The choices we make are shaped by the choices we have.

annual report 2011

HEALTH in COMMON
Strengthening connections for healthy sustainable communities
The Vibrant Communities Charter was developed in consultation with NGOs and various levels of government and finalized with support from the Minister of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors. Recognizing that well-being is a reflection of society’s commitment to equity and justice, the Vibrant Communities Charter provides a shared vision for building healthy sustainable communities that requires non-government organizations, the private sector and community members to work together.

Health in Common strengthened its support for evaluation by implementing Learning through Evaluation (LTE); an initiative intended to build organization’s internal capacity for evaluation – through consultation or the completion of an evaluation.

We would like to recognize the Board of Directors and thank them for their time and contribution. Having a range of perspectives at the table results in many candid discussions, including the planning session which resulted in the revision of Health in Common’s strategic directions.

Our Annual Report would not be complete without acknowledging Mike, Bo, Dan and Jess. Their ability to engage in conversation, their respect for each other’s skills and perspectives and their sense of humour make Health in Common a place that challenges and supports us all.

Don Gamache
Acting Chair

Cathy Steven
Executive Director
Recognizing that social, environmental, economic and cultural factors collectively create healthy sustainable communities, Health in Common strengthens these connections by:

1. **Facilitating communication and collaboration within and across sectors**

2. **Providing planning and evaluation support to organizations and communities**

**Board of Directors**

**Richard Cloutier**  
Host of the morning news/talk show on CJOB Radio, Richard has an undergraduate degree in Political Studies and a Masters of Journalism. Also a member of the Board of the Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg and Winnipeg Harvest, Richard is passionate about building a better and healthier province.

**Jason Edgerton**  
Having worked in a number of front line and policy-related roles in social services over the years, Jason’s research as a faculty member in the Department of Sociology (University of Manitoba) is focused on the various dimensions of social inequality.

**Don Gamache**  
Working out of The Pas and a self-declared ‘Northerner at Heart’, Don is a Regional Community Health Developer with The NOR-MAN RHA. Prior to focusing his work on community development, Don’s work history included family counseling, child protection, emergency social services, recreation and healthy communities.

**Alan Katz**  
Currently the Associate Director of the Manitoba Centre for Health Policy, Alan’s research interests are focused on primary care delivery, including quality of care indicators, knowledge translation and disease prevention. Before becoming an associate professor as well as the Director of Research at the Department of Family Medicine, Alan worked in rural Saskatchewan and at a community clinic in the core of Winnipeg.

**Nancy McPherson**  
Responsible for integrating a population health approach to the planning and delivery of programs and services throughout Brandon Regional Health Authority, Nancy has experience in acute care, community health, health planning and evaluation. Nancy’s experience in diverse communities across Canada, as well as in the West Indies and Northeastern Siberia, contribute to her role as Assistant Professor in the School of Health Studies at Brandon University.

**Mary Lou Mendro**  
After 15 years as the General Manager of a Manitoba Regional Economic Development Corporation and experience with numerous companies, organizations and government departments on business development and community-based initiatives, Mary Lou is currently the Director of Syndicated Research at Probe Research Inc.

**Richard Milgrom**  
Having taught at various institutions and practiced architecture in Ontario, as well as the United Kingdom, Richard is now an Associate Professor and Head of the Department of City Planning at the University of Manitoba. A member of the Canadian Institute of Planners and a long standing member of the Planners’ Network, his current research focuses on the social impacts of sprawl and the production of age-friendly cities and towns.

**Marcia Thomson**  
Assistant Deputy Minister with the department of Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors, Marcia has over 30 years experience in health and social services. Marcia is also the Winnipeg Site Coordinator for the Mental Health Commission of Canada’s National Homelessness Research/Demonstration Initiative.
Vibrant Communities are created when residents and decision makers recognize **well-being is a reflection of society’s commitment to equity and justice** and work toward a shared vision which includes:

- community spaces to connect with others and nature as part of daily life
- secure and affordable housing for all
- sustainable transportation, including walkable streets, accessible public transit and places to cycle and wheel safely
- required goods (e.g. healthy foods) and services (e.g. education and health) available to all
- infrastructure decisions that protect the environment and save money in the long run
- sustainable agriculture that is locally-supported - rural and urban
- healthy, safe and meaningful work that is close to home
- meaningful participation in community life and decision making by all

We acknowledge that well-being is determined by economic, environmental, social and cultural factors within a community. Achieving this vision of Vibrant Communities will require non-government organizations, the private sector, government and community members to work together, based on the guiding principles:

**COLLABORATION**
Work together, within and across sectors, building on existing success and avoiding duplication

**COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**
Be continually informed by and responsive to community voices

**INFORMED DECISIONS**
Base decisions on consultation, best available evidence and promising innovation

**FAIRNESS**
Ensure equity through a commitment to social justice

**INCLUSION**
Embrace and respect diversity within communities
Recognizing that Manitoba’s burden of chronic disease is the highest in the north, the Northern Health Conference brought together Elders, youth, Chiefs, Mayors and community members from across the Northern Manitoba. Representatives from Burntwood, NOR-MAN, Parkland and Churchill Regional Health Authorities, First Nations and Inuit Health, Healthy Living Youth and Seniors, Manitoba Health and the Public Health Agency of Canada also attended.

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Innovation Strategy, North of 53: Working Together to Build Vibrant Communities will establish a regional Collaborative focused on First Nation and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities and increase community engagement in 3 to 4 First Nation and ANA communities through the development of community indicators of well-being.

A city-wide community indicator system intended to measure our city’s wellbeing, PEG is being developed by a wide-cross section of stakeholders around eight theme areas (basic needs, health, education & learning, social vitality, governance, built environment, economy, and natural environment) and one cross-cutting issue (poverty).

Following an evaluation workshop delivered by Louise Potvin (filled to capacity with folks being turned away), evaluation practitioners wanted to meet regularly; resulting in the creation of the Evaluation Café.

At the Manitoba Policy Summit, a resolution was passed by the membership of the Canadian Community Economic Development Network indicating support for the Vibrant Communities Charter.

During its implementation year, Learning through Evaluation (LTE), an initiative intended to build capacity for evaluation, worked with several organizations: consulting, developing tools, facilitating workshops or completing an evaluation.

Attended by 62 people, the first Summer Institute on Evaluation was an opportunity for students and service providers to learn more about evaluation and develop evaluation frameworks for actual Manitoba community initiatives.

Community-Driven Health Impact Assessment (CHIA) train the trainer, facilitated by Susan Eaton (People Assessing Their Health, Nova Scotia), was held to begin building the capacity in Manitoba for using the CHIA tool – indicators of well-being, based on the experience of community members, that can be used to assess the potential impact of a program, policy or development.

With funding from the Public Health Agency of Canada’s Innovation Strategy, North of 53: Working Together to Build Vibrant Communities will establish a regional Collaborative focused on First Nation and Aboriginal and Northern Affairs communities and increase community engagement in 3 to 4 First Nation and ANA communities through the development of community indicators of well-being.
Over the past year, Health in Common had the opportunity to work with several groups and organizations, including:

- Alliance for the Prevention of Chronic Disease
- Active and Safe Routes to School – Green Action Centre
- Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
- Association of Manitoba Municipalities
- Bike to the Future
- Burntwood Regional Health Authority
- Canadian Alliance for Regional Risk Factor Surveillance
- Canadian Cancer Society – Knowledge Exchange Network
- Canadian CED Network, Manitoba Chapter
- CCEDNET Spark
- Canadian Evaluation Society, Manitoba Chapter
- Canadian Partnership Against Cancer
- CancerCare Manitoba
- Child and Family All Nations Coordinated Response Network
- Children’s Health & Environment Partnership
- Chronic Disease Prevention Initiative
- Community Futures
- Department of Community Health Sciences, University of Manitoba
- Department of Family Medicine, University of Manitoba
- Faculty of Human Ecology, University of Manitoba
- Faculty of Social Work, University of Manitoba
- Food Matters Manitoba
- Green Action Centre (formerly Resource Conservation Manitoba)
- Green Manitoba
- Health Promotion Network
- Healthy Together Now
- Heart and Stroke Foundation of Manitoba
- Intergovernmental Committee on Manitoba First Nations Health
- International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Knox Community Centre
- Manitoba Eco-Network
- Manitoba Alternative Food Research Alliance
- Manitoba Centre for Health Policy
- Manitoba Harm Reduction Network
- Manitoba Health
- Manitoba Healthy Living, Youth and Seniors
- Manitoba Public Health Association
- Marymound
- Mental Health Promotion Champions Network
- NORMAN RHA
- North End Food Security Network
- North Point Douglas Women’s Resource Centre
- Northern Association of Community Councils
- Partners in Planning for Healthy Living
- PEG – Community Indicator System
- Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba
- Population Health Intervention Research Initiative for Canada
- Prairie Community-Based HIV Research Program
- Public Health Agency of Canada
- Rainbow Resource Centre
- Rehabilitation Centre for Children
- Rural Development Institute
- Rural Secretariat
- Rural Team Manitoba
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities
- Society for Manitobans with Disabilities Clearinghouse
- South Eastman RHA
- Towards Evidence Informed Practice
- Triple R – Community Futures
- United Way Winnipeg
- Volunteer Manitoba
- Winnipeg in motion
- Winnipeg Poverty Reduction Council
- Within Reach
- Winnipeg RHA
- W.R.E.N.C.H.
- Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy
Health in COMMON
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Mission
strengthening connections for healthy sustainable communities

Guiding Principles
• encouraging partnerships within and across sectors
• addressing the social, environmental and economic factors that determine health
• basing decisions and actions on best available evidence
• building on existing programs and experiences

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