



SPRING NEWSLETTER

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Artist Credit: Dale Einarsson, acrylic on canvas, 16" x 24" 2019

The Northern Association of Community Councils “NACC” 51st AGM

Firstly, THANK YOU to all of the communities that completed and returned the NACC 2020 AGM Delegate Voting Forms.

Due to the ‘new world’ we find ourselves in during the pandemic, this past year’s activities were unparalleled – at times quite challenging and at other times celebratory. We forged new partnerships, provided our communities with PPE, assistance elsewhere when we could, and timely information on funding opportunities. NACC also participated weekly on the Indigenous and Northern Relations (INR) hosted town hall calls that have evolved from being strictly pandemic-related to providing opportunities for communities to inquire on important issues, host special guest presenters, and/or provide time-sensitive follow-up.

The NACC 51st Annual General Meeting is upon us and we are *hopeful* that it can be held in person August 17 - 19, with the 16th and 20th being travel days. Again, the magic word here is “hopeful”. Should the ability to have an ‘in-person’ AGM look unlikely by the end of June, we will have to take a different approach. Presuming all will go ahead, to make up for time lost and in the excitement of being able to see you again or meet you for the first time, we are working to make this year’s AGM a memorable one!

Elections of the *NACC Executive Board* will be held this year. There are four positions up for election in all - three Regional Chairs and the President of NACC. Your participation in this governance process is important. If you have questions about the nomination or election process, please contact our office. It has been an unprecedented year so here’s hoping we also will have unprecedented interest in filling these important positions on the NACC Executive Board.

AGM policy/delegate registration packages will be sent out to NACC member community council offices in late June.

AGM THEME CONTEST - **Submit** the winning theme for this year's AGM and receive a **prize!** Last year's theme was *Honouring the Past – Shaping the Future*. To submit your entry, you can either call NACC at 204-947-2227, email Sara (NACC's Administrative Assistant) adminasst@naccmanitoba.com, or by mail (address on back page).

DEADLINE for contest entry is May 31st, 2021.

Help make this AGM one that responds to areas of interest within the community.

We welcome your suggestions and your input for the following:

- Breakout session topics, presentations, presenters and entertainment.
- AGM Grand prize suggestion (e.g., a Kayak, TV, Ice Fishing Hut, Tower Garden, etc.).
- Do you have a community success story that you can share with others? Let us know so that we can provide the opportunity to share the experience, knowledge gained and 'how to'.

Connectivity in Northern Manitoba

The Northern Association of Community Councils and the Indigenous and Northern Relations (INR) have been working closely to provide the much-needed computer and connectivity equipment for our communities.

INR in partnership with NACC has provided several community water treatment plants iPads. These will afford both visual and verbal communication to help troubleshoot and address water treatment issues in real-time. Additionally, laptop computers were provided to facilitate online training for water technicians. As access to connectivity increases so will the equipment use possibilities such as for testing, reporting, and other tasks.

NACC also partnered with INR to provide virtual connectivity equipment (computer, webcam, monitor, etc.) for a number of Community Councils. This provides Community Councils with the tools to hold meetings with INR, other Councils, or Committees; especially important in a time with such restrictions on in-person meetings.

Though some do not have internet service at this time or others the signal level to use the equipment to its potential, the equipment will be in place when the required internet signal is available.

NACC will continue to lobby, partner, engage and participate in the ongoing discussion to remedy the need for member community access to fast and reliable internet and cell service. Services that are

long overdue for most if not all of our communities. Currently, Manitoba is second only to the Yukon for low broadband download speeds. The Canadian average is between 12 to 25 Mbps (megabits per second download rate) and Manitoba's is 12.6 Mbps.

There is a lot of information, research and approaches to finding a solution. For those interested, some can be found at:

- nextcenturycities.org/wp-content/uploads/Becoming-Broadband-Ready-Toolkit-web.pdf - Resource for Communities – Becoming Broadband Ready Toolkit
- cybera.ca/connectin/ - Testing the Gaps in First Nations Connectivity (2018) – Alberta project
- twitter.com/ciranews/status/1384501266328457219/photo/1 - Canada's Rural/Urban Connectivity Divide (March 2021)
- techmanitoba.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/ICTC_Report_Manitoba_Summary_Web.pdf Report Overview: Manitoba and a Digital-First Future (January 2021)

We will be providing updates on progress and lobbying efforts in this regard at:

naccmanitoba.com/internet-connectivity/

Make the Most of Your NACC Membership

The NACC membership is one that is engaged, responsive and connected. We strive to deliver education, training, news relevant to our northern communities, advocacy, and much more. NACC members gain confidence knowing that they belong to an organization that works hard to address community issues and provide support from a group of stakeholders committed to your success.

Together we are stronger.

You might ask yourself “What is the benefit to our community being a member of NACC?” In addition to the benefits noted earlier, did you know that at the request of your community council, the NACC Chairperson for your region will visit, communicate or attend meetings within your community or elsewhere as a support. Additionally, they will bring issues that require attention to NACC meetings for any action or follow-up required. Follow us on Facebook

facebook.com/naccmanitoba for updates and visit our website NACCManitoba.com to learn of additional tools, funding links and updates for your community.

Additionally, NACC accepts resolutions and requests for action year-round and not just at the AGM. Community Councils can forward their resolutions for NACC to act on throughout the year. Member engagement provides Councils the opportunity to have a collective voice thereby making a stronger case for action.



Northern Market Trail Project (NMTP)

Are you creative? Enjoy making beautiful homemade items? Have a dream to sell them?

The Northern Market Trail Project (NMTP) is here for individuals who would like to turn their homemade, homegrown items into a profitable endeavor. The pandemic that has now spanned well over a year has created a number of challenges for this project. Ideally, a coordinator would be able to visit communities, provide information, support and make connections to both artisan and markets in person, but that could not take place. We continue to draw interest and engagement on this project, so we are looking at ways to innovate.

We are looking for anyone from above the 53rd in Northern Manitoba who:

- Makes homegrown products;
- Would like to market their food, products, tools and more;
- Would like to take their products and sell them on a larger scale;
- Is interested in marketing, inventory, and basic accounting strategies to sell your products.

Are you connected to northern communities, social media savvy and would like to try your hand at being a champion for the Northern Market Trail Project?

We would love to hear from you!

NACC's Northern Healthy Foods Initiative Program:

To learn more about all the NHFI programming we offer at NACC, please check out our NHFI tab at naccmanitoba.com. If you don't want to miss a 'beet,' 'bee' sure to sign-up to receive regular NHFI email updates here:

<http://naccmanitoba.com/nhfi/news/>

Shout Out!

A big “Great Job!” to the COVID-19 Committee of **Norway House** for partnering with the neighbouring First Nation Reserve to help keep the virus out of their communities. Excellent work on roadblock, monitoring and maintaining the isolation housing, and all of the work done to keep everyone protected.

Community News

Department of Municipal Relations – Fire Protection Grant

A big congratulations to the many communities that received the grant!

The Manitoba Government created a one-time, \$5-million fund to provide fire protection grants to support fire protection and emergency response across the province. The Fire Protection Grant was open to municipalities and Northern Affairs communities, to support projects or activities that improve fire protection or emergency response in those communities or mutual aid districts. A total of \$286,772 was awarded to the following member communities.

Grant recipients:

Homebrook-Peonan Point	
Crane River	Camperville
Sherridon	Thicket Portage
Meadow Portage	Matheson Island
Mallard	Cross Lake
Duck Bay	Barrows
Waterhen	Manigotagan

RCMP Puppy Naming Contest



Congratulations Kinsley!

Kinsley Thomas of Wabowden was selected as one of the winners from the over 20,000 entries to the RCMP 2021 Name the Puppy Contest with the name *Peyak!*

For those who want a head start thinking of names for next year's contest, all names in 2022 must start with the letter R.

rcmp-grc.gc.ca/en/news/2021/name-the-puppy-2021-announcing-the-winners

United Way Emergency Community Support Fund

Last year the United Way created the Emergency Community Support Fund to help Rural, Northern, and Remote Communities.

Much thanks to **Jason Granger**, Director, Community Investment and Capacity Building and Community Impact from United Way Winnipeg for reaching out to us and for support extended to our communities.

Grant recipients:

Berens River	Dauphin River
Waterhen	Meadow Portage
Pine Dock	Spence Lake
Rock Ridge	Matheson Island
Cross Lake	

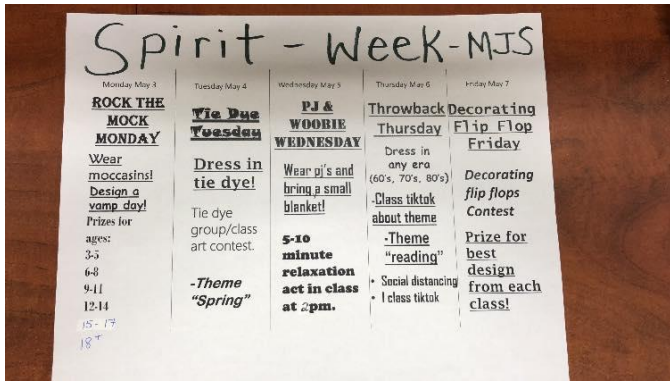
Northern Manitoba Food, Culture & Community Collaborative – 2020 Regular Cycle & Covid Relief Grants

NMFCCC supports communities in Northern Manitoba to increase access to healthy food and to improve community health and community economic development.

Grant recipients:

Barrows	Crane River
Norway House	Homebrook/Peonan Point
Camperville	Dauphin River
Wabowden	Thicket Portage
Pikwitonei	Nelson House
Baden	Red Deer Lake
Powell	Dawson Bay
Duck Bay	Mallard
Meadow Portage	Pine Dock
Rock Ridge	Seymourville
Spence Lake	Salt Point
Waterhen	Oxford House

Community Spirit Week



Various forms of Virtual Spirit week have been happening in a number of communities. It is great to see that even during this challenging time that the fun and creative spirit of Spirit Week can still take place. NACC would like to say kudos to you for making it happen and good luck to all participants!

Welcome New Northern Region Director and Support Staff for INR

A big welcome to **Leah Garson** in her new role as the Director, Northern Region of the Northern Affairs Branch (NAB). We look forward to working with you to continue supporting the North. We also say congratulations and welcome to the other staff positions that have been filled over this past year.

INR Weekly Town Hall Call

Since the start of the pandemic, INR has been hosting 'town-hall' conference calls every Tuesday with Community Council and staff. These calls are much more than just COVID-19 updates. They provide the opportunity to share information on funding, deadlines, activities in your area, news from other communities, host guest presenters and also provide the opportunity for participants to inquire on issues within communities and surrounding areas. They take place every Tuesday at 1:30 pm. Invitations, agendas and minutes are emailed weekly to Community Councils.

Community Council Resolution Writing

It's that time again as we prepare for the AGM. We are here to assist you in writing resolutions for your community that will then be shared with the

NACC Board of Directors as those resolutions are received or at the AGM. NACC strives to act effectively and address your communities' concerns to the fullest extent, and to do that we need as much detail about the issue as possible and resolution protocol to be followed. Our website is continually updated with resources and examples to reference. Check-out this webpage for guidance on resolutions: <https://naccmanitoba.com/office-management-and-operations-information/>

Government of Canada- Covid-10 Economic Response Plan

The Government of Canada is taking immediate, significant and decisive action to support Canadians and businesses facing hardship as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. Learn more at:

canada.ca/en/department-finance/economic-response-plan.html

RESPECT IN THE WORKPLACE

We are adding to our NACC online resources in many areas and included in this is information on the Respectful Workplace.

Disrespectful behavior, simply put, **is unacceptable** and includes but is not limited to: discrimination, harassment, personal harassment, sexual harassment and workplace violence. What it does not include is: consensual banter, performance reviews, performance management, reasonable discipline imposed by an employer.

Each employer, employee, manager, supervisor and colleague are to practice respectful behavior.

You can find printable information on the NACC website under the Resources drop down menu, within the Office Management and Operations Information.

When a workplace is respectful and inspiring, employees are more productive and happier!

More information available can be found at: <http://naccmanitoba.com/office-management-and-operations-information/>

PROVINCE EXTENDS HOME NUTRITION AND LEARNING PROGRAM THROUGH SUMMER

The Manitoba government recently announced that it is investing more than **\$2 million** to extend the Home Nutrition and Learning Program until the end of August.

The new funding builds on the **\$5.1 million** the province has already provided to support the program, which launched in June of last year, and will ensure that participating families continue to receive the packages of healthy foods, recipes and learning activities developed by the Child Nutrition Council of Manitoba.

The program is delivered by Andrews Street Family Centre Inc. and Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc. in Winnipeg, Samaritan House in Brandon, **Cross Lake Community Council** in partnership with **Food Matters Manitoba** and **Bayline Regional Round Table** in Thicket Portage, Pikwitonei, Ilford/War Lake and Wabowden.

Manitoba K-12 Review and Education Modernization Act – Bill 64

On April 6th, the Mountain View School Division presented information to the public about the K-12 Education Review and the proposed Education Modernization Act (Bill 64). The very informative townhall presentation can be viewed at:

mvsd.ca/apps/news/article/818576

More information about Bill 64 and links to other resources can be found on our website at:

mvsd.ca/apps/pages/index.jsp?uREC_ID=1064576&type=d&pREC_ID=1359574

Manitoba Hydro Neighbours Helping Neighbours

A program that provides lower-income people who are unable to pay their energy bill:

- referrals to community support services, counselling and job training;

- one-time emergency funding for energy bills

[How-to Booklets](#)

hydro.mb.ca/your_home/how_to_resources/

[Energy Saving Tips](#)

hydro.mb.ca/your_home/energy_saving_tips/

Manitoba's Office of Rural and Northern Health

Education, employment and training.

Call 204-622-6210 or visit ornh.mb.ca/

CEDF

Learn about Communications and Marketing that we offer as well as Business Development and Access to Capital, Fisheries Loan Program and more!

Call 204-778-4138 or visit cedf.mb.ca/

Manitoba Youth Job Programs

Applications can be received until August 31, 2021 per

manitoba.ca/covid19/programs/youth-jobs.html#dates

Mental Health Resources

Manitoba Suicide Prevention & Support Line (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-877-435-7170

reasontolive.ca

Klinik Crisis Line (24/7)

Phone: 204-786-8686

Toll Free: 1-888-292-7565

Manitoba Farm, Rural & Northern Support Services (24/7)

Toll Free: 1-866-367-3276

supportline.ca

Manitoba Addictions Helpline

Toll Free: 1-855-662-6605

First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Line

Toll Free: 1-855-242-3310

Community Reminders

Here are some INR deadlines coming up:

May 31st, 2021

Deadline to submit to department:

- Property tax due

June 1st, 2021

Deadline to submit to department:

- Requests for next fiscal's MCA revisions
- Reminder to send financial records to auditor
- Payroll report to MEBP administrator

July 30, 2021

- First quarter financial statements (April to June) due



Need some Hemp Sense?

Hemp Sense products are made from 100% Hemp Crumble made from All Natural Hemp Stalk. Hemp Crops are a renewable resource that is biodegradable and compostable.

Universal Bedding

For use with your Laying Hens and Chicks



Provides odor control and absorbent, soft and thermal properties. Thermal properties of our hemp products help keep your hens and chicks clean and healthy.

Hemp Soil Enricher

Can hold 4 to 5 times its weight in water, decreasing watering frequency. Helps protect the plants during seasonal changes and the thermal nitrogen encourages healthy plant growth.



All NACC Members qualify for wholesale pricing and bulk purchase for community and residents. Visit hempsense.net to find out more!

Starlink

Elon Musk's SpaceX has begun offering preorders of its Starlink satellite internet service around the world, including parts of Canada.

According to Reddit's Starlink community, the preorders are available on a global level but residents in Alberta, British Columbia, Manitoba, New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Ontario, and Saskatchewan have managed to place orders for beta testing.

"During the beta, users can expect to see data speeds vary from 50 Mb/s to 150 Mb/s and latency from 20ms to 40ms in most locations over the next several months," says Starlink. "There will also be brief periods of no connectivity at all." To subscribe to Starlink (first come first service basis) starlink.com.

Recipe Share and Call out!

Oatmeal Bannock (Diabetic)

by Lorraine Chartrand from Baden.

Ingredients:

5 cups Flour
2 1/2 cups Oatmeal
3/4 cups Vegetable Oil 2 Cups Water

3Tbsp Baking Powder
3/4 cup Powdered Milk

Directions:

1. Mix the flour, baking powder, oatmeal and powdered milk together.
2. Once all dry ingredients are combined, make a well in the middle of the mixture.

3. Add the vegetable oil and water and mix well.
4. Preheat oven to 350°F.
5. Place on a baking sheet and bake for roughly 40 minutes.

This recipe will also be in the NACC Cookbook. If you want to have your recipe showcased or add to the cookbook, fill out the printable recipe form on the NACC website providing as much information as possible and then either email Sara, the administrative assistant (adminasst@naccmanitoba.com) or fax it to the office: 204-947-9446.

Funding and other Support

Indigenous and Northern Relations (INR):

gov.mb.ca/inr/

Manitoba Chambers of Commerce:

mbchamber.mb.ca/initiatives-resources/covid-19-tools-resources/

#RESTART COVID-19 Manitoba info gov.mb.ca/covid19/

Community Economic Development Fund:

cedf.mb.ca

Healthy Together Now Heathlytogethernow.net

Healthy Together Now is a community-led, grassroots program.

Program goals include:

- supporting communities that lead prevention activities.
- encouraging organizations, communities, regions and governments to work together to help prevent chronic disease.
- building on and blending with existing prevention programs, and developing new ones.

- increasing communities' knowledge and ability to run prevention programs for a variety of chronic diseases.

Healthy Together Now (HTN) funding is not ongoing or annual funding. It provides start-up funding, to support communities to start a project, deliver or carry out the project, evaluate results and enhance or expand the HTN project by working towards sustainability in the community.

CPRA Youth Employment Experience

The Canadian Parks and Recreation Association (CPRA) has secured funding from the Government of Canada via the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) Program to support job placements for youth, particularly those facing barriers to employment. The goals of the CPRA Youth Employment Experience are to:

- Enable youth to connect with a mentor, gain hands-on experience in a workplace setting.

- Build skills, expand networks, and increase knowledge of the parks and recreation sector for both youth and mentors.
- Engage a diverse group of young Canadians in the program.
- Increase the recruitment and retention of youth facing barriers to employment in Canada.

This is an open competition, and eligible organizations are invited to apply.

Visit: cp.ra.ca/mentorship for online application.

Application Deadline:
May 14, 2021

Notice of Decision:
June 2, 2021

Earliest Job Start Date:
June 7, 2021

Visit the NACC website for updates at naccmanitoba.com

Safety

Manitoba office of the Fire Commissioner

firecomm.gov.mb.ca/home.html

To safeguard both people and property from fire and life safety hazards through education, investigation, emergency response and code application.

For tips, videos and other important safety messages visit Fire & Life Safety Education web page.

Manitoba Crime Stoppers

Phone: 1(800) 222-8477 (TIPS)

manitobacrimestoppers.com

This program provides a safe and anonymous way for the Manitoba public to pass on information to local police agencies. Tipsters can report information about any non-urgent illegal activity.

Arson Prevention (Red River Mutual)

In Manitoba: 1(204) 324-6434

Toll Free: 1(800) 370-2888

redrivermutual.com/safety-guides/arsonprevention

Most arson fires are started outdoors. Don't make it easy for an arsonist to start a fire or easy for a fire to spread to other buildings. The following are some preventative tips for you to reduce malicious fires.

COVID-19 Immunization Clinics

Roll up your sleeve!

Put an end to COVID-19 by getting in line for the vaccine. The daily number of new COVID-19 cases remains high. The solution to ending this pandemic will truly take a village. No one person's vaccination will end it. We have to work together.

The pandemic has taken such a toll on mental health, education, community and the economy. Stole from us of the opportunity to say last goodbyes to those we have lost and hug those celebrating a milestone.

COVID-19 vaccines are important tools to help us stop this pandemic. We need to follow public health measures to reduce the spread of COVID-19 and save lives.

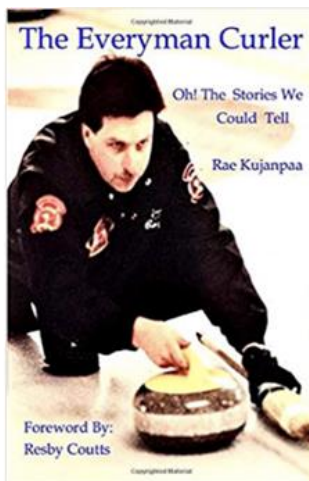
The Everyman Curler

There are two kinds of curlers: exceptional players who compete nationally and internationally, and the rest, - the Everyman curlers.

Rae Kujanpaa recently published a book "*The Everyman Curler*" that has been well received and celebrated by more than just the everyman curler.

Spence Lake resident, Rae is one of the latter earlier noted curlers – a regular curler who loved the game and loved to chase the opportunity of winning the Manitoba championship.

The book started out as a basement-cleaning exercise. As he was dealing with his accumulated curling mementos, the 'COVID-project' evolved into



Everyone is looking forward to a future when we can be together.

FOLLOW PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES!

gov.mb.ca/covid19/index.html

Your participation is the solution! It will help pave the way for things to return to 'normal' – a time again when we can celebrate and spend time together.

Vaccine sites are popping up all over the province with many in Northern Manitoba.

Immunization Clinic Locations can be found at:

gov.mb.ca/covid19/vaccine/clinics.html

Lastly, be sure to thank your 'needle-pusher'! They truly are essential.

the form of a book. At time of print we do not know if the prior basement-cleaning exercise was ever completed, but the book has received great reviews and readership.

As with all Everyman curlers, he says "curling was something I did in addition to the really important things in life."

A great gift for curlers or their friends and family to better understand the curling obsession.

Rae Kujanpaa's book *The Everyman Curler* is available at amazon.ca.

Congratulations Rae! Perhaps there is a book to be found in each of our basements.

211 – Manitoban's Low Barrier, Personalized Assistance

The 211 Manitoba service is part of the broader 211 Canada network. This co-ordinated national information network allows individuals to look for local resources in communities across Canada and enables them to assist family members, friends and clients in other provinces.

"The Manitoba government is proud to partner with United Way Winnipeg in support of 211 Manitoba, which provides low-barrier, personalized assistance and enables access to information on programs and services quickly and easily," said Minister Rochelle Squires. "As we have seen throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, it is critical that we mobilize quickly and work together, and 211 is another tool to help us co-ordinate our efforts to protect Manitobans."

The province has committed to support the operation of the service for one year. Manitobans can dial 211 from anywhere in the province, 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to connect with a community navigator who will help them find appropriate resources nearby. Individuals can also search the 211 website at mb.211.ca.

United Way Winnipeg will provide online assistance, 24-7 phone services in more than 150 languages.

In Remembrance

NACC would like to extend condolences to the family and friends of *David Laponsee*. David served the community of **Brochet** as both Mayor and Councillor for a combined total of 16 years 8 months. He will be missed.

Brochet Winter Road

Dear Northern Neighbours,
I would like to present myself, Daniel Couture, budding adventurer and principal of the most northern francophone public school in Manitoba, *École Communautaire La Voie du Nord*. I am a father of 3 young children, husband, and have fond memories and deep ties to several Northern Communities of our beautiful province.

My intimate connection to the North was born upon completing high school. My father transferred to Lynn Lake to become what will probably go down in history as the Longest Serving Detachment Commander of a remote RCMP Detachment. For 14 years, my parents made Lynn Lake their new home and my father always spoke respectfully about the communities in his region.

These communities included Lynn Lake, Brochet as well as the Barren Lands First Nation and Northlands First Nations. For approximately 6 years, I spent my summers working for Manitoba Conservation and my time in Lynn Lake culminated in a full school year as an educational assistant at West Lynn Lake Heights where I developed my passion for teaching. The rest is history.

During those formative years, I did spend most of my time in and around Lynn Lake, however, my most memorable moments were travelling the Winter

Road by snowmobile during the Christmas holidays with my father on my first caribou hunts. Times have changed, and as the herds (B&Q) are not what they used to be, driving up the Winter Road is no longer a yearly event and is done mostly to bond with my now-retired father. I have never visited the community of Brochet; however, I feel a connection with all communities that lie beyond Thompson on highways 391 and 394.

Now, enough about me and let's talk about adventure and the Winter Road to Brochet! 😊

Travelling up the Winter Road, had always left me with several questions to answer. What did it look like in the summer? What impact did the road have on nature? Was there lots of garbage or litter collecting under all that snow? Could the road be used all year round? And most interestingly, *is it walkable?* In 2019, I showed my wife and children the beauty of the eskers on the Kinoosao Road and I took them to the beginning of the Winter Road a few kilometers past Wolverine Lodge. We

explored a bit and then drove back to Thompson. To sum up, it was a wonderful day of learning and of appreciating nature. The winding roads of the steep eskers made quite an impression on my family who could not have imagined the beauty that lied only



several hours from our home in Thompson. I left with an idea. To hike to Brochet.

During the summer of 2020, I parked my truck next to all of the warning signs and hiked the first 20 kilometers of the Winter Road. I camped overnight and wondered if it was possible to make the entire trip on foot. I was quite safe. I had discussed my plan with Manitoba Conservation and the RCMP knew where I was. I also had satellite communications with my family which was staying in Lynn Lake.

I walked through wet muskeg, soft sand, wide swamps, and endless no-see-ums. A lightning storm made a timely visit while I was standing in said swamp, tens of meters from the closest tree, but I was elated when Mother Nature decided to pass by, ignoring my aluminum hiking poles. I did not see a bear, but the tracks told me that I was never truly alone.

During the summer of 2021, I plan start and complete a 10-day hike to Brochet. However, I feel I should **walk for a reason**.

As a school principal, I encourage staff to teach and students to learn about the wrongs of our past in order to make the future a better place for our youth. We love our country, but we can't ignore its mistakes, past and present. I feel that our Northern Communities and First Nations are often neglected, and we only hear what media wants to share. Today, there are boil water advisories throughout the province, rising costs on produce which are at times unavailable in several communities. Access to medical, dental, and other forms of health care are also very limited. For example, several types of aide such as speech pathology require children and their families be flown to Thompson for treatment instead of the



other way around. I will not pretend to be a guru in the matter but mental health issues in isolated and Northern Communities are also of great cause of concern. This is perhaps the *greatest* concern for our youth. I believe that Northern Communities living in isolation deserve more support due to the nature of their limited infrastructure and access.

Getting back to the topic at hand, how can the Winter Road, whose season is ever shrinking due to climate change, continue to support our Northern Communities? The environmental changes affecting the Winter Road was forced upon the people living in those isolated communities. What can we do to mitigate or eliminate the added stress put onto the communities and the individuals who are disconnected from the services and supplies to which they have a right?

Throughout my research these past several months, I have learnt that the NACC has launched several programs for the people of Brochet and other Northern Communities. I was elated to see that there are people thinking about these issues and

working hard to build lasting solutions. For that, I congratulate the NACC, their partners as well as the communities that make up the association.

To finish my letter, I feel that I should walk to Brochet **for a reason** that surpasses my personal desire to seek adventure. I wish to bring awareness to an issue, and I invite

readers of this letter to write to me so that we can start a dialogue for change.

Thank you for your time,
Daniel Couture
daniel.couture@dsfm.mb.ca

About NACC

Incorporated in 1971, the Northern Association of Community Councils is a non-profit group representing the interests of 48 northern and rural Community Councils under the jurisdiction of Indigenous and Northern Relations (INR). NACC promotes and facilitates sustainable community development by:

- *Encouraging the development of local services on behalf of member communities.*
- *Ensuring that physical, social, and economic development in our communities remains a priority for the government.*
- *Providing information for the sustainable use of natural resources*
- *Coordinating and consulting on community-based projects and promoting self-sufficiency.*
- *Acting as a channel for effective communication and cooperation between communities, business, and governments*
- *Providing associates with information and opportunities through the annual conference for the resolution of community issues.*

OUR GOAL.....

Is to promote and encourage wherever possible the development of local government; and to assist in the improvement of services and the physical, social and economic development of all member northern communities of the NACC.

If you would like you NACC Regional Chairperson to visit your community or attend a meeting, please contact the NACC office.

IS THERE SOMETHING MISSING?

If there is something you would like to see included in the newsletter, please let us know!

We want to hear from you!

Feel free to contact Sara, the Administrative Assistant with article ideas, letters or upcoming event that you would like included.



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