

## MANITOBA LEADS

### CANADA IN ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Manitoba scored an 'A' two years running with The Canadian Energy Efficiency Alliance, and continues to set standards for the rest of the Canadian provinces to follow. Some of the initiatives responsible for the 'A' rating are:

- Manitoba Hydro's Power Smart programs that allow homeowners, businesses, and industry significant savings on energy costs;
- Manitoba Hydro's plans for wind-energy projects that would enable power for 100,000 homes;
- The Province's new commercial building codes and new green building policy that requires all new provincially funded buildings meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver certification;
- Community Places construction projects worth \$3 million;
- A new green business guide for small and medium sized businesses to aid in energy efficiency and result in lower energy costs;
- The Province's renewable energy development that includes new-generation hydro, wind, ethanol, biodiesel, geo-thermal, and hydrogen; and
- *The Winter Heating Cost Control Act* that will result in low income, rural and northern Manitobans receiving energy efficiency savings.

## COMMUNITY ARTS

### COUNCILS RECEIVE FUNDING

The **Hon. Eric Robinson**, Minister of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism recently announced 20 communities would receive \$360,000 in grant support for rural and northern community arts councils. The quality of life in rural and northern Manitoba is enhanced through community arts councils. Local arts councils bring concerts, theatre productions and art exhibits to their communities. Classes and workshops in visual, media and literary arts, dance, music and theatre are also offered.

### FUNDING FOR MUSEUMS

Museums preserve Manitoba's history and enable visitors to experience the culture and heritage of this great province. The Minister of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism, the Hon. Eric Robinson announced 109 communities and six themed museums would share funding of \$676,100. This funding aids in the maintenance of the museums annual programs.

### NEW EQUIPMENT FOR LIBRARIES

Libraries are necessary online information providers for Manitobans, especially in remote areas of the province. All public libraries in rural and northern Manitoba received \$1.1 million to improve technology infrastructure from the Department of Culture, Heritage, and Tourism. Libraries can now purchase two new computers with large screen monitors, one colour laser printer, a wireless access point appliance, and a video

projector. Library management software, database and Internet servers will improve network capabilities.

### EMISSIONS CALCULATOR ONLINE TOOL AIDS CITIES

Municipalities will now be able to plan and report transportation related emissions in a standardized manner. Transport Canada recently launched a simple, user-friendly online tool to aid cities in reducing greenhouse gases and protecting the health of Canadians. The *Urban Transportation Emissions Calculator* will enable urban transportation professionals to calculate transportation related emissions, including greenhouse gases and criteria air contaminants (e.g. carbon, nitrous and sulphur oxides, volatile organic compounds and particles). Direct and indirect emissions from passenger, commercial and urban transit vehicles are calculated. Direct emissions are released directly from the tailpipe of vehicles, while indirect emissions are created and released from electricity of electric vehicles and from the production, refining, and transportation of transportation fuels. Kilometres traveled, travel speed averages and fueling data can be recorded. The impact of new technologies and alternative fuels on greenhouse gas emissions and air pollutants will now be considered. Resources to help municipalities with transportation solutions are available through the Urban Transportation Information Network at [www.tc.gc.ca/UTEC](http://www.tc.gc.ca/UTEC).

### BEYOND PIPES AND PUMPS

The University of Victoria's POLIS Project recently released the report *Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps: Top 10 Ways Communities Can Save Water and Money*. This guide suggests that water conservation and efficiency is the basis for urban water infrastructure. Decentralized technologies and local programs that are directed towards changing behavior should also be considered along with the current water supply systems. A copy of *Thinking Beyond Pipes and Pumps* is available for download at [www.waterdsm.org](http://www.waterdsm.org).

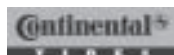
### GATINEAU 1<sup>ST</sup> WITH LIVE WEBCASTS

Gatineau is the first city in North America to launch live webcasts through technology developed by Great Britain's Public-i. Residents of Gatineau can follow the Plenary and Executive Committee meeting discussions. Presentations, reports, speaker profiles and online surveys are available through this system. Webcasts are available at [www.gatineau.ca](http://www.gatineau.ca).



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## Justice update...

Public safety is one of the uppermost concerns in the minds of Manitobans and there are a number of initiatives created to address this issue. This installment of “And Furthermore” checks in with two diverse programs falling under the umbrella of Manitoba Justice. The first aims to prevent crime by providing support to at-risk youth and helping them to make better choices. The second provides municipal first responders – the front-line workers facing danger every day – with the tools and training necessary to detect drug labs in our communities.

### A BEACON OF HOPE FOR MANITOBA YOUTH

The Fall 2006 issue of *The Leader* featured a special report on Justice, including an overview of provincial programs and funds. One of those funds is called ‘Lighthouses.’ This fund, part of the Neighbourhoods Alive! Strategy, was recently expanded.

#### UPDATE

Attorney General **Dave Chomiak** announced nine new Lighthouses sites on October 6, 2006, bringing to 47 the number of Lighthouses created since the government took office in 1999.

“Lighthouses locations have been a beacon of hope and a positive force in many communities in Manitoba,” said Chomiak. “We saw a record 100,000 visits by youth to Lighthouses sites over the past year, and I’m pleased to announce we are expanding the improved recreational opportunities Lighthouses make possible to even more locations.”

Lighthouses provides funding that helps support schools, friendship centres and other community facilities in offering a variety of recreational, educational or social after-hour activities organized by and for youth.

A recent independent study by Kaplan and Associates focused on putting a human face on the impact of the program by looking at the experiences of seven youths using two Lighthouses locations. The case studies found that before attending Lighthouses programs, many of the young people did not have affordable access to positive recreational activities, had rocky home lives and risk factors for potential criminal involvement, and had been involved in some illegal activities. They and their parents confirmed that positive changes followed their involvement in the programs.

“For the youth and families featured in this report, the program made a very real

and important difference in their lives,” the study concluded.

The nine new sites are:

- Abbalak Thunderswift Memorial School, Little Grand Rapids;
- La Barriere Crossings School, St. Norbert;
- NEEDS Inc. (Needs Centre for War Affected Families), Winnipeg;
- Ralph Brown Community Centre, Winnipeg;
- École Selkirk Junior High, Selkirk;
- Pauingassi First Nation, Pauingassi;
- Polson School, Winnipeg;
- Opaskwayak Cree Nation, The Pas; and
- Wellington School, Winnipeg.

Lighthouses sites are supported with \$1,000 in provincial funding per month, covering up to 50% of the cost of running a program. Programs must have other partners to provide funding or ‘in kind’ contributions, such as the use of a facility or equipment.

### TRAINING KEY TO CRYSTAL METH STRATEGY

Our coverage of the crystal meth issue began one year ago with our Winter 2006 story entitled “Crystal Meth: What’s Manitoba Doing?” We then summarized the Manitoba Meth Strategy in the Spring 2006 issue, and provided a further update in the Summer 2006 issue.

“For the youth and families featured in this report, the program made a very real and important difference in their lives.”

#### UPDATE

Attorney General **Dave Chomiak** and Healthy Living Minister **Kerri Irvin-Ross** announced on November 29 that Manitoba will expand its successful crystal meth training initiative to ensure front-line personnel in rural communities have the training and resources needed to detect labs and help those addicted to the drug.

The training allows front-line workers in municipalities to detect labs, recognize the hazards associated with this deadly drug and protect themselves when dealing with crystal meth. Nearly 600 first responders across Manitoba have received training on meth use and production since the training initiative was introduced last spring.

Chomiak said the program will be expanded to ensure more Manitoba municipalities are able to access a pioneering web-based training program offered by the Canadian Police Knowledge Network, a not-for-profit corporation that provides e-learning for police.

The minister said Manitoba Justice will secure additional training kits and ask municipalities to identify one or two front-line workers to receive training and co-ordinate information sharing within their communities. Manitoba Justice will provide additional course kits at no cost to municipalities.

The course offers detailed information on the characteristics of crystal meth, including symptoms and effects of use, methods of production, detection of labs and associated hazards.

Manitoba was the first province to make comprehensive training on crystal meth available to such a broad range of first responders, including police and provincial and municipal agencies. Front-line personnel can take the interactive training course from any Internet-connected computer.

“A comprehensive training initiative is a key component of Manitoba’s strategy to tackle crystal meth,” said Irvin-Ross. ♻️