

Winnipeg River Learning Centre Presidents Report June 2011

Since the Winnipeg River Learning Centre hired its first Program Manager in the Fall of 2007, there have been well over four hundred students who have taken advantage of the course offerings. From Tapping Maple Trees to the Five Month Carpentry Program and everything in between, by working together I believe we have met and exceeded our initial goals and objectives.

There are many people and organizations that I would like to take this time to thank for their contributions to our success.

To the board of directors and committee members who give of their time and expertise to support and promote our programs, my sincerest thanks.

I would like to acknowledge the executive committee, Diane Dubé, Vice President, Garry Hanna, Treasurer and Bob Austman, Secretary for volunteering for these positions and serving us so well.

To the staff, John Kawecki, Heather Bouvier and John Weibe I want to thank them all for the hard work and dedication that they have shown to the Learning Centre. Without these folks we would be nowhere.

The Manitoba Model Forest with the assistance of its partners and board and particularly Manitoba Hydro for the annual financial support for operating this facility as well as programming support and rental income. And for allowing me to be involved in this project on a daily basis and for supporting our community in so many ways.

The Winnipeg River Community Adjustment Committee for their contribution to support the Program Manager Position.

Winnipeg River Community Futures, particularly Mary Greber and Sharalyn Reitlo and their board, for their support through the Whiteshell Community Adjustment Fund which enabled us to begin this journey. Sharalyn and Mary continue to assist us with our governance process and moving forward developing policies and procedures.

Special thanks to the following organizations that have responded positively to our request for donations toward furnishings for the newly renovated classrooms. The Knights of Columbus, Pine Falls Legion Branch #64 and the Pine Falls Legion Ladies Auxilliary who have donated \$1,000.00 each and to Rona for donating approximately \$700.00 of product for the staff room.

There are so many others who have been a part of this process, our staff and teachers, the sponsors to our programs, Sagkeeng Education Authority, Sagkeeng Employment and Training Services, Manitoba Metis Federation, JUST Training, MB ED and Training, volunteers on committees, and many others. We thank you all for your contribution.

Highlights of the Past Year

Renovation Project – almost complete. I want to thank the committee members who have persevered with me throughout this lengthy and at times difficult renovation. Diane has been with me from 2004 when the idea of a Learning Centre was born. Without her expertise and extensive knowledge of building and renovations I probably would not be sitting here today. Bill Borlase and Tom Paukovic both teachers and past principals in this area have also brought a lot of

knowledge to the table. Last but not least John Kawecki who keeps us focused on the purpose of the renovation project, programs and students.

Accreditation of the Carpentry Lab

Hiring of a full time custodian through the Targeted Initiative for Older Worker Program supported by JUST Training. We are the first organization or business that they have under way in this brand new program and we are very happy to assist them with this.

In closing I would like to say that based on the interest, inquiries and enrollments received by the WRLC to date, it is safe to say that the Learning Centre is meeting a need, and is just beginning to recognize its potential. It is already seen as an important resource to people and agencies in the region; and it is increasingly approached by government, business, and industry in the design and delivery of training initiatives to meet their needs and the needs of the citizens of our region and beyond. We are truly a place of Hopeful Futures for people of our region and I am very fortunate to work in such a positive and uplifting environment.

The opportunities are endless and the future looks very bright.

Thank you!

Bev Dubé