

The Regina Inner City Community Partnership: Making A Difference In North Central!

Report to the community

In 2003, North Central residents participated in a survey to determine:

- what the community prides itself on;
- what the community wants for its future; and
- what the community needs in order to realize its future.

The result was the *Regina Inner City Community Vision and Action Plan*. To help achieve the vision, the Regina Inner City Community Partnership (RICCP) was formed.

The RICCP—a remarkable partnership involving the community, the City of Regina, Government of Saskatchewan and the Government of Canada—has been coordinating our approach to realize the vision of a safe, healthy and caring community by 2020.

Our task is just beginning and the work will continue for many years. With the community guiding the *Action Plan* activities, we'll achieve our vision!

The Regina Inner City Community Vision and Action Plan

Building a safe, healthy and caring community

Focusing on the North Central community, the *Regina Inner City Community Vision and Action Plan* describes a strong, vibrant, healthy, safe and prosperous neighbourhood.

By 2020, the *Community Vision* predicts:

- North Central is a safe, healthy and caring community and a source of pride for the area's residents.
- Located in the heart of the city, its strength is derived from the cultural diversity of its members working together and their emphasis on the value of family, seniors, children and youth.
- The area's character stems from the well-kept homes and the mature natural environment of this section of the Queen City. The ease of access to the numerous facilities, services and educational facilities located within its parameters adds to its attraction.
- Confident in its future with its many opportunities for community participation, home ownership, employment and business development, Regina North Central enjoys its reputation of being proud and forward looking, ready to meet challenges and embrace its vision for 2020 and beyond.

The *Action Plan* divides community objectives into six priority areas:

Housing and Infrastructure

Goal: Develop balanced, affordable, suitable, quality housing.

Crime and Safety

Goal: Crime will be reduced and people will feel safe in their neighbourhood.

Business and Economic Development

Goal: Build and strengthen business ties to support economic climate, employment and community growth.

Health and Human Services

Goal: Develop a sustainable, coordinated, comprehensive, non-competitive system for service delivery.

Education

Goal: Develop an educational system that supports the needs of community residents.

Community Development

Goal: Maintain the community's values, involve residents in plans and provide a forum to communicate within the community.

With input from the community, the RICCP has decided to focus on three immediate priorities for North Central Regina: Housing and Infrastructure, Crime and Safety, and Employment. Here's what's being done.

HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE

As a result of local partnerships, **35 new homes** are at various stages of construction in North Central Regina. This is the first major residential construction here in the past 10 years. Construction is funded through the Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) as a result of partnership between Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) and Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC).

The new homes are springing up throughout the neighbourhood, including the 1100 block of Robinson Street, the 900 block of Athol Street, and the 600 block of Argyle Street.

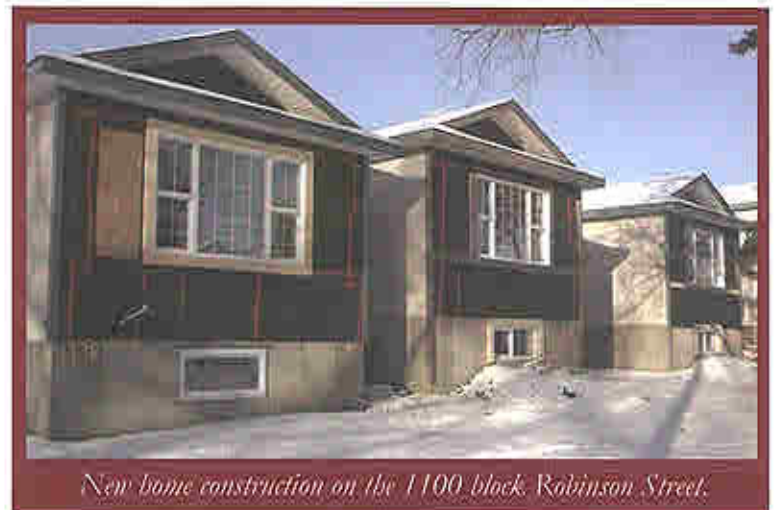
In addition to new construction, 27 homes have received funding for repairs through CMHC's and SHC's Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP).

Residents also wanted more information and support for owners and renters in the neighbourhood. To make this happen, the RICCP housing sub-committee established the North Central Housing Education Program in 2005. Through the program, the sub-committee's goal is to host seminars and workshops related to housing in the neighbourhood.

- **July 25, 2005** - an information session on social housing programs available to North Central residents was held at the Albert Scott Community Centre. Approximately 80 people took part along with partners from Saskatchewan

Housing Corporation, CMHC, Conexus Credit Union, City of Regina, Regina Housing Authority, Silver Sage Housing Corporation, Habitat for Humanity and the Regina North Central Family Centre.

- **August 17, 2005** - an evening seminar on renovation programs for homeowners was held. Participants heard about the Residential Rehabilitation Assistant Program (RRAP) for homeowners and people with disabilities, Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence (HASI) and the Emergency Repair Program.



New home construction on the 1100 block Robinson Street.

Upcoming Events:

January 2006 - first time home buyer seminar. You may be able to buy a home. Come to find out!

February 2006 - information session for landlords who own property in North Central Regina. The focus will be on the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement Program and RRAP rental program.

March 2006 - information session for renters. The focus will be on tenant rights and responsibilities, landlord rights and responsibilities, and the Saskatchewan Rental Housing Supplement Program.

April 2006 - information session on stabilizing household income and budgeting. A session for homeowners and tenants.

You'll see more details about these events in the coming weeks. In the meantime, for more information, please contact Maureen Lerat at 777-6771.

CRIME AND SAFETY

A key focus of the Crime and Safety priority is to engage North Central residents in efforts to improve community safety through programs such as Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED). The Regina Crime Prevention Commission and the Regina Police Service, in cooperation with the North Central Community Association, trained 40 volunteers to conduct a safety audit of the neighbourhood using CPTED principles. The basis of CPTED is that proper design and effective use of the environment can lead to reduced incidences of crime, less fear among residents and an improvement in quality of life.

By the fall of 2003, volunteer teams had audited all 152 streets, 152 alleys and eight parks in North Central Regina. The audits were compiled into a report, which was completed in March 2004 and submitted to the Regina Crime Prevention Commission. A plan for public space improvements and priorities for trees, lighting and road improvements is currently being implemented.

A second-generation CPTED is now underway. The goal is to examine behavioural and social issues related to North Central Regina.

Each spring and fall, the North Central Community Association holds a community clean-up. At the fall clean-up on September 24, 56 volunteers with 12 trucks hauled away discarded furniture and other items.

The RICCP has established a Housing Standards Enforcement Team, made up of representatives from the City of Regina, Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region, North Central Community Association, Regina Fire Department and Regina Police Service. The team's responsibilities include:

- ensuring homes in the North Central community meet health and safety standards; and

- responding to concerns from tenants, property owners, neighbourhood residents, and public service providers.

The City of Regina is working to ensure that houses in North Central meet municipal standards. Upon receipt of a valid complaint, a property standards inspector investigates properties. If the property requires maintenance or repair, the inspector issues an order to the property owner to undertake the necessary action.

- From January 1 – October 15, 2005, the City of Regina issued **187 property standards actions** to North Central property owners: 161 regarding property maintenance and 26 for properties in a dilapidated state.
- Since August, 2004, the City of Regina building division has issued 15 permits for demolition of single family dwellings in the North Central neighbourhood.

Safety and security of neighbourhood alleys are the target of two projects.

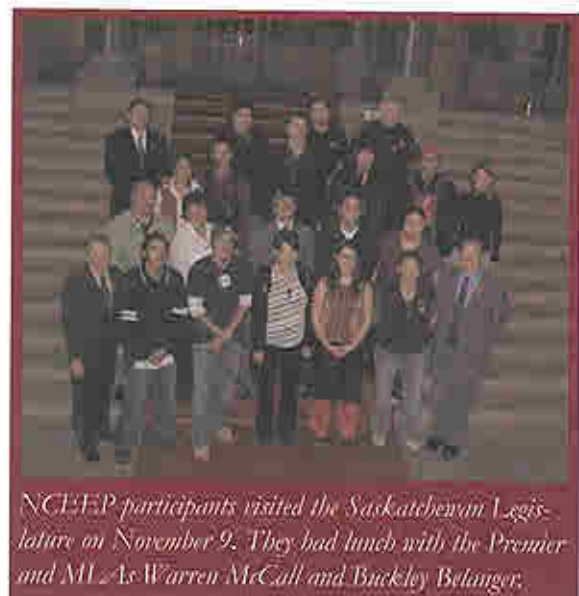
- In a part of North Central with a high crime rate, the City of Regina and SaskPower have undertaken a pilot project to install alley lighting. The partners are currently considering three different types of lighting for this purpose.
- To help emergency service agencies identify properties, the North Central Community Association and the Association of Regina Realtors are installing back alley address numbers on all homes in the neighbourhood. To date, approximately 800 properties on the east side of the neighbourhood have been numbered.

EMPLOYMENT

Youth are the future of this neighbourhood, this city and this province. The RICCP is assembling a comprehensive strategy to support our youth and provide options for their future.

The Regina North Central Employment Enhancement Program (NCEEP) helps young people between the ages of 18 and 30 with a connection to the neighbourhood to find and keep stable employment. The program began in July 2005 with **21 participants**, who alternated a week of personal development study in the classroom with two weeks of work on community projects: neighbourhood clean-up, tending community gardens, assisting seniors, etc. They also received work experience from area employers and toured various workplaces. The

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NCEEP participants visited the Saskatchewan Legislature on November 9. They had lunch with the Premier and MLAs Warren McCall and Buckley Belanger.

participants then moved on to a three-week basic carpentry course, held in partnership with Construction Careers Regina.

This month, the participants began a **12-week job placement**. Placements include construction, clerical work, service industry and youth programming.

The participants are enjoying success. Some have been hired by North Central residents to perform home services. Some have already moved to fulltime work, while others are readying themselves for future employment opportunities.

These young people are not only finding work, they are developing a sense of pride in themselves and in their community.

The Youth Employment Development Strategy (YEDS) is helping young people build positive futures. YEDS focuses on:

- helping young people living in North Central develop the skills they need to enter the workforce;
- giving young single parents the support they need to find jobs;
- working with employers to recruit young North Central residents; and
- developing partnerships that train young people to help meet local employment needs.

NEW SERVICES IN NORTH CENTRAL REGINA

In the spring of 2005, the **North Central Family Centre (NCFC)** moved into its new home at 2931 Fifth Avenue. The NCFC provides more than 45 programs targeting education, job placement, personal and family counselling, parenting skills, sports and recreation and social and cultural activities free of charge to children, youth, families and seniors living in Regina's inner city. These programs and activities promote positive and healthy lifestyles, with the goal of encouraging and empowering residents of the North Central neighbourhood.

The **Regina Housing Authority** established a North Central satellite office at 3124 Dewdney Avenue to better serve clients

who live in this area. The RHA manages publicly funded social and affordable housing programs in Regina.

Service Canada opened an office in North Central to strengthen the connection between the young Aboriginal community and the Government of Canada. The North Central Regina Service Canada Centre helps residents to access the many services the government has to offer. The Centre is located beside Aboriginal Family Services at 2901 Fifth Avenue.

For more information about this report please contact:

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Want to get involved? Here's how!

Volunteer for neighbourhood initiatives, such as the North Central Community Association annual spring and fall clean-ups.

Help the NCAA and North Central Community Developer identify community issues, needs and solutions.

Homeowners, landlords and tenants: do your part to maintain your property by keeping yards and curbsides tidy, painting and repairing fences, etc.

Help to reduce graffiti.

Take pride in your neighbourhood!

REGINA INNER CITY COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP

Partner organizations

North Central Community Association - Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services - United Way of Regina - Circle of Aboriginal Community Voices - Regina Public Schools - Regina Catholic Schools - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region - Regina Police Service - Regina and District Chamber of Commerce - City of Regina - Government of Saskatchewan - Government of Canada