

Manitoba 

Budget Paper F

**COMMUNITY
ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT**

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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■ COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Community economic development (CED) takes the well-being and prosperity of local neighbourhoods beyond the traditional economic measures that are usually associated with strong communities. Creative ideas, dedicated efforts and innovative partnerships between community residents and organizations, CED practitioners, businesses, researchers, educators, and government drive the successes of community economic development all around Manitoba. Developing and implementing community-driven ideas provides economic, social and environmental dividends that benefit neighbourhoods and entire communities.

Since 1999, the Manitoba government has supported CED efforts in communities by:

- engaging with communities about their needs and priorities;
- funding CED organizations to engage communities from the ground up;
- establishing major new CED programs, such as Neighbourhoods Alive!, the Community Enterprise Tax Credit, Hometown Manitoba and the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative;
- building new opportunities in emerging CED sectors such as wind power, biofuels and eco-tourism; and
- supporting initiatives to build safe, healthy and vibrant communities as a cornerstone of CED.

Community economic development is one way for the provincial government to achieve the social, economic and environmental goals Manitobans have identified as important. It empowers communities to lead their own revitalization strategies, creating stronger, healthier and more resilient communities and local economies. The province is committed to supporting communities to develop and implement CED strategies that are based on community ideas and community resources. The provincial commitment to CED as part of an effective economic strategy reflects a belief in more equitable, sustainable and diversified development, for the benefit of all Manitobans.

A Unique Approach to Supporting CED

In 1999, Manitoba Premier Gary Doer established the Community and Economic Development Committee of Cabinet. This committee of Ministers provides overall direction for the government's CED efforts.

Since 1999, community members have been engaged in providing strategic advice to government on best approaches to support CED. In 2001, Manitoba approved a CED policy framework and a CED "lens" to assist government departments in aligning their programs and policies to support CED. The framework and lens are centred around ten core CED principles, which were adapted from a list of CED principles from Neechi Foods Co-Op Ltd., an Aboriginal worker cooperative in Winnipeg (Neechi Foods Co-Op Ltd., *It's Up To All Of Us*, 1993.) Similar CED principles have been widely adopted by CED organizations across the province.

Manitoba's CED principles include:

1. Local employment
2. Local ownership and decision making
3. Local economic linkages
4. Re-investment of profits back into the community
5. Local knowledge and skill development
6. Positive environmental impact
7. Health and well-being
8. Neighbourhood stability and community cohesion
9. Human dignity
10. Interdepartmental and intergovernmental collaboration

The government is committed to ongoing consultations and support for community-based plans that respond to local needs and strengths. Community input will help inform government programs, policies and legislation to ensure CED has the solid framework needed for future community successes. Manitoba's CED initiatives compliment other government strategies and initiatives, such as the Northern Development Strategy, Growing Opportunities for Rural Manitoba, Healthy Child Manitoba, and the new Green and Growing Strategy.

Manitoba Communities Leading the Way

Manitoba's leading role in community economic development was recognized in 2002, when Winnipeg was selected to host the Canadian Community Economic Development Network (CCEDNET) National Conference and Annual General Meeting. Hosted by SEED Winnipeg, the national conference brought together hundreds of CED activists, professionals, educators and policy makers to share and learn from one another's experiences. The Manitoba government led a government dialogue session at the conference to discuss the best ways for funders and policy makers to support CED initiatives.

CED in Manitoba has drawn national research support to the province to investigate CED in the new economy, supported by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council. The Manitoba government has participated as a research partner in the Manitoba Research Alliance on CED in the New Economy, which has sponsored more than 40 different research projects.

Numerous CED initiatives in Manitoba have gained local, national and even international attention, such as:

- **Neechi Foods Co-Op Ltd.:** An Aboriginal worker co-operative which owns and operates a full range grocery store in inner-city Winnipeg, has been widely recognized for its commitment to community economic development, worker empowerment and promoting healthy lifestyles.

- **Assiniboine Credit Union:** received the 2001 Credit Union Central of Canada award for its community lending and business support programs, inner-city housing investments and alternative financial services.
- **Inner-City Renovations:** A construction company committed to creating local employment opportunities and renovating inner-city housing stock, was recently recognized at the Canadian Worker Co-Op Federation conference as a prime example of successful social enterprise in Canada.
- **Winkler Consumer Co-op Ltd.:** Established in 1975, the Winkler Consumer Co-op is a multi-business community enterprise that includes a grocery store, gas bar, truck stop and restaurant. The Co-op was recently awarded the 2006 P.W. Enns Business Community Service Award for its ongoing commitment and service to the Winkler community.
- **LITE (Local Investment Toward Employment):** Promotes awareness and CED by supporting initiatives in Winnipeg that build capacity and provide jobs. Donations raised by LITE, through their popular annual Wild Blueberry Pancake Breakfast and other fund raising initiatives, are used both to purchase food for Christmas hampers from enterprises that hire local people and for other local employment CED initiatives.

■ BUILDING FOR THE FUTURE

Community economic development contributes to a brighter future by helping to build community capacity and community infrastructure.

Building Capacity

The Manitoba government recognizes successful and sustainable communities must be able to lead their own revitalization and realize the benefits of creating positive change. Building community capacity – the ability to identify needs and opportunities and then lead change - is a central element in the government's approach to CED and is alive and well in CED organizations funded by government.

- **Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs):** Located in Winnipeg (West Broadway, Spence and the North End), Brandon and Thompson, NRCs help build capacity within their neighbourhoods for planning and implementation of community-driven revitalization strategies. NRCs are also instrumental in the successful delivery of Manitoba's Neighbourhoods Alive!.
- **Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities / Le Conseil de développement économique des municipalités bilingues du Manitoba (CDEM):** works in partnership with 16 Francophone and bilingual municipalities in Manitoba to organize, encourage and stimulate community and economic development in bilingual municipalities. With its approach to CED, the CDEM is a front-runner in ensuring the economic vitality of the communities it serves.

- **Community Development Corporations (CDCs):** Located in 95 communities throughout the province, CDCs serve as local vehicles for community and economic development, in partnership with local municipalities. The corporations provide a range of planning, development and financing supports for community projects.
- **East Side Planning Initiative:** was launched by the Manitoba government to engage east side communities in wide area land use planning for this unique region of the province. This planning process provides local people with a meaningful say in decisions impacting present and future uses of the area. The government is committed to working with east side communities on their priorities for land use planning and sustainable development.
- **Conservation Districts:** are groups of neighbouring rural municipalities working with the province to develop programs to effectively manage the natural resources in their area.

The Manitoba government supports community capacity building with targeted programming.

- **Neighbourhoods Alive!** A unique Manitoba program that supports CED efforts in designated neighbourhoods in Winnipeg, Brandon and Thompson. The program focuses on:
 - housing and physical improvements;
 - employment, training and economic development;
 - education and recreation; and
 - safety and crime prevention.
- **Urban Development Initiatives (UDI):** supports projects and initiatives that enhance Winnipeg's development. It also provides program assistance to community-based organizations and City of Winnipeg economic development agencies.
- **Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI):** supports economic development and diversification initiatives in rural and Northern Manitoba, including feasibility studies, entrepreneurial assistance through loan guarantees and a variety of targeted youth programs.

NEIGHBOURHOODS ALIVE!

Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA) is making a positive difference in Manitoba communities with a number of innovative programs:

- The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund helps community organizations strengthen local capacity and revitalize designated urban neighbourhoods through locally planned and supported initiatives that sustain and support community stability, economic development and well-being.
- The Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program helps revitalize housing in designated neighbourhoods. It supports homeownership and renovation initiatives with financial grants of up to \$10,000 per residence for purchase, renovations and sales tax on renovations.
- The Community Initiatives program supports projects that have a broad impact on Winnipeg's inner city or target specific groups across the inner city. It funds activities that strengthen the social economy through activities that include arts, youth recreation and leadership, homeownership training and community economic development.
- The Neighbourhoods Alive! Training Initiatives program assists residents of designated NA! neighbourhoods experiencing employment challenges, to prepare for and obtain sustainable employment through workplace training in high-demand occupations.
- Neighbourhood Development Assistance assists community economic development by supporting the formation and operation of democratic Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations (NRCs) that are locally administered.
- Lighthouses works to enhance public safety by supporting local communities to provide recreational, educational and social programs for young Manitobans. Lighthouses makes use of schools, recreation centres and other community facilities outside school hours for sports, arts, music and other activities organized by and for local youth.
- The Urban Arts program, newly added to NA!, is adding to the foundation of NA! services to help continue the valuable creative programming provided through organizations such as Art City and the Graffiti Art Program.

In the five years since NA! was launched, the province has committed over \$26.5 million, including \$16.6 million to support almost 400 community projects and \$9.9 million for the repair, rehabilitation or construction of over 1,700 units of housing through the NA! program.

Building financial capacity is a growing focus of CED. The Manitoba government partners with SEED Winnipeg on financial literacy training and asset-building programs, such as Individual Development Accounts, which support low-income people in acquiring important economic assets, such as education and homeownership. The Manitoba government is interested in extending its support for CED to community-based financial service delivery models in communities underserved by mainstream financial institutions. Provincial legislation to address concerns with the costs and practices in connection with payday loans.

The Manitoba government is a leader in support for municipalities, which have a major role to play in CED.

- **Building Manitoba Fund:** was established in 2005 to invest over \$600 million in Manitoba municipalities over the next five years. The new fund includes the equivalent of Manitoba's income tax-sharing agreement and expands the funds available by the equivalent of a share of fuel taxes – providing two major sources of growth revenue.
- **Tax increment financing:** Legislation passed in 2003, makes Manitoba the first jurisdiction in Canada to grant municipalities the authority to implement tax increment financing, an economic tool widely used in the United States. Through tax increment financing, municipalities can reinvest property tax revenues to meet community economic development objectives such as housing development, creating employment opportunities, revitalizing inner cities and redeveloping former industrial sites. Brandon has announced its intention to establish a “Downtown Renaissance District,” using their tax increment financing authority.

Building Infrastructure

Infrastructure development is an important element of building for the future - a need often identified by communities as central to their CED strategies. Manitoba funds community infrastructure projects, which are core building blocks for communities shaping their future growth and prosperity.

- **Hometown Manitoba:** invests in physical upgrades to main streets and public spaces in rural and Northern communities - 190 projects were approved last year, a total investment of over \$200,000.
- **Community Places:** provides funds to not-for-profit community organizations for facility construction and upgrades, and capital acquisitions and expansions, which provide recreation and wellness benefits to communities.
- **Winnipeg Partnership Agreement (WPA):** In 2004, Manitoba entered into a \$75 million partnership with the federal government and the City of Winnipeg, known as the Winnipeg Partnership Agreement. The WPA has four main areas of focus: Aboriginal participation, building sustainable neighbourhoods, downtown renewal, and supporting innovation and technology. This Agreement aims to strengthen and support locally-driven community and economic development.
- **Can-Man Economic Partnership Agreement:** An agreement between the provincial and federal governments to invest in priorities for building our economy and sustainable communities.

- **Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF):** Built on the success of the former Can-Man Infrastructure program, MRIF will invest \$120 million in communities across Manitoba. Through MRIF, a significant number of recreation and leisure centres are receiving funds for upgraded or entirely new facilities, including a major investment in the Agricultural Centre of Excellence at Brandon's Keystone Centre.

■ EDUCATION, TRAINING AND ENTERPRISE DEVELOPMENT

Developing a strong labour force and successful community enterprises are important cornerstones of CED.

Education and Training

Education and training are critical social and economic investments. The Manitoba government has made significant investments in operating and capital support for public schools and post-secondary education to support excellence, affordability and accessibility. The province has:

- funded public schools at the rate of economic growth;
- established the Community Schools Partnership Initiative to more fully involving parents and community leaders in the life and development of their local schools as central community hubs;
- maintained a 10% tuition reduction to make post-secondary education more affordable;
- initiated the College Expansion Initiative to increase college opportunities;
- opened the Red River College Princess Street Campus in the Exchange District;
- established and expanded the University College of the North to make university and college opportunities available to Northern residents;
- increased bursaries and Access programs;
- invested in higher Aboriginal enrolment and completion rates; and
- expanded apprenticeship opportunities.

Recognizing education as a community economic driver, Manitoba continues to invest in expanding education and training for underserved communities, providing important tools for community members to fully participate in and benefit from a growing economy.

- **University College of the North (UCN):** Established in 2004 to offer a comprehensive range of university and college programming for Northerners. There are now 2,250 students registered in over 40 programs in 12 locations throughout the North. UCN's offering of university and college programs is growing to include: the Aboriginal midwifery education program, the civil technician certificate, training for health care aides, licensed practical nurses and registered nurses, the restorative justice and conflict resolution diploma and Cree language courses.

- **Hydro Northern training initiative:** The provincial and federal governments are partnering with Manitoba Hydro to support a \$60 million pre-project training initiative for Northern hydro developments, a major element in the government's Northern Development Strategy. Over 860 trainees have participated to date, mainly in adult upgrading, designated trades and non-designated trades training. Aboriginal partners are building community capacity by planning and delivering community-based training. New or expanded training facilities in Nelson House, Split Lake and York Landing are adding to the regional training delivery system in the North.
- **Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition:** is being supported with additional resources to better assess the skills, knowledge and competencies acquired by workers through experience, unrecognized training, independent study, volunteer activities and hobbies.
- **English as an Additional Language (EAL):** is an important part of Manitoba's quality education system and supports immigration settlement. The government is focusing on EAL services, including provincial curriculum for teaching EAL and new guidelines for working with students in Kindergarten through Senior 4.
- **Labour Market Partnership Agreement:** This new six-year, \$129 million Canada-Manitoba Agreement promotes an effective labour market by supporting the Agreement's joint priorities: apprenticeship, literacy and essential skills, workplace skills development, and enhanced workforce participation of Aboriginal people and immigrants. Accessing the programs is not tied to Employment Insurance eligibility, which creates an opportunity to better serve Manitobans with limited past attachment to the workforce.

Manitoba is also supporting targeted education and training in the study and practice of CED itself, enhancing the province's pool of skilled CED workers.

- **Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Services:** provides a matching service for community-based organizations requiring professional services. Professionals, like accountants or architects, are linked with community clients who have identified a need in their organization for a specific service.
- **Community Development/Community Economic Development Training Intermediary:** is a community and government partnership to develop a CD/CED education and training program in community renewal and revitalization, and strengthening the capacity of people in government, industry, foundations and education to support the CD/CED sector.

Enterprise Development

Successful community enterprises provide opportunities for long-term and meaningful employment and greater security of income for local economies. The Manitoba government supports a variety of initiatives that foster strong community enterprise development, including:

- **The Community Enterprise Development Tax Credit:** provides community-based enterprises with access to needed equity capital, while encouraging Manitobans to invest in enterprises in their communities through a tax incentive.

- **Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF):** encourages economic development in Northern Manitoba, focusing on small business enterprises and community development corporations. CEDF administers the Business Loan Program, the Fisheries Loan Program, and the recently launched TEAM Program, a micro-enterprise development program.
- **SEED Winnipeg:** A non-profit community organization that works with low income entrepreneurs in the start up or expansion of private businesses, social enterprises and co-operatives through the “Build a Business” program, including business consulting and training, access to financing and resource referrals.
- **Co-ops:** Provincial support is provided for new and existing co-ops throughout Manitoba through REDI, Neighbourhoods Alive! and the Community Works Loan program, offered through local Community Development Corporations. Manitoba’s Co-operative Development Services offer advice and support on incorporation, governance and expansion of co-ops, including new-generation co-ops. There are over 400 co-ops in Manitoba – from grocery co-ops to fitness centres, all are community-owned enterprises at work in their communities.
- **Progressive Procurement:** Manitoba is committed to expanding support for CED enterprises through government procurement policies and practices, as reflected in the government’s Sustainable Development Procurement Initiative. The government has introduced a targeted Aboriginal Procurement Initiative to increase the participation of Aboriginal businesses providing goods and services to government, through the promotion of an Aboriginal Business Directory, measures to inform Aboriginal suppliers of tender opportunities and provisions for designated “set asides” for Aboriginal businesses. Most recently, the provincial and federal governments supported SEED Winnipeg in developing a Social Purchasing Portal – a web-based information resource to promote and expand sales opportunities for social enterprises. The Manitoba government has registered as a purchasing partner through the Social Purchasing Portal to introduce government buyers to a broader range of social enterprise suppliers.
- **Manitoba Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce:** officially launched in November 2004 at the Aboriginal Business Summit hosted by the Premier’s Economic Advisory Council, presents a new opportunity to promote Aboriginal businesses. Since last year, the Canada/Manitoba Business Services Centre and the Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce have established a positive and productive working relationship and clients are often referred to both organizations that provide support to Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

■ CED ON THE LEADING EDGE

Manitoba has placed a special emphasis on supporting innovative approaches to CED. As the economy evolves, CED is taking root in non-traditional areas and leading edge sectors of the economy. The Manitoba government is working with communities to build opportunities in emerging sectors such as clean energy, eco-tourism and arts and cultural industries.

Clean Energy Opportunities

Manitoba communities are expressing a growing interest in opportunities related to clean energy. Some examples include:

- **Run-of-the-river hydro generation projects:** Manitoba Hydro and Northern First Nations are working on establishing partnerships to undertake the development of new run-of-the-river hydro generation projects, to take advantage of growing energy export opportunities. Manitoba Hydro and Nisichawayasihk Cree Nation are proposing to jointly develop the 200 MW Wuskwatim Dam, a project that was redesigned incorporating traditional knowledge to reduce flooding to less than one-third of a square kilometre. Opportunities for local community training, employment and business development are significant.
- **Wind power:** Rural Manitoba communities see the growing opportunity in harvesting Manitoba's newest wind power crop. Manitoba's first wind farm, a \$210 million, 99 MW project at St. Leon, is now fully operational, supplying emission-free power directly into the power grid. The government Manitoba and Manitoba Hydro have issued an expression of interest for 1,000 MW of wind power that seeks to maximize CED impacts.
- **Ethanol and biodiesel:** Communities are interested in the value-added opportunities of these two clean energy options. Manitoba's legislation to mandate the use of ethanol and the federal government's "ethanol support program" have supported Husky Oil's decision to invest \$145 million in expanding their ethanol plant in Minnedosa. With production increasing from 10 million litres to 130 million litres, Husky Oil's plant expansion provides potentially \$80 million per year for farmers who sell their crops. The government is also working with producers and communities to expand biodiesel production. Manitoba has established a dedicated biodiesel office to work with producers and communities and we are partnering with the federal government to deliver a \$1.5 million Biodiesel Production Program for Manitoba biodiesel producers. Budget 2006 provides further support to grow the biodiesel industry across Manitoba.
- **Green Manitoba:** Manitoba has established a new Green Eco Solutions office to co-ordinate energy efficiency activities such as recycling, waste reduction, water conservation and product stewardship initiatives.
- **The Island Lake Energy Efficiency pilot initiative:** is working with Island Lakes communities and Manitoba Hydro to use locally produced materials and support local training and employment to retrofit homes with a focus on energy efficiencies.

Eco-Tourism and Aboriginal Tourism Strategy

Eco-tourism is a rapidly expanding industry that has sparked interest in many Manitoba communities as an opportunity for sustainable economic development. The government is also working with Aboriginal communities to implement an Aboriginal Tourism Strategy, based on guidance from an Aboriginal Leaders Advisory Group, focusing on hunting and fishing, culture, and arts and crafts. Examples of eco-tourism and Aboriginal tourism activities supported by the provincial government include:

- the world-renowned Churchill tourist destination, generating approximately \$23 million in annual economic activity;
- the Watchable Wildlife Program, supporting and marketing wildlife viewing opportunities such as the Narcisse Snake Dens, Hecla's Black Wolf Trail and Whitewater Lake;
- "Pelicans to Polar Bears" guide book, identifying 100 viewing sites and providing information on routes and tour packages;
- North West Community Futures Development Corporation's partnership with the Northern Ontario Tourism Association, promoting five Manitoba fishing lodges to the US market; and
- Indigenous Tribal Village at the Forks on summer weekends and advertising support for Aboriginal tourism products.

Community Forestry

The government has responded to community interest in community-based forestry activities in Manitoba, with a particular focus on sustainable forestry practices, value-added opportunities and Aboriginal engagement in the sector. In addition to providing extensive information services, the province has:

- signed formal resource development agreements with Swampy Cree Tribal Council and First Nations Limited Partnership to work jointly on forestry initiatives;
- provided funding through a federal-provincial partnership to establish the Forintek program to encourage Aboriginal and Northern forestry development, support communities to increase value-added processing and encourage greater interaction between Manitoba's primary and secondary wood products industries; and
- supported the Northern Forest Diversification Centre (NFDC), in partnership with the government of Canada and the University College of the North, to work with Northern communities to develop sustainable economic opportunities based on local non-timber forest products. The NFDC provides research and development, and training and marketing services in sustainable harvesting and sales of non-timber products, such as wild crafts and floral supplies, wild foods and wild medicinal products. With a catalogue of over 300 products, the NFDC has supported more than 350 harvesters in over 25 communities in Northern Manitoba.

Manitoba Culture

Manitoba is home to rich artistic and cultural communities. The government recognizes that art and culture encourages community economic development, along with fostering creativity and quality of life. Manitoba supports:

- **Art City:** An inter-generational drop-in art studio offering diverse programming to inner city residents in the West Broadway area, serving approximately 275 children, youth and adults each month.
- **Graffiti Art Programming:** A not-for-profit community youth art centre that uses art as a tool for community, social, economic and individual development.
- **Film Training Manitoba:** Develops and implements training for film crews in the province. While meeting the demand for skilled crew technicians, the industry also upgrades the skills of local talent such as local writers, directors, producers and actors to ensure Manitoba's indigenous film industry continues to grow.
- **Arts and Cultural Industries Association of Manitoba:** A community-driven team with representatives from arts and cultural industries and provincial and federal agencies. The Association works to educate both the public and private sectors of the economic benefits of working with arts and cultural industries. The Association serves arts and cultural workers throughout the province with an annual professional development conference, seminars throughout the year, a newsletter and weekly e-zine that provides job postings and training opportunities.
- **Art Stabilization Manitoba:** A \$6 million program launched in 2002 as a cost-shared public/private sector initiative to foster the financial stability, best business practices and artistic renewal of not-for-profit arts and cultural organizations.

The Manitoba government is building community connectivity through its provincial broadband strategy. Network access supports rural and remote communities in education opportunities, economic development opportunities and enhanced health care opportunities. Manitoba's broadband strategy targets to provide broadband access to all communities in the province by 2010.

■ AT HOME IN OUR COMMUNITIES

CED seeks to balance more traditional economic objectives, with broader social needs. The government has taken significant steps to support communities in building safe, healthy and diverse environments, supporting a higher quality of life for all Manitobans. Healthy, vibrant communities are better positioned to take advantage of economic opportunities.

Housing

Neighbourhood stabilization and renewal are key components of the province's CED strategy. A strong sense of community grows where people feel they have a stake in the future and a role in their community on a long-term basis. The Manitoba government recognizes that access to adequate

and affordable housing is vital to building stable and vibrant communities and supports a number of affordable housing initiatives including:

- **North End Housing Project (NEHP):** is a non-profit housing corporation whose objective is to supply quality housing to residents of the North End community. NEHP acquires and rehabilitates North End homes which are then either leased under five-year lease-to-purchase agreements or sold outright to families or operated as long-term rentals.
- **Affordable Housing Initiative (AHI):** is a \$73.8 million bilateral agreement between the governments of Manitoba and Canada that is increasing the supply of affordable rental units and new housing in the province. An important focus of the AHI is providing housing for low-income individuals and families, building upon community-driven initiatives. Manitoba has also re-introduced proposal development funding loans, which are interest-free for non-profit and co-operative housing organizations to help develop project proposals for affordable housing.
- **Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative (WHHI):** is a tripartite partnership established in May 2000 to address homelessness, declining housing stock and the revitalization of Winnipeg's older neighbourhoods. Through the WHHI, Manitoba has committed \$8 million in funding for housing in Winnipeg neighbourhoods through the Neighbourhood Housing Assistance program under the Neighbourhoods Alive! initiative. Manitoba is also using the Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program to assist homeowners, non-profit organizations and private landlords in inner-city neighbourhoods.
- **Dedication of profits for inner-city housing and renewal:** the government will introduce legislation to dedicate the profits from our Waverley West and other suburban developments to inner-city housing and community development. Waverley West will also have positive environmental qualities through the development of ground source heat pumps for heating and cooling.

Safer Communities

Manitoba supports a number of programs to provide positive alternatives for youth and to combat the root causes of crime.

- **Lighthouses:** provide after school recreation, education and social opportunities, building stronger relationships between youth, communities, and the police and justice system around crime prevention.
- **Ogijiita Pimatiswin Kinamatwin/The Aboriginal Youth Housing Renovation Project (OPK):** is a North End community-based response to support individuals who have had a long history of conflict with the criminal justice system. OPK provides a holistic range of supports including: employment, education, basic life skills training and social support for Aboriginal ex-offenders; serving as a bridge for the participants, reconnecting them with mainstream society. The project has been very successful with many participants having graduated to long-term employment and post-secondary education.

- **Community Prosecutor:** a community-based prosecution strategy – and Canada’s first – for downtown Winnipeg. The prosecutor brings together Winnipeg police and local stakeholders to target street crime and other locally identified priorities for both aggressive prosecution and co-ordinated prevention strategies. The prosecutor works in downtown Winnipeg as part of that community.

Healthy Children – Strong Families

Ensuring children grow up healthy, safe and secure is fundamental to ensuring young people can grow up to be healthy adults. Manitoba, with its community partners, has developed a range of programs and services for children, youth and families.

- **Healthy Child Manitoba:** In 1999, the Manitoba government adopted “the best possible outcomes for Manitoba’s children” as a key pillar in its overall vision for Manitoba. In 2000, the government created Healthy Child Manitoba, which coordinates strategies and initiatives across government, such as: Healthy Schools, a program to promote school- and community-based physical activity and wellness initiatives for children and teens; Roots of Empathy, a program to counter bullying in schools; the Healthy Baby program, to help mothers during pregnancy and the early years with financial assistance and substantial education about early childhood development; and the new Positive Parenting Program.
- **Northern Healthy Foods Initiative:** In response to the Northern Food Prices Report four priorities are being implemented: food business development, community foods program, greenhouse pilot project and Northern gardens. More than 20 communities are expected to participate with community gardens this year.
- **Child care:** Manitoba’s five-year child-care plan has enhanced one of the best child-care systems in Canada, with significant increases in the number of funded spaces and increased wages for early childhood educators. In April 2005, the governments of Manitoba and Canada signed a first-of-its-kind child-care agreement, Moving Forward on Early Learning and Child Care, to provide new multi-year federal funding for child care and early learning. The provincial government is calling on the new federal government to honour its commitment to child-care.
- **Shelter Support:** The Manitoba government is undertaking a significant restructuring and enhancement of the existing shelter allowance system, an important step in our strategy to fight poverty. A new shelter benefit will provide greater support to assist low-income individuals and families with rising shelter costs, and increase the number of beneficiaries, including the addition of many persons with disabilities.

The Manitoba government will continue to work with communities on a comprehensive approach to CED to enable communities to create their own healthy, sustainable economic futures.