



Chalmers  
Neighbourhood  
Renewal CORPORATION

# 2016 Annual Summary

Neighbourhood Celebration  
& 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting  
Monday, September 26, 2016  
5:30 pm - 7:30 pm  
Elmwood EK Active Living Centre  
180 Poplar Ave.  
[chalmersrenewal.org](http://chalmersrenewal.org)





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### Message from the Chair

I am happy to say that today is our 4<sup>th</sup> Annual General meeting of the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC). We are excited of CNRC's role in this amazing and appealing community. We are now three quarters into our 5-year plan and the community initiatives continue to be a huge on going success, such as the Better Access to Groceries (BAG) Program, the Farmers Market which ran every second Saturday in the summer, as well as events like Happy Days on Henderson.

This past year, the Housing Plan has moved from surveys and collecting data to giving out numerous fix-up grants in the area which proves to show Chalmers as a more visual and appealing neighbourhood. To date, there are 26 projects completed. CNRC would like to thank Liz Plett (Housing Coordinator) for the hard work and endless hours she dedicates to the neighbourhood.

Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative (CCRI) has been created by CNRC to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature such as grants. The CCRI partnership with Neighbourhoods Alive! has established a Small Grant Fund (SGF) with maximum project amount of \$2,500.00. In this past year CCRI helped support 12 SGF projects. Please feel free to call if you have any ideas you would like to discuss.

A huge thank you to the commitment of our board members Stormie, Leilani, Cath, Holly, Terri, Nina, John, Michel, Becky, Dee, and Jen. As well as, Lorraine, Ramona, Edgar, Kendall and Liz who have moved on this year. We also welcome Alex and Eliyana to our Board of Directors this year. We want to recognize the significant efforts of all our staff supports including Trinette, little Athena, Immaculee, Jacquie, Liz and Executive Director, Dale Karasiuk. Thank you to Charlee's Restaurant for supporting us with food tonight, as well as various meetings over the last year. We also benefit from other local businesses in day to day operations including UPS Store 321, the Little Laminator, Mill's Insurance, Haworth & Co and Gumprich Bookkeeping Services.

Finally, we would like to express our appreciation for the tremendous supports we receive from Neighbourhoods Alive in terms of both funding and staffing assistance! I am honoured to chair the CNRC board for the past year with amazement, with all that is going on in the community and continues to go on.

Theresa Tougas  
Chairperson, Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation



## CNRC & NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL OVERVIEW

Neighbourhoods Alive! (“NA!”) is Manitoba's long-term, social and economic strategy launched in 2000 to support and encourage community-driven revitalization efforts in designated neighbourhoods and communities within Manitoba.

NA!’s designated communities generally have common issues, including high rates of poverty, unemployment and crime, and often, a lack of family support, recreation, affordable housing and economic opportunities. The Chalmers neighbourhood in the broader Winnipeg community of Elmwood is one of NA!’s designated communities.

As a primary funder, NA! has worked with CNRC to identify specific objectives that are designed to revitalize the Chalmers neighbourhood and foster a healthy community through the creation of a 5 Year Neighbourhood Plan for Chalmers (the “5 Year Plan”).

The planning objectives in the 5 Year Plan provide a focus on efforts to:

### Improve neighbourhood capacity/ empowerment – as measured by:

- increased participation of local stakeholders in renewal efforts
- complimentary funding leveraged
- greater residential stability

### Improve housing conditions – as measured by:

- physical improvements to substandard housing
- development of affordable housing units
- increased housing values/ investment and promotion of homeownership

### Increase economic development activity – as measured by:

- labour market participation rates
- job creation, training/ employment preparation
- adult education opportunities
- sustaining or development of small business and/or social enterprise

### Improve safety conditions – as measured by:

- reductions in crime including fires/arson
- improved security measures such as street lighting and home security
- greater perception of safety

### Increase access to recreation and wellness opportunities – as measured by:

- improvements to parks and green space, play structures and other community recreation facilities
- increased recreational programming and affordability including equipment and transportation



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### BACKGROUND - CNRC

Since 2010, extensive planning efforts dedicated to 'renewal and revitalization' have been fully underway with residents and stakeholders in the Chalmers neighbourhood located within the broader community of Elmwood. Initially, steps were put in place by Neighbourhoods Alive! representatives and members of the Neighbourhood Advisory Committee in Chalmers (NACC).

In late 2012 and throughout 2013 the transition was completed from NACC to official Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) status as the 13<sup>th</sup> Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation in Manitoba. These steps included the following:

- ✓ February, 2013: Hiring of Executive Director position for Chalmers
- ✓ July, 2013: Articles of Incorporation
- ✓ September, 2013: General Meeting to complete the creation of the CNRC including: By-Laws, Board of Directors and the 5 Year Neighbourhood Plan as adopted by the Chalmers community.

After the 2013 AGM, CNRC applied for Charitable Status in consultation with NA! and Legal Services, after it was confirmed that CNRC could not be both a Charitable organization and a granting body (small grants fund or housing fix-up grants) under one organization. A complimentary organization was established as the Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative Inc (CCRI). CCRI is a non-share capital corporation created by the CNRC to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature. In December 2013 CCRI adopted key governance aspects including: Articles of Incorporation, Organizational BY-Laws and the Board membership.

The final steps related to the creation of CNRC and CCRI were completed with the adoption of a multi-year Agreement with NA! effective April 1, 2014. Prior to this date, funding supports for both organizations were provided through a funding agreement with the Elmwood EK Active Living Center.

Other significant organizational milestones related to operations would include:

- ✓ September 2015, Adoption of 5 Year Chalmers Housing Plan (CNRC)
- ✓ November 2015, Approval of Charitable Status (CNRC)
- ✓ March 2016, Agreement for Housing Fix Up Grants for four years (CCRI)
- ✓ April 2016, Neighbourhood Development Agreements in place until March 2021(CNRC/CCRI)
- ✓ November August 2016, Agreement for Small Grants Fund for four years - building on 2014 and 2015 experiences (CCRI)

The six priority areas confirmed by the Neighbourhood Plan are: Safety, Recreation/Greening, Community Services, Community Connections, Health/Wellness and Housing. More background details are available at [www.chalmersrenewal.org](http://www.chalmersrenewal.org)



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# CNRC 2016 ACTIVITY SUMMARY

The following is a general description of current CNRC's activities and programs that relate to the 5 Year Neighbourhood and Annual Action Plan. The summary is presented under the categories as identified Priorities within the 5 Year Plan.

## PRIORITY: COMMUNITY SERVICES/CONNECTIONS

### Local Farmers Market Experience



Working in close partnership with the Kildonan MCC Thrift Shop (KMTS), CNRC is helping to provide better access to nutritious food including fresh, quality and low cost fruits and vegetables for neighbourhood residents by coordinating the bi-weekly Farmers Market Experience in Chalmers.

The Market supports healthy nutrition while promoting other community resources and fostering strong neighbourhood engagement in a social setting. Vendors are not charged a fee for their table access at the market and in return they have all agreed to align with guiding principles around affordability. This ensures that low income residents benefit from product prices that are often below regular retail and other Farmers Market price points.

The seasonal Farmers Market Experience was established with the hosting of two events on Saturday, September 13 and Saturday, September 20, 2014. The success of these events resulted in a spring indoor event on May 24, 2015 and a schedule of

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outdoor markets for June – September 2015. Another six Markets were scheduled again in 2016.

Each Farmers Market is coordinated primarily by CNRC and KMTS representatives and supported by various agencies and organizations. KMTS is responsible for overall market leadership, organization and direction including vendor administration and product approval. CNRC is primary responsible for coordinating community leadership, interest and involvement.

Together, KMTS and CNRC coordinate the planning meetings which involve partners such as Chalmers Community Centre, Elmwood Community Resource Centre, Sam's Place, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Elmwood East Kildonan Active Living Centre and Together in Elmwood Coalition. Shared leadership is provided on a variety of operational tasks including: Site preparation and clean-up, community promotions, volunteer recruitment, vendor relations, safety and evaluation



A strong demand and desire to have fresh fruits and vegetables available along with unique vendors and services in the Chalmers neighbourhood has been clearly demonstrated. As a result, it is anticipated that the Farmers Market initiative will continue to grow indefinitely.



## Early Childhood and Family Opportunities

The Together in Elmwood: Parent & Child Coalition (TIE) is a network of organizations and individuals working together towards the best possible outcomes for children. This is accomplished by supporting families in the diverse areas of the Elmwood community including Chalmers. TIE provides active leadership in offering community members a wide range of free workshops, training, seminars and programs such as TIE TYKES. The Guiding Principles for all services are: Nutrition and Healthy Living, Learning Literacy and Language, Positive Parenting and Community Capacity Building.



Under the Guiding Principles, TIE provides extensive services in partnership with various agencies. Many of their programs and services take place at central neighbourhood locations including Elmwood EK Active Living Centre and Chalmers Community Centre. TIE currently has a list of over 350 families and it continues to grow every year. The TIE TYKES, free early childhood programming for parents and children has now expanded to include programming in the broader Elmwood area at the East Elmwood Community Centre located on Keenleyside.

TIE's highest priority is to ensure that all programs are provided at no cost and are accessible to all. TIE and the CNRC have established a very strong and sustainable working relationship which includes:

- Representation from CNRC on the TIE Coalition Executive
- TIE and CNRC collaboration along with other area partners in the delivery of specific initiatives including Happy Days on Henderson, MPI Car Seat Clinics,



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Elmwood Winter Carnival at Clara Hughes Park, Community Training, Better Access to Groceries and the Farmers Market experience to name a few

- TIE representing an important platform for communicating initiatives and services that the CNRC provides to the Chalmers community.

Together, CNRC and TIE are able to conduct shared promotions which provide a better awareness amongst Chalmers residents of programs and services in the area. TIE membership is highlighted by extensive participation from newcomer Canadian, Aboriginal and those of lower socio economic means. TIE and CNRC share similar goals and mandates in providing programs and services that are culturally appropriate and are offered at limited or no cost.

TIE is currently supported through the extensive partnerships which are in place with the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centres, Healthy Child Manitoba, Neighbourhood's Alive! and the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC). In utilizing their Charitable Status designation realized in the last fiscal year, CNRC is also working with TIE in the pursuit of funding sources that assist in attaining an appropriate level of sustainability for these valuable community services.

## Employment Readiness and Skill Building

The Chalmers neighbourhood benefits from the opportunity to participate within skill building or employment readiness training experiences supported by CNRC which include: First Aid, CPR, Mental Wellness, Food Handlers Certification, Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (training to address personal or group crisis situations where safety is an issue), Automated External Defibrillation, Diversity and Inter Cultural Training, Disability Awareness or Triple P Family Education.

CNRC is involved in partner promotion and delivery of workshops in collaboration with various partners including Chalmers CC, Together In Elmwood Parent & Child Coalition, Elmwood EK Active Living Centre, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority and others. Training opportunities are scheduled on a regular basis at different locations within the Chalmers community and there are often wait lists.

It is intended that these training opportunities will continue to be offered indefinitely as it provides people with life and employment skills. Training opportunities are offered at low cost or no cost to neighbourhood residents and stakeholder members.



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### Literacy and Education



CNRC is proud to work closely with Frontier College and other community partners to ensure the delivery of a wide variety of literacy programs, including family literacy workshops, afterschool homework clubs, 1to1 and smallgroup tutoring (for children, youth and adults), reading circles, reading tents,

and summer literacy camps. Frontier College programs are free and open to everyone in working with families, children, youth, adults, newcomers and Aboriginal communities.

Working with CNRC and other supports, Frontier College is working to sustain community-based literacy programming for vulnerable populations in Chalmers. This is being accomplished through the presence of a local literacy catalyst who recruits and train volunteers, maintains consistency in the community and builds trust with local residents and networks.

Over the past three years, effective partnerships have been established with Holy Eucharist Parish, local schools (Lord Selkirk, Polson and Elmwood High) and service providers such as Elmwood EK Active Living Centre, Chalmers Community Centre and Elmwood Community Resource Center. Under the leadership of Frontier College, with ongoing assistance from CNRC and others, the community has benefitted from a structure of literacy support that addresses the needs and interests of participating learners and partners.

Overall, Frontier College has piloted summer literacy camps, year-round literacy programming, and family literacy workshops in Chalmers since 2012 with assistance from the NA! neighbourhood renewal fund. During the first three years, Frontier College's literacy initiatives in Chalmers, developed with local schools and partner organizations, have generated positive with the support of CNRC. After-school programming has reached over 150 children. Family literacy workshops have supported over 225 parents and 165 children. Summer literacy camps have been attended by over 185 children. Overall, in excess of 1,000 books have been distributed in the community through after-school programs and the same amount through workshops, plus over 750 through summer literacy camps.

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Frontier College work with CNRC representatives, volunteers and community partners to give people the skills and confidence they need to reach their potential and contribute to society. Frontier College is a national leader in the field of literacy founded in 1899 and they have developed the organizational capacity to successfully deliver literacy supports in Chalmers. Due to the successes to-date, it is anticipated that the programs and partner relations will continue indefinitely between CNRC and Frontier College. Frontier College's organizational capacity and community-based philosophy is strengthened by the strong partnership network fostered by CNRC. The positive results to-date, support the successful continuation of this valued partnership.

### Youth Engagement and Training



Sam's Place, located at the corner of Henderson Highway and Gordon Ave coordinates 'The Youth Engagement and Skills Development' program for youth and young adults aged 14 and 24.

The program focus is particularly with those of Aboriginal descent, newly immigrated to Canada, or of a low socio-economic status from within Chalmers.

The purpose of this program is to assist youth and young adults in addressing socio-economic barriers to employment.

Through vocational training, mentoring, and relationship building, the program helps youth gain skills and confidence so as to successfully transition into the workforce. The Youth Engagement and Skills Development Coordinator, along with other volunteer mentors, works alongside youth volunteers to help them improve on work-related skills, while also increasing their sense of self-worth and confidence.

Sam's Place is a well-known local venue providing services within the Chalmers neighbourhood including a socially conscious bookstore, café and venue for local musicians and artists. Sam's Place aims to be a positive and encouraging environment that provides a place of belonging and community for youth and young adults.



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'The Youth Engagement and Skills Development' program is conducted by Sam's Place and has received financial support from the Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. NA! is the primary funding body in support of all Manitoba Neighbourhood Renewal Corporations including Chalmers. Over the last few years, NA! have helped to foster this working relationship between CNRC and Sam's Place.

The relationship with CNRC and representatives/program participants from Sam's Place includes the following:

- ❖ serving as a host venue for informal and scheduled meetings, focus groups, consultations and presentations
- ❖ providing food services for meetings and community sessions
- ❖ actively promoting community initiatives
- ❖ representation at various local special events such as Happy Days on Henderson, Farmers Market and Take Pride Canada
- ❖ recruitment/provision of local musicians and entertainment for special events
- ❖ partnering on initiatives such as the installation of neighbourhood bike racks unique to the Chalmers neighbourhood

It is anticipated that the working relationships between CNRC, Sam's Place and the community will continue to grow and develop in support of Chalmers.

## Neighbourhood Events

Many families within the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader Elmwood community benefit from the provision of special events throughout the year. Various poverty related concerns are addressed in the provision of these special events which include access to food, refreshments, social experiences, valuable community resources and enhanced mental wellness. Important poverty related data identified by the Social Planning Council highlights a couple of research data facts which guide these initiatives:

- ❖ Almost 30% of the Chalmers population live below the Low Income Measure



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- ❖ Child Poverty Rate in Chalmers is 44.8% - Double the rate for the whole of Winnipeg

Various special event examples include: Happy Days on Henderson; Take Pride Canada; TIE Family Fun Days, School Carnivals, Holiday Season dinners/breakfasts; Elmwood Winter Fun Day; Community Barbecues.

CNRC plays primary leadership roles in planning and implementing special events. For many other events where the organizational leadership is provided by individual schools, parent councils, faith community representatives and community organizations, CNRC is also included on the planning and organizing committee because of our expertise, community connections and ongoing involvement with events.

The special events provided in our community of Chalmers are loads of free, family fun, well received and extremely well attended! Because of these successes, it is anticipated that these special events will be carried on indefinitely. The events represent both tremendous opportunities for developing neighbourhood connections and improving community image and pride. The events are also viewed as providing the potential for residents to contribute to their neighbourhood and enhance employment readiness and personal skills.

### Chalmers News

2016 was a notable year for improved awareness and information sharing in our neighbourhood with the debut of *CHALMERS NEWS!!* This two pager features regular editions of the NEWS!! that might be of importance in our community including events, workshops, grants and general happenings! Chalmers News has been distributed at community events and through email (which anyone can sign-up to receive on our website <http://chalmersrenewal.org/newsletter/> ).

### Fostering new relations

Every year brings about the added expansion of partnerships within our Chalmers neighbourhood! 2016 is no different as we at CNRC are excited to continue building our relations in three significant areas. These include Elmwood heritage perspectives with the North East Winnipeg Historical Society; mental health wellness strategies with the Canadian Mental Health Association (Manitoba and Winnipeg Region) and a variety of







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### PRIORITY: HOUSING ACTIVITIES

#### Overall Update on Chalmers Housing Plan

In 2015, CNRC and the Chalmers community produced a Five-Year Neighbourhood Housing Plan with five priorities of access, safety, beautification, direct action to prevent discrimination, and programming. The Plan can be found online on our website at [www.chalmersrenewal.org](http://www.chalmersrenewal.org).

To help implement the plan, a Chalmers Housing Coordinator was hired as of April, 2016. Liz Plett's office is located here at 180 Poplar Avenue and she can be reached by phone, text, or email at any time. If needed, arrangements can be made to meet outside of office hours which are generally Tuesdays and Thursdays.

A Housing Committee was also formed to develop the Terms of Reference for our Home Fix-Up Grants and to determine the eligibility of home fix-up applications. Five new members, all Chalmers residents, have joined the committee since it was formed in spring. The committee has met twice to date and another meeting is tentatively planned for November.

#### ***~ Housing Plan Priority: Programming ~***

Last Spring, eight Home Repair Workshops were organized and run in conjunction with the Community Home Improvement Initiative fix-up grants. Grant recipients were required to attend these workshops which were held at Lord Selkirk School just next door. Topics covered included How to Find & Hire a Contractor, How to Fix Plumbing, How to Fix Electrical, Maintaining Your Home Exterior, Insulating Your Home, Fixing Foundations, and Patching and Painting. The workshops, some of them hands-on, were very well attended and according to the responses, much appreciated. Manitoba Housing and Manitoba Hydro also presented their programs at the workshops.

Future information sessions are planned for October. The Safer Cleaner Chalmers sessions are scheduled for October 13, 20 and 25. Presenters are coming from City of Winnipeg By-Law, Graffiti Removal, Bulk Waste Removal, Residential Tenancies Branch, Poulins Pest Control, Winnipeg Police Service, Crime Prevention through Environmental Design, and EEK Neighbourhood Watch.

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CNRC is connecting with Winnipeg Rent Network to organize a Rent Smart series in 2017 including money management by SEED Winnipeg and tenant rights and responsibilities by Residential Tenancies Branch.

### ~ Housing Plan Priority: Preventing Discrimination ~

A series of workshops entitled Indigenous Peoples: Building a Stronger Relationship for service providers in Chalmers has already been scheduled. An initial session took place in the spring of 2016 with over 25 participants and second opportunity is currently being promoted for Tuesday October 4<sup>th</sup>.



CNRC also partnered with ECRC in the “We Are One”, celebration of diversity day, here at 180 Poplar on August 27<sup>th</sup>. A community barbecue and the involvement of several guest speakers and stakeholders were the highlights of this very successful day which brought together individuals from across the community to join the conversation on unity, inclusion and cross cultural understanding.

### ~ Housing Plan Priority: Fix-Up Grants ~

CNRC was approved by Manitoba Housing for the Community Housing Improvement Initiative exterior home fix-up grants. These grants are delivered by the Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative Inc (CCRI) which is a non-share capital corporation created by CNRC to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature including grant processes. Combining grant funding supports over two years, a total of \$47,000, were made available to the neighbourhood in the initial intake. In total, Chalmers homeowners and landlords responded with 72 applications including 6 block clean-up/beautification applications requesting approximately \$80,000 in total. The Housing Committee approved 50 applications based on priorities of safety, water entry and appearance, in that order. Remaining applications were placed on a waiting list. All successful applicants are expected to complete their fix-ups by the October 10 deadline. Approximately \$30,000 in payments out of the total \$47,000 have been made with 35 home fix-ups completed to date.

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Five out of six block clean-ups / beautifications are complete with the final one taking place on October 1. Three of the clean-ups were initiated by neighbourhood schools and a faith group, two by residents, and a house-painting by the CNRC Board.

A list of contractors was made available to grant recipients as they were required to submit two quotes for their fix-up projects. This list is being updated to highlight contractors who reside in Chalmers but will include contractors from across the city. This list will be made available to 2017 applicants.

Staff have also worked at informing homeowners and landlords of the larger income-based Manitoba Housing home fix-up grants. To date, the Coordinator has assisted with three applications for the Homeowner Renovation Assistance Program grants (up to \$20,000), two of which have been approved to date, one application for Manitoba Emergency Repair Program for Homeowners (up to \$5,000) and one application for the Rooming House Assistance Program (up to \$25,000 per bed unit).

An information session was offered in August for Manitoba Housing's Rental Housing Improvement Program which is available to landlords for up to \$24,000 per unit. It was well attended by 35 landlords and the Coordinator has assisted with two applications to date.



### ~ Housing Plan Priority: Safety and Neighbourhood Liveability By-Law ~

Our intention regarding property owners who receive By-Law infraction orders is to assist with any kind of support we are able to provide, recognizing that in some cases and for different reasons, owners are unable to comply with an order. The Coordinator has been in regular contact with a representative from the By-Law division and spoken with other By-Law officers regarding various properties in Chalmers.



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Based on the parameters of the City of Winnipeg Neighbourhood Liveability By-Law, the Coordinator worked with the Urban Green Team staff to report addresses to City of Winnipeg By-Law Division with grass and/or garbage infractions. Major infractions were also reported, including residences, businesses, and public spaces.

As back-lane numbers are a by-law requirement for safety reasons and 78% of 2850 homes in Chalmers are missing back-lane numbers, staff has met with a City representative to discuss support for offering back-lane numbers to Chalmers residents.



### ~ Housing Plan Priority: Access ~

As part of the Winnipeg Rental Network (WRN) Outreach Worker program, CNRC is addressing the need to strengthen tenancies and relations for both landlords and renters. WRN is a network of public, private and community based organizations that address issues related to poverty by improving accessibility to affordable rental accommodations. The ability to secure affordable housing is a primary issue for many Chalmers residents looking to rent.

The Housing Support Coordinator has assisted six individuals with finding accommodations. Staff has also been part of meetings with our area MP, Daniel Blaikie and other partners to discuss potential proposals for new mixed housing spaces in Chalmers and Elmwood with a third meeting planned for the near future.

Improved resource access for Chalmers residents should also provide benefits in terms of researching available housing opportunities. The instalment of an upgraded Resource Area close to the entrance at our 180 Poplar Ave location is nearing completion. The new space will be featuring computers, posters and handout materials and will be accessible for all those who visit and are interested in housing related information from WRN and other organizations.

Overall, CNRC has established a strong partner relationship with WRN in support of the Chalmers residents. The CNRC involvement with the WRN Outreach worker program involves:



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- ❖ the establishment of a landlord data base for Chalmers which provides a valuable means for ongoing communication
- ❖ maintenance and update of landlord data base within the Chalmers community
- ❖ effective use of the compiled landlord information to promote available programs, resources and the landlord listing service
- ❖ distributing material that promotes best practices for both landlords and tenants.

Both the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation and the Winnipeg Rental Network are guided by similar mandates and interests in addressing issues related to housing. All community members will be eligible to participate within these valuable opportunities at no cost and are provided with the invitation to register and be included.

## PRIORITY: SAFETY

### Safety Services

CNRC and other stakeholders have maintained a good working relationship with community policing services and representatives. Invitations have been forwarded and accepted where possible to include police constables and various safety related services such as awareness and education as part of several neighbourhood workshops and special events. Police presence as part of area schools also represents a significant community based support for the Chalmers neighbourhood.

Various safety concerns are regularly reported through the 311 Civic system and local improvements have occurred as a result of reporting at locations including 75 Brazier, 575 Larsen, LS School and Elmwood EK Active Living Centre. A major highlight was the complete upgrade of Poplar Ave from Brazier to Henderson – this has allowed for addressing safety concerns for seniors, day care, school age and those with accessibility needs who participate at the elementary school and active living centre on Poplar Ave.

CNRC has provided representation on a number of Civic improvement initiatives and studies such as: the Water and Waste Organics Process, the University of Winnipeg Walkways research project and the City/Provincial (CSO) Combined Sewer Overflow



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review process. All of these initiatives address a wide range of community issues and concerns that often are safety related in one way or another.

Regular promotions also take place as part of neighbourhood resource fairs which include CNRC and other stakeholders at locations including 180 Poplar, 53 Stadacona and Good Neighbours Active Living Centre. Network and resource sharing at these fairs is significant and provides tremendous supports for many residents in the area.

Other housing related safety aspects are addressed as part of the 5 Year Neighbourhood Housing Plan. These include areas such as back lane numbering, graffiti and bulk waste removal concerns, neighbourhood watch and the Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design process

### Beautify Elmwood

Beautify Elmwood is a local neighbourhood initiative comprised of area stakeholders, residents and business interests which meets regularly to:

- To improve the physical appearance/perceptions related to the Chalmers area
- To promote and organize participation in community events
- To work collaboratively for the enhancement and safety of the neighbourhood
- To identify community based issues and strategies that are reflective of the CNRC 5 Year Plan.

Terms of Reference and various initiatives have been identified as areas of priority and in 2016, the Urban Green Team position was (re)established to provide assistance. In addition to the Henderson Hwy based flower boxes, initial steps were taken to begin addressing other areas of Chalmers including Watt St. Special thanks to the East Kildonan Garden club and Superior Soil for their added supports this past summer with flowers and soil deliveries. Winter based Light up Elmwood activities and continuing interest for improvements to the vacant (fenced in) lot at the corner of Johnson and Henderson remain as important priorities.

### Domestic Violence and Substance Abuse



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‘The Refuge’ is a collection of programs that respond to the needs of women in the community of Elmwood. Coordinated by Riverwood Community Church in the Chalmers neighbourhood, it is a mentor based program that provides both open and closed support groups based on different circumstances and needs. ‘The Refuge’ offers general support to young moms and specific group supports to women dealing with domestic violence and addiction issues.

‘The Refuge’ programming opportunities are carried out at various locations operated by Riverwood Church within the Chalmers neighbourhood including 257 Riverton Ave and 325 Talbot Ave. The Refuge programming is primarily designed to assist women in the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader community of Elmwood in meeting basic needs, providing advocacy, crisis counselling and safety planning. The focus is women in domestic violent relationships and providing resources for women who have addiction issues. Programs are coordinated by staff and volunteers from Riverwood Church and include a variety of resource specialists. Examples of particular programming include: Mom’s Crisis Support Group, Beyond Abuse, Addictions Support, The Recovering Body and Education Study Group

‘The Refuge’ program is conducted by Riverwood Church and receives financial support from Neighbourhoods Alive! (NA!) through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund. NA! is the primary funding body in support of all neighbourhood based Manitoba Renewal Corporations including Chalmers. Over the last few years, NA! supports have helped to foster this working relationship between CNRC and Riverwood Church.

The relationship with CNRC and representatives/program participants from Riverwood Church includes the following:

- Ongoing dialogue on shared mandates and plans for the community to determine where partnership opportunities exist in areas such as housing, food security and special events
- Input from organization and Riverwood participants with Chalmers Housing Plan development
- shared promotions of activities which benefit residents within the Chalmers neighbourhood
- confirmed partner representation on CNRC Board of Directors





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- promotions and referrals to 'The Refuge' opportunities with Chalmers agencies and residents

The Refuge and other Riverwood sponsored programs respond directly to many Chalmers Neighbourhood Plan priority objectives such as improved neighbourhood capacity and empowerment and improved safety conditions including a greater perception of safety for individuals and families. As a result, the ongoing working relations between Riverwood, CNRC and other community partners will continue to provide tremendous benefits for Chalmers area residents.

## PRIORITY: RECREATION AND GREENING

### Urban Green Teams

During the summer of 2016, the various Urban Green Teams were actively involved throughout Chalmers with support from CNRC. Significant "greening" contributions took place in the community again this year! CNRC and Beautify Elmwood partnered to hire another Urban Green Team sponsored summer student who was a vital addition to "the team".

Duties included watering/weeding the Henderson flower boxes and supporting beautification efforts at Elmwood EK Active Living Centre, Holy Eucharist Parish, MB Housing Tenant facility grounds on Stadacona and other locations. Efforts were also put forth towards the maintenance of area yards OR keeping the Community Gardens location tidy, supporting special events and preparing the grounds for the outdoor Farmer's Markets. All in all, the Urban Green Team members are really a valuable commodity in working together with organizations to make a difference in our community!

### After School Programming

The Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club after school program in the Chalmers neighbourhood at Polson School is well known in the neighbourhood and has extensive community support. The importance of after school programming for the children in Chalmers remains of vital importance.



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The program is scheduled during the school year at Polson School as an after school program three times per week. The Polson After School program is a free neighbourhood initiative that engages children and youth, ages 8-18, in positive, supervised recreation activities. The program provides a safe, supportive place where children and youth can experience new opportunities, overcome barriers associated with poverty, develop confidence and build positive relationships.

Boys and Girls Club are the primary delivery mechanism for the programs. CNRC provides in-kind support through promotions, awareness and education. CNRC maintains its primary contacts through the Polson school administration and parent council. NA! has previously provided funding contributions through the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund (NRF) and with the completion of the NRF agreement, CNRC continues to support as part of the Small Grant Fund administered by the Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative.

Along with Winnipeg Boys and Girls Club, other after school programming is available locally. These include, Winnipeg School Division sites, faith community sites, community centres, and recreation centres. CNRC is very interested in expanding these important opportunities.

### Summer Camps

CNRC is proud to be a partner supporter of many summer camp experiences that take place in the Chalmers neighbourhood. From Reading Clubs at Sam's Place and CSI weekly camps at Lord Selkirk School to Free Play at Chalmers CC and Frontier College sponsored activities at Holy Eucharist Parish, there are many opportunities available to Chalmers residents for summer programming. This includes our Faith Community partners who actively promote and provide activities for children. Youth programming takes place under the City of Winnipeg leadership at Elmwood High and through the Elmwood Community Resource Centre sponsored YEAR drop-in program. This past summer we also experienced the start of new programming which featured the Good Neighbour Puppet Theatre and Youth Club that was well received by residents including many newcomer Canadian participants.

### Elmwood Community Gardens



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The Elmwood Community Gardens committee continues to be supported by CNRC in both improving the existing gardens and creating new opportunities. It is important to recognize the important leadership provided by the 'Community Venture' local organization in coordinating both committee and garden responsibilities.

Once again the main gardens at our area's largest location (corner of Stadacona, Watt and Johnson) were sold out in terms of garden box bookings. Other area locations are also being supported by CNRC and the prospects for strengthening current and potential new community garden sites are also under consideration. Having the added assistance of a new summer student from the Urban Green Team program was also beneficial during the 2016 summer season!

Partnering with CNRC, Urban Eatin' was able to continue offering support to community garden development, sharing knowledge and expertise at area special events and providing full service rain barrels including installation as prize giveaways this year. CNRC looks forward to continuing this relationship in 2017 and beyond.

Community gardening relations also continued once again in 2016 with the Winnipeg Bulb Project who provided a selection of ready made fall bulbs for planting as part of giveaways to residents at our general meeting which is always well received by those in attendance.

## New Canadian Refugee Supports

Areas of the Elmwood community such as Chalmers "have significantly higher rates of recent immigrants (43%) compared to the overall Winnipeg average". During 2016, the neighbourhood also began welcoming an increased involvement of Syrian and other refugee family participation. CNRC is actively promoting and supporting these opportunities for social inclusion and newcomer community involvement by partnering with several agencies and initiatives. Recently, CNRC offered additional assistance to the 'Conversation Circle' programming that takes place weekly in support of new Canadian refugee families from Syria.

As a primary service provider, Elmwood Community Resource Centre is actively involved in programs, services and events that engage many new Canadian participants. CNRC is proud to continue developing their partnerships with ECRC in promoting and delivering a wide range of initiatives. These include the GOAL adult



## 2016 Annual Summary

literacy program which is offered at the nearby 75 Brazier location. GOAL leadership and participants have been engaged by CNRC in a variety of services such as: training sessions, consultations/focus groups, special events, monthly cooking experiences at 180 Poplar and as volunteer supports to the BAG program.

CNRC will continue its role in promoting various recreation and wellness based activities for newcomer Canadian children, youth and families going forward.

### PRIORITY: HEALTH AND WELLNESS

#### Facility Developments

The Elmwood Community Recreation Review (completed in 2012-13) continues to be utilized as a planning resource document to guide development in Chalmers. The Review represents input and involvement from area residents, stakeholders, the General Council of Winnipeg Community Centers, individual Centers and numerous service providers.

The primary strategy relates to increased opportunities for children, youth, families and older active residents in terms of innovative programming, assessment of activities to maximize participation levels, providing input on site improvements at existing facilities, creating safe, unstructured play experiences and identifying potential green space enhancements.

In 2016, dialogue continued with The City in terms of improvements at East End Cultural and Leisure Center, located at 575 Larsen Ave. For CNRC, this included participation within pre-summer stakeholder sessions and the promotion/hosting of additional neighbourhood engagement opportunities in reviewing the proposed plans. Previous site enhancements included air conditioning, new flooring and significant improvements to the wading pool areas.

Additional developments are currently underway as part of the Building Communities II initiative and these are focused on the renewal of grounds and parking lot areas including active transportation access and pathways. Further feasibility studies are being dedicated to identify the building requirements that are necessary to complete the overall improvements already initiated previously by Status4. Once the project improvements are complete, CNRC and Status4 have identified an interest in providing





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neighbourhood programming as part of a partner access agreement going forward at this community location in the heart of Chalmers.

### Active Transportation

CNRC supports and values the promotion and implementation of Active Transportation programming initiatives and infrastructure developments connected to the North East Pioneer Greenway (NPG) which represents the eastern boundary of our Chalmers neighbourhood.

CNRC remains dedicated to fostering neighbourhood relations and encouraging Active Transportation benefits for the community. These relations include the River East Network Trails Committee, Bike Winnipeg, North East Pioneer Greenway committee, Manitoba Public Insurance, Bikes and Beyond, the CYCLE program, WRENCH, Headingly Correctional Institute bike repair program, Winnipeg Bike Valet, the Plenary Group, Sport MB and City of Winnipeg.

These relations have provided our area with AT maps, bike repairs, bike giveaways, training opportunities, special event valet services, FAT Bike experiences at events, signature bike rack access, AT advocacy, informative presentations and the provision of bike helmets, reflective supplies and bells.

### Supporting Older Active Individuals

The Elmwood EK Active Living Center (EEKALC) is a non-profit organization that serves seniors in Chalmers and the overall Elmwood community. Over 40 years the organization has evolved from its early beginnings as a Retired Citizens Association and then a Seniors Association before moving to its current broader approach as an active living center with a multi-generational and community focus.

The Centre continues to work directly with CNRC and other providers on developing programs and services for residents within the Chalmers neighbourhood. Under their Strategic Plan, supported by CNRC, the focus remains on three main priorities which are: Accountable Governance; Managed Growth and Enhanced Neighbourhood Engagement and Outreach.

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As the primary facility partner at 180 Poplar, CNRC has developed a strong and effective working relationship with EEKALC. This includes: Hosting sessions, consultations and focus groups; advocating on behalf of seniors and the organization; providing expertise, guidance and direction; acting as part of steering committee for developing facility leadership; shared promotions, advertising, resource sharing; helping secure other partners and assistance; assisting with scheduling and operations and partnering on various programming initiatives.

The working relationship has continued to grow and expand between CNRC and EEKALC. As the Strategic Plan and new operational model becomes established it is anticipated that the partnership will carry on indefinitely in support of the Chalmers neighbourhood.

### Partner relations with the WRHA



CNRC proudly supports the Health Equity approach currently adopted as part of the Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (WRHA) mandate. In doing so, CNRC maintains an active involvement on several WRHA initiatives including healthy nutrition activities, community facilitation including an involvement within the River East Neighbourhood Network and representation on the Healthy Together Now (HTN) program.

Healthy Together Now (HTN) is a community-led, regionally coordinated, grass roots program designed to help prevent chronic disease in Manitoba. River East based community initiatives (including Chalmers) are focused on preventative activities within four pillars: healthy eating, physical activity, tobacco reduction and mental well being.



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HTN strives to engage the highest need populations, families and communities such as Chalmers by utilizing a community development approach for increasing skills, knowledge and individual capacity.

Each HTN program initiative takes place at a variety of neighbourhood locations including schools, community centers & facilities, agencies and faith based locations. Leadership for particular initiatives is provided by community planning groups. CNRC is often involved in either coordinating the community group or acting as a partner involved in the planning committee.

CNRC provides a range of leadership supports within HTN as one of the community representatives on the organizing committee responsible for reviewing all submissions, setting project eligibility, criteria, terms of reference and determining promotional requirements including presentations and brochures

Overall, the CNRC contributions in conjunction with WRHA representatives are extremely beneficial for Chalmers residents and stakeholders. This includes a variety of support services dedicated towards first time-pilot projects, many of which have proven to be successful and will continue on indefinitely based on strong partner relations.

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### Food Security Network

CNRC is pleased to be a founding member and current participant within the Elmwood Food Security Network. Acting as a coalition of organizations, agencies and community members, the Network works collaboratively to address food security issues and initiatives in Chalmers and the broader community of Elmwood. In developing, promoting, organizing and implementing various food security related activities it is hoped that our community will continue to strive towards self sustainability.

Membership in the Network includes many key players locally and the Terms of Reference allow for a focus on everything from breakfast clubs and lunch programs to healthy nutrition promotions, food banks, special events and promoting the availability of 'food opportunities' for our residents. The Network will remain an important part of the neighbourhood requirements when one considers the available research/census data including:

- ❖ The median income and median household income in all Elmwood based neighbourhoods, especially Chalmers, are significantly lower when compared to Winnipeg as a whole
- ❖ Data from Food Banks Canada which recently highlighted that, "Food Bank use is 25% higher in Canada now than during the 2008-2009 global economic crisis".

Regardless of existing services or potential neighbourhood developments, CNRC involvement is designed to be supportive and offer leadership. It is anticipated that the Network's efforts will continue on indefinitely based on the participation levels and demonstrated resident needs.





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### Better Access to Groceries

BAG is brought to you by:

Better Access to Groceries (BAG) program is a primary component within the Essential Foods in Elmwood approach as sponsored by CNRC. BAG's mission is to provide the Chalmers neighbourhood and broader Elmwood community with improved access to fresh/low cost fruits and vegetables.

Various community partners including Chalmers CC, Kildonan MCC Thrift Shop, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Healthy Aging Resource Team, Manitoba Housing, Together in Elmwood, Healthy Together Now and others are involved in the promotion, implementation and development of this CNRC led initiative.

On the first and third Tuesday of each month, interested residents are invited to order their choice of a Produce BAG (\$10) and/or Recipe BAG (\$3-\$6). Bulk buying is completed with support from the wholesale producers early on Monday mornings. Volunteers assist CNRC representatives in the counting and sorting of vegetables/fruit during the morning at the Chalmers Community Club (CCC).



Elmwood-EK  
Active Living Center





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Participants who have placed an order, come to CCC between 2:30 and 6:30 to load their Bag with an assortment of fruits and vegetables. Recipe BAGs (for families of up to 6) which include all staple/canned products to prepare a dinner are also available for purchase.

CNRC is primarily responsible for the implementation of the BAG program. The positive program response has resulted in a maximum order limit of 400 being established. The overall success could not be accomplished without the valuable contributions of our local partners!

In addition to our own BAG operations, CNRC has helped the training and orientation for implementing similar style BAG programs in other Manitoba locations including Sherwood School in Transcona, the Seven Oaks Access Centre, St Anne's/Richer MB and Camperville/Duck Bay communities. Recently, BAG operations were accepted for developing an evaluation proposal supported by Health in Common and a research project to be conducted by 4<sup>th</sup> year Nutrition students as part of the MB Dietetic Internship Program.





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### Progress Steps...

#### CHALMERS COMMUNITY RENEWAL INITIATIVE INC.

- The purpose of Chalmers Community Renewal Initiative Inc. (CCRI) is to support community development initiatives, strategies, projects and programs that address poverty related issues in the Winnipeg neighbourhood of Chalmers.
- CCRI is a non-share capital corporation created by the Chalmers Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation (CNRC) to administer its programs that are considered non-charitable in nature and which CNRC therefore is unable administer.
  - The CCRI in partnership with Neighbourhoods Alive! Manitoba has established an annual Small Grants Fund with a maximum project amount of \$2,500
  - The Small Grant Fund (SGF) will be administered by the CCRI and the brochure and application are now available for distribution at [chalmersrenewal.org](http://chalmersrenewal.org)
  - Further information is available by contacting [chalmersrenewal@mymts.net](mailto:chalmersrenewal@mymts.net) or (204)669-0750
- Other major CCRI related initiatives currently include:
  - Neighbourhood Housing Assistance (Housing Fix-Up Grants)
    - The purpose of the housing improvement grants process is to contribute to the revitalization of housing in declining neighbourhoods. This takes place by supporting homeownership and renovation initiatives through the provision of housing improvement grants.
    - The Manitoba Housing Delivery Branch, has approved granting supports to the Chalmers neighbourhood under the Community Housing Improvement Initiative (CHII) annual fund. Details of the grant distribution in 2016 are included in the Housing section that is presented earlier in this summary document.

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