

## Local Leaders are the key

Community well being can often depend on economic and social issues including employment, health and education. This issue features a number of organizations and programs that can help community leaders who want to develop a vision for the future.

Federal, provincial and non-profit sectors feature many helpful programs, each with its own set of principles, goals, target

groups and eligibility criteria. Some programs and initiatives featured in this issue will be familiar and some will be new to you.

**No one understands a community's needs better than the people who live there.**

It can be a challenge to identify programs that fit particular needs and take advantage of the opportunities they offer, but no one understands a community's needs better than the people who live there. Residents who lead the way by volunteering energy and vision, are

fundamental resources in any community. The spirit and commitment they provide can be a sustaining force. Without such leaders, communities miss out on programs that offer funding, advice and opportunities for development.

If you have a success story about a program or initiative you or your community has worked with, we invite you to share it with our readers. Please call or send us an e-mail. What worked for you may work for others.

## Matheson Island *On the Move...*

### 4th Annual Winter Fishing Derby

Matheson Island, Manitoba  
February 22, 2003, 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

For information on registration fees and prizes contact: Terry at 204-276-2413 or Mona at 204-276-2150

### From Paddles to Propellers, The History of Matheson Island... a Fishing Community

The Matheson Island Community Council is now accepting deposits on book orders. They are asking for a deposit of \$30 per book to cover publishing costs. Depending on the exact cost, the difference will be invoiced or refunded. Publication is expected by August 1, 2003 for the Matheson Island Centennial Celebration. Contact Matheson Island Community Council, Matheson Island P.O., Manitoba, RoC 2A0 or call 204-276-2150.

# Community Contact

A new year and a new look! Welcome to the first issue of the Contact for 2003, which also features our new design. We hope that we at the Contact are providing information that you find useful and relevant. Please e-mail or phone and let us know what you think.

## At Your Service Manitoba: A Showcase of Excellence

### New Initiative Simplifies Public Access to Government

It's not news that the Manitoba civil service does a good job in serving the citizens of our province. The news is, it's now much easier for the public to access the hundreds of programs and services skillfully delivered by provincial employees.

*At Your Service Manitoba* offers a simpler way for the public to locate the person, service or information they're looking for through a single point of access. It also provides choices by providing this one-stop access via telephone, the Internet and – in the near future – through in-person service delivery centres.

The initiative is a response to feedback that shows citizens are generally satisfied with public service quality, but are often

confused about how to find what they want or need. *At Your Service Manitoba* adopts the philosophy that it's not the citizen's job to understand how government departments and branches are organized, but government's job to help Manitobans get where they need to go, quickly and directly.

#### Internet access

Multi-channel access is a key component of *At Your*

*Service Manitoba*. For most Manitobans, the telephone is still the most commonly used tool when seeking information. However, more and more citizens increasingly turn to the Internet for solutions to their information needs – and their number is growing all the time.



*For and  
About Local  
Government  
Development*

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## Community Contact

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Community Council members, community residents and departmental staff are strongly encouraged to submit feedback (comments and questions), suggestions and ideas to the editor.

Recognizing this, *At Your Service Manitoba* is focused initially on integrating these two communication channels. First, to improve Internet access, the Manitoba government Web site has been redesigned to make it easier for citizens to navigate through it. As part of its new design, the site is now organized to reflect actual public interest in specific programs and services by providing quick links to government sites where visitor traffic is heaviest. Bolder, cleaner and more intuitive by design, it also contains a "Latest News" section, updated daily.

#### Telephone access

To improve telephone access for the public, a single, toll-free information line has been introduced for use across the province. The 1-866-MANITOBA line (1-866-626-4862) connects citizens with inquiry officers at the Manitoba Government Inquiry (MGI) office in Winnipeg.

The staff of MGI (formerly the Citizens' Inquiry Service) are specially trained and possess vast knowledge of programs and functions across all government departments. MGI has provided exceptional service to Manitobans for many years. For the first time, MGI is now being widely promoted internally and externally as a gateway to Manitoba government information and services.

Both the 1-866 line and the Web site figure prominently in government information campaigns that direct citizens to these single-window entry points for more details on key government initiatives and programs of broad public interest.

#### No wrong doors

For all government staff, *At Your Service Manitoba* is an opportunity to showcase the excellent public and client service that is already a civil service standard in Manitoba. It also means ensuring there are no wrong doors when someone calls looking for help.

Provincial government staff who receive a call and are unsure how to handle the inquiry now have the opportunity to demonstrate a "no wrong doors" service philosophy by using MGI as an internal resource. Promptly connecting callers with an MGI inquiry officer (1-866-626-4862) and "opening the door" to access is a key aspect of the *At Your Service Manitoba* initiative.

As subsequent phases of the initiative are launched, front-line department staff will be engaged in developing service standards to ensure quality consistency across the entire provincial government.

*At Your Service Manitoba* is managed by a staff unit called the Coordinated Services Unit (CSU). The Coordinated Services Committee (CSC) formed by Cabinet is the senior government body directing this initiative.

For more information, contact the CSU in Winnipeg at (204) 945-5287.

# SPEAK

## Working to reduce suicide in Manitoba

**SPEAK** (Suicide Prevention Education Awareness Knowledge) is a non-profit charitable organization. Its mandate is to educate the public about how depression is linked to suicide and to make the public aware of the signs and symptoms of depression and the warning signs of suicide.

SPEAK visits schools and community groups to present workshops and speakers on reducing suicide and shattering the myths surrounding mental illness. SPEAK also provides videotaped information for survivors of suicide, mental health care workers and schools.

Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 25 years old. Treating depression is the most effective way to prevent suicide. If you are concerned that your child may be depressed, a family doctor or other health care professional should be contacted for an assessment. Depression can be successfully treated.

#### Signs of possible depression:

**Feelings** – Does your child express frequent sadness, tearfulness, crying, emptiness, hopelessness, guilt, worthlessness, not enjoying everyday pleasures, or extreme sensitivity to rejection or failure?

**Thinking** – Is your child having difficulty concentrating, making decisions, completing schoolwork, or maintaining grades?

**Physical** – Does your child experience headaches, stomach aches, joint or backaches, lack of energy, sleeping problems, gains or losses in weight or changes in appetite?

**Suicide is the second leading cause of death for people 10 to 25 years old.**

**Behaviour Problems** – Is your child restless, irritable or reluctant to attend school? Does your child want to be alone most of the time, have difficulty getting along with others, skip school classes, drop out of sports or other activities, drink alcohol or use drugs?

#### Some warning signs of suicide:

- threats of suicide – either direct or indirect
- verbal hints such as "I won't be around much longer," or "life is hopeless"
- putting affairs in order: giving away or throwing away favourite possessions
- saying goodbye to friends
- sudden cheerfulness after a period of depression

Remember that you can ask your child directly about whether he or she is thinking of suicide without fear of giving them the idea. In most cases, speaking about it will be a relief.

SPEAK is not a crisis centre. It does not provide counselling, but recommends the following organizations:

Teen Touch: 1-800-362-3344

Klinic: 1-888-322-3019

Children's Clubhouse: 1-800-665-0570

For more information on SPEAK, and to find out how you can help, please phone 204-831-3610. You may also e-mail [speak@mts.net](mailto:speak@mts.net) or visit their Web site [www.speak-out.ca](http://www.speak-out.ca)

## Strategies for Effective PROPOSAL WRITING

The Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition has produced a proposal writing manual, *Strategies for Effective Proposal Writing*. It is designed to help organizations decide whether or not to apply for funding and provides a step-by-step process by which to proceed. The manual can be downloaded from the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition web site at <http://healthycommunities.on.ca>. If your community does not have access to the Internet and you would like a copy of the manual, advise us at the *Community Contact* and we will send one out.

Information courtesy of the "Update", the newsletter of the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition, Winter/Spring 2002 issue.

plans and taking action. It doesn't take a lot of money to build a healthy community, but it does take ideas and people committed to the concept of working as partners.

**Manitoba Healthy Communities Network Inc.**

The Manitoba Healthy Communities Network is a group of people who are committed to the healthy communities concept. They are from many different occupations, organizations, government departments and agencies. They come from all over the province and have many different ideas about health, change and community life. Some represent professional groups and places of employment and some are involved on their own. All are interested in helping

communities, large and small, build their own unique approach to creating a healthier community.

The Manitoba Healthy Communities Network can help you get started with building your healthy community by sharing ideas and information on what others have done. Communities with established Healthy Communities groups can also help you get started by sharing their experiences.

**For more information, contact Judy McKinnon at 204-886-4316 or by email at [jmckinnon@irha.mb.ca](mailto:jmckinnon@irha.mb.ca), or Anita Moore at 204-926-8011 or by email at [amoore@wrha.mb.ca](mailto:amoore@wrha.mb.ca)**

# The Addictions Foundation of Manitoba

**The mission of the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba (AFM) is to contribute to the health and well-being of Manitobans by addressing the harm associated with addictions through education, prevention, rehabilitation and research.**

In Manitoba, 26 AFM offices provide programs and services for adults and young people experiencing problems with alcohol, drugs and gambling.

A northern regional office in Thompson offers a range of prevention, education, community-based and residential rehabilitation services. Among the communities served from Thompson are Wabowden, Cross Lake, Nelson House, Norway House, Oxford House, Gods River, Gods Lake Narrows, Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Pukatawagan, York Landing, Ilford, Shamattawa and Gillam.

Services to other northern Manitoba communities like Cranberry Portage, Sherridon Snow Lake, Cormorant, Easterville, Grand Rapids and Moose Lake are available through offices located in The Pas and Flin Flon.

AFM's western region offices in Brandon, Dauphin and Swan River provide residential and community based services in the communities of western and central Manitoba.

The Winnipeg region serves communities in the Winnipeg area and southeastern Manitoba.

Visit [www.afm.mb.ca](http://www.afm.mb.ca) for more information about AFM services in Manitoba or contact:

**AFM Northern Region**

Polaris Place,  
23 Nickel Road,  
Thompson, Manitoba R8N 0Y4  
Telephone: 204-677-7300  
Fax: 204-677-7328  
E-mail: [northreg@afm.mb.ca](mailto:northreg@afm.mb.ca)

**AFM Western Region**

Parkwood Centre,  
510 Frederick Street,  
Brandon, Manitoba R7A 6Z4  
Telephone: 204-729-3838  
Fax: 204-729-3844  
E-mail: [westreg@afm.mb.ca](mailto:westreg@afm.mb.ca)

**AFM Winnipeg Region**

1031 Portage Avenue,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba R3G 0R8  
Telephone: 204-944-6200  
Fax: 204-786-7768  
E-mail: [wpgreg@afm.mb.ca](mailto:wpgreg@afm.mb.ca)

# COMMUNITY FUTURES

## Strengthening the Economy in Rural and Northern Manitoba

In rural and Northern Manitoba, 16 Community Futures Development Corporations (CFDC) are working to strengthen local economies by helping entrepreneurs, community organizations and agencies.

Established in 1986, Community Futures is a national rural economic initiative firmly rooted at the community level. The program was initially administered by Employment and

**The impact of Community Futures in rural municipalities and Aboriginal and First Nation communities has been remarkable.**

Immigration Canada, now known as Human Resources Development Canada. In 1995, Western Economic Diversification assumed responsibility for Community Futures in Western Canada and continues to provide funding and support for CFDCs, which now total 90.

The impact of Community Futures in rural municipalities and Aboriginal and First Nation communities has been remarkable. According to a 2002 study on the

impact of Community Futures in Western Canada, both individual entrepreneurs and community organizations have sought out and benefited significantly from the services provided by CFDCs.

The study shows that 22 per cent of small businesses in rural Western Canada have used one or more types of CFDC service. On the community economic development front, 24 projects were selected for case study and it was determined only one would have proceeded in some form without CFDC involvement – and even that project would have been delayed and reduced in scope without the assistance of the CFDC.

CFDCs are community-based organizations led by local boards of directors who volunteer their time, energy and expertise. Skilled staff members provide a wide range of community economic development and business services.

CFDCs assist the communities in their regions with developing economic potential. They provide services geared to meet specific needs of communities, their agencies and organizations. Services include:

- community economic development planning
- strategy building
- helping to implement community plans

CFDCs also provide a wide range of business counselling and training services to entrepreneurs on topics such as:

- creating business plans
- conducting market research
- setting up accounting systems
- understanding financing options
- accessing business resources

Three CFDC loan programs for new and existing businesses further assist entrepreneurs:

- general entrepreneur loans up to \$125,000
- entrepreneurs with disabilities loans up to \$125,000
- young entrepreneur loans up to \$25,000 (through age 29)

For more information on Community Futures and individual CFDCs or to view the Community Futures Impact Study, visit [www.cfpmb.ca](http://www.cfpmb.ca), the Web site of the provincial association – Community Futures Partners of Manitoba.

## Adding Value to the Local Economy

The Parkland Economic Development Practitioners Group (PEDPG) is an organization of local and government representatives in Parkland Manitoba concerned with sustainable rural and community economic development. PEDPG recently introduced the *Value Added Guide and Workbook* to assist development of local value-added industry.

The project acknowledges that the economic health of Parkland communities is highly dependent on agriculture that is currently facing many challenges. Distance to markets, removal of farm subsidies and the fact that, as recently as 1998, 32 per cent of Manitoba's farm producers worked part-time or full-time off the farm to supplement their incomes, are all matters of concern.

Recognizing that adding value locally to local commodities can supplement farm income, sustain local communities and help maintain the rural agriculture life-style choice, PEDPG decided to help producers identify and evaluate ideas about ways to add value. The guide and workbook also help

producers put together a plan of action, build a business structure, obtain community support and measure their successes. The publication is available on a CD-ROM or from the World Wide Web.

PEDPG was initiated in 1993. The group meets quarterly to network, develop project partnerships, receive guidance and develop goals that encourage healthy rural communities. PEDPG responds to issues in the Parkland by initiating projects such as the *Value Added Guide and Workbook*.

Funding for the project came from the Canadian Agricultural Rural Communities Initiative of Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and from the Sustainable Development Innovations Fund of Manitoba Conservation.

To obtain your copy or find out more about the *Value Added Guide and Workbook* visit the Parkland Community Futures Development Corporation (PCFDC) Web site at [www.pcfdc.mb.ca](http://www.pcfdc.mb.ca), telephone 204-546-5100 or write to PCFDC at Box 516, 421 Main Street, Grandview, MB R0L 0Y0.

## Manitoba WorkinfoNET Inc.

Manitoba WorkinfoNET Inc. is a one-stop shop on the World Wide Web for Manitoba labour market information. Community-based and non-profit, the organization has provided Manitobans with local labour market information for the past four years. It serves the public using parallel English and French Web sites and a trendy, youth-oriented Web site.

Manitoba WorkinfoNET Web sites provide significant information on career planning and many links to career and occupational information. The site houses a COLLMI (career, occupational, learning and labour market information) search engine that allows users to browse information from across

Canada. In partnership with BRIDGES.com, Manitoba WorkinfoNET provides Manitobans with free access to online career development services.

The Web site also provides information on education and training. It features links to learning institutions from elementary to post-secondary levels. It links to information about distance education, English as a Second Language (ESL) and Prior Learning Assessment and Recognition (PLAR).

Other features include current information about the Manitoba labour market, self employment, workplace issues, employment standards and human rights codes. A job search tool searches more than 30 sites for employment opportunities. The site can also help

users find answers about financial assistance for schooling or during unemployment.

The number of projects associated with Manitoba WorkinfoNET continues to grow. Manitoba Labour and Immigration recently provided funding to allow the Web site to carry information on Manitoba employment service providers.

A proposal is currently being submitted to develop parallel content that would feature career planning, learning and employment information for the Aboriginal community.

Visit [www.mb.workinfo.net](http://www.mb.workinfo.net) on the World Wide Web at your next opportunity.



advisory services are available. The program includes a wide range of activities including mentoring programs, business planning assistance and workshops on entrepreneurship. To be eligible, an applicant must be 29 years of age or younger, and partnerships or corporations must be 51 per cent Metis owned. Criteria for loans are:

- maximum loan amount of \$15,000 per project
- maximum term of five years
- annual interest of eight per cent
- cash equity of 10 per cent preferred, but may be waived in special circumstances
- 25 per cent of the loan may be forgivable depending on various factors

For more information on any of these programs or services, visit the MMF Web site at [www.mmf.mb.ca](http://www.mmf.mb.ca) or contact your local MMF regional office:

MMF Interlake Region, St Laurent  
204-646-2706

MMF Northwest Region, Dauphin  
204-638-9485

MMF Southeast Region, Grand Marais  
204-754-2721

MMF Southwest Region, Brandon  
204-725-7520

MMF The Pas Region, The Pas  
204-623-5701

MMF Thompson Region, Thompson  
204-677-1430

MMF Winnipeg Region, Winnipeg  
204-589-4327

Metis Women of Manitoba  
MMF Home Office  
204-586-8474

## What is a HEALTHY COMMUNITY?

The Healthy Communities concept was started by the World Health Organization and has been adopted by communities all over the world and right here in Manitoba.

A healthy community is one that promotes the health and well being of the people who live there. It's a great place to live because the residents work together to identify and respond to the needs of the community to make it a better and healthier place for all.

Manitobans asked to describe their idea of a healthy community gave these answers most often:

- clean air, safe drinking water, no littering, recycling available
- quality housing and food for all community members
- schools without violence and vandalism
- safe workplaces with work available for everyone
- happy and active families doing things together and communicating
- recreation available for all ages
- a sense of pride among people working together for the good of the community

All great accomplishments start with someone seeing the potential in a situation and taking steps to reach a goal. It takes someone to get the ball rolling. Whether you represent a community group, organization or business, you can take action in your community.

While there are many ways to build a Healthy Community, the key is to get people involved. In Manitoba, some healthy communities hold regular forums for networking and discussing local issues. Other groups are more project oriented. One community started a food bank and another took on a community beautification project. Some communities found it helps to have broad support among many citizens and to have a common set of goals before any projects are started. Others began with a very small group of people and gradually grew in numbers, ideas and support.

There is no one right way to build a healthy community. Each community, whatever its size or location, can take part by assessing its needs, making



### Metis Survivor Family Wellness Program

The first phase of the Metis Survivor Family Wellness Program (MSFWP) was a joint initiative of the MMF with four MMF regions – Thompson, Northwest and The Pas, Southeast and the Metis Women of Manitoba (MWM). The first phase of the program was to identify and provide services to Metis people in Manitoba who suffered abuse while attending residential schools. Because the effects of physical, sexual and cultural abuse tend to be passed on for generations, the program also targets children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren of Metis who attended residential schools.

The ultimate goal of the MSFWP is to reduce and eliminate the negative effects of residential schools experienced by Metis people and stop those effects from being passed down through the generations. Having identified and consulted Metis survivors, the approach used by MSFWP is to restore and renew traditional roles and responsibilities of the Metis extended family.

### The specific objectives of the program are:

- identify Metis residential school survivors
- identify and network with community services and resources helpful to Metis survivors and later generations
- organize and assist Metis survivors in establishing volunteer, self-help wellness advisory groups
- develop and co-ordinate wellness and healing initiatives, and conduct public education that strengthens the Metis extended family structure

### Metis Women of Manitoba

The Metis Women of Manitoba (MWM) is a non-profit organization incorporated in 1993. It succeeded the Metis Women's Association of Manitoba and the Metis Women's Alliance.

The MWM primary purpose is to improve the social and economic situation of Metis people with a particular focus on Metis women and children. The organization was also created to provide support to Metis communities in the form of educational and cultural programs.

### MWM objectives are to help all Metis women:

- promote, empower and enhance social, economic and political well-being
- attain optimal spiritual, mental, emotional and physical wellness
- preserve and safeguard Metis history, values, culture and traditions
- encourage and support the continued use of the Metis language
- foster grassroots initiatives
- advocate, facilitate and assist effective communication for Metis women and encourage and support the full participation of all Metis women within and outside the Metis nation

### Louis Riel Capital Corporation

The Louis Riel Capital Corporation (LRCC) is a Manitoba Metis-owned lending institution created to finance start-up, acquisition and expansion of viable Metis and non-status controlled small businesses based in Manitoba.

Services include capital loans, bridge financing, micro loans, business plans and business advisory services.

### Basic requirements:

- projects must be Metis or non-status owned or controlled
- applicants must provide appropriate equity
- potential to produce income sufficient to cover operating costs, reasonable income for the owner, loan repayment and long-term potential for profitability
- skills that allow the applicant to successfully carry out the business – training, education and experience may be required as a condition of funding
- applicants reside in Manitoba
- businesses based in Manitoba
- loans must be adequately secured

### Youth Business Loan Fund

A joint venture of LRCC and Aboriginal Business Canada, this loan fund fosters business planning and start-ups for Metis youth in Manitoba. Through the use of community-based Aboriginal organizations, small business loans and



**Launched in January, 2001, TEAM is a metaphor used to describe a program of The Development Fund (a trade name for the Crown corporation called the Communities Economic Development Fund). The main mandate of TEAM is to help develop a culture of commerce in northern Manitoba. The TEAM program accomplishes its aim by supporting development of micro-enterprises at the grass roots level.**

### Programs include:

**Technical Assistance** – help that is only a phone call away. The Northern Business Resource Centre and staff from Communities Economic Development Fund help TEAM members solve the business problems they encounter. TEAM programs are available to help with business start-ups. They also to provide ongoing training and assistance once the business is operational.

**Peer Support** – TEAM helps members in each community meet to share ideas and concerns.

**Capital** – with The Development Fund, TEAM can provide loans to viable businesses. As part of the business planning stage, TEAM will help to assess capital needs and prepare a business plan.

In the fall of 2002, TEAM was working with approximately 135 people in 24 incorporated, non-incorporated and First Nation northern Manitoba communities. TEAM's diverse client base includes people in tourism, hospitality, crafts and service industries.

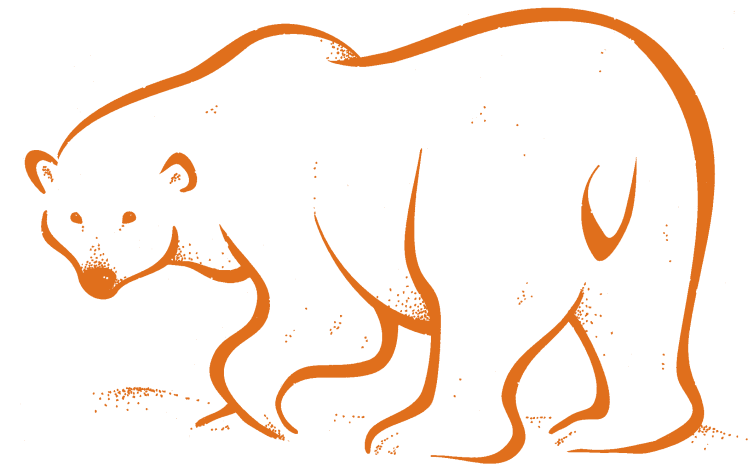
TEAM's success is in its grassroots approach. Regular visits to communities and member contacts allow problems to be identified before they become unmanageable. TEAM staffers meet with prospective business owners to assess business viability. Business plans are developed for viable ideas. TEAM also helps with securing funding, marketing and bookkeeping.

TEAM recognizes government resources are limited and responds by partnering with other programs to share costs

and resources to help individuals establish and maintain businesses. To help a Wabowden business, TEAM brought five different organizations together to help their client put together a business plan, apply for startup funding and become approved for a social assistance self-employment program.

Because a significant number of TEAM clients are in craft and fine art industries, the program has worked on developing craft co-operatives, store-fronts and a TEAM Web store. The program has also worked to connect TEAM members with wholesale and retail specialists in crafts and fine arts.

Future TEAM expansion will include visiting 20 new communities, obtaining marketing assistance and working closer with non-timber forest products groups. Learn more about the TEAM program or subscribe to Scoresheet, the TEAM newsletter. Call Oswald Sawh at 1-866-778-8887 toll free or visit [www.cedf.mb.ca](http://www.cedf.mb.ca)



# THE MANITOBA METIS FEDERATION

## Serving the Metis of Manitoba

The Manitoba Metis Federation and affiliated organizations deliver programs and services for Metis people throughout Manitoba. Some of these programs and services are described below.

### Metis Child and Family Support Services

The Manitoba Metis Federation (MMF) entered the service field with Manitoba Family Services through negotiated service agreements in April 1984. The Metis Child and Family Support Services was initially focused on locating adoptive and foster care resources and providing a link with provincial family services on child welfare and related concerns of the Metis community. In the years since, MMF has worked to establish service delivery that ensures Metis children and families have access to holistic support services within the Metis community of Manitoba.

On February 22, 2000, a memorandum of understanding was signed between the Province of Manitoba and the MMF to create a mandated Metis-specific child and family services agency.

### Objectives of the Metis Child and Family Support Services include:

- identify issues relating to the delivery of services under the *Child and Family Services Act* to Metis people and communities
- assist Metis people and communities in exercising their individual and collective right to culturally appropriate prevention and support services
- empower Metis people and communities to participate in discussions affecting their lives, and develop innovative solutions to assist families and protect children
- facilitate communication between Metis people and service providers to prevent misunderstandings, and to resolve disputes in the best interests of Metis children
- recruit Metis foster and adoption homes and other Metis specific resources for Metis children and families

- assist agencies in the development of cultural identity programs for Metis children in care
- facilitate the repatriation of Metis children and adults who were placed for adoption and who wish to reunite with their families of origin, as resources allow

### Community Housing Managers of Manitoba Inc.

Through its subsidiary, Community Housing Managers of Manitoba Inc., MMF assumed responsibility from the federal and provincial governments to provide and maintain social housing in rural Manitoba. The MMF administers the Rural and Native Housing (RNH) portfolio under a property management agreement, which covers approximately 1,700 RNH units.

In delivering its mandate as property manager, the MMF has engaged 15 community housing boards through sub-agreements to act as local housing managers. The objectives of involving communities in this field is to promote community-based property management, develop skills and knowledge to manage off-reserve housing, allow greater local control and create fairness in tenant selection. Local housing boards are responsible for approximately 640 RNH rental units.

### Metis Human Resources Development Agreement (MHRDA)

The MHRDA is a five-year agreement between Canada and MMF under which Canada transferred responsibility for administration and delivery of human resource training and development programs designated for Metis, Non-status Indians and Inuit in Manitoba. The agreement came into effect in July, 1999 and will remain in effect until March 31, 2004.

Under the MHRDA, Canada transferred \$10.8 million to the MMF in 2001/02. This has been allocated to four program sectors:

- labour market programs \$9,477,030
- youth programs 982,879
- programs for persons with disabilities 156,761
- capacity building 260,569

The priority of the MMF is to use MHRDA funding to secure employment for Metis people. Major programs have been put in place in the following areas:

- single seat purchase – purchase of training space for individuals in recognized educational institutions and training agencies
- project-based training – putting together training programs for eligible groups
- targeted wage subsidy – subsidizing wages paid by an employer to a Metis person for a period of time, subject to hiring the employee full time
- job opportunities – enabling the MMF to pay the wages of Metis employees enabling them to obtain job experience
- employment support – funds projects that lead to employment for Metis persons
- training allowances – income support for eligible people in training

### Provincial Recruitment Initiative (PRI)

PRI is a licensed employment service for Metis, Inuit and Non-status people, established by the MMF in 1997. PRI is taking a lead role in establishing relationships with employers to help them hire qualified Metis people for long-term employment.



PRI provides a range of services to Metis people seeking employment. These services include: a needs assessment, assistance with resume writing, reviewing job search techniques, providing labour market information, referrals to academic programs and referrals to employers.

PRI maintains a data bank of employable candidates and makes it available to employers. It also provides services that include pre-screening and interviewing candidates for potential employers and it advertises positions through its extensive media and contact network throughout the province.

PRI can provide labour market information to assist clients in their career planning with a focus on skills and occupations that will be generated by future economic growth in Manitoba communities. It has negotiated fee-for-service agreements with large employers for labour force recruitment. It currently manages an agreement with the Canadian Forces.