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## New name, new mural for West End Resource Centre

By Mike Maunder

The “giant mouthful” of a name that used to be Daniel McIntyre St. Matthews Community Association has now become the more manageable “West End Resource Centre.”

And the colourful orange mural that used to highlight DMSMCA activities at 823 Ellice has been painted over in anticipation of a new mural to be painted by local artists, hopefully to be unveiled in the Fall.

“All of us got tired of the giant mouthful and we wanted a

shorter, easier name,” said board chair Deborah Spear, at an open house at the end of May reopening the centre after a three-month closure. “We’ll continue as we always have and, we hope, even stronger with new programming coming up.”

The new programming includes changing the drop-in hours from a daily drop-in to a Fridays-only drop-in, but

...Continues pg 4



Hortense Rabet, Deborah Spear and Jeff Sarmiento invite community ideas to replace the old DMSMCA mural at Ellice and Arlington. Photo Mike Maunder

## Newcomer Fair: A Hub of Support and Multicultural Celebration

By Oluwadara Babatope

Reuban Garang, director of Immigration Partnership Winnipeg, says that the Newcomer Welcome Fair isn’t just about celebrating Multiculturalism Day - it’s about making newcomers - refugees, and immigrants - feel like they are at home.

This year Multicultural Day falls on Saturday June 24, and the event will be held in

the afternoon at the Freighthouse field from noon to 4pm, and will feature family activities, music, and good food.

Since its inception in 2016, the Newcomer Fair has become an invaluable resource in Winnipeg, equipping newcomers with

...Continues pg 3

## Granddaughter carrying on Indigenous heritage



Ava Meconse (white blouse) is a grade six student in the Ojibwe Cree bilingual program at Isaac Brock School. (See pages 6-7)

Last month, she was with her Mom and aunts at Manito Ahbee for a special dance in memory of her grandfather, Joseph Meconse, a veteran who led many grand entries in his life. Ava’s mom (Renata) made a special tee-shirt “Portage Place First Nation” celebrating her father’s role in decolonizing Portage Place in 2016.

Photo Mike Maunder



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# FIRST WORD

## *The Sounds of Grenada* by Larry Strachan

**Composer gets feet tapping at world premiere**

By Terese Taylor

Larry Strachan remembers the first composition he wrote about the birthplace of his parents. He had been looking for a composition by another Black Canadian classical composer to add to an upcoming performance with a focus on Black History. At the time he couldn't find one. So he decided he would write his own.

His thoughts immediately took him to a foundational moment on the island of Grenada, in the eastern Caribbean, and the moment he learned the history of a site close to where his grandmother lived. "I was standing there and trying to process this incredible, terrible event," he says.

Strachan has written award-winning choral pieces, but this was the first orchestral composition he wrote for string instruments. *Lament for the Souls of the Sauteurs* is a piece that honours and commemorates the lives of 60 Indigenous Carib people who refused to be captured by the French, in 1651. When the slave trade was just starting to be established and enforced in Grenada, all 60 Caribs jumped to their death from the site where Strachan stood. It was a haunting realization for Strachan, a moment that illustrated the depths of the horrors of the slave trade and its far-reaching effects.

After premiering the "poetic and mournful" piece at a Black History concert, and after Strachan was asked to be a guest conductor for the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra (MCO), the MCO asked to perform Strachan's *Lament* with another set of contemporary compositions in March 2021. Then the MCO asked Strachan if he would compose another piece.

Strachan, who lives in Wolseley, would again return to memories of visits to see his family in Grenada, but this time it would focus on the excitement that surrounds its biggest annual festival. That includes guns firing off to start the J'Ouvert parade at 4am in the morning, the latest soca songs blasting across the island, and the hustle and bustle of movement as the festival gets underway. A thrilling experience, he says, is just riding the bus through the capital city's downtown that has one road that is so steep it's famous, and a ride he has never forgotten.

"Taking the bus is the best. It's just insane. The roads are so mountainous, drivers have to honk all the time to let people know you are coming around the bend; which is every two seconds. The music is blaring, the conversations are hysterical. "Stop here! Stop here!"

To this day, Strachan and his sister still remember the catchy snippets of songs that stuck in their heads from festivals when they were young, especially one from a very young girl who had a hit song.

"I wanted to take the spirit of that song," he says, "I wanted to really make it about Grenada, about my parents experience, when it was celebrated before lent."

Strachan's wife Zilla has family in Trinidad, and the rivalry between Caribbean countries is something they have a lot of fun with. Trinidad is the home to the Caribbean's largest carnival, and other countries have changed the dates of their celebrations. Grenada's now nicknamed "Spicemas" is now celebrated over two weeks in August.

"But we have the better beaches," laughs Strachan. Grenada is known as the Spice Island, and Strachan also remembers the amazing fruit that was in abundance everywhere. It seemed to him that food and flavour existed everywhere they went, just an arms' reach away.

Strachan has been able to experience the unique carnival customs from different regions - such as the steel drums on some islands, but brass bands on others. In his piece he made sure to include musical references to the Jab Jab, a character celebrated every year that highlights the grassroots resistance against slavery. Although there are versions of this character and its legends across the region, says Strachan, "it is the most prevalent in Grenada."

In a first for the MCO, (and to the delight of Strachan's mother), conductor Anne Manson played a whistle to symbolize the leader of the bands who play music and direct dancers who compete for recognition in each year's carnival parades. "You will find this piece very joyful," announced Manson at the world premiere in May.

In 2005 Strachan founded Orchestra without Borders, as well as MUSAIC Chamber Orchestra to bring the works of composers of colour, women, and underrepresented communities to audiences. The most recent Black History month concert featured pieces about the Maroons, communities of escaped enslaved Africans and Indigenous people



**Conductor, and composer Larry Strachan introduces his new piece to the audience. "J'Ouvert Morning's" world premiere was performed by the Manitoba Chamber Orchestra in May. Anne Manson conducts, below.**

Photos Matt Duboff



who created free communities and fought against slavery, and a new piece written about the Tulsa Massacre in 1921. It also included a composition by the first woman symphony conductor in Europe in almost half a century (who is of Jamaican heritage), and Jenny Pena, a Cuban composer, along with African American, and African composers.

Strachan continues to discover both new and old composers whose works are beautiful and meaningful. Scott Joplin composed classical works that were lost in the early 1900s, like some of the works by Joseph de Bologne. He was renowned in France, and across Europe in the 1700s - a symphony composer and conductor from the Caribbean island of Guadeloupe - as shown in the recent movie *Chevalier*.

Whether conducting, which Strachan hopes to do much more of, composing, or promoting important composers and musicians, he holds onto the understanding of the importance of music: its power to commemorate and honour life, and in that power, its' hope.

# HAPPY FACES

## NEWCOMER FAIR cont'd from page 1...



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The mission of The Leaf is to serve the residence of Winnipeg's Wolseley and West Broadway neighbourhood by providing a free forum for the expression of relevant news and opinion,

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The Leaf receives funding from the Local Journalism Initiative

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the information and ideas they need to settle in more easily. "What might take them a month to learn on their own, they can learn here in a day," says Garang. The event helps them establish crucial connections for their integration into the community. "You have people from diverse places like Somalia, Columbia, and Japan. It's truly a global stage. Our goal is not merely to bring together a single community but to create a gathering of individuals from various backgrounds," he adds.

One of the key objectives of the event is to foster relationships between newcomers and Winnipeg's Indigenous community. The fair facilitates interactions and bridges the gap between these two vital groups through various activities, such as networking sessions, and sharing cultural knowledge.

Settlement service organizations and staff from different city departments, such as libraries and recreation service will be on hand to speak with people as well as the Mayor and city councillors

"It's a big event," says Garang. "We've fed more than a thousand people."

"There is nothing better than when a community works together."



Happy faces from 2016 Newcomer Fair. Photos provided



Talia Syrie and long time host Eileen posed for a quick photo on the last day of the Tallest Poppy's open dining room service. Syrie opened the restaurant in Winnipeg's north end and moved into West Broadway on Sherbrook 9 years ago. The restaurant hosted numerous arts events, drag brunches and a local artists' residency program. The restaurant will remain open for take out, delivery, or catering, and can be booked for special events. Syrie posted to the West Broadway community "You have been welcoming generous and funny and weird and kind and fierce and we love you."

Virginia Maracle poses with the Poppy's welcome bear.

Photos by Terese Taylor





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# ENVIRONMENT

## NEW NAME, NEW MURAL *cont'd from page*

replacing the other days with more targeted programming: capacity-building workshops for men and women; a seniors' group; and more youth programming, including lunch-hour drop-ins and after school programming.

Other DMSMCA (Oops, sorry) Other West End Resource Centre programs remain much as before – employment readiness programs, the good food bag

program, Indigenous cultural programming, yardworks, community gardens, crochet club, chess club, housing fix-up grants, the community small grants program, and more.

Hortense Rabet, who took over as executive director a year and a half ago, said the name change has been in the works for several years. "When I became executive director I said I'd step back and take a look at what was happening

at the centre," she explained. That process included looking at programming that had died during Covid and determining what should be brought back. A spate of vandalism also necessitated closing the centre for repairs. In the three-month break and reset, Rabet and longtime staff-member Jeff Sarmiento put their heads together with board members and considered what people in the neighbourhood needed the most.

Sarmiento oversees most of the programs. In the last three

years old staff have left and have now been replaced by a full slate of five new staff and seven part-time staff. The physical layout inside the centre has been changed. And the programming has become more targeted.

"We wanted more youth, family and seniors programming," said Sarmiento. "Our employment programs have expanded to include people on EIA with criminal records. We're offering specific workshops for the needs in the community, like the capacity-building programs. We're

looking forward to getting more people into the centre to access our services and programs."

The best way to find out what's going on is to visit the Resource Centre at 823 Ellice during business hours – or preferably in drop-in hours, Fridays, 1-5pm. The new website is still under construction. In the meantime you can phone 204-202-6932, or email: [info@westendresopurcecentre.org](mailto:info@westendresopurcecentre.org) or check out their Facebook page.

## We need to prevent spread of zebra mussels in our lakes

By Student Reporter Hana Henderson

If you have ever been to Lake Winnipeg you have probably seen the mounds of zebra mussels that are on the beach. Zebra mussels are a small bivalve mollusk from the Black and Caspian Sea. Zebra mussels are an invasive species, which means that they are not indigenous to Canada. Zebra mussels get spread by traveling on a boat that has been in an infected area and transported to another body of water.

Zebra mussels do a lot more than cut your feet and make beaches stink, they actually have a big impact on Lake Winnipeg's ecosystem. Zebra mussels are filter feeders that consume both vital nutrients and algae. When these are depleted there can be an increase in toxic algae blooms. With an increase in toxic algae, fish and other aquatic species that depend on healthy algae lose their food supply. It is also physically harmful to humans as it can cause us to get sick if ingested.

Zebra mussels make the water really clear. This may seem like a positive effect but in reality that means the sun is reaching deeper parts of the lake and is changing the way the ecosystem works. New plant life will start to form at increased depths and aquatic animals that need the dark will be forced to relocate

or they will struggle to survive.

Zebra mussels in Lake Winnipeg are also affecting the downstream waters. Female zebra mussels can give birth to at least 1 million villagers or baby zebra mussels. The villagers float in the water and follow the current downstream. This will eventually bring them to the Nelson River. This has a significant impact as they can clog intake pipes and other infrastructure, which can impact the function of the dam. Villagers can also travel on fish upstream, which can affect upstream bodies of water.

You might be wondering what you can do to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels? Unfortunately, once they are present in a body of water, it

is very difficult to get rid of them, but we can stop spreading them. Due to the fact that they are primarily spread on boats it is important that boat owners take the proper precautions prior to transporting them. Boats need to be cleaned with hot water that is above 40 degrees celsius and all of the water has to be drained. Lastly, boats should also be left to dry in the sun for at least 5 days.

On a personal note, I have been visiting Lake Winnipeg ever since I was born. Sadly, over the years I have witnessed the quality of the lake deteriorate due to the invasion of Zebra Mussels. Unfortunately, there is not a lot we can do right now to help Lake Winnipeg recover but we can help prevent them from spreading into other bodies of water.



Mounds of mussels on Lake Winnipeg beach. Photo Hana Henderson

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The 1919 Winnipeg General Strike - Brookside Cemetery Walking tour was a 2019 commemorative project on the centenary of the general strike

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# RETROFITS

## Non-profit helping with 'how-to guides' with energy upgrades

By Terese Taylor

Laura Tyler knows that most people would jump at the chance to cut their heating bills in half. She also knows that many people want to do whatever they can to save the planet.

As the Executive Director of Sustainable Building Manitoba (SBM), a non-profit association made up of builders, architects and people involved in the construction trades, Tyler is applauding a city of Winnipeg motion to retrofit city buildings to drop their heating bills and Carbon Tax burden. It's the first time the city has taken steps to address the issues surrounding CO2 emissions in its buildings, one of the primary contributors to Manitoba's rising CO2 levels.

It is a small step that will have big impacts, she says.

The bill for the city's retrofits is budgeted at \$80 million, but the changes will bring a big drop in annual heating bills once the retrofits are completed that will far surpass its original cost.

It's a similar situation for individual homeowners, says Tyler. Energy retrofits cost money upfront - but once they are completed a home's energy bill will be much lower. But as things currently stand, homeowners in Winnipeg are being left on their own to figure out how to reduce their energy use such as getting geothermal systems installed.

Curtis Hull, director of the Climate Change Connection, and contributing author to the

Road to Resilience Report, has been pushing for the creation of a geothermal utility that would bring hook-ups to people's homes and would operate innovative programs like Manitoba Hydro has over the years. An example is a program Manitoba Hydro ran in the late 90s to facilitate the purchase of more energy efficient furnaces by homeowners, who paid back the purchase at a rate of \$20 a month.

The Community Energy Investment Roadmap, or CEIR report, commissioned by the city of Winnipeg calculated that the cost of heating a residential home would drop by 56% after retrofits. The best way to go about setting that up, in the Manitoba context, is something that very few people have any knowledge of, says Tyler, and she worries that will mean that change will not come fast enough.

SBM is in the early stages of developing guides to help homeowners figure out how to retrofit their homes to use less energy and upgrade to heating systems that don't use natural gas.

"If you are doing something in your home, get in touch, we want to hear about it," invites Tyler. The Guides will cover the many steps homeowners may need to take. "When do you need a permit? How long do you have to wait for that permit? When you are hiring a contractor, what is the training that they need to have?" she asks.



Laura Tyler says she knows that Winnipeggers want to retrofit their homes and access incentives to make their homes more energy efficient.

SBM's pilot project is taking their cues from the province of British Columbia, who Tyler calls "lightyears ahead" in inspiring energy efficiency upgrades.

"Right now the Province of Manitoba is deciding on the standard of energy efficiency when we adopt new building codes. The standards are set up as Tiers and follows the direction of British Columbia who are the current gold standard in Canada for energy efficiency building," she says.

"We have a lot of good lessons to borrow from BC. In

BC there is a clear place to send your comments and complaints. And to get answers... where do you share some of the insights you've gained in Manitoba?" she asks.

SBM's guides will be unique to Manitoba's climate, says Tyler, who hopes that this will give more people the

opportunity to learn and take action.

To participate or learn more, Tyler asks people to follow Sustainable Building Manitoba on the socials or email info@ sustainablebuildingmanitoba.ca

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**Ojibwe teacher Alma Bernier uses Ojibwe teachings of the 13 moons on the turtle's back.**



## ***Community, Culture and Worldview: Woven into the structure of Cree and Ojibwe classes***

**Story and photos  
by Mike Maunder**

Students are learning much more than just another language in the Ojibwe-Cree bilingual program at Isaac Brock School – they’re entering a world of stories and images and community and culture that’s woven into the very structure of those languages.

For instance, as part of the science curriculum, elementary-aged kids in Manitoba are taught about the four seasons. In Ojibwe/Cree classes the children learn the four seasons, but they learn them as part of the traditional medicine wheel – the great circle of life, the four seasons, the four directions, the

animals connected with each direction, and much more.

“The Manitoba curriculum lays out maths, science and all the outcomes,” explains principal Chris Goring, “And these teachers are showing how school can enhance a basic curriculum and build culture

and community in language classes.”

“This is the season of Spring,” Cree teacher Lorraine George explained. “It’s new life, leaves, sun, birds coming home. But it’s also the Eastern direction, where the sun rises, every new day of the year. And it’s the direction of children, like these children in Grades 1-3.”

As a teacher, she has no favourites, but the grade 1-3 Cree class is her class, and it’s

hard to hide her love of these twenty-or-so kids. “They pick up the language like sponges,” she said.

Teacher Alma Bernier similarly teaches the grades 1-3 class in Ojibwe. She has built much of the Ojibwe curriculum around the 13 moons each year. One recent science activity was monitoring the phases of the moon.

June is Bashkinawe Giizis –egg-hatching moon. Among

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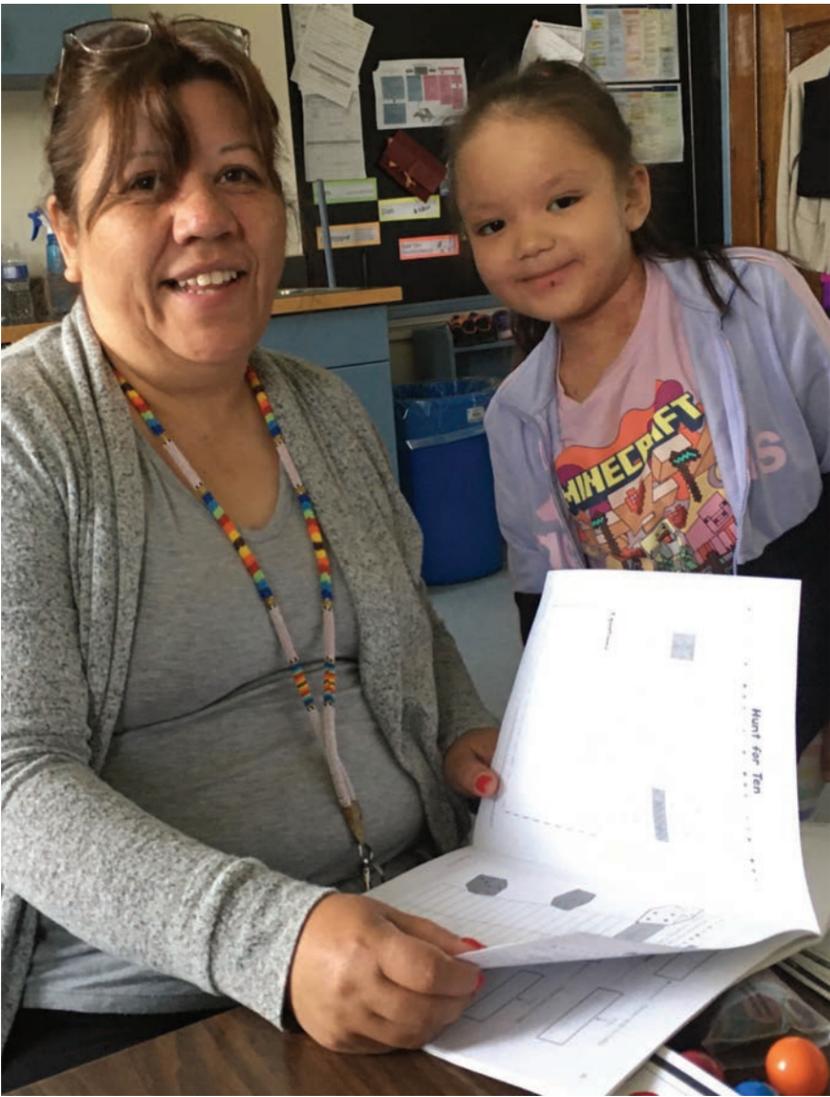
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**Grade six Cree student Bella Balan with her mom in front of Isaac Brock. Photo provided**

# LANGUAGE BACK



activities will be a feast celebrating the new season, planting the raised garden boxes in front of the school, and celebrating the community.

Celebrating the Indigenous community comes naturally to Grade Six student Ava Meconse, who spends part of every summer powwow dancing and connecting with a family of strong Ojibwe roots. Ava's mother, Renata, enrolled her in kindergarten when the Isaac Brock program began six years ago, even though they lived in St. Vital. "I drove her to school for several years but now we've found a home in the West End," she explained. (Students outside Winnipeg school division can attend, but transportation is not provided.)

"It's so much more than language," explained Renata. "Ava learning her language is helping build our family connections. It's connected us to resources in the Indigenous community and resources in the West End; parents and teachers are connected in our Facebook group."

Wolseley mom, Amber Balan, enrolled daughter Bella six years ago to reconnect her with the Metis roots she feels have been lost for three generations. Amber's great-grandparents were the last to speak a mix of French and English, Cree and Ojibwe. Since she started at Isaac Brock, Bella and her family are reconnecting with their roots at Fisher River First Nation.

Bella likes lots of things about the Cree program and Isaac Brock: "I like my teachers," she says; she liked

performing in the APTN series, 7th Gen and singing "O Canada" in Cree with the school choir at Jets and Moose games; and she likes that McDonalds and Taco Bell are so close to the school at lunchtime.

Amber is most impressed by the way the program has grounded her daughter. "She's very respectful; she has learned a lot of spirituality through the stories and abides by the Seven Sacred Teachings," she explained. (The Seven Teachings: wisdom, love, respect, bravery, honesty, humility and truth.)

She also believes there's an indefinable way in which the language itself seems to ground her. "It gets lost in translation," she said, "But the language is animate and filled with spirit. When you say things in Cree, they have life and connection with you."

Perhaps what she's feeling is connected to the worldview interwoven into the languages. At some point, (probably not in elementary school) Bella will take science classes explaining the Big Bang and the search for a unified field theory. But, just as meaningful and in many ways far more grounding, she has already absorbed the traditional stories of Turtle Island's creation, all the animals assisting in the creation of humankind, and humankind's responsibility to the earth around us, "All My Relations."

About a third of the students at Isaac Brock School –107 kids from kindergarten to grade six—are in the Ojibwe / Cree program. Grade seven will start next year. New students are accepted in kindergarten and grade one.

**(Clockwise, from upper left) Grade One student Braelyn with Cree teacher Lorraine George. / Grade 1 to 3 students Abel, Mariah, Natasha and Kaydence with their drawings showing the Ojibway creation story. / Grade 1-3 kids show Alma Bernier the weeds they're pulling from the garden beds as they prepare for planting.**

The school is not developing its unique curriculum in a vacuum – they have borrowed from Winnipeg School Division's two Indigenous schools, Niji

Mahkwa and Children of the Earth.

Along with these two schools, the Ojibwe and Cree language program at Isaac Brock is building a strong

model of what reconciliation looks like.

"The legacy I want to leave for these kids is to have their language back," explains teacher Lorraine George. "I hear kids from all kinds of

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# ACTIVISTS

## 2SLGBTQIA+ athletes looking to level the playing field

By Oluwadara Babatope

"I would not be here—I know for me, sports has taken me from the darkest moments in my life, and that is a shared experience for many people," explained Jesse Jordan at the 2023 Access and Inclusion to Sport conference in May.

Jordan, a volunteer at Out There Winnipeg and creator of Umbrella Boxing, was joined by Dene Guillas of the Rainbow Resource Centre. Talking about inclusion in sport for the 2SLGBTQIA+ community is a conversation that needs to take centre stage, Guillas said.

They stressed the benefits of participating in sport for all, and explained several ways that coaches and organizations can make teams, players, and organizations aware of the importance of being inclusive.

Jordan suggested that when meeting new people, asking for their pronouns first is a way to avoid assumptions that can be hurtful. Jordan (who uses "they" as pronoun) explained that practicing asking, and apologizing to individuals is a great way to respect their identity.

Using gender-neutral language is also an inclusive way to address any diverse group of people, said Guillas. They explained new vocabulary generally suitable for family members: such as "nibling," a non-gender term for a niece or nephew, "pibling," for an aunt or uncle, and sibling.

"As humans, we tend to be more reactive than proactive," Guillas remarked, imploring everyone to be more encouraging as adults. They

commended the increase in allyship but said more action and standing up to inequity are needed in these spaces.

Guillas and Jordan both said that homophobia and discriminatory language are still faced by the community.

Jordan recalled how their positive experiences with sports changed and moved them into a much-improved state of mind. They explain that one does not need to generalize people's gender identity and that "no one likes to feel like an 'other'."

Guillas said they feel "a little safer" when they see rainbow flags around and urges sports organizations to host updated information, share new policies, and consult other organizations to assist people



Jesse Jordan and Dene Guillas Photo provided

from the 2SLGBTQIA+ community. They said the 2SLGBTQIA+ flag is constantly updated, citing the addition of a black section of the flag to represent People of Color and a pink section, which later changed in the printing process.

"A lot of work needs to be done" to make spaces for 2SLGBTQIA+ athletes safe, said Guillas. "To say "everyone is welcome" is a good approach. To

express and show that "no matter your race, religion, attraction or gender identity, you are welcome" is even better."

Some of the associations that are great social & sport-based groups enabling 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals to be represented include Umbrella Boxing and Gaymers Winnipeg.

## Anti-police activists oppose games

By Daniel McIntyre-Ridd  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

The community group Winnipeg Police Cause Harm (WPCH) recently held a workshop where representatives presented information about how to make communities safer with less police presence. Noah Kaldeway, a member of WPCH believes many of the methods

are centered around building stronger communities.

"The most effective way to deal with a crisis is to prevent it," Kaldeway said. "We don't want a crisis to happen, so when you're getting to know your neighbors and building relationships, a stronger community is going to be safer

because people trust one another.

"People have community connections to call on [that provide] experience and knowledge to call on that you might not have on your own," Kaldeway said. "So it avoids things like mental health crises... But it also helps people feel like in the event of a crisis they'll have other people to bring in and say, 'you don't have to deal with this by yourself.'"

Another approach Kaldeway and WPCH encourage for community building is for people who come from more privileged communities to know what alternatives to calling the police there are in situations where they may usually do so.

Kaldeway and WPCH recommend familiarizing oneself with different phone numbers and community groups anyone can reach out to. Most of these services can be found through 211, Manitoba's website, or by phoning 211.

When speaking about alternatives to policing as a whole, many of WPCH's standpoint is abolitionist by nature. However, in the meantime, their work attempts to provide community safety alternatives for Winnipeg that, if properly embraced and/or funded, would alleviate some of the strain on the current landscape the police find themselves in. Of course, in WPCH's ideal future the Winnipeg Police wouldn't exist as it does now.

Members of WPCH are also campaigning against the World Police and Fire Games taking place in Winnipeg in late July and early August. With over 8,500 law enforcement officers and firefighters from more than 50 countries, the organization claims the Olympic-style competition will be the biggest sporting event ever held in Manitoba.

However, the games will have a heavy presence in downtown Winnipeg, and will rely heavily on government funding and taxpayer's money, something that WPCH member James Wilt, is not looking forward to.

According to Wilt, estimates show the games will cost 17 million dollars, more than half of which will be provided by public government funding. To Wilt and other Winnipeggers, that 10 million dollars would be more valuable going towards "things that actually benefit Winnipeggers."

Wilt and WPCH also make it clear that they have nothing against firefighters having fun, their issue lies with the law enforcement institutions and the public money being spent.



James Wilt posters against games Photo provided

"Our concerns are with what seems to be the real institutional emphasis on police and these other carceral organizations," Wilt said. "Just in terms of who is going to be here and who is benefiting from this public funding."

While the organizing body of the games has reached out to WPCH for what they described as an attempt for open dialogue, Wilt says that this approach is more about neutralization rather than genuinely hearing Winnipeggers' concerns with the games.

"We don't really see an opportunity for dialogue," said Wilt. "What we would expect from that is basically an attempt to corral us into less disruptive opposition."

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# SECOND LAST WORD



By Paul Moist

## The Business of Hockey

S ometime this month, the NHL season will come to an end with the presentation of the Stanley Cup. For the 30th consecutive season, the winning team will be a U.S. based franchise.

While on-ice performance of the seven Canadian-based teams spawns much debate, so too does the business of hockey, and indeed the business of North American sports in general.

It's increasingly a game of numbers and some of these are of the eye-popping variety. In the football world, the NFL's Washington Commanders were recently sold for a record US \$6.05 billion. The current owner bought the team in 1999 for \$750 million, not a bad return on his original investment.

According to reports, the new ownership group's priority is to build a new stadium to

replace the current facility which was built just 26 years ago!

Calgary's NHL team, the Flames, have secured civic and provincial support in the hundreds of millions to build a new arena to replace the Saddledome, built for the 1988 Winter Olympics.

Professional sports franchises in North America regularly argue with straight faces that facilities that are 40 years old no longer meet their needs. More surprising is the fact that many communities capitulate to these tactics, but not always.

Residents of Tempe Arizona last month rejected three plebiscite questions related to the construction of a \$2.1 billion entertainment district on a 46-acre tract of land. This was to be a new home for the former Winnipeg Jets 1.0, the Arizona Coyotes.

The future of the franchise in Arizona is again up in the air, a regular occurrence since the team left Winnipeg in 1996.

The current owners may well be in an enviable position with an NHL franchise for sale that other want. Houston, Atlanta, Kansas City, Salt Lake City and Quebec City are all rumoured to be interested in an NHL franchise, and prices here are rising as well.

The Ottawa Senators team is on the cusp of being sold to a new ownership group, which includes entertainer, Snoop Dog, and the price tag is in the US \$1 billion range. About a ten-fold increase from the amount paid for the franchise in 1990.

For some context, consider that the Jets 2.0 were purchased for \$170 million in 2011, and the newest NHL franchise, the two-year old Seattle Kraken, paid a franchise fee of \$650 million.

Professional hockey is big business as indeed are all four leagues that dominate the North American sports landscape. Owners have figured out the complex business model of privatizing profits and socializing the front-end investment costs associated with arenas and stadiums.

These debates are often full of emotion driven tactics that sometimes succeed. At the same time the debates always generate community frustration and divisions.

Consider the current Winnipeg Jets 'Forever Winnipeg' season ticket campaign. Its goal is to sell 3000 season tickets. The use of video footage of the Jets 1.0 final season in Winnipeg with the caption, 'Is Winnipeg an NHL city?', left a bitter taste in many mouths.

One fan with season tickets since 2011, called the campaign,

'...rather tone deaf.' Another fan on twitter called the campaign, 'Absolutely cringeworthy', and 'depressing garbage'.

I don't question the Jets owner's commitment to Winnipeg, they have demonstrated this over many years. Perhaps the current campaign is just a marketing ploy gone wrong?

What is clear is that there exists no bottomless well of public support for an entertainment product that is well beyond the reach of many citizens.

The business of professional sports relies upon public support and trust. Marketing campaigns that are perceived by many as threatening are beyond tone-deaf, they are wrong, and should be abandoned.



By Leah Gazan,  
MP for Winnipeg Centre

## A Guaranteed Livable Basic Income to Help Save Public Healthcare

I n the face of the growing affordability crisis, my Bill C-223, An act to develop a national framework for a guaranteed livable basic income (GLBI), has never been more vital. Not only would a GLBI pull millions of people out of poverty, but it has the potential to help save public healthcare in Canada.

Income inequality is a public health issue. Research has shown that the social determinants of health—the non-medical social conditions that impact health—account for up to 30-55% of all health outcomes. Income inequality and poverty impact a broad range of social determinants, including access to education, employment and job security, food security, housing and basic amenities, early childhood development, and social inclusion.

For example, inadequate income may mean that you live in substandard housing, have insufficient access to nutritional food, or poor access to preventative healthcare. Living in poverty is linked to higher rates of disease, mental health distress, addictions, physical disability, and a shorter lifespan. People in poverty

continue to have higher healthcare costs later in life, locking many into cycles of poverty.

Research has shown that you are more likely to live in poverty if you are a woman, have a disability, are racialized or are 2SLGBTQ+. It is no coincidence that people with these identities are more likely to experience adverse health outcomes. Currently, 1 in 4 children in Canada live in poverty. Not only are children living in poverty at a higher risk of poor physical and mental health outcomes, but these outcomes often persist into adulthood, even if the poverty is remediated later in life.

The power of GLBI to reduce the social harms caused by poverty was illustrated by the Dauphin Basic Income Pilot during the 1970s in Manitoba, known as "Mincome". Some of the outcomes from that initiative include a decrease in hospitalizations, a rise in the number of young people completing high school and improvements in mental health.

Poverty is a policy failure that puts undue stress on our healthcare system and is estimated to cost billions of

public dollars annually on reactive health and emergency services. With the COVID-19 pandemic leaving hospitals across Canada in crisis, a GLBI has the potential to take significant and lasting strain off of the system, allowing healthcare in Canada to recover and rebuild. In the long term this could mean expanding preventative care services, investing in new treatments, and developing research.

Universal healthcare is a pillar of a just society. However, governments across Canada are currently exploiting the pandemic to push through privatization. This move is dangerous, it is destructive, and it is morally wrong. We cannot concede to corporate interests over public wellbeing. We must be steadfast in affirming that not only is healthcare a right, but it is our social responsibility to eradicate poverty in the name of universal access to health and wellbeing.

Guaranteed income supplements are the most effective poverty elimination strategy, directly redistributing wealth and power. 2020 saw the largest reduction in childhood poverty ever in Canada because of the Canada

Emergency Response Benefit. Recent clawbacks and the elimination of that guaranteed income benefit risk rolling back this progress while corporations and billionaires continue to hoard the country's wealth.

Canada is one of the richest countries in the world but our taxation system is set up to benefit the ultra-rich,

robbing people of the robust social support systems necessary to build thriving communities. There is no reason why anyone's living conditions in this country should be so dire that it makes them sick. A GLBI will pull millions out of poverty and dramatically reduce the negative public health impacts of poverty.

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# COMMUNITY

## Old Grace Co-op members contribute to the Madison's improvements

By Oluwadara Babatope

When Carl von Baeyer heard the stories about the old boiler in the Madison - a supported residence across the street, - Old Grace Housing Co-op member von Baeyer decided to send out an email.

"We've been doing band aid solution fixes for some years now, at significant cost," says Darren Nodrick, director of development for Siloam Mission. Last year the boiler quit three times. "We're at the point now where, if that boiler fails in the winter, it could endanger the 85 residents that live here."

Siloam Mission acquired the building - a former nurses' residence for women who worked at the original Grace Hospital located across the street, in 2011. Recently, a campaign was launched to raise money replace the boiler - the original that was installed when building was first built in the 1940s - as well as for the

installation of air conditioning, and renovation of flooring, lighting, and furniture.

"I thought Old Grace members might like to lend a hand in that campaign, so I emailed an invitation to contribute. Individuals stepped up, and soon von Baeyer had a check for almost \$1500 to donate to Siloam's campaign.

As a long-term supportive living environment, The Madison is a place where many residents choose to spend the rest of their lives. Seniors, who make up about half of the residents, benefit from access to home care services. Moreover, the close-knit community within the facility often results in lifelong friendships, with residents supporting one another like family.

While some individuals find solace at The Madison for only a few years as they work towards greater independence,

the shelter remains a crucial stepping stone in their journey, explains Nodrick.

The campaign has received significant donations from the Bueller Family Foundation, the City of Winnipeg and End Homelessness Winnipeg. "But it's really nice that neighbours across the street are making a donation.. every little bit is significant," says Nodrick. "It has that extra meaning when its from across the street...I hear lots of friendly stories about the people (at the co-op).

"We couldn't operate as an organization, do what we do without support like that.

Wolseley is such a unique neighbourhood within Winnipeg." Its very meaningful. We are very grateful."

To donate, visit [siloam.ca](http://siloam.ca) or contact Darren Nordrick at [darren.nordrick@siloam.ca](mailto:darren.nordrick@siloam.ca)



Carl von Baeyer hands a cheque to Darren Nodrick, director of development, and Caedmon Malowany, Communications Supervisor, of Siloam Mission Photo Terese Taylor

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# LAST WORD



Scenes from past Art City extravaganzas with Eddie Ayoub (above) as ringmaster. Photos provided

## Art City parade to celebrate 25 years!

By Amanda Emms  
Local Journalism Initiative Reporter

From giant parade floats to banners and costumes, everything in the annual Art City parade is dreamed up by community participants of all ages. This year's parade takes place Saturday, June 24, and will celebrate Art City's 25th year of providing accessible, innovative and free art programming for everyone.

"It teaches you that even the tiniest concept drawing can end up being a big project that everyone else can work on together and then present to the community," said Eddie Ayoub, Artistic Director.

"And I've seen that really build moral and strengthen self-esteem among the participants. Everyone from a tiny child to a senior citizen can be seen and heard this way."

Community members are invited to gather at 1:00 p.m. behind Art City and the Broadway Neighbourhood centre on 185 Young Street. The hour-long parade will start winding through West Broadway at 2:00 p.m. There will be a concert, entertainment and refreshments back at the park by 3:00 p.m.

Founded in 1998 by artist Wanda Koop, Art City has a long history of bringing the creative spirit into the streets. In notes submitted to a conference last summer, Ayoub and Josh Ruth, Managing Director, wrote, "Koop led youth in unauthorized interventions on boarded up houses and buildings in their West Broadway neighbourhood. These actions were called 'night walks,' as murals were installed under the cover of night."

When Art City established as a brick-and-mortar headquarters, it became one of the first Canadian organizations of its kind. More artists got involved, and the

opportunities to provide barrier-free programming with community members grew.

The first day Gabrielle Funk, Managerial Assistant, began working at Art City was a parade day. She got to pull a giant monarch butterfly float and said she felt instantly accepted.

"I have a lot of really great memories associated with the parade that are pretty formative as far as my sense of community in West Broadway."

Funk is an artist and started as a volunteer. When she move to the neighbourhood, it was through the parade that she learned about Art City. "I believe it was the whale parade. Yeah, it was just the most cutest thing you've ever seen," said Funk.

"Just a bunch of people and kids and families walking by in costumes and these like whale and fish floats. Like no advertising, it's not for anything other than just to celebrate community. Like without context, encountering it on the street was just incredibly magical."

Art City celebrated its official anniversary on Thursday, June 1. The community was invited down to the studio to attend Art City's annual general meeting and 25th birthday party which included party hat crafts and refreshments.

Ayoub said Art City is always trying to improve the building to make it a more welcoming and accessible space. The bike sculpture has temporarily been taken down to repair a leaky roof and the exterior of the building will be getting a fresh coat of paint.

There is no registration to take part in the parade on Saturday, June 24, and people are welcome to bring

their own costume and floats. Art City will also be handing out signs and props to anyone looking to join in.

"If you have ever had engagement with Art City or it's your first time, everyone is still welcome. We want to see new faces and familiar faces and everyone is always warmly received," said Ayoub.



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