

WINTER 2006

KEEP MOVING FORWARD



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Ph: (204) 947-2227

Toll-free: 1-888-947-6222

Fax: (204) 947-9446

Email: nacc@mts.net

Website: <http://nacc.cimnet.ca>

750-331 Smith Street

Winnipeg, MB R3B 2G9

Editor: Jacqui Meckling

Assistant Editor: Kathy Frisk

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We encourage community council members to submit comments, suggestions, articles, and ideas to the editor.

The Christmas Board meeting was held December 7 & 8 and was very productive with visits by Deputy Minister Harvey Bostrom who sent regrets for Minister Oscar Lathlin who wasn't able to make this meeting. The Board of NACC got to meet the new Executive Director of Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Freda Albert, who took over for Marilyn Duval who now works at the YMCA in Thompson. The Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Directors Jeff Gordon, Jim Perchaluk and Karen Barker also attended. Kurt Penner Special Assistant and David Chadwick Special Advisor to Oscar Lathlin attended our Christmas Board and Staff luncheon.

Discussion were centred around infrastructure in the communities we also had a special guest from the Moose First Nations, Chief Buck who was very interested in working with the NACC community councils. NACC always looks at the different ways that we can work with the First Nations people in many of the partnerships that have been formed over the years. The roads in the north are deteriorating and they are become more dangerous as time goes on. Only when a terrible accident happens then the Province may open their eyes. Highways and roads need to be maintained by the province because the communities can't afford to maintain these on their limited budgets.

Again NACC Regional Meetings will take place in Winnipeg the second week in March 2007. To assist in the planning of the regional meetings we are requesting agenda items from the communities. The NACC Annual General Meeting represents part of the ongoing consultative process with Northern Affairs Communities. Often resolutions arising from the conference provides the department with guidelines to work from.

Please send your resolution today you don't have to wait for the conference to forward your resolutions.

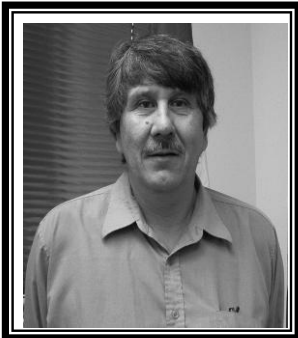
PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Reg Meade ~ President's Report



EXECUTIVE REPORT'S

Helgi Einarsson ~ Eastern Region Chairperson



I am still working on the Lake Winnipeg Stewardship Board. We have had many long meetings in the past few months to get the final report ready for presentation to the Minister. This should be completed shortly. The MCIFB has met and are starting to plan their Annual Conference which will take place sometime in April.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and joyful holiday season. May the New Year bring happiness, prosperity and have a Merry Christmas.

**The President, Board of Directors, Management and Staff of
NACC would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas & Happy
New Year**

EXECUTIVE REPORT'S continued:

Anne Lacquette ~ Western Region Chairperson



I wanted to send out Seasons Greetings to the Mayors and Councillors of the Western Region. I would like to thank them for their support at the 36th Annual Conference. The resolutions brought forward are being dealt with at the present time.

The Regional Conference will be held during the second week of March in Winnipeg.

I would like to thank the local people for their support in Waterhen during their recent flooding.

I would like to thank Jim Perchaluk for the work that he has done for Aboriginal & Northern Affairs communities in his region over the years. Good luck on your retirement.

I wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. If you are celebrating the holidays please be sure to use a designed driver.

Frances McIvor ~ Northern Region Chairperson



NACC and BRRT are still working hard on the Northern Healthy Food Initiative. We continue to progress in a positive way I feel that many of our issues and concerns will be addressed in a worthwhile way. I am continuing to work on our housing resolutions however; there is no information available in relation to the housing concerns as yet. I would like to thank everyone for helping me put together a good plan to address these issues. It is important that all concerned now move forward in a fully supportive and concerned manner toward the development of resources that will benefit the communities. Let me assure all member community councils that the Board of Directors and Staff are supportive of and looking forward to listening to members and building on our collective future. We encourage all communities to demonstrate their support and participate with constructive comments, suggestions and ideas.

I would like to welcome Larry Chartrand (Waterhen) as new board member to the Western Region and NACC.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Season's Greetings

to all the
Northern
Association
Community
Councils



Minister of Aboriginal
and Northern Affairs
**Honourable
Oscar Lathlin**

Room 344, Legislative Building
Winnipeg, MB CANADA R3C 0V8
(204) 945-3719 Fax (204) 945-8374
Toll-free: 1-800-282-8069

Manitoba 
Building for the Future

“The Christmas season is the one time of the year where many family and friends gather together. In many homes gifts are exchanged and hearts are filled with friendship and good will. Christmas is also a season for reflection. We think of the meaning behind Christmas and most of us, in reflection, are thankful for our families and what we have. Our good fortune and the spirit of Christmas can truly be a magical time. Then there are those whose Christmas season is not necessarily filled with this same degree of peace and joy. May we not forget these families at this time.

My family and I wish you all the very best. May our Creator bless you all during this Christmas season and into the New Year.

Oscar Lathlin
Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs”

Government Update

STRENGTHENING RURAL ECONOMY, NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG MANITOBIANS HIGHLIGHTS OF OPENING SITTING OF LEGISLATURE: CHOMIAK

New initiatives to keep young Manitobans living and working in the province, a robust strategy to boost economic opportunities in rural and northern communities, and a series of new consumer protections highlighted the opening sitting of the fifth session of the 38th Manitoba legislature, Attorney General Dave Chomiak, government house leader, said today.

“Our government is acting on the priorities of Manitobans, working to strengthen opportunities across the province and invest in the future of our young people,” said Chomiak.

The government introduced 14 bills during this sitting of the legislature.

During the opening sitting, the government announced a number of initiatives to strengthen the provincial economy and build opportunities

for young Manitobans:

- a 60 per cent tax rebate on tuition fees for all post-secondary students who stay and work in the province;
- a \$10-million investment in the University of Winnipeg’s capital program toward the construction of a new state-of-the-art science complex;
- an unprecedented \$4-billion commitment to renew highway infrastructure over the next 10 years, the largest highway commitment ever made in the province;
- introduction of the first-in-Canada Adult Literacy Act to better ensure all Manitobans have the knowledge and skills to contribute to the workforce and their communities;
- modernization of the Employment Standards Code to reflect today’s economy and the changing face of the labour force; and
- a commitment to double current immigration

levels to strengthen the province's skilled workforce.

The government unveiled bold plans to boost economic development in rural and northern communities this fall including:

- launching a new provincial action plan to boost rural economic development opportunities province wide following the recommendations of the Creating Opportunities committee report,
- committing to building the 1,250-megawatt Conawapa dam,
- doubling loan guarantees to strengthen Manitoba's Rural Entrepreneur Assistance Program,
- opening a first-in-Manitoba urban GO Centre to strengthen the link between farm and fork,
- providing \$18 million in new funding for municipalities to support more affordable and accessible transit systems across the province,
- initiating a new Buy Manitoba advertising campaign and companion website to encourage Manitobans to support producers by buying Manitoba-made foods,
- launching a new pilot project to lower the costs of bringing supplies to northern communities, and
- making good on a provincial commitment to hold a producer vote on the future of the Canadian Wheat Board.

Protecting Manitobans' health and safety were key priorities during the opening sitting. Steps taken this fall include:

- introducing new legislation to enshrine Manitoba's nationally-recognized Healthy Child Strategy to ensure a strong start for the province's youngest citizens,
- launching construction of the new \$7.4-million community health services building in Dauphin,
- providing a \$100,000 commitment to improve fitness trails in Winnipeg,
- expanding crystal meth training programs to protect Manitobans from the drug and to give first responders new tools in the fight against crystal meth,

- expanding the successful Safety Aid program to better protect seniors' safety,
- targeting gangs by doubling the provincial investment in Manitoba's Integrated Organized Crime Task Force, and
- introducing legislation to give Manitoba's Child Support Recalculation Service new tools to track down parents who try to evade making support payments.

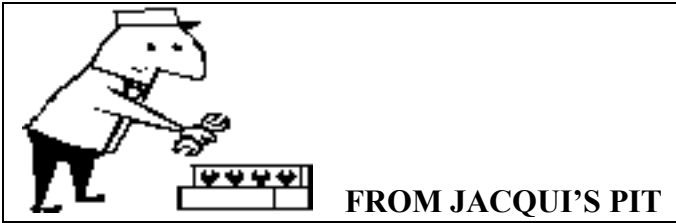
During the sitting, Finance Minister Greg Selinger proposed legislation that would give Manitoba consumers new tools to protect themselves in the event of identity theft, and introduced legislation which would allow Manitobans to better protect their retirement savings. The minister also introduced legislation that would protect Manitoba consumers by prohibiting expiry dates on retail gift cards or certificates.

The legislature passed legislation proposed by Selinger that requires payday loan companies to operate within a comprehensive regulatory framework. The pioneering legislation will ensure borrowers are protected against exorbitant fees and abusive industry practices.

Family Services and Housing Minister Gord Mackintosh announced a \$47-million commitment to strengthen child welfare and promote fostering in Manitoba. Mackintosh also unveiled a new five-point Grand Relations strategy to support positive family relations.

The reforms continue to ensure a child's best interests remain the overriding consideration in resolving family access disputes involving grandparents and extended family members.

During the opening sitting, the government also facilitated passage of two private member's bills: the Good Samaritan Protection Act and the Liquor Control Amendment Act (Helping to Prevent Date Rape).



Hello to everyone in NACC Communities. I find that this time of year I always put in a lot of thought of all the activities that have kept our office busy all year and the work our board members are doing for the betterment of each community. When the year began our goal was to assist our members to build healthier and safer communities. We want to continue to meet our goals but feedback from everyone is important. Letting us know what the community priorities are assists us to advocate on your behalf with infrastructure, public works, education, food security, policing, health or housing.

At our recent board meeting some decisions were made concerning the 2007 AGM. Our theme for next year **“Partnering with Neighbouring Communities for a Healthier and Safe Environment”** and will be held August 21st through 23rd. In early January we will be sending out tenders for the various services required to meet the needs of the delegates and our Annual General Meeting. We would like to hear from communities any suggestions for M.C., name and address of bands who you think may be interested, and the job of transcribing and recording of all proceedings. Our tendering process will include any Northern Service Providers if the info is provided. We are always mindful of who our members are but must stay within the budget. Your input is valuable to us and we would like to make this “YOUR” AGM.

In the New Year the Management and Staff of NACC look forward to working with the membership. Seasons Greetings to all! Have a safe and happy Christmas.

ASSISTANT EDITOR'S CORNER

Hello community members it's been a long year and we have been very busy in the NACC office working on details after the Conference ends and sending out the resolutions next the responses from the Ministers. This year conference was another success.

I have been attending meeting for the organization IANE where Human Resource Department of the Whispering Pines

different organizations get together they network together to help Aboriginals to find employment. It is now the mandate for the Federal and Provincial Governments to start employing Aboriginal as part of Employment Equity.

I attended an Awards Reception for the Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation on November 2, 2006 which was to celebrate and honour young aboriginal people who are making their dreams come true. The Helen Betty Osborne Memorial Foundation makes it possible for Aboriginal Post-secondary students to complete their chosen field of study through the provision of financial bursaries bestowed annually. The amount of the bursary can range from \$1,500 to \$5,000.

I was also invited to attend the Cancer Society Conference New Connections 2006 in Winnipeg on Nov 9 & 10. Cancer rates continue to climb at a high rate within Aboriginal communities across Manitoba. The Society established the Aboriginal Initiatives area in 2005 in order to develop better ways of work with and support the needs of Aboriginal Manitobans. The society's Aboriginal Advisory Council provides guidance and support in getting this important work done. Members of the Council include: Mr. Jim Bear (Chairperson), Elder Gladys Cook, Ms. Marie Jebb, Ms. Leona McIntyre, Dr. Fred Shore, Ms. Eleanor Thompson and Mr. George Wurtak.

On December 6 & 7 I attended a Forestry Conference in Thompson Manitoba for the Sustainable Use of Forest Resources. The conference was sponsored in part by Aboriginal & Northern Affairs, Frontiers Foundation, Forintek and the Northern Forest Diversification Centre.

The three main areas that were addressed were from standing trees to standing houses, building lumber and value added forestry businesses and using non-timber forest products for food and profit.

In closing I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Kitchens are Leading Source of Home Fires

October 8-14 is fire prevention week. In Canada, cooking fires are the leading cause of house fires, and have caused millions of dollars in damages. Protect yourself!

Never leave any cooking unattended. Always use oven mitts and do not wear loose clothing while working in the kitchen. Check for damaged cords on electrical appliances and have their internal thermostats checked if they have been dropped or damaged before you use them again. Use a timer to remind yourself to turn off elements. Keep the stovetop and oven clean and clear at all times.

When deep frying, you should use a thermostatically controlled electric skillet or deep fat fryer. And when pan frying, a pan lid or a cookie sheet should be kept nearby in case you need to smother a fire. Never remove a flaming pot from the stove.

Keep the oven clean to avoid flame-ups, and follow all cooking instructions. If broiling, place the rack at least two to three inches from the element, and always have a drip pan underneath the rack.

With a microwave, sugary or fatty foods may heat extremely quickly, so be extra careful. Also, remember to never place tin foil or any other metal objects inside a microwave.

If a fire does occur, make sure you know what caused it. In the case of an electrical fire, be sure that you do not use water to try to put it out – water conducts electricity, and serious shock may result. If the fire is small, use a CO₂ fire extinguisher. If the fire is large, then evacuate everyone from the house and call 911 from a safe location.



New Manitoba Hydro Head Office to Be a World Leader in Energy Efficiency and Sustainability Continued from the fall issue

In keeping with the building's sustainability objectives, over 90% of the materials from the buildings that previously occupied the entire city block site were diverted from going to landfill for disposal and were either reused or recycled.

Currently, about 90 construction workers are on site, with construction employment projected to peak at about 225 workers in the spring of next year. In keeping with the project's equity employment objectives, workers from four designated groups—women, Aboriginals, disabled and visible minorities, that are underrepresented in the construction industry accounted for about 30% of construction person hours to date.

Scheduled for completion in late 2007, the 22-storey building will encompass approximately 690,000 square feet, including public, retail, commercial and Manitoba Hydro office space. The design incorporates a splayed twin office tower resting on a podium that varies from two to three storeys, effectively marrying the size of a large high-rise building with street level scale. The building will be connected to the downtown elevated walkway system and will have street level retail activity and a landscaped public courtyard on its southern exposure along Graham Avenue, contributing to a healthy and vibrant downtown. Live web cam views of the construction site can be viewed at http://www.hydro.mb.ca/issues/downtown_home.shtml

Youth Advisory Committee YAC Bio's

In 2005 the Youth Advisory Committee was formed through the support of the Honourable Oscar Lathlin, Minister of Aboriginal and Northern Affairs. These youth have volunteered their time for this important committee and the Board of Directors, Management and Staff congratulates their efforts. We would like to introduce the following new committee members who became a members in August 2006.

Lester Constant

My name is **Lester Constant** and I am from Opaskwayak Cree Nation. I have lived in OCN all my life. I believe that this will be my fourth year in attending the AGM. I always look forward to attending where I can meet new people and learn a lot from my peers and the workshops that are being held.

Previously, I was a participant with the AGM Youth Conference where I met a lot of people. As part of the YAC, I know that this coming year will be another rewarding experience.

I received my education in The Pas and Opaskwayak Cree Nation. After graduating from Joe A. Ross School in 1993, I went on to pursue an education in Business Administration. Throughout the years, I was employed in various jobs such as Youth Centre Supervisor, Income Security Reform Coordinator to Social Assistance Accounting Clerk. I am presently employed by OCN Social Services where I received a lot of experience in the area of accounting.

In my previous years, I have been involved in the planning and development of summer programming and employment. Programming included Post Secondary Summer Employment, High School Summer Employment, Youth Development & Fitness Camp and a program for students who were unable to continue their schooling due to various barriers, which was called the Ensuring Our Future program. And last but not least, Social Development. This concept was brought into OCN

in the year 2005. As I progress with the committee, I will bring them up to date with this information.

So in closing, I look forward to meeting everyone and attending as part of the Youth Advisory Committee. Akosi

Christine. A. Smith

My name is Christine. A. Smith. I was born in British Columbia, but my present address is in Wabowden Manitoba. I just graduated from high school at Mel Johnson School. My plans are now, going on to become an RCMP officer.

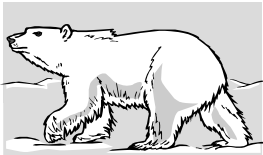
I work with the Wabowden Fire and Ambulance and have been for the past 2 years, Licensed as a Technician (attendant). Working with this job I have had to become independent, a team player, opened minded, professional, and I have had to build up my self-confidence to take care of other individuals who need assistance on my own.

I have done a lot of Volunteer work in our community, from teacher's assistant, score keeping for volleyball and soccer, working with the youth at the arena, secretary, and serving food at the homeless shelter in Portage La Prairie. While in school I was involved in the Teens Against Drunk Drivers, which I had to be the spokes person for that and travel to different communities.

I am now part of the YAC and gaining leadership from the experience as a member and to brainstorm different solutions and problems that we can solve as a committee. I hope that I can bring new ideas, bring concerns that affect the Northern residents of Manitoba and show the skills that I have and to become a team player.

The National Aboriginal Role Model Program celebrates the accomplishments of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis youth aged 13 to 30.

NACC would like to congratulate Christine Smith on winning the National Aboriginal Role Model Program award.



International Year of the Polar Bear 2007-2008

24 months have been designated to the IYP. Continued on page 9

Rationale

Why International?

- Polar processes extend across national boundaries
- The science challenge exceeds the capabilities of any one nation
- A coordinated approach maximizes outcomes and cost effectiveness
- International collaboration shares benefits and builds relationships

Why Polar?

- Polar regions are active, highly connected components of the planet
- Significant changes are occurring in the polar regions
- Polar regions hold unique information on the past behaviour of the Earth system
- Polar regions having growing economic and geopolitical importance, especially the Arctic
- The harsh conditions and remoteness of the polar regions have hampered scientific inquiry compared to mid- and low-latitudes
- There is a need to re-establish and enhance operational observing systems in the polar regions
- The polar regions offer a unique vantage point for a variety of terrestrial and cosmic phenomena

Why a "Year"?

- An intensive, coordinated burst of effort will accelerate advances in knowledge and understanding
- A defined period polar "snapshot" will provide a crucial benchmark for detecting and understanding change in comparison with past and future data sets
- It provides an opportunity for observations in both polar regions throughout all seasons
- The legacy of enhanced observing systems generated by IPY will provide an improved foundation for ongoing monitoring

Why 2007-2008?

- The anniversaries of past IPY and the IGY set a firm deadline
- There is a pressing need to capture contemporary information on change
- A 3-4 year planning horizon is challenging but feasible
- The timescale allows advances in technology and logistics to be exploited to address new issues and access new

Canada
areas



Canada Manitoba Infrastructure Program has a new website:

<http://www.infrastructure.mb.ca/>

MRIF - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund, 2005-2010

MRIF's Objectives

MRIF's objectives include investing in projects that improve the quality of life for all Manitobans.

- Enhance the quality of Canada's environment
- Support long-term economic growth
- Improve community infrastructure
- Build 21st century infrastructure through best technologies, new approaches and best practices.

Community News

**Matheson
Island
Community
Council
8th Annual
Winter Fishing
Derby 2007**



First 20 participants to catch a fish will receive a fishing rod (One rod per participant).

Mark your calendars for the next Winter Fishing Derby in Matheson Island, Manitoba on Saturday February 24, 2007 1 - 4 pm

Registration fee:

Category one

Cost is \$40.00 until February 9, 2007

\$50.00 after February 10-24, 2007

Category two \$10.00

There will be a Social Evening 8 pm - 1am.

Live band: Wailin' Jailer

"Advance ticket only" Admission \$15.00

Door Prizes

**Silent
Auction**

Payments can be made by cheque or money order and mailed to:

Matheson Island Community Council

General Delivery

Matheson Island, Manitoba R0C 2A0.

No cheques will be accepted after February 9th, 2007. Cash will be the only method of payment accepted on the derby day.

Interact is not available!

For more information please call Council Office (204) 276-2150, Mona (204) 276-2053, Terry (204) 276-2413 or Debbie (204) 276-2226

Email: mathesoncouncil@lincsat.com

MLCC Approval No. 318/06

Manitoba Sport Fishing Rules apply 1 hole per entry and 1 line per hole.

Matheson Island History Book from Paddles to Propellers and cookbooks are still available from Matheson Island Community Council. History Books \$50 and Cookbooks \$15.00. They will make great Christmas gifts.... 276-2150

Whispering Pines Newsletter

The next issue of Whispering Pines will be published in the spring of 2007. Articles for March's issue should be submitted by Feb 15th. Articles and events submitted from the Communities are placed in the Whispering Pines free of charge! Please send your articles today.

**The Northern Association of
Community Councils Inc.**

**Will be closed over the Christmas
Holiday's**

**December 22, 2006 at noon back to work
on January 3, 2007**

Northern Healthy Foods Initiative

The ideology of the project embarks on self sufficiency and sustainability. Phase one of the project includes the progression of seed germination in the school classrooms, development of community and individual gardens and greenhouses. As extension of the project Manitoba Agriculture Food and Rural Initiatives offered food preservation workshops such as canning, dilling, cold storage and making baby food.

In total from soil testing, to sending in equipment over the winter roads, and dry season, the NACC communities were able to implement 123 gardens with tangible yields. As a bonus the gardens hosted community feasts, began drop in centers and initiated economic development based on healthy living such as healthy driven community cafes.

With love, effort and community teamwork healthy food can be accessible in northern communities. The following pictures were taken of all the assigned communities north of 59....



Greenhouse in Leaf Rapids



Broccoli



Cauliflower



South Indian Lake - OPCN



NACC 36th Annual General Meeting & Tradeshow

SILENT WITNESS PROJECT

WHAT IS IT?

The Silent Witness Initiative consists of a traveling exhibit of life-size, free standing, red, wooden silhouettes.

Each silhouette represents a woman who was murdered by her intimate partner and who partner has been convicted of the murder or where both died in a murder/suicide.

Because these women no longer have a voice, the silhouettes are called the *Silent Witnesses*.

Each figure bears a shield with the name of a woman who once lived and worked among us. An additional, unnamed silhouette commemorates the women who are suffering from domestic violence or whose murders went uncounted or unresolved.

A little history

The Silent witness Project began as an American initiative which has grown to include all 50 states and 30 countries. New Brunswick, British Columbia and Alberta have formed similar initiatives.

Become involved....

Violence against women which result in murder is women thing that impacts the entire community.

The more individuals and organizations within our community speaking out against domestic violence and violence against women, the bigger the impact will be.

The organizing committee is presently contacting surviving family members of Manitoba women who have been murdered by their partner. We encourage family members to contact them directly if they would like their loved one included.

To book the silent Witness exhibit for an event in your community please contact one of the Coalition members they are as follows:

Interlake Women's Resource Centre
Gimli, Manitoba 1-204-642-8264

Kan NI Kanichihk
Winnipeg, Manitoba 1-204-953-5834

Lakeshore Women's Resource Centre
Ashern, Manitoba 1-204-768-3016

North End Women's Centre Inc.
Winnipeg, Manitoba 1-204-589-7347

Pluri-elles Centre de Femmes
Winnipeg, Manitoba 1-204-233-1735

Women's Safe Haven/Resource Service Inc.
Flin Flon, Manitoba 1-204-681-3105

Western Manitoba Women's Regional Resource Centre Inc.
Brandon, Manitoba 1-204-726-8632

Why are they doing this?

The mission of this project is to remind us of the impact of domestic homicides and family violence within our community and to affect change within the Province.

**MANITOBA DOMESTIC VIOLENCE 24
HOUR TOLL FREE CRISIS LINE
1-877-977-0007**

NACC BOARD OF DIRECTOR'S

President ~ Reg Meade

Ph: (204) 689-2165

Eastern Chairperson ~ Helgi Einarsson

Ph: (204) 659-5214

Northern Chairperson ~ Frances McIvor

Ph: (204) 689-2262

Western Chairperson ~ Anne Lacquette

Ph: (204) 628-3396

Eastern Vice Chairperson ~ Greg Wood

Ph: (204) 363-7375

Northern Vice-Chairperson ~ Glen Flett

Ph: (204) 359-6719

Western Vice-Chairperson ~ Larry Chartrand

Ph: (204) 628-3358

Eastern Sec. /Treasurer ~ Barbara Marcyniuk

Ph: (204) 645-2619

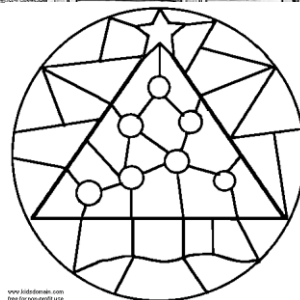
Northern Sec. /Treasurer ~ Veronica Sinclair

Ph: (204) 678-2001

Western Sec. /Treasurer ~ Harold Fleming

Ph: (204) 732-2675

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Winter Word Search

4

w s n o w f l a k e o h i n k
w n s i j m o y j l s y x b t
i a w j f g e o o s a r m o s
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footprints
freezing
frost
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igloo
jacket
mittens
penguin
plow
polar bear
scarf
shovel
skates

skidoo
skis
sled
sleet
slippery
slush
snowball
snowflake
snowman
snowy
toboggan
winter



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