginal and ethnic communities. New building to serve as an office/consult suite, highly visible and highly accessible to the community.

### Programs/Services

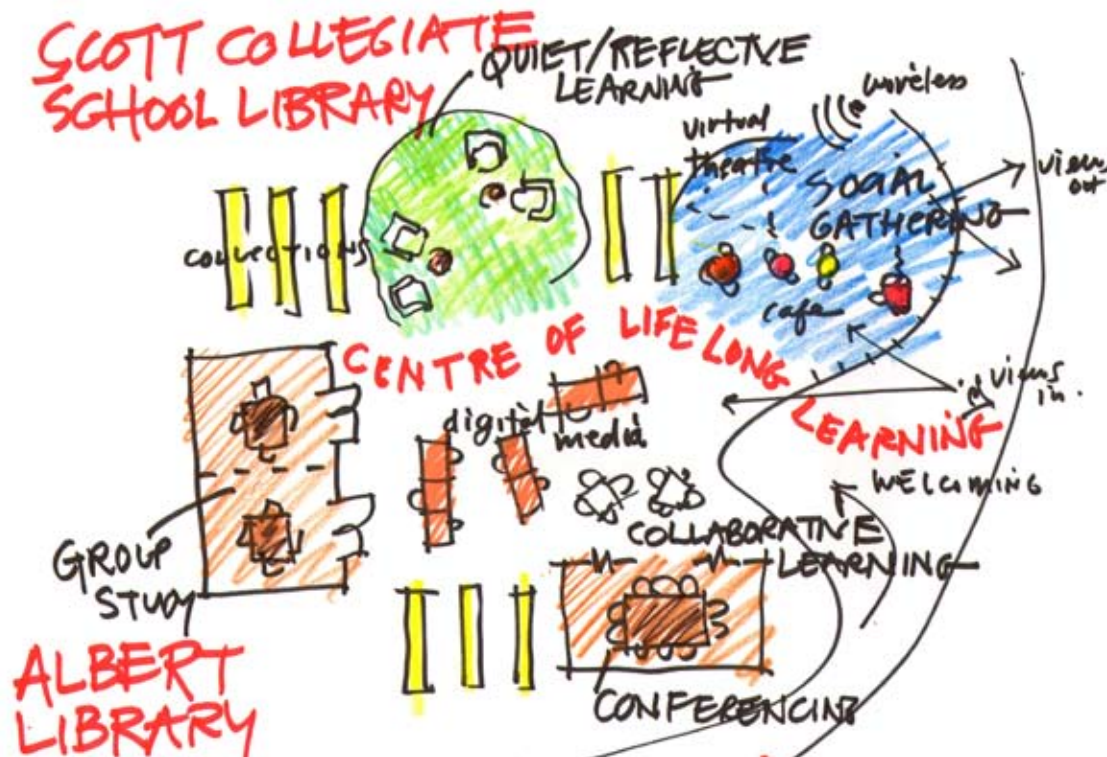
Community policing services, cultural-sensitivity training, bike and patrolling on foot, co-locating and consolidation of services, interdisciplinary management and response to community with a holistic approach.

### Space Needs

Reception, waiting and administrative office. Interview and video rooms and related storage and meeting rooms.



# Albert Library Regina public Library



The Albert Library is currently a few blocks from Scott Collegiate. It has been proposed that the Library move to new facilities at the Albert Scott Community site. Do you use the library now? Do you feel comfortable and safe there? What would make it better?

Notes:

## Vision/Mission

Provide an open and accessible environment to access information, location, diverse cultures and literacy. Enhance the quality of life in Regina by providing access to information for cultural, economic, educational and recreational development.

## Programs/Services

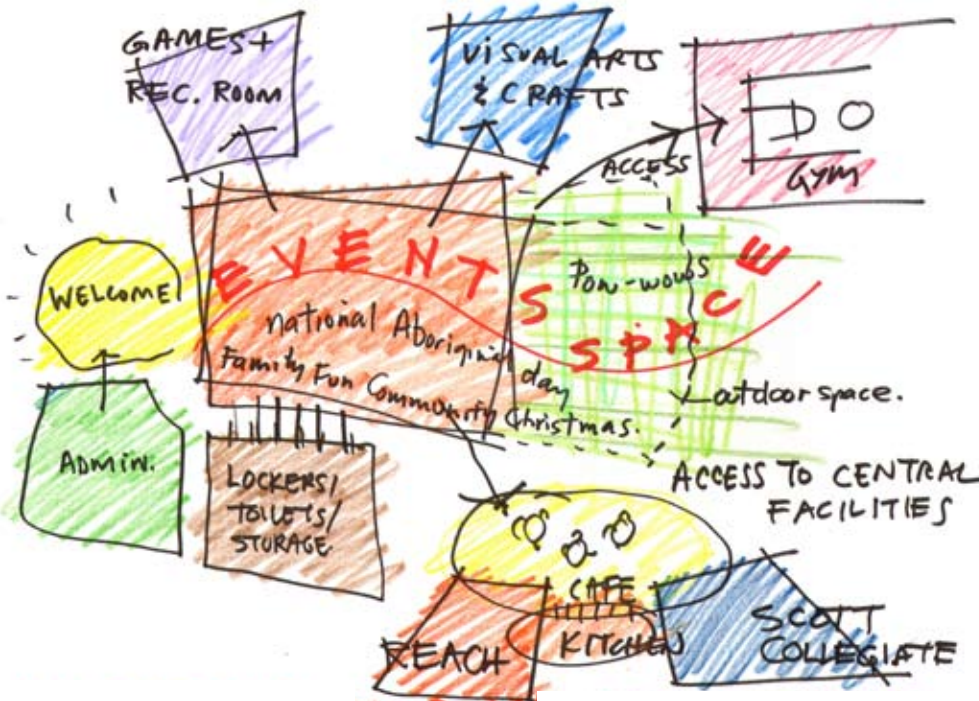
Adult and juvenile connections. Links between school, public library and Community education programs. Jeff Barber, "consider more partnerships such as health organizations and city with library as library is an 'information piece that is neutral territory.'"

## Space Needs

Visible, accessible, user-friendly, functional, attractive, appealing, noisy/quiet, availability of technology. Space for teaching and learning, group learning, as well as, individual learning, office and back-of-house workspace.



# Albert Scott Community Centre City of Regina



*The Albert Scott Community Centre currently shares space with a variety of community programs. Do you use these facilities. Do you feel comfortable using these facilities. Would you use them more is certain changes were made? What changes would you suggest?*

**Notes:**

## Vision/Mission

The development, delivery, and facilitation of programs and services at the neighborhood zone and, occasionally, citywide.

To increase belonging and to ensure a sense of pride in the North Central Community.

To serve a high needs Aboriginal population and build bridges to further understanding.

To consolidate services and use of holistic approach to delivery.

## Programs/Services

The scope of services would include direct recreational programming, partnered programs, tenet office and meeting space, Chili for Children, REACH, and Regina Police Services.

Spaces are needed for storage of consumable supplies, document control, house-keeping, and communication equipment.



# Scott Infant & Toddler Centre



*The Scott Infant and Toddler Centre provides important services for young mothers at Scott Collegiate. Are there changes that could be made that would improve you or your child's experience there?*

**Notes:**

## Vision/Mission

Serve the immediate child care needs for Scott Collegiate students.

## Programs/Services

Currently serving 22 infants and toddlers and expect to expand to serve 18 infants and 15 toddlers.

Literacy program, attendance incentive program, transportation, lunch program, home visits, crisis intervention and referrals, parent support sessions, nutrition education, individualized programs.

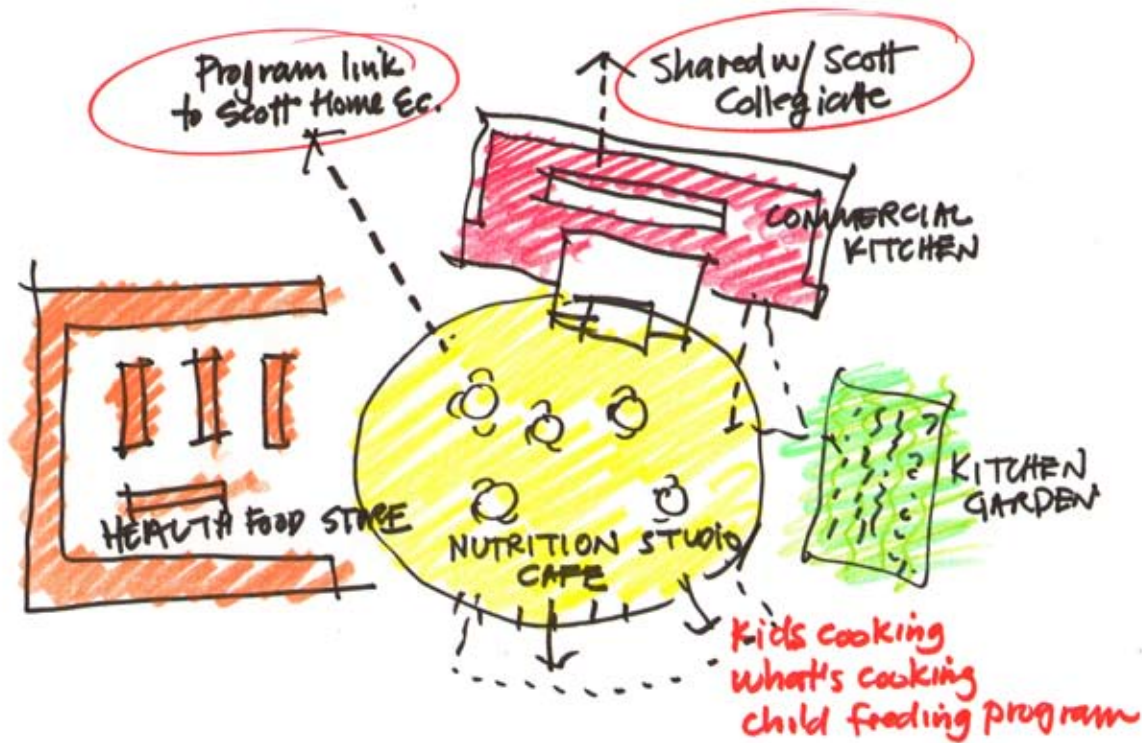
## Space Needs

Needs include safe, inviting and protected space both inside and outside play areas. Discussions with Scott Collegiate have implied outdoor space might be rooftop green space which has appeal to Tammy Pederesen for child safety.



# REACH Health Food Store

Regina Education & Action on Child Hunger



REACH Healthy Food Store has a small food store currently in the Albert Scott Community Centre. Do you use it? Why? Why not? Why do you like it? How could it be better?

Notes:

## Vision/Mission

The focus of REACH is first children, then seniors, low and fixed income and social recipient families, health care clients, shut-ins and Aboriginals.

## Programs/Services

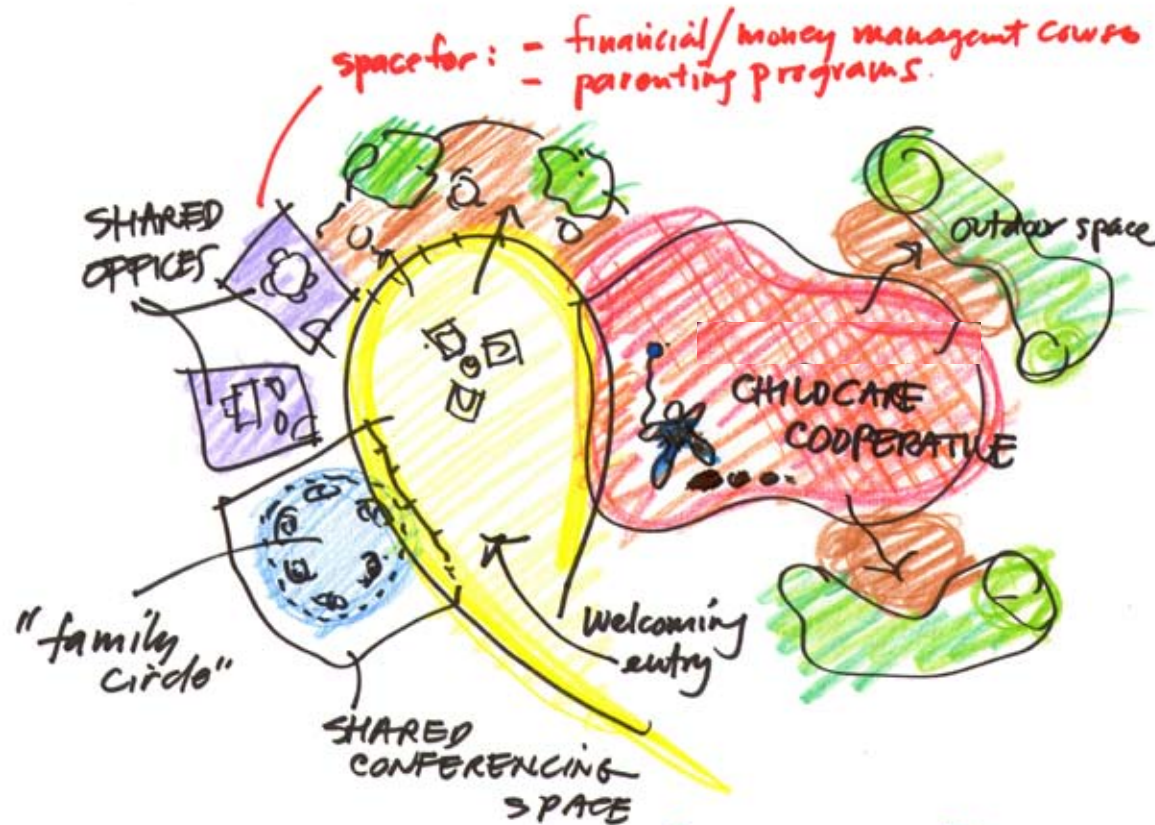
Health food store, commercial kitchen, Good Food Box, child feeding programs, food security programs, nutrition education to Regina and North Central community, Chilli for Children, Family Basket, 'R' Mobile Stores, convenience meals, Food Buying Coop, What's Cooking, Kids Cooking.

## Space Needs

Area for food store, commercial kitchen, teaching space and a cafe space.



# Family Resource Centre



What kind of visiting services would be helpful to the North Central community?

Notes:

## Vision

The Family Resource Centre is envisioned to be a small number of shared conference spaces and offices for visiting services, along with a community day care.

## Programs/Services

The Business Plan suggests a variety of services such as income support, child and family services, support for people with disabilities, affordable housing, child welfare. However, discussions with the Ministry of Social Services suggest these services will be on an as needed basis and in a visiting service capacity only.

A Child Care Cooperative will provide services in this "Community Zone" of activity.

## Space Needs

Ill defined at present.



# Community Voices--Offer Feedback

## 1. NORTH CENTRAL ASSETS

What strengths and assets does the community have that will lead to a safer and healthier neighborhood?

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## 2. SERVICE INTEGRATION

How does the concept for an integrated community learning center support the neighborhood efforts for revitalization?

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## 3. DESIGN IDEAS

What do you think about the design ideas in this workbook?

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My role (for example; student, parent, Elder)

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## 4. HOPES for NORTH CENTRAL

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## 5. FEARS about NORTH CENTRAL

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Contact information (optional)

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