

Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation's (TNRC) New Five-Year Plan

This past year, the TNRC underwent a review of the organization's mandate. Through participation and consultation, the organization is prepared to chart a new direction with a clear vision for the future, **Healthy Homes and Healthy Communities**. The TNRC is committed to addressing the social, economic and environmental issues affecting this community. The TNRC is committed to increasing the accessibility and affordability of housing. The TNRC is committed to reducing our fear of crime. The TNRC is committed to increasing our tolerance of others.

The TNRC began the first phase of this strategic planning process in May of 2006 by engaging in a widespread analysis of the internal and external factors affecting the organization. Partners and other key stakeholders were involved in this review. Trends and issues including threats and opportunities were identified for the TNRC in a context of organizational strengths and weaknesses. A redefining of the vision and mission were key to this process and the board and staff worked to clarify and strengthen the direction of the organization.

The strategic direction for Thompson Neighborhood Renewal Corporation is set out in the mission, vision, values and strategic goals. Together these define the intended direction for the Thompson Neighborhood Renewal Corporation for the next five years.

Mission

The Thompson Neighborhood Renewal Corporation mission is:

Working with communities to provide a place of empowerment to influence positive changes

Vision

Healthy homes and healthy communities

Values

Our actions and decisions will be based upon:

- Advocacy
- Leadership
- Collaboration and partnerships
- Inclusive
- Empowering
- Reducing marginalization
- Diversity
- Sustainability

Core areas of Focus

The strategic plan sets out the direction for the Thompson Neighborhood Renewal Corporation for the next five years. The three core areas of focus are:

- ❑ **Affordable accessible housing**
- ❑ **Safe communities**
- ❑ **Cultural Acceptance**

These areas define the work to be done in the community to reduce the affects of poverty through empowerment for positive change. These areas are built on the strengths and competencies within the organization with a focus on future growth and development. For each area strategic goals have been defined specific outcomes that result from the work of empowering individuals and communities to make positive change in their environment.

Although not mentioned as a strategic goal, organization capacity was identified as key area to ensure the organization has sufficient human and financial resources to fulfill our mission and vision.

No one core area is more important than the other. Together they define the scope of the work set out for the organization in achieving healthy homes and healthy communities.

Strategic Goals

- ❑ **Affordable accessible housing**

TNRC is aware and informed on housing related issues
TNRC will promote housing programs
TNRC will be a strong advocate for housing
Enhance the existing housing stock for low-income families
Provide housing to middle to low-income families

- ❑ **Safe communities**

Increase individual knowledge on personal and family safety
Increase urban safety
Increase social cohesion in at risk populations
Increase knowledge of poverty

- ❑ **Cultural acceptance**

Celebrate cultural diversity

Establishing Priorities

Priorities as they relate to the core areas of focus define the specific population or area that the TNRC will address.

Strategic Goal 1 - Affordable accessible housing

The most suggested priority was low-income families. These families include the working poor and those living on social assistance who spend more than 30% of their income on housing putting them at risk of becoming homeless.

TNRC priority:

- ❑ **Low-income families**

Strategic Goal 2 - Safe communities

The most suggested priority was youth. The TNRC will work on prevention strategies and with youth at risk to reduce vulnerability and increase individual knowledge on personal safety. Safety concerns in the downtown area is a concern. The TNRC will ensure a proactive and preventative approach will be undertaken to ensure the urban safety of all our citizens.

TNRC priorities:

- ❑ **Youth**
- ❑ **Downtown**

Strategic Goal 3 - Cultural acceptance

The most suggested priority was aboriginal cultural awareness. Increasing tolerance and understanding will reduce the incidence of racial discrimination faced in the community. The TNRC will work to celebrate diversity.

TNRC priority:

- ❑ **Aboriginal people**

TNRC Backgrounder

In Thompson five years ago, urban decay and poverty brought together a dedicated group of service providers and community volunteers. This group lobbied the present day provincial government with the need for community revitalization through the ***Neighborhoods Alive!*** (NA) program in places other than Winnipeg. As a result, Thompson received a five-year funding agreement to pursue the objectives of NA in revitalizing this community. From committee to incorporation, the Thompson Neighborhood Renewal Corporation (TNRC) was formed, establishing the first board of directors in 2001.

Since that time, the organization has worked to make Thompson a healthy community to work, live and play in with specific attention to the “**areas of need**” in the community. Based on the founding vision *to act as a catalyst for community development*, the TNRC focused on recreation, housing, neighbourhood empowerment, cleanliness/beautification, safety/crime prevention and economic development. Since 2001, the TNRC has mobilized community organizations and brought \$1.2 million in project funding to the community and leveraged at least double that amount in community contributions. Through the coordination of the TNRC, an additional amount of \$1.3 million was spent on rehabilitation or construction of 153 apartments and homes.

This organization’s hard work, through the dedicated board of directors and staff, continues to address the challenges faced by the City of Thompson in an effort to revitalize those “areas of need”. Mobilizing and partnering have produced measurable results in improving the quality of life.

Each project and housing decision was made by a volunteer board of directors working in tandem with a small but dedicated staff. Each decision was based on recognizing “areas of need” spread throughout the community. Each step was based on partnerships formed to address the challenges this community faces through revitalization.

With many successes and constructive partnerships formed, the TNRC now enters a new stage in our work. In October 2005 the TNRC was pleased to announce our core funding was being renewed for a further five years, running from 2006-2011. Now, with a new five-year plan to guide the organization and solid core funding in place, the TNRC looks forward to serving the community. With that new five-year plan in hand, the TNRC will continue to make a difference for all those people who make Thompson home.

The TNRC would like to acknowledge the support of the Province of Manitoba department of Intergovernmental Affairs, Neighbourhoods Alive! and Minister Steve Ashton for providing both our core funding and project funding to our community. Without their long-term commitment we would not be able to do this work.

