

2003 – 2006

REGINA COMMUNITY PLAN

***Prepared for the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative
Committee***

by

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 1999 the Government of Canada initiated the “National Homelessness Initiative” (NHI) a three-year strategy to combat homelessness across Canada. The Mayor of Regina appointed a 13-member Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative committee (SCPI), to oversee development and implementation of the community plan. The first Community Plan had 5 crucial priority areas for funding under SCPI: stabilization shelter, youth at risk, small cap projects, outreach services and preventive services. Over 3 years 4.2 million dollars in federal funding was allocated to various community service providers in Regina.

Recently the Government of Canada announced a further three-year funding (2003 – 2006) initiative. There is 3.45 million dollars in federal funding available in Regina over the three-year period. As a result the Regina SCPI committee initiated a community consultation process to update the community plan. The planning process included the following: The SCPI committee undertook an internal review of the original initiative. This was followed up by a community consultation. A consultant was hired to complete a document review, update the community assets and gaps file, hold a series of focus groups with the community, have interviews with people experiencing homelessness, and develop the updated community plan.

Ten documents relating to homelessness or other social problems in the City of Regina were reviewed and synthesized, and common themes explored. A community consultation was held June 25, 2003. Some 64 people representing community organizations, Aboriginal peoples, business, and federal, provincial and municipal governments explored community assets and gaps and suggested priorities for the updated plan. Four focus groups were held to further explore and prioritize the recommendations from the community consultation. Those invited to participate represented Aboriginal peoples, community based organizations, youth at risk, offenders, people with mental health and physical disabilities, and business. In total 33 people took part in the focus groups. In addition interviews were held with five people who had experienced homelessness. A number of common themes were noted:

- Individuals and organizations need long-term core funding and income security.
- Housing alone will not solve the problem of homelessness. Supportive programming and safe shelter go hand-in-hand.
- Long-term transitional and preventive services that are individualized for the needs of the person/family are essential to successful interventions.
- Housing options from safe houses to shelters, to transitional housing, to social and affordable housing options are needed.
- Capacity building and collaboration on an individual, agency, government and community-wide basis are essential. It will take the whole community to solve the problem of homelessness.

The SCPI committee used the results of the documentation review, community consultation, focus groups and interviews to develop the 2003-2006 Community Plan. The plan has 2 strategic objectives:

1. “Building Community” through improved collaboration and capacity building and
2. Enhancing the “Circles of Support” in Regina.

Each objective has priorities for action. A number of recommendations were made to the community at large. These are discussed in the next section.

The 2003 – 2006 Regina Community Plan

Following the intensive consultation with the community, the Community Plan was developed. A number of issues arising out of the various meetings with the community were beyond the scope of the SCPI Committee's Terms of Reference. While they cannot be included as priorities for action by this committee, the committee wanted to recognize those concerns. The following are recommendations to the community at large for reducing systemic barriers affecting the community in its work to reduce homelessness.

Recommendations:

- Examine ways to provide long-term core-funding for programs and services that address homelessness issues.
- Develop a social/health plan for the city. An example of this type of program is "Healthy Cities", which has been adopted worldwide. Some Canadian communities have implemented local Quality of Life and community sustainability initiatives with similar elements. A social/health plan provides a venue for addressing the root causes of social problems such as homelessness.
- Update income security program allowances to reflect the current shelter and food costs in Regina.
- Provide rigorous enforcement of property maintenance bylaws and public health regulations, with positive incentives provided for those landlords who provide safe housing.
- Review social and affordable housing availability, with priority given to growth in rental accommodation. The Centenary Affordable Housing Program (CAHP) has provided a catalyst for some new affordable housing development, but the demand has been developing for many years and many more affordable units are needed.
- Facilitate communication between Aboriginal peoples, governments and community based organizations so that partnerships can be developed and issues of governance addressed.

The 2003 – 2006 Community Plan is divided into Strategic Objectives and Priorities for Action. The following is the 2003-2006 Community Plan.

ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS

Clear definitions for all areas of housing and program descriptions are needed in the community. A number of organizations were concerned that they had found that definitions kept changing, with their proposal being refused, based on previously unknown definitions.

Build measurement capabilities into the committee work and projects funded. Proposals should indicate how success will be measured. The committee may want to explore setting its own work up in a "logic model", to facilitate evaluation. Another option could be to use Goal Attainment Scaling. Whichever model is used, goals and objectives need to be written in an objective, measurable fashion to facilitate evaluation.

An annual review of progress should be completed by the committee, and made available to the public. A user-friendly form to update the assets and gaps should be sent out on a regular basis to help the committee review the state of homelessness in Regina.

HISTORY OF THE REGINA SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE (SCPI)

In 1999 the Government of Canada initiated the “National Homelessness Initiative” (NHI) a three-year strategy to combat homelessness across Canada. The strategy called for a community development partnership approach in developing local plans for combating homelessness. As a result of the NHI, the Mayor of Regina appointed a 13 member Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative committee (SCPI), to oversee development and implementation of the Community Plan. Following a community consultation process, the first Community Plan for homelessness was adopted. Over 3 years, 4.2 million dollars in federal funding was allocated to various community service providers in Regina.

The Regina Community Plan (2001 – 2003) objectives were to:

- Promote a “continuum of supports” approach to homelessness;
- Strengthen Regina's capacity to provide people with safe and secure housing by encouraging a community-wide approach to address the needs of the homeless people;
- Develop collaborative processes and broad-based partnerships among public, private and non-profit organizations to create solutions for the homeless;
- Increase public awareness about homelessness;
- Enhance the development of effective preventive measures for those at risk of becoming homeless;
- Develop a base of knowledge, expertise and data about homelessness and share it among all concerned parties and the general public.

The Community Plan had 5 priority areas for funding under SCPI: stabilization shelter, youth at risk, small cap projects, outreach services and preventive services. Progress was made in all 5 areas, as indicated in Tables I, II and III found in Appendix I. They show the programs that were funded under SCPI, SCPI Youth Homelessness and Urban Aboriginal Homelessness as a result of the first 3 years of the initiative.

CURRENT SITUATION

Recently, the Government of Canada announced a further three-year funding (2003 – 2006) initiative. There is 3.45 million dollars in federal funding available over the three-year period for Regina. This 3.45 million includes 1.2 million in Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative and 2.25 million in Urban Aboriginal Homelessness funding. The ultimate aim of the NHI is to contribute to the reduction of homelessness in Canada.

NHI's **long-term objectives** are to:

- Provide a comprehensive continuum of supports to encourage self-sufficiency and prevent those at-risk from falling into homelessness
- Ensure sustainable capacity of communities to address homelessness.

The NHI's priorities for action are to:

- Ensure a more comprehensive continuum of supports at the local level.
- Build and enhance partnerships around the community platform.
- Strengthen knowledge capacity and understanding around homelessness.
- Develop a comprehensive and coherent storyline on the results and impacts of the NHI and the issue of homelessness.

To update the Community Plan, the Regina SCPI steering committee initiated a community consultation process. The planning process included the following: The SCPI committee undertook an internal review of the original initiative. This was followed up by a community consultation. A consultant was hired to complete a document review, update the community assets and gaps file, hold a series of focus groups with the community, interviews with people experiencing homelessness, and develop the updated Community Plan.

COMMUNITY PLAN DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT

ASSETS AND GAPS

A review of the current assets and gaps in the community was undertaken. There has been an increase in available shelter beds, capital improvements to facilities, and increased capacity of organizations to work with people who experience homelessness. Significant gaps remain as indicated below. The Assets and Gaps tables are found in Appendix II.

DOCUMENT REVIEW

Ten documents relating to homelessness or other social problems in the City of Regina, were reviewed and synthesized, and common themes explored. Those themes included:

- Causes of problems must be addressed, not symptoms. Preventive actions are essential if our community is going to address the problems. A band-aide approach will not be successful.
- Building the capacity of individuals, agencies and the community to develop solutions to problems will meet with the greatest success over the long run.
- No one person, agency or government can address complex problems. Individuals, agencies and communities that work together can find solutions to difficult problems. Working together and sharing resources is of critical importance.
- Funding issues included the need for secure long-term funding, alternate revenue generation, all levels of government working together, business and economic development.
- Income and shelter rates need to be matched with costs of safe housing.
- The whole continuum of transitional services is required from emergency services, to literacy, life skills training, shelters, stabilization services, employment, outreach and follow-up services.
- All housing options need to be available from safe houses to shelters, transitional living, social and affordable housing.

- Research and evaluation are needed to measure the outcomes of interventions and develop an understanding of best practices.

The full document review is found in Appendix III.

COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

A community consultation was held June 25, 2003. This forum was attended by 64 people representing community organizations, Aboriginal peoples, business, and federal, provincial and municipal governments. Ideas regarding community assets and gaps and suggested priorities for the updated plan were explored. A list of participants is found in Appendix IV. What follows is a synthesis of the information gathered from that gathering.

Assets included:

- The community-based organizations (CBOs) were seen as having a large impact on the community. The strong sense of community, commitment and sharing coming from the CBOs are critical. In particular CBOs' ability to collaborate, network and work together was identified as having the greatest potential for impact by the community consultation.
- Programs and services such as safe houses, shelters, life skills programs, including those aimed at young parents, access to child care services, including early childhood support, food programs, employment services, and crisis services.
- The whole spectrum of housing options was identified as having a potential impact on homelessness, including shelters, housing organizations, affordable housing, and bridging services.
- People living and working in our community are a critical gift. This includes elders, youth, professionals, volunteers and people who are "at risk". There is a sense of awareness in the community, and those working in community-based agencies understand the links between them.
- Health Services across the spectrum were seen as strengths. Health promotion was seen as critical to addressing the root causes of homelessness.
- Our community has many educational opportunities, including intervention programs and access to information. The consultation saw the School^{PLUS} philosophy as a real strength and would like to see it fully implemented.
- Governments are willing to take direction from the community. There is strength in the development of First Nation and Metis self-governance models. There is intergovernmental collaboration. SCPI is a good example of governments and the community working together. Corporate and private sector partnerships should be built upon.

Barriers included:

- Lack of on-going sustainable funding
- Lack of transitional and supported housing options
- Services to people with disabilities – especially those with mental health disabilities and those with Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD)

- Collaboration between agencies
- Capacity Building: Education of staff working in the field, education of renters/ home owners regarding housing rights
- Housing options for all ages and abilities, but especially for youth and addicts
- Systemic racism

Suggested priorities for the update (in no particular order) were:

- **Prevention:** Support programs that work to prevent the root causes of homelessness: income reform, affordable and safe housing, education, employment program, health promotion and family supports.
- **Capacity Building:** Build the capacity of individuals and the community through long-range strategic approaches to homelessness, sharing information regarding available services and housing, mentoring for youth and families, literacy training and education.
- **Collaboration:** Develop a clearinghouse of existing services to support, but not take over the work of the community. The clearinghouse could collect and share current information, support and maintain an automated directory, include information about best practices, provide a place through which the community could collaborate, and direct consumers to resources.
- **Funding:** Develop long-term sustainable funding options. Target those who are most vulnerable and in the most need, and fund grass-roots organizations.
- **Transitional Services:** The whole range of transitional services is needed, and should be focused on the most vulnerable. Long-term transitional housing is needed. Stabilization, outreach and follow-up services are needed. Specialized treatment centres are needed for offenders/ex-offenders, and people with behavioural problems.
- **Shelters:** Enhance shelters through small capital investment projects and enhance their capacity to deliver stabilization and transitional services.
- **Housing:** Landlords need to be held accountable for the quality of housing provided. Review present social/affordable housing capacity and determine need for additional housing. Affordable/social housing should be available for students, youth, seniors, people with disabilities and families and have a built-in capacity building component.
- **Research and Evaluation:** Build better programs through program evaluation, outcome measurement and researching best practices. Use research and evaluation to identify who homelessness affects, the level to which it exists in Regina and develop a definition of homelessness.

FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

Four focus groups were held to further explore and prioritize the recommendations from the community consultation. Those invited to participate represented Aboriginal peoples, community based organizations, youth at risk, offenders, people with mental health and physical disabilities, and business. In total 33 people took part in the focus groups. A list of participants is found in Appendix V. Following are the priorities suggested by all the focus groups.

- **Funding:** Long-term, core funding is needed by the community. Without it, long term strategic planning will not occur and sustainable programs cannot be developed. Without sustainable programs and initiatives, the problems leading to homelessness will keep on occurring.
- **Transitional Housing and Services:** Homeless and at risk people need long-term transitional supports before they can establish homes. Housing alone is not the solution. Long-term programming based on personal goals provides solutions to those who have been dysfunctional for long periods of time. Programming must be client-centred and individualized to meet the stated needs of clients. Programs must support transitional housing options and could include life skills, literacy training, addictions treatment, parenting and home ownership skills training, health and health promotion and employment options. These will build individual capacity to sustain homes and families. Follow-up and outreach services are also needed.
- **Prevention:** Preventive services need to be available so that people do not become homeless. Many of preventive services were seen as the same as those suggested as transitional supports.
- **Housing:** Safe, affordable housing options are needed. Strengthening and enforcing city bylaws regarding conditions and safety of rental housing are also of critical importance.
- **Collaboration and Capacity Building:** Greater collaboration between governments and agencies is required. Governments include First Nations and the Metis Nation. The capacity of agencies to work with their consumers should be encouraged.

There was not consensus about which sub-group should have priority in the initiative. Two of the groups' highest priority was families. Families included parents, children, youth and grandparents. Another group's highest priority was at risk youth, with people with mental health problems, FASD, ex-offenders, people with addictions and elders also taking priority. The third did not give priority to any one group.

Each focus group expressed various general concerns including ones around governance, the impact of the first initiative, why another consultative process was needed when little had changed, and how funding decisions were made in the last 3 years. All groups wanted to see action on homelessness.

What follows is a description of each focus group, concerns expressed and highest priorities for each group. A full analysis of each focus group is found in Appendix VI.

FOCUS ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS GROUP

Three people of the 10 invited attended the focus group. Those invited represented agencies that work with aboriginal people regardless of their status as First Nations, Non-status, or Metis peoples. Those attending represented counselling services, educational and employment services and a faith group.

Concerns Noted:

There was concern that there has been little impact from the first initiative: “haven’t seen the changes yet. People are still looking around for transition places to live, overcrowding, 2-3 families living in one house, only one bedroom, sleeping on floor. Still happening today. Also need skills to maintain the house they do find.”

Most Critical Priorities:

1. Long-term core funding.
2. Need to build sustainable families. Children, youth at-risk and families all need preventive programming such as: life skills, literacy training and education, addictions treatment, parenting skills training, and employment options.
3. Safe, affordable housing: something to be proud of and enjoy coming home to.

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Seventeen people representing community-based organizations attended the focus group. Those attending work with youth at risk, shelters, people with disabilities, children and families, single men and women, those affected by domestic violence, people involved with the justice system, people with mental health disabilities, community associations, housing cooperatives and primary health care.

Concerns Noted:

The group felt that the needs of the community are well known. Those needs haven’t changed, if anything they have gotten worse. There are increasing numbers of people at risk for homelessness or without shelter. The community does not need more meetings to explore needs. A plan of action is needed.

Some attendees expressed concern regarding the set-up of the focus group, feeling that it should have had “like” agencies only (for example those working with youth at risk in one group, those working with women in another).

Most Critical Priorities:

1. CBOs need non-competitive core funding. Without it, long term strategic planning will not occur and sustainable programs cannot be developed. Without sustainable programs and initiatives, the problems leading to homeless will keep on occurring. “As long as we’re doing project to project funding, a long range strategic approach is impossible”.
2. Homelessness is a symptom. The causes must be addressed through programming. People at risk for homelessness, or without shelter need a range of options. This includes income support, emergency shelters, safe houses, stabilization services, transitional housing and supports, social and affordable housing, with life skills training, employment readiness, job creation, literacy training, education, addictions, follow-up and outreach services offered. All programming needs to be client centred, and individualized for the person’s stated needs and abilities. There is a need for safe physical structures in which people can live, and the support services that allow people to move forward. Both are needed, and must happen together if either is to be successful.
3. Long-term programming based on personal goals provides solutions to those who have been dysfunctional for long periods of time. Programming must be client-centred and individualized to meet the stated needs of clients.

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Ten staff from different programs offered by Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services (RT/SIS) attended the focus group, representing First Nations. Those who attended work in administration, housing, youth, employment, post-corrections support, family and recreation services, and a safe house at RT/SIS.

Concerns Noted:

The group indicated that First Nations are probably the most studied people in Canada. The needs of First Nations people are well known. Those needs will not change without adequate programs. Funding organizations should provide core funding for those programs.

Some attending the focus group expressed concern that their involvement in the planning process would be used to get money for the initiative, but that RT/SIS would not necessarily receive any funding.

Jurisdictional issues were also raised. Partnerships are encouraged and take place between RT/SIS and the community at large, but the group felt that the funding for programs that serve First Nations should go through RT/SIS. This would give Chiefs a say in the programming that affects people within their jurisdiction.

Most Critical Priorities:

1. Long-term core funding would give RT/SIS the opportunity to develop long term strategic plans, and address problems of First Nations people.
2. Services to youth at risk are the highest priority. There was agreement that the full spectrum of housing and programming services, including active outreach and follow-up was needed for youth at risk, people with mental illness, people with FASD, people involved with corrections, people with addictions and elders.
3. Strengthening and enforcing city bylaws regarding conditions and safety of rental housing are also of critical importance.

REGINA METIS SPORTS AND CULTURE FOCUS GROUP

Three of the 7 people invited attended the focus group. Those invited were employees of Regina Metis Sports and Culture (RMSC), an organization representing Metis people living in Regina. RMSC offers services for families, youth, the elderly, employment counselling, education and housing.

Concerns Noted:

The focus group understood that the intent of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy was to build capacity in the aboriginal community. The group felt that those receiving funding from the Urban Aboriginal Strategy should have all-aboriginal boards. "To me, to build capacity in aboriginal community based organizations, they should have an all-aboriginal board. If you're giving urban aboriginals to mixed-board CBOs, it's not building capacity in aboriginal organizations."

Most Critical Priorities:

1. Families need to be stabilized and sustained. Stabilizing families requires transitional supports such as education, tutoring, employment, health and wellness, and transitional housing. Issues of poverty and addictions have to be addressed. Families need homes, not just housing. Families include youth at risk and the elderly.
2. Organizations need long-term core funding. Programs that are having an impact need to be recognized with appropriate funding. Funding should not be pulled because there is a new "flavour of the week". Staff should be adequately paid for their work.
3. Greater collaboration between governments and agencies is required. Governments include First Nations and the Metis Nations. Having all the agencies under one roof would be an important step in developing greater collaboration. The capacity of agencies to work with their consumers should be encouraged. Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments need to develop tri-partite agreements. Schools and the justice system need to work with the community, in a culturally appropriate manner.

INTERVIEWS WITH PEOPLE WHO HAVE BEEN HOMELESS

Interviews were held with a number of people who had experienced homelessness. Those interviewed expressed:

- The importance of mentors to their success in coming off the street.
- The need for safe, affordable housing, and long-term transitional support services.
- The women preferred apartment style housing, because they felt it was safer than a stand-alone home.
- All wanted to see a 24-hour drop-in centre established in North Central or the Core area. Knowledgeable, supportive staff could provide resources, provide counselling and help them start stabilizing their situation.
- They all expressed a need for the income security that would allow them to live in safe surroundings, with healthy food.
- Those who had had jobs expressed concern about the costs of low-income rental, suggesting that the rate should be lower.
- The youth interviewed would like to see police take a more active role in breaking up drug houses, and enforcing bylaws around rental accommodation.
- People need transportation to appointments and the food bank.

GEOGRAPHIC AREA:

This Community Plan is for the City of Regina. The population size of the City of Regina is 184,006 according to figures from Saskatchewan Health Statistics as of June 2003. Despite the fact that Regina is a vibrant community in the heart of the prairies, the following table provides some insight to the homeless and at Risk of Homelessness population in Regina.

Indicators of Homelessness and Population at Risk of Homelessness in Regina, (2001 Census and CMHC Sources)	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 15,295 Aboriginal Population (8.6%). Other non-census estimates are as high as 10%.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 10,240 rental households spend 30% of income or more on rent (an important indication of an affordability problem).
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 9,535 lone parent families, about 1,300 more than in 1996	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 4,153 households spend 50% or more of income on rent. Most are non-seniors.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 124.6 CPI in 2002, indicating the cost of living has increased faster than all other cities (CMA's) but Calgary since 1996.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 8.1% of dwellings need major repairs – this is a very high rate of dwelling condition problems by Canadian standards.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1.9 % Vacancy Rate in 2002.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Average monthly rent is \$567 in 2001, up from \$493 in 1996 (up 15%).

COMMUNITY PLAN IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY

The SCPI Steering Committee recommends the following strategies as a guide for the implementation of the Updated Community Plan. The SCPI Steering Committee submits the updated Community Plan for approval to the Government of Canada and for review to the Province of Saskatchewan and the City of Regina. Once approval has been received, the former SCPI Committee has recommended that the new SCPI Committee be constituted as a sub-committee of the Community Services Committee of the City of Regina rather than the Regina Housing Advisory Committee.

The SCPI Committee of 1999 – 2003 has recommended the following framework for the new SCPI Committee's membership. The voting members of this committee will be expanded to include representation from the following groups:

- member from the City of Regina
- member from the Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
- members from the Department of Community Resources and Employment
 - One member from Housing Program Development Division and one member from Child and Family Services Division
- member from Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services
- member from Regina Métis Sport and Culture

- members from the Youth Justice Forum
 - One member from the Aboriginal Round Table and one member from Youth
- members from Community-Based Organization

This framework for the SCPI Committee membership for 2003-2006 has provided further Aboriginal and Youth participation in the decision-making process. This will ensure inclusiveness of this vulnerable sub-population who is greatly affected by homelessness. These organizations represented are involved in housing and social issues and have a vast knowledge and expertise in the areas related to housing and homelessness in the City of Regina.

SCPI Committee will be responsible for:

- Continuing the promotion and awareness of the complex nature of the homeless population in Regina.
- Electing members to be a part of a Referral Group. The Referral Group will receive minutes from the SCPI Committee meetings and will be able to provide feedback on funding possibilities, partnership opportunities, or other advice needed. Suggested participants are Regina Public School Board, Regina Catholic School Board, Regina Police Service, Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC), CMHC, HRDC, City of Regina, RICCP (Regina Inner City Community Partnership) and Private Sector representation. This will also help avoid any duplication of services in the community.
- Implementing, annually reviewing and evaluating the Community Plan as required and making any findings available to the general public.
- Facilitating joint funding agreements where applicable.
- Continuing to develop relationships with the Urban Aboriginal Strategy Initiative to ensure collaboration and coordination of programs and services and to maximize opportunities.
- To review and recommending applications in accordance with priorities established within the Regina Community Plan and the broader mandate of the National Homelessness Initiative.
- Ensuring that funded projects reach the target populations.
- Encourage partnership development, community capacity building and a strong private sector engagement strategy to ensure the sustainable capacity of Regina to address homelessness.
- SCPI Committee members may participate in reviews of all funding applications but will abstain from a vote or decision regarding any application where a vested interest by any individual is identified.
- SCPI Committee members will not be advocates on behalf of individuals or organizations.

OVERALL STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

The first round of the Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative principally funded capital projects. In this second plan, there is a shift towards funding transitional, supportive and preventive services, while ensuring that the community is able to sustain projects. New projects will need strong partners to ensure that sustainability. While capital projects may continue to be funded, these need to be combined with transitional and supportive services.

There are 2 strategic objectives to the 2003-2006 Community Plan:

1. Building Community

Enhancing collaboration and building capacity so that the community works together and people who are at risk for or experience homelessness build their capacity to reach their maximum level of independence.

2. Circle of Supports

Preventive, emergency, transitional, outreach and follow-up services available for those who either experience, or are at risk for homelessness so they reach their maximum level of self-sufficiency.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The Strategic Objectives can be broken down into priorities for action that arise out of the strategic objectives. The priorities are:

Building Community

- a) Build Capacity around Homelessness:
 - Build capacity for people who are homeless/at-risk for homelessness by offering individualized programs that develop decision-making skills, life skills and employability.
 - Develop the capacity of organizations to collaborate.
 - Provide training for people working with those who are at risk for, or experience homelessness.
 - Projects that are culturally sensitive to aboriginal peoples.
 - Evaluate funded programs so that there is a pool of best practice information from which to build.
 - Support proposals that are 2-3 years in duration.
- b) Improve Collaboration around Homelessness:
 - Encourage projects that have mentorship options for families and youth.
 - Venues for collaboration –i.e. “Healthy Community Phone Line”, Housing Directory, Clearinghouse of Services, etc.

Circle of Supports

- Long-term transitional housing options that include preventive and supportive services. Capital projects that have a supportive services component. Prioritize high school and post-secondary students, youth, families (single and 2-parent families), people with disabilities, people with FASD, people with mental health problems.
- Specialized housing options for people with multiple disabilities/diagnosis: people with addictions, FASD, mental health and behavioural issues.

- Emergency shelter options for families in crisis' that are not related to family violence
- All housing projects should build on existing housing initiatives.
- 24-hour drop in program where homeless and at risk individuals can get knowledgeable support, and have a warm place to go and relax in safety
- Specialized Housing Option for people with multiple disabilities/diagnosis who are offenders/ex-offenders.

COMMUNICATION STRATEGY

The Regina SCPI Committee recommends the following Communications Strategy as part of the release of the Updated Community Plan to the public. The Communications Strategy helps ensure that individuals and community agencies have the opportunity to be involved and are able to have free access to the Community Plan. Furthermore, Regina's Communication Strategy will help foster community support for the process by informing the public about the specific projects which have received approval.

Immediate Actions:

- Updated Community Plan will be placed on the following websites; Human Resources Development Canada, United Way of Regina and the City of Regina. Human Resources Development Canada's website will include a list of SCPI Committee members & Referral Group members, press releases of all projects approved for funding in Regina and listing of all partners in addressing homelessness.
- Letters advising of the websites with the Community Plan directly mailed to all members of the Referral Group, participants involved in the Community Plan Update process, all project sponsors, various levels of government and any other interested parties.
- Release the Community Plan at a media conference attended by the appropriate federal and provincial cabinet ministers, the Mayor and SCPI Chairperson in coordination with HRDC Communications. The media conference will serve to explain why the Community Plan was updated, where to find the website and what it means for the community of Regina.
- Advertisement in the local, Aboriginal, Youth, Francophone and Senior Citizen newspapers indicating the Community Plan has been updated and the website to view the plan provided.

Long Term Actions:

- Annually inform the public about the progress of the Regina Community Plan including cumulative impacts of the funding, project activities, outputs/outcomes in each community and how they have addressed the National Homelessness Initiative and Community Plan objectives.
- Conduct annual community consultation sessions to allow community based organizations, service providers and interested parties an opportunity to share knowledge, strengthen partnerships, and discuss progress made and future goals.
- Jointly announce and recognize funding of particular projects. Use these announcements to raise public consciousness about homelessness and acknowledge the power of partnerships in the community.

SUSTAINABILITY

Partnership development and community capacity building have been identified by the National Homelessness Initiative as essential elements to achieving the overall objectives of the Community Plan in addressing homelessness. Therefore, SCPI will ask potential projects and activities to demonstrate partnership development, capacity building and long term sustainability.

The SCPI Steering Committee's recommendation to continue the initiative under the auspices of the City of Regina's Community Services Committee allows the process to continue beyond 2006. The link to the SCPI Committee ensures a continued involvement of key stakeholders and community partners in finding long term solutions to systemic barriers to safe, secure, accessible and affordable housing. By identifying new funding partners, the community will be strengthened by improved and inclusive decision making around investments in the community. Furthermore, this will enhance the community's ownership around the issue of homelessness both in the process and finding innovative solutions.

COMMUNITY'S CONTRIBUTION

For a community to access SCPI federal funds, confirmed funding from other sources must equal the community's maximum SCPI allocation. There is 3.45 million dollars in federal funding available in Regina over the three-year period. Matching dollars can include provincial and municipal money and in-kind contributions committed from April 2003 until March, 2006, which are identified as addressing homelessness in Regina.

In Phase I of the National Homelessness Initiative, the Regina's Community's financial contributions were on a project by project basis. Three organizations were identified as sources of unconfirmed funding. These were Social Services, City of Regina and YWCA. Projects funded in the first phase often had primary matching dollars coming from one of the three levels of government (federal, provincial or municipal).

At this time, it is not possible to confirm and identify primary sources of matching dollars. Regina will be considering the community's financial contributions on a project by project basis again. However, the City of Regina, Department of Community Resources and Employment and the United Way of Regina have been named as unconfirmed sources of funding for the community for Phase II of the NHI. The SCPI Committee will review each proposal and if it recommends the proposal for approval to the Minister, it will identify the appropriate funding source for the matching contribution.

There is a high rate of partnership building and collaboration amongst organizations in Regina already. The Regina SCPI Committee recognizes the open minds and willingness to collaborate and their ability to come together and build a better, stronger and more united community. There is a strong tradition of people helping people. Because of this enthusiasm and dedication to the community, the Regina SCPI Committee does not anticipate any problems securing the matching funding requirements from the community.

See the City of Regina's Contribution to the Community in the Appendix.

EVALUATION STRATEGY

The Regina SCPI Committee will continue to monitor and evaluate the cumulative impacts, activities, outputs and outcomes of the approved projects in the community. When assessing and recommending projects proposals in 2003-2006, project sponsors will provide detailed evaluation plans, including a description of how and in what way progression and success of their project will be measured in a tangible way. The SCPI Committee will continue to evaluate and share publicly to what extent the Overall Strategic Objectives and Priorities have met the needs of the homeless population or at-risk of becoming homeless in Regina.

Another area of consideration will be the Homeless Individuals and Families Information System (HIFIS) Initiative. The roll out of this initiative will show broad benefits by its data collection and data sharing process within the community of Regina. Sharing standardized data and working together will engage stakeholders and increase their capacity to track reports on homelessness issues and enhance planning and decision-making abilities in the community.

SCPI FLOWCHART

Every attempt should be made to maximize the use of the Committee resources in the administration of the SCP Initiative. It is apparent that there may be a need for human resources to assist the SCPI Committee in its work. There is also a need to coordinate, monitor, and evaluate each project's administration and service outcomes. It is recommended that:

- The Government of Canada, the Province of Saskatchewan and the City of Regina pool their existing resources to assist the SCPI Committee in its on-going work; and
- HRDC City Facilitator be a resource to the SCPI Committee to ensure that specific projects are appropriately assessed, coordinated, monitored and evaluated. This will assure specific project accountability to the SCP Initiative, while at the same time, and assure coordination and accountability.

The Flow chart is found in Appendix VIII.

CONCLUSION

There is a committed community of people working to reduce homelessness in Regina. The causes of homelessness are recognized, and there is a great deal of consensus about how to address the problem.

The current plan moves the focus from capital projects to preventive, transitional and supportive services. Finding new ways of working together, and building the capacity of individuals and the community is a critical step in strengthening self-sufficiency. Reflected in the development of the plan is the multi-sectoral, intensive participation of the community. Building financially sustainable projects remains a priority for homeless serving organizations and those providing funding. Involvement of non-government funding resources will be critical to success of this initiative.

APPENDICES and TABLES

I Projects Funded 2001 - 2003
Table I Supporting Communities Partnership Initiative
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Table III Urban Aboriginal Strategy (UAS)

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III Document Review

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VIII SCPI & UAH Flow Chart

IX..... City of Regina’s Community Contribution

X..... Regina’s Household Spending

TABLE I: SUPPORTING COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE

The \$1.2 million SCPI funds were contracted with project proponents based on the direction provided by the community Plan, recommendations by the SCPI committee and approval of Minister Bradshaw

Priority Areas:

Stabilization Shelter – **SS** Youth at Risk – **YAR** Small Capital Project – **SCP** Out Reach Services – **OS** Preventive Services – **PS**

Organization	SCPI	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
Salvation Army	\$332,608	\$1,296,588	December 2001 to May 2002	Renovation of Waterston Centre.	✓				
YWCA	\$375,000	\$1,971,500	March 2003 to September 2003	Renovation of additional 15 beds for women's centre.	✓				
Mobile Crisis	\$54,700	\$54,700	September 2002 to September 2003	Urgent bridge funding.				✓	
Street Culture Kidz	\$25,500	\$40,400	September 2002 to March 2003	Capacity building.		✓		✓	
Mobile Crisis/Regina Police Service	\$50,749	\$86,494	November 2002 to September 2003	Partnership with Regina Police Services to pilot a new mechanism for joint services focused on prevention rather than remediation.				✓	✓

Organization	SCPI	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
Ehrlo Community Services	\$73,000	\$768,315	June 2002 to August 2003	Capital purchase for a facility for single mothers aged 16 – 24.	✓	✓			
Adult Learning Centre	\$78,000	\$557,769	December 2002 to May 2003	Support and skill development to 30 homeless youth to enable them to make the transition to employment.		✓			✓
YWCA	\$5,130	\$10,370	February 2003 to May 2003	Supports to women and children who are disabled who require interim assistance in a shelter environment.				✓	
Scott Infant Care Centre	\$23,600	\$23,600	February 2003 to September 2003	Expand the parenting program and childcare facility to support youth parents at risk of being homeless.		✓	✓	✓	
Early Learning Centre	\$40,938	\$42,309	March 2003 to August 2003	Repairs and renovations to enable the Early Learning Centre to continue to support families at risk of being homeless.			✓		✓

Organization	SCPI	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
United Way of Regina	\$71,495	\$75,709	March 2003 to September 2003	Centre for collaboration.					✓
Core Community Association	\$15,525	\$18,502	March 2003 to September 2003	Capacity building to support a feasibility study for children at risk.		✓			✓
YMCA of Regina	\$110,060	\$118,930	March 2003 to September 2003	Capital for renovations to residential rooms & support facilities.	✓	✓	✓		
Regina Food Bank	\$7,587	\$15,000	November 2002 to December 2002	Environmental study relating to expansion of the Food Bank and partnerships					✓
Totals	\$1,263,892	\$5,080,186							

TABLE II: SCPI YOUTH HOMELESSNESS

Of the \$535,932 in SCPI Youth funds available to Regina, the full allocation was contracted. Project recommendations incorporated the input of the SCPI committee.

Organization	Youth Funding	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
Cornwall Alternative School	\$273,299	\$295,945	August 2002 to September 2003	Renovations, furnishings and support for an Outreach worker.		✓	✓	✓	
Salvation Army	\$75,000	\$1,048,980	December 2001 to May 2002	Capital project for construction of a 4 bed youth unit.	✓	✓			
Kids First Day Care	\$222,246	\$411,696	August 2002 to May 2003	Capital purchases and support for additional daycare spaces for teen moms.		✓	✓		
Street Culture Kidz	\$21,124	\$21,124	July 2002 to June 2003	Evidence based research regarding youth at risk and homeless youth.		✓			✓
Totals	\$591,669	\$1,777,745							

TABLE III: URBAN ABORIGINAL STRATEGY (UAS)

UAS Homelessness funds in the amount of \$2.4 million were allocated to Regina. In Saskatchewan, the planning processes of Urban Aboriginal communities were conducted separately from the SCPI Communities. As such, SCPI committees are a vehicle for consultation with the partners and community prior to an HRDC recommendation to the Minister. This will ensure projects are linked to the community plan.

Organization	Urban Aboriginal Funding	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
First Avenue Child Care Centre	\$116,005	\$411,696	June 2002 to May 2003	Capital purchases and operating costs to support sustainability of services for homeless parents.		✓	✓		
Rainbow Youth	\$174,619	\$225,250	May 2002 to September 2003	Establish a moving coop and to provide work placements and community services to five youth at risk of being homeless.		✓			
Regina Metis Sport and Culture	\$30,600	\$30,600	May 2002 to August 2002	Development of a strategic plan to support the capacity of the Regina Metis Sport and Culture in delivering services to homeless.					✓
Regina Metis Sport and Culture	\$927,135	\$1,113,728	September 2002 to March 2003	Capacity building.		✓		✓	
Souls Harbour	\$28,360	\$36,864	March 2002 to May 2001	Urgent need project to address flood damages			✓		

Organization	Urban Aboriginal Funding	Total Project Costs	Dates	Objective	SS	YAR	SCP	OS	PS
North Central Partnership Project	\$100,500	\$130,200	September 2002 to May 2003	Support to engage the community of North Central to build community capacity and cooperation needed to address the challenges including many contributing to homelessness.					✓
Aman House	\$24,000	\$26,480	July 2002 to September 2002	Capacity support to explore potential expansion of services to homelessness in Regina.			✓		
Regina Public School Board: Herchmer	\$41,300	\$61,900	October 2002 to September 2003	Capital purchases and program enhancements to reduce the factors leading to homelessness through literacy enhancement and family support.		✓			✓
24 Hour Child Care	\$80,744	\$531,855	October 2002 to September 2003	Capital purchases and support to parents using the 24 Hour Child Care services		✓	✓		
SITAG (Sask Indian Training Assessment Group)	\$720,000	\$720,000	September 2002 to May 2003	Transitional Housing.	✓				
Totals	\$2,243,263	\$3,288,573							

APPENDIX II – ASSETS AND GAPS TABLES

TABLE IV: Shelter Organizations

Organization Name	Shelter Beds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number type gender 	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> occupancy avg stay waitlists and turn-aways 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age and gender marital stat children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Isabel Johnson (YWCA)	-18 Emergency and Transitional units, room for 18 women and their children	-123 women/118 children served -71% occupancy rate -12-14 day average stay -166 families turned away	-18-44 female -separated -children that accompany them to shelter	-shelter spaces for women and children in crisis	-shelter spaces for women and children in crisis	-need for shelter space increasing -not enough room for single women -safe and affordable housing
Regina Rescue Mission	-4 male, 2 female Emergency beds -23 male, 5 female Supportive/Recovery beds	-male beds and female emerg beds full; female supportive beds not full -avg 1 week emerg beds, 3mo – 1yr support units -2-3 ppl on waitlists	-“quite young - 60” male and female -90% single/separated -most have children that do not accompany them to shelter	-drunk tank (rather than Detox 10 day program)	-funding for mental health issues	-numbers of women with mental health issues -younger homeless people -dual diagnosis issues increasing
Sofia House	-10 Supportive family units for women and their children	-100% occupancy rate -7-8 month average stay -no waitlists presently but have had in past. -turn away rarely	-21 - 30 female -95%+ married -90%+ have children	-supportive community housing		-De-institutionalization/ mental health issues. - health playing care less of a role -Aboriginal cultural genocide
Transition House	-18 Transitional beds for women and their children	-135 women/149 children -80% occupancy rate -13 day average stay waitlists 50% of time with 2-3 ppl on them	-30 female -no stats -68% children, 32% no	-long waitlists for counselling services	-supportive housing for ppl with mental health issues, teen moms, older women,	-need for affordable housing is chronic -no change over the years

Organization Name	Shelter Beds <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number • type • gender 	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • occupancy • avg stay • waitlists and turn-aways 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age and gender • marital stat • children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Waterston Centre/ House (Salvation Army)	-25 Emerg male -25 Hostel male male youth rooms for male 16 ds -15 Supportive male -40 Long term units male	-6000 bed nights -54% occupancy rate in emergency beds -3-4 day average stay -occasionally waitlists for units	-40 male -80% single -20% have families	-outreach -housing for difficult to manage and mentally ill -“mattress detox” beds	-affordable housing w/o barriers -sufficient \$\$ for working poor	-situation worsening -increase in # of families and children needing food
YWCA Women’s Residence	-35 Supportive beds	-10,571 bed nights -94% occupancy rate -average stay varies from 1 day to several years -do not keep waitlists anymore; many turn- aways	-20 – 40 female -combination of single and separated -many have children that do not accompany them to shelter	-more housing for single women with mental health issues	-more housing for single women, both with and without children	-number of women with mental health issues is increasing
Wichikik Iskwewak Safehouse	14 beds for women and children					
YMCA	No crisis beds 7 rooms for adult males 4 rooms male 16-18 yr olds					

TABLE V - Youth Organizations, Custodial Facilities, Group Homes

Organization Name	Programs and Services	Annual Usage Info • # of clients • homeless/at risk • waitlists	Client Info • age and gender • marital stat • children	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Dales House	-open custody beds -family service beds -joint custody beds		-most under 16, 2/3 male, 1/3 female	<i>-outreach to runaways and street youth</i>		
Gemma House (Salvation Army)	-temporary housing for teen girls with a variety of issues		-12–15 female			
Grace Haven Home (Salvation Army)	-temporary housing for (mostly) teen moms		-16-18 female			
House of Concord (Salvation Army)	-open custody for boys		-youth, male	transitional/supportive/ assisted living for youth		
Rainbow Youth Centre	-individual and group counselling -skill development -educational, recreational, and direct service programs	-2,758 clients annually -all of them could be considered at risk -waitlists for some programs	-11-18 male and female (20-25 in the youth adult programs) -most single -some with children	-affordable housing in good condition -education and life skills programs	affordable housing in good condition -education and life skills programs -supporting existing agencies	-Aboriginal people, those on Social Assistance and those with low levels of education, literacy, & life skills continue to be at risk

Organization Name	Programs and Services	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of clients homeless/at risk waitlists 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age and gender marital stat children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Ranch Ehrlo	-voluntary services for youth who are experiencing a range of issues; typically who are "high needs"		-12-18 male and female	-"Covenant House" type of program, a safe house/ shelter for youth specifically		
Regina native Youth and Community Services (Tapwe-Chi)	-medium term treatment beds for boys		-11-15 male Aboriginal	-ways to keep kids out of trouble		-kids in trouble with the law is continuing to grow
Social Services, Child & Family Services	-variety of inter-related treatment, custody, care and referral services			-needs for youth with mental health issues		
Street Culture Kidz	-personal support and professional skill development; drop-in, long term and outreach	-7,800 clients annually -90% or 7,020 of those are at risk -should have waitlists but don't make the youth wait	-12-18 male and female -single -some with children	-fear of duplication of services -Social Workers and adult role models available in evenings	-Social Workers/Social Services available in the evening	-the continuing need for youth to have personal support systems between 15-19 years of age
YMCA	Aboriginal Youth Leadership Program ESL – GED Computer Labs Pre-employment courses Pre 7 Post Natal Courses GAP (school suspension program)	400 youth				

TABLE VI - Human Service Organizations

Organization Name	Programs and Services	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of clients • homeless/at risk • waitlists 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age and gender • marital stat • children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Canadian Mental Health – Regina Branch	-vocational, recreational, social, employment and living skills programs	-30 clients annually -6-10 are at risk -no waitlists	-young to 60 year olds, male and female -do not know -many have children but not in their care	-female housing issues, especially those with mental health issues	-services for the hard to house/ manage/ engage, specifically outreach	-women with mental health issues on the rise -men are not decreasing but women increasing
Carmichael Outreach	-food bank agent, free clothing, soup served, free condoms, needle exchange	-3,000 clients in database -at least 60% or 1,800 are at risk -no waitlists	-do not track age -80% female, 20% male -probably 80% have children	-low income housing -medical care -nutrition management	-low income housing -medical care -nutrition management	-things are tougher on women now more than ever
Marian Centre	-drop-in food services; coffee/donuts, lunch	-serve 21,900 – 43,800 annually -most have place to live, those that don't are by choice -no waitlists	-45-50 male -90% single or separated -do not know	-lack of public education re homelessness -ability to educate homeless/at risk people	-lack of public education re homelessness - to educate homeless/at risk people	-increase in numbers of homeless/at risk women and their children -male numbers seem similar
Mobile Crisis Services	-24 hour crisis intervention, emergency child protection, mental health services, domestic violence response, emergency counselling	-20,000 calls annually -"lots" of people at risk, at least 32% or 6,376 -no waitlists, however if a counsellor is not avail. immediately, caller may hang up	-30-31, 55% female, 45% male -do not know -do not know	-shelter for women and children -shelter/services for ppl with mental health issues and "hard to house" -respite for seniors -places for youth at night	shelter/services for women and children, especially from violent situations -people with mental health issues	-consistent increase in at risk women and children -seasonal increase in transients

Organization Name	Programs and Services	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of clients • homeless/at risk • waitlists 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • age and gender • marital stat • children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Regina Open Door Society	-settlement assistance program for refugees, research on housing, advocacy, life skills programs	-195 ppl in gov't assisted refugee program, 200 ppl "regular" refugees -80% or 316 at risk -short waitlists for housing and programs	-30-50, 75% families, 25% couples/singles -75%-85% married -75% with children	-lack of affordable housing -lack of affordable housing for large families -lack of housing at SAP rates	-lack of affordable housing -lack of co-op housing -re-intro of rent control -need to raise SAP rates -interagency cooperation -public education	-housing situation is continuing to worsen over past 10 years -continuing discrimination toward the homeless/at risk
Senior Citizens Centre	-recreational programs, meal service, housekeeping/maintenance	-no clients at risk that they know of		services for intellectually disabled -low income seniors -those with mental health issues	-services for those suffering from mental health issues	
Souls Harbour	-meal served each night, clothing bank, ministry programs, informal counselling, youth drop in	-91,250-127,750 meals served annually -most have a place to live but may be substandard/ at risk -no waitlists	-35-60, primarily families -married/common law -most have children	-important to build connections and self esteem, most programs are too impersonal	-important to build connections and self esteem, most programs are too impersonal	-the numbers of youth in trouble are increasing

Organization Name	Programs and Services	Annual Usage Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> # of clients homeless/at risk waitlists 	Client Info <ul style="list-style-type: none"> age and gender marital stat children 	Service Gaps	Priorities	Trends
Visitation House	-drop in services, coffee, lunch, phone, newspapers, personal and baby care items, support/counselling	-11,440 women and children annually -60% or 6,864 would be homeless/at risk -no waitlists	-30 female, 85% Aboriginal -most single -most have children, but most have been removed from their care	-temporary shelter and crisis stabilization for women -programs for addictions and abuse issues -night time drop in programs -transportation services -laundry/shower services -nurse practitioner for Core area	-temporary shelter and crisis stabilization for women -nurse practitioner for Core area	-number of girls 12-16 being pressured to become street involved -increase in need for emotional and practical support for women with children removed from their care
Welfare Rights Centre	-help people find rental accommodation, advocacy with Social Services and Landlords, trustee program, housing quality checks	-5,000 clients annually -805 are at risk -ongoing waitlist for market or low income housing	-do not know age, combination male/female -75% married/common law -75% 2 person or more family	<i>-landlords taking greater responsibility, not just for the money</i> -system to teach people how to be good tenants	-re-intro of rent control -recognize good landlords - license landlords -bring senior bureaucrats into process to meet housing needs	-the housing situation – market and strategies is the same or worse than 25 years ago

SOCIAL HOUSING REGISTRY

There are a number of housing authorities in Regina, each of which has their own list. There is no one registry that covers all Social Housing. A point system is used to determine need. The waiting list is longer for family units than for senior units. RHA reports that it is able to place people who are having a housing crisis fairly quickly. It may be difficult to place a large family if a unit of suitable size is not available.

Name of Registry	Special Designations <i>(i.e. seniors list, families, etc.)</i>	Name of agency and/or municipal department that maintains this list
i) Regina Housing Authority (RHA)	Seniors list, families list	Regina Housing Authority
ii) Gabriel Housing Corporation	Aboriginal – families, seniors	Gabriel Housing
iii) Silver Sage Housing Corporation	First Nation families, students, seniors	Silver Sage Housing
iv) Namerind Housing Corporation	Aboriginal – families, seniors	Namerind Housing
v) A number of small nonprofits and co-ops	Small co-ops, faith-affiliated groups	

Name of Registry:	Regina Housing Authority RGI Units	2002
	Number of households on the waiting list.	558

APPENDIX III – DOCUMENT REVIEW

Regina Community Plan - (Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative - SCPI) March 2001

This was the original SCPI plan for addressing homelessness in Regina. Plan development involved a literature review, telephone interviews with 20 community based organizations, followed up by a community consultation with 30 community based organizations in attendance to respond to the draft plan. The plan was revised accordingly. Five critical priority areas for funding were identified: stabilization shelters, youth at risk, small cap projects, outreach services and preventive services. The plan also called for development of more effective ways to integrate and coordinate services through a continuum of supports, a community-wide approach to homelessness, more collaboration by the community and increased public awareness of homelessness.

Regina Housing Advisory Committee – Clarification of Need - January 2002

The SCPI committee found that they needed more information regarding the assets and gaps for homelessness in Regina. A questionnaire was sent out to 28 agencies. Telephone interviews were then held to complete the questionnaires. A literature review was completed, which focused on best practices around homelessness. The recommendations included funding: stabilization shelters for women; a continuum of services for youth; outreach services for all homeless and/or at-risk people; transitional and preventive services that establish safe, affordable housing; and programming aimed at developing life skills.

Regina Drug Strategy Report - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) June 2003

This initiative, utilized extensive community consultations to develop a framework toward a coordinated and integrated response to reduce drug-related harm. Development of the strategy included a literature review, and a series of consultations with the community including 11 sector consultations, 7 focus group sessions and a multi-sector consultation. Four strategic priority areas were identified: prevention, healing continuum, capacity building and sustaining relationships. There were 22 recommendations falling under the 4 priority areas. Many of these relate directly to homelessness.

Urban First Nations People Without Homes in Saskatchewan - Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, Asimakaniseekan Askiy Reserve December 2000

This document is the result of a research project that explored the experiences of First Nations' peoples in attempting to access adequate and affordable housing. It includes recommendations and a proposed action plan to combat homelessness.

Improving First Nations and Metis Health Outcomes: A call for Collaborative Action - Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region (RQHR) July 2003

This document is the final report of the "Working Together Towards Excellence" project, initiated in the spring of 2002. The report explores the current approaches to the health of Aboriginal people in the RQHR, and proposes sweeping changes to the way their health is addressed, from program delivery to governance, funding, collaboration human resources and capacity building. The project team member and an active External Advisory Committee completed literature reviews, prepared background papers, and held extensive consultations with internal and external stakeholders. While homelessness is not discussed, many of the issues leading to, or faced by homeless people were commented upon. The sections regarding collaboration and capacity building are particularly pertinent to homelessness.

School^{PLUS} - Department of Learning, Government of Saskatchewan Spring 2003

This initiative conceptualizes schools as centres of learning, education, support and community for children, youth and their families. It strengthens the capacity of schools to meet the needs of children through availability of direct support by other human services. The underlying theory is that it takes a whole community to raise a child. School atmospheres become open and inclusive, the whole community is responsible for the education of all its members, and strong partnerships are developed with human service organizations. A collaborative process is established whereby partnerships are forged with human supports and services and the schools.

The Future of Housing in Regina: Laying the Groundwork - City of Regina July 2000

The Future of Housing in Regina explored housing situation in 2000, gaps in housing and laid out a blue-print for addressing those gaps. Available information on housing was utilized, and a series of public consultations were held. Some 58 individuals and organizations provided input into the process. There were 81 recommendations in all, including those around social housing, affordable rental accommodation, improved living conditions in the inner city, community partnerships, needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and those living in poverty.

City of Regina: Regina Housing Authority 2001 Annual Report

This report reviewed activities undertaken by the committee since the Future of Housing Report of July 2000. It found that 41/81 recommendations had been implemented. The report noted that everyone deserves safe, affordable, quality housing, that housing is a shared responsibility, and that housing strategies should recognize the diversity in the community.

North Central Community Partnership: Report on the Community Vision and Action Plan - May 2003

Established as a result of the Future of Housing: Laying the Groundwork report of 2000, this comprehensive report is the first step towards revitalization of the community of Regina North Central. Following a literature review, there were community surveys, consultations, focus groups and an advisory committee meeting to develop the vision, goals, pillars of community development in Regina North Central and action plan. The action plan arose out of the pillars of community development, and included Housing and Infrastructure, Crime and Safety, Business and Economic Development, Health and Human Services, Education and Community Development.

Common Themes and Recommendations in Documents Reviewed

The themes chosen were those that came from the SCPI community consultation. The documents were then reviewed to see if there was commonality with these themes. The themes were Prevention, Capacity Building, Collaboration, Funding/ Income Security, Transitional Services, Social/ Affordable Housing and Research and Evaluation. Below are descriptions of those themes, followed by a table showing areas of commonality between the documents.

Prevention covers those activities that would avert and or eliminate the problem, whether that is homelessness or addiction, or other problems addressed in the documents. Prevention activities ranged from public education to eradicating poverty.

Capacity Building leads to individuals, professionals, agencies, and the community increasing the ability to understand, and act on those things that affect people's lives. It includes education, training, skills development and involvement in decision-making. Often policies and legal frameworks need to be in place to encourage capacity building.

Collaboration involves individuals, agencies, governments and the community working together to build better services. Relationships are built and sustained. Information is shared appropriately to better meet the needs of the consumer. Agencies are knowledgeable about each other's work, and share information regarding best practices. Collaboration can include a community-wide approach, structures to facilitate collaboration, and involve high degrees of trust and respect.

Funding/ Income Security covers all aspects raised around funding and income, from adequacy of present sources, to recommendations to involve new sectors, and/or review present policies to better meet present funding needs.

Transitional Services includes all services alluded to in the various documents, that lead to consumers having a better life. It can include stabilization shelters, transitional housing, life skills development, detoxification centre, counseling, among others.

Social/Affordable Housing goes beyond transitional services, to long-term safe housing that low-income people can afford.

Research and Evaluation looks at ways that the community researches and evaluates the various social problems in the community and the results of interventions.

Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
Regina Community Plan (Supporting Community Partnerships Initiative – SCPI) March 2001	- Develop preventive services	- Increase public awareness	- Community-wide approach - Collaboration and partnerships - Web-site to incorporate service information -Communication plan - Advisory committee be established	- Matching dollars Secure funding - Income and shelter rates be more closely matched	- Stabilization shelters - Youth at risk - Outreach services - Continuum of supports	- More affordable and accessible housing	-Track homelessness
Regina Housing Advisory Committee – Clarification of Need (SCPI) January 2002	- Develop preventive services: housing programs, tenant/landlord assistance, health care issues, formal education, public education/ awareness	- Youth involved in decision-making about self and how policies re housing are set up	- Umbrella organization for homeless/ at risk - All levels of government working together	- Rent control	- Stabilization shelters especially for women - Service for at risk youth throughout continuum of needs - Outreach services and drop-in services be enhanced - Job Skills, education and life skills training - Supportive housing	- Develop options for 18 – 25 year olds - “Rent-banks” be developed	

Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
<p>Street Culture Youth Homelessness Project</p> <p>Preliminary Results</p> <p>July 2003</p>	<p>- Homelessness must be addressed in conjunction with other empowering resources</p>	<p>- Skills development</p> <p>- Build knowledge of community resources for youth</p>	<p>- Front-line workers must work together</p>	<p>- Long-term sustainable housing</p>	<p>- Personal supports and skills development</p> <p>- Long-term focused support</p> <p>- Social programming</p> <p>- Youth need to form deep connections with people</p> <p>- Youth need adult role models</p>	<p>- Consider housing needs early</p> <p>- Expand existing successful housing programs</p>	
<p>“Building on Our Strengths”</p> <p>United Way of Regina and the Regina Regional Intersectoral Committee</p> <p>December 6, 2002</p>	<p>- There are complex underlying social issues, including homelessness</p> <p>- Poverty seen as a root cause of many social issues</p> <p>- Crime prevention</p>	<p>- Includes family and individual well-being and education, learning, and community development</p>	<p>- Centre of collaboration established including an on-line community directory, annual community forum, cross-sectoral network, regular information sharing, strong coordination and leadership, adequate resources, review resource funding policies</p>		<p>- Employment and life skills training</p> <p>- Literacy and education</p> <p>- Social service gaps and limitations</p> <p>- Mental health / substance abuse services</p> <p>- Individual and family supports</p>	<p>-Lack of safe/affordable housing</p>	

Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
<p>Regina Drug Strategy Report</p> <p>Regina Qu'Appelle Health District</p> <p>June 2003</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Addiction issues often underlie other social problems - Increase education and awareness of addictions - Involve youth in planning and organizing education and awareness activities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase numbers of qualified staff and community members - Better communication: may require changing legislation to facilitate information sharing - Develop skills inventory data-base of all human services - Increase and diversify volunteering - Joint prof. development and training strategy across sectors "train-the-trainer" - Sectors meet together frequently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Collaboration needed between all governments, community based organizations, aboriginal organizations, housing authorities, and other sectors - Inclusion, trust, communication, partnerships - Hold regular network forums - Common vision - Advisory group to coordinate implementation of the strategy - Drug Strategy coordinator position be established - Expand partnerships with the aboriginal sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial stability needed by organizations working with addictions - Resource funding changes - Alternative revenue generation - Review all aspects of funding from formulas to guidelines, collaborative funding, etc. - Increase private sector involvement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full range of services and supports are needed - Holistic and family based - Youth stabilization - Develop policies around bed vacancy, improve networking, etc - New treatment modalities for special populations including homeless - 24 hour drug-free shelter, sobering up stations, full spectrum of services, - Special resources towards FASD 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supported housing - Transitional housing - Shelters including full spectrum of housing services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Review current data collection methods and revise so that information can be shared across services. - Research best practices - Research effectiveness of treatment, delivery models, special population research, including the homeless

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Homeless Facilitator to assist people in securing safe shelter -Discharge policies -Support initiative that build self-sufficiency and self-reliance 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Homeless Services Information System 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Living allowance should reflect current markets -Incentive funding -Community economic development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Transportation costs covered while searching for a home -Access to child care -Supported housing and programs -Planned, coordinated services -Harm reduction programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New affordable Housing 	
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Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
Improving First Nations and Metis Health Outcomes: A call for Collaborative Action	There needs to be action on the broad and complex social and economic issues before Aboriginal people can lead healthy lives	-Programs must incorporate Aboriginal values and beliefs, and use a community development model to be successful -Need to increase the capacity of the RQHR to address First Nation and Metis Health Issues.	-Need to have joint planning, joint action and joint decision making around health programs, human resources, funding, training, health promotions, public awareness, evaluation and research,	-All levels of government must work together to fund aboriginal services, too much is at stake to allow jurisdictional differences to get in the way of people's health and well-being	-Whole spectrum of continuity of care must be addressed, including education, training and employment		-Research , evaluation and best practices critical to success
Regina Qu'Appelle Health Regina (RQHR) July 2003		-Increase the capacity of Aboriginal People to assume important roles in the design and implementation of health services delivery -Increase the numbers of Aboriginal Youth graduating from primary and secondary schools -Increase financial supports to students -Increase cultural appropriateness of programs	current and complete information about services, planning and coordination				
School ^{PLUS} Department of		- Increases capacity of schools to meet needs of children and families	- Schools, families and the community work		- Children and families receive the support they		- Use of on-going, authentic measures

<p>Learning, Government of Saskatchewan</p> <p>Spring 2003</p>		<p>through integration with community services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Leadership is nurtured in the community - Diverse and complex learning needs of children is recognized and addressed 	<p>together to meet needs of children and youth</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Open and inclusive atmosphere - Shared responsibility 		<p>need from across the spectrum of services.</p>		
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Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
The Future of Housing in Regina: Laying the Groundwork City of Regina July 2000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior levels of government should address poverty issues - Enforce zoning bylaws around conditions of housing (safety), appearance and image of neighbourhoods 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Full-time facilitator to develop partnerships with governments, business non-profit sector and others 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand availability of housing under \$150,000 - Increase shelter allowances by social assistance - Develop new ways of funding affordable and social housing 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Senior governments make a commitment to social housing - Remove obstacle to affordable housing thru bylaw changes - Focus on those with the greatest need (people with disabilities, seniors, those living in poverty) 	
City of Regina: Regina Housing Authority 2001 Annual Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Everyone deserves safe, affordable housing - Poverty and income barriers to participation in housing programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Need to respond to cultural differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Housing is a shared responsibility - Coordination of bureaucratic efforts and support services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - As little government support as possible for people to own a house - Housing partners moving away from affordable housing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Life skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absentee, slum landlords lead to poor maintenance of homes - Social housing needs are common to all housing issues 	

Themes:	Prevention	Capacity Building	Collaboration	Funding / Income Security	Transitional Services To Include	Social/ Affordable Housing	Research & Evaluation
North Central Community Partnership: Report on the Community Vision and Action Plan May 2003	-Poverty, prostitution, drug abuse, violence and theft, neglect of children, poor housing were all noted as preventable problems in Regina North Central	- community development key to revitalization of Regina North Central - Community members need to be active participants of all committees -Education key, children/ Youth need to complete high school - workshops to build capacity for individuals (for example household maintenance)	Governments, community, community based services all need to work together	-Financial Resources needed to revitalize the community - need business and economic development	-have many services in the area - Youth need more programs that are open later at night, including teen nights, drop-in centres at local churches, supervised latch-key programs -Programs aimed at "at-risk" youth -Big Sister, Big Brother programs where people paid to be mentors	-Landlords more accountable -More home ownership opportunities (sweat equity, etc) -Home renovation programs -City strongly enforce property/ yard maintenance bylaw	

APPENDIX IV

MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

Name of Individual (when possible)	Organization
Conrad Lavallee	Regina Friendship Centre
Margaret Akan	All Nations Hope Aids Network
Sharon Banning	Four Directions Community Health Centre
Stacy Bear	All Nations Hope Aids Network
Bob Bjerke	City of Regina
Joseph Blayone	Saskatchewan Council of Senior Federal Officials
Carole Bryant	Ranch Ehrlo Society
Sue Burns	Kids First Daycare Centre Incorporated – Cochrane High School
Louise Burns Murray	YWCA
Eunice Cameron	Cornwall Alternative School
Lisa Carr	Regina Mental Health
Lloyd Carrier	Peyakowak (They Are Not Alone)
Karen Chan	Rainbow Youth Centre
Patricia Clark	SCEP Centre
David Cowan	Street Culture Kidz Project Inc.
Derek Csada	Rainbow Youth Centre
Monty Cyr	Southern Winds Healing Winds
Diane Delaney	SOFIA House Inc.
Kathleen Donauer	Community Action Coop Ltd.
Brenda Dubois	Child and Youth Community Services
Jeff Dunbar	Rainbow Youth Centre
Jim Elliott	Canadian Council on Social Development
Laura Fauchon	Wichihik Iskwewak (WISH House)
Mary Flynn	Regina Community Clinic
Leila Francis	Core Community Association
Percy Gordon	Southern Winds Healing Winds
Sandra Greenough	Community Mentorship Centre
David Gullickson	Saskatchewan Justice
Stew Harrison	North Central Family Centre
Keith Hecker	Family Service Regina

Dave Hedlund	Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
Bob Hughes	Saskatchewan Coalition Against Racism
Richard Jensen	Salvation Army's Waterston Centre
Tracy Knutson	South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre Inc.
Byron Langan	Regina Treaty Status Indian Services (RT/SIS)
Cliff Larocque	Regina Metis Sport and Culture
Carolyn Laude	Drug Strategy
Ernest Lavallee	Friendship Centre of Regina
Wendy Laxdal	Street Workers Advocacy
Wanda Legendre	Regina Youth Justice Forum
Tim Leisch	Mobile Family Services
Anne Luke	Early Learning Centre
Linda Meyer	Ehrlo Counselling Services
Edith Mountjoy	Early Learning Centre
Dave Normington	Department of Community Resources & Employment
Carol Olson	DCRE
Jeremy Parnes	North Central Community Partnership
Rae Pelletier	Herchmer Community School
Anne Penniston	Regina Women's Community Centre
Lana Phillips	Saskatchewan Housing Corporation
Amanda Polsfut	Ehrlo Community Services
Laurie Ponace	Peyakowak (They Are Not Alone)
Donna Rice	24 Hour Childcare Cooperative Limited
David Rivers	Ranch Ehrlo Society
Ruth Robillard	Regina Metis Sport and Culture
Alice Russell	Regina & Region Home Builders Association
Shelley Sayer	Ehrlo Community Services
Ken Sparvier	Lighthouse Tabernacle
Charles Sutberry	REACH
Kim Sutherland	Street Culture Kidz Project Inc.
Mark Sylvestre	City Central Zone Community Consultant
Lydia Thompson	AIDS Program South Sask.
Kathleen Thompson	Schizophrenia Society of SK
Jarad Welle	Regina Rescue Mission
Gerry Wurtak	Paul Dojack Centre

APPENDIX V

FOCUS GROUP MEMBERS

ABORIGINAL FOCUS GROUP

Name of Individual	Organization
Bert Adema	Indian Metis Christian Fellowship
Lloyd Carrier	Peyakowak Community Inc.
Anne Perry	Circle Project

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Name of Individual	Organization
Marcel Apetroi	Waterston Centre
Sharon Banning	Four Directions Community Health Centre
Louise Burns Murray	YWCA
Kevin Concepcion	John Howard Society
David Cowan	Street Culture Project
Marissa Desjardins	Al Ritchie Community Association
Helen Finucane	Ehrlo Community Services
Leila Francis	Core Community Association
Julianna Gilchrist	Regina Youth Justice Forum
Lawrence Henry	Street Culture Project
Bob Hughes	Canadian Mental Health Association
Richard Jensen	Waterston Centre
Tracy Knutson	South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre
MaryAnn McGrath	Regina Early Learning Centre
Christie Nenson	Community Action Coop
Kim Sutherland	Street Culture Project
Danielle Sweatman	Rainbow Youth Centre

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Name of Individual	Organization
Myke Agecoutay	Neighbourhood Recreation Project
Garry Courchene	Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services
Constance Dubois	Red Feather Services
Byron Langan	Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services
Kathleen McNab	Youth Project Coordinator
Judy Pelletier	First Nations Employment Centre
Trevor Pelletier	Atoskata
Joyce Poitras	Safe House
Brenda Tuckanow	Family Support Centre
Rolande Wright	Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services

REGINA METIS SPORTS AND CULTURE FOCUS GROUP

Name of Individual	Organization
Leighton Gall	Regina Metis Sports and Culture
Cliff Larocque	Regina Metis Sports and Culture
Karen Larocque	Regina Metis Sports and Culture

APPENDIX VI - FOCUS GROUP RESULTS

ABORIGINAL ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Three people of the 10 invited attended the focus group. Those invited represented agencies that work with aboriginal people regardless of their status as First Nations, Non-status, or Métis peoples. Those attending represented counselling services, educational and employment services and a faith group.

Concerns:

There was concern that there has been little impact from the first initiative: “haven’t seen the changes yet. People are still looking around for transition places to live, overcrowding, 2-3 families living in one house, only one bedroom, sleeping on floor. Still happening today. Also need skills to maintain the house they do find.”

Highest Priorities:

4. Long-term core funding.
5. Need to build sustainable families. Children, youth at-risk and families all need preventive programming such as: life skills, literacy training and education, addictions treatment, parenting skills training, and employment options.
6. Safe, affordable housing: something to be proud of and enjoy coming home to.

Priorities as a Whole:

Prevention

- Prevention starts at home, with healthy families and children. Families need to be addiction free and learn skills for daily living. Children have to be safe. “My grandparents taught me the skills I needed: survival, parenting. We lost that somewhere, quite drastically. We’re not talking to our kids and spending time with them. Education with young parents, teaching them parenting skills, is important. Addictions come from parents, inter-generationally. We’ve lost the closeness.”
- People with FASD need supports, not matter what their age. Adults with FASD need supports. “...they’re the ones who are likely not going to succeed educationally. Look at people with FASD as people with acquired brain injury.”

Capacity Building

- Mentorship is critical to youth and families. Ideally mentorship starts in the home with parents providing positive mentorship to their children. Mentorship could be extended to workplaces, allowing youth to build skills under the tutelage of a mentor. A “bank” of available mentors could be created, similar to the volunteer bureau. Youth could choose their own mentor.
- Informal kinships can provide critical supports to individuals and organizations. Informal kinships speak to those who provide help to homeless people, without remuneration, or recognition. Informal kinships also speaks to the informal networking that exists between organizations in the community, and informal partnerships between organizations, without any financial remuneration. These relationships should be encouraged.

Collaboration

- Agencies should receive a dividend from governments for working collaboratively with other agencies.
- Clearinghouses do not work well. There isn’t recognition of the natural collaborative processes that does take place in the community.

Funding

- Need to develop long-term sustainable funding for existing grassroots organizations.
- Competitive approaches to funding are divisive: “There’s a divide and conquer mentality on the part of some bureaucrats. It’s very advantageous for the funders to have agencies compete with each other for funding for similar programs. Funders need to support what’s happening, rather than trying to control it.”

Transitional Services

- Mentorship is needed for people in transition. Homeless people need to develop their own goals and plan. Programs have to be participant-centred.

Housing

- Equity co-op housing could be an important component to the housing options.

Research and Evaluation

- Best practices need to be shared. “Don’t reinvent the wheel. Look at other cities; see what’s effective & working there. Ask for help. Learn from each other.”

COMMUNITY BASED ORGANIZATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Seventeen people representing community-based organizations attended the focus group. Those attending work with youth at risk, shelters, people with disabilities, children and families, single men and women, those affected by domestic violence, people involved with the justice system, people with mental health disabilities, community associations, housing cooperatives and primary health care.

Concerns Noted

The group felt that the needs of the community are well known. Those needs haven’t changed, if anything they have gotten worse. There are increasing numbers of people at risk for homelessness or without shelter. The community does not need more meetings to explore needs. A plan of action is needed.

Some attendees expressed concern regarding the set-up of the focus group, feeling that it should have had “like” agencies only (for example those working with youth at risk in one group, those working with women in another).

Most Critical Priorities

1. CBOs need non-competitive core funding. Without it, long term strategic planning will not occur and sustainable programs cannot be developed. Without sustainable programs and initiatives, the problems leading to homeless will keep on occurring. “As long as we’re doing project to project funding, a long range strategic approach is impossible”.
2. Homelessness is a symptom. The causes must be addressed through programming. People at risk for homelessness, or without shelter need a range of options. This includes income support, emergency shelters, safe houses, stabilization services, transitional housing and supports, social and affordable housing, with life skills training, employment readiness, job creation, literacy training, education, addictions, follow-up and outreach services offered. All programming needs to be client centred, and individualized for the person’s stated needs and abilities. There is a need for safe physical structures in which people can live, and the support services that allow people to move forward. Both are needed, and must happen together if either is to be successful.

3. Long-term programming based on personal goals provides solutions to those who have been dysfunctional for long periods of time. Programming must be client-centred and individualized to meet the stated needs of clients.

Priorities as a Whole

Prevention:

- Many organizations are doing prevention and health promotion, but on a piece-meal basis. Organizations (government, CBOs and others) need to work more collaboratively. "But we don't work together. To bring everyone together would be the ultimate accomplishment." Examples of prevention activities include life skills training, healthy lifestyles programs, best babies possible, employment readiness programs, and the diabetes initiative.

Capacity Building:

- Non-competitive core funding is key to building the capacity of CBOs to deliver programming, and take long-term strategic approaches. Without core funding, CBOs can only apply band-aides. "Long-range strategic approach is possible if there is non-competitive core funding, and impossible without."
- Directories and an information clearinghouse could be an important resource in the community. It needs to be available to both clients and service providers. The scope of agencies and services delivered could be identified.

Collaboration:

- CBOs could be more collaborative in their approach. Barriers to this include the competitive approach to funding on a project-to-project basis, time constraints and lack of knowledge about each other's work. "The key would be to get each of these organizations working together. That's the problem with having little amounts of money – nobody wants to share." Non-competitive core funding would help CBOs work more collaboratively.
- Because of funding instability, resource directories are quickly outdated. Staffing to develop registries takes away from front-line work. CBOs do not want further erosion of front-line positions.
- Having a telephone service directory line is important to clients, where they can ask questions and receive reliable information. "We did a lot of focus groups ... with families, who indicated they didn't know where to access services. What came out of that was the need for a real live person on the end of the phone who knew what services were available where." Examples of successful approaches were the Farm Stress Line, and Community Switchboard. (Community Switchboard was an agency in Regina, which directed people to agencies throughout Regina during the 1970s.) It was suggested that this could be developed in collaboration with the new Health Line.
- There are collaborative training opportunities in the community. Many front line staff have similar basic training needs, and there are shared leadership training opportunities. There are many talented people in the community who could be drawn upon as presenters.
- The United Way has an important role in facilitating communication and networking in the community.

Income and Funding:

- Non-competitive core funding is critical. Project funding keeps CBOs in the same crisis situation as the people served. Projects are often created in reaction to criteria set by funding bodies, as opposed to the needs of the population. Clients coming

from long-term dysfunctional situations need long-term support. Even having good outcomes doesn't lead to long-term funding. "CBOs are in a very dangerous situation. Any one of us could topple at any time. Going from program to program funding is very tenuous...Core funding will allow long-term strategic approaches. Can't work with other agencies because you're so busy putting out proposals to keep staff, and competing with other agencies for same pot of money."

- Governments need to work to build sustainable funding options.
- Income support services should recognize the real costs of safe housing. The monthly shelter rates should be raised accordingly.

Transitional Services:

- Having the whole range of transitional services is essential.
- Services need to be person-centred and individualized for their stated needs. "We're creating solutions for people without knowing what their needs are."
- Job creation needs to be innovative, and inclusive. There are some people who the labour market will not support.
- Many persons need to work through other issues before they can sustain employment. Programming must allow for this.
- There are no residential services for those newly released from correctional services, who have mental health disabilities and addictions.

Shelters:

- Shelters pay a key role in providing emergency services and stabilization of homeless people. Regina does not necessarily need more beds, but needs preventative and transitional services to support the work of the shelters.
- Currently there are shelter resources for families facing domestic violence, but few resources are available where domestic violence is not the issue. This should be addressed.
- Need to provide supports for people (including families) who have constant crisis in their lives.
- Shelters need access to crisis management services.

Housing

- Home ownership is not an immediate goal for most homeless people. Building up life skills, addressing issues around addictions, mental health and employment readiness come before home ownership. Until they are ready for home ownership, a whole continuum of options is needed, including emergency shelters, transitional housing, and social housing.
- Safe shelter is critical. Some people don't realize they can complain about their housing. "Some clients' self esteem is so low they don't think they should complain because they don't think they deserve any better. Did a session on tenant's rights and they didn't know they had any." Landlords need to be held accountable for the state of the places they rent. There should be positive reinforcements for those landlords who keep their rental accommodation safe.

Youth at Risk:

- To youth at risk homelessness is about whether they have family and other supports. It is not about whether or not they have housing. Services must be based on the youth at risk's stated solutions.

- Adult role models are critical. One mentor can make the difference in finding a healthy path. "They haven't the capacity to make basic decisions because there is no healthy adult support."

FIRST NATIONS FOCUS GROUP

Ten staff from different programs offered by Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services (RT/SIS) attended the focus group, representing First Nations. Those who attended work in administration, housing, youth, employment, post-corrections support, family and recreation services, and a safe house at RT/SIS.

Concerns Noted:

The group indicated that First Nations are probably the most studied people in Canada. The needs of First Nations people are well known. Those needs will not change without adequate programs. Funding organizations should provide core funding for those programs.

Some attending the focus group expressed concern that their involvement in the planning process would be used to get money for the initiative, but that RT/SIS would not necessarily receive any funding.

Jurisdictional issues were also raised. Partnerships are encouraged and take place between RT/SIS and the community at large, but the group felt that the funding for programs that serve First Nations should go through RT/SIS. This would give Chiefs a say in the programming that affects people within their jurisdiction.

Most Critical Priorities:

1. Long-term core funding would give RT/SIS the opportunity to develop long term strategic plans, and address problems of First Nations people.
2. Services to youth at risk are the highest priority. There was agreement that the full spectrum of housing and programming services, including active outreach and follow-up was needed for youth at risk, people with mental illness, people with FASD, people involved with corrections, people with addictions and elders.
3. Strengthening and enforcing city bylaws regarding conditions and safety of rental housing are also of critical importance.

Priorities as a Whole:

Youth at risk:

- Student housing, literacy and adult basic education classes, supervised transitional housing, active follow-up programs, outreach services, life skills training, employment readiness and job creation are all needed.
- Revisit government definitions of "youth". "Our people don't start thinking about life seriously until 28-30. The adolescent phase is extended because of background of residential schools, alcohol problems etc." By the time people are ready to take advantage of programs, they are too old for them. This includes the Young Entrepreneur Program.

Housing:

- Controls need to be in place and enforced so that landlords keep housing safe and in good repair. “A lot of people would rather be homeless than live in some of the houses out there that will never be fixed.”
- Youth age 16 – 25 are especially in need of housing: “...when we do get our young people into education or employment, they are usually living with relatives who have drug and alcohol issues, which are barriers to them making it to school and work. Partying for 2-3 days at their house hinders them, casts a pall over them trying to better themselves.”
- Specialized housing is needed for people with addictions. Services should include 24-hour supervision and programming that delivers life skills. Oxford House (which was developed in Calgary) was given as an example of a long-term housing model that has positive outcomes.

Funding:

- Long term sustainable “core” funding is essential.
- Funding should go to grassroots organizations.
- Funding bodies need to work together to optimize available resources. The private sector needs to be involved in funding partnerships.
- Special cultural needs of First Nations should be recognized. According to cultural beliefs, First Nation ceremonies should not occur within city limits. The focus group felt that there should either be funding to buy land or permission to use municipal lands for those ceremonies and to cover expenses such as travel, food, tobacco, and cloth (part of the ceremony), and honoraria for elders.

Income support:

- The rates need to be raised. “Income support rates for singles are ridiculous. How can single clients live on \$500 month for basic needs? A lot will try to do it and discontinue training six months down the road because they can’t live on it. No priorities are made for subsidized housing for single people”.

Collaboration:

- A directory of services and housing is needed: “...people don’t know what programs and services are being offered. We need to do a better job of collaborating and partnering together”.
- Increase information sharing between agencies about who is accessing which services. “People go from service to service, shopping around, better sharing is needed of who is using what service, so less money goes out to same person for same thing from different agencies.”
- There have been a number of important partnerships developed between First Nations and others. RT/SIS would like to have more partnerships, but often can’t use precious resources to further develop those linkages.
- Regina Treaty/ Status Indian Services would like to be recognized as the central First Nations service organization for urban First Nations people living in Regina. Partnerships could be developed with the rest of the community. RT/SIS could become the central clearinghouse for sharing information. “The clearinghouse would be the central place for sharing information with agencies/people in the community who don’t understand our role, partnership building, and educational role. Preferably house the clearinghouse here (RT/SIS). That’s what we’re working on right now anyway.”

Capacity Building

- Programs need long-term sustainability, so that they can develop long-range strategic plans for delivering programs.

- RT/SIS could help train front-line staff of community organizations regarding the issues faced by First Nations.
- People who are at risk for, or experiencing homelessness need to take ownership over their journey and have ownership over their individualized programs.
- There has to be greater access to literacy and basic adult education

REGINA METIS SPORTS AND CULTURE FOCUS GROUP

Three of the 7 people invited attended the focus group. Those invited represented Metis people living in Regina. Together they offer services for families, youth, the elderly, employment counselling, education and housing.

Concerns Noted

The focus group understood that the intent of the Urban Aboriginal Strategy was to build capacity in the aboriginal community. The group felt that those receiving funding from the Urban Aboriginal Strategy should have all-aboriginal boards. "To me, to build capacity in aboriginal community based organizations, they should have an all-aboriginal board. If you're giving urban aboriginals to mixed-board CBOs, it's not building capacity in aboriginal organizations."

Most Critical Priorities

1. Families need to be stabilized and sustained. Stabilizing families requires transitional supports such as education, tutoring, employment, health and wellness, and transitional housing. Issues of poverty and addictions have to be addressed. Families need homes, not just housing. Families include youth at risk and the elderly.
2. Organizations need long-term core funding. Programs that are having an impact need to be recognized with appropriate funding. Funding should not be pulled because there is a new "flavour of the week". Staff should be adequately paid for their work.
3. Greater collaboration between governments and agencies is required. Governments include First Nations and the Métis Nations. Having all the agencies under one roof would be an important step in developing greater collaboration. The capacity of agencies to work with their consumers should be encouraged. Federal, Provincial and Municipal Governments need to develop tri-partite agreements. Schools and the justice system need to work with the community, in a culturally appropriate manner.

Priorities as a Whole:

Prevention:

- Children need to stay in school. Teaching must be individualized for each child's learning style. "In a workplace people with differences are accommodated, but that isn't the case in the classroom. Children are treated like second class citizens." Schools and agencies need to work together to support children. "Mandate of schools is to educate the child, not spend so much time on personal/home life of kids. ... Because of all the stuff being loaded onto teachers' plates, kids who need specialized or individualized programs fall through the cracks."
- The justice system is failing youth. Children must be kept in the family. The whole family needs healing.
- Racism is still a critical barrier. "I don't know anybody who doesn't want to work for a dollar or two to sustain self in community, but that's where racism kills us. People run into that wall a few times and then lose motivation to keep trying."

Capacity Building:

- The culture of Métis people needs to be understood and recognized by aboriginal and non-aboriginal organizations. Regina Métis Sports and Culture can help organizations build that capacity.
- The capacity of aboriginal organizations needs strengthening.

Collaboration:

- Regina Métis Sports and Culture would like to be recognized as the central service organization for Métis people living in Regina.
- Regina Métis Sports and Culture can partner with and train others to provide culturally sensitive programming. Before working with Métis people, organizations offering services need to have a partnership in place with Regina Métis Sports and Culture.
- Agencies need to do a better job of working together. When it comes to children, they need to work together as a unit.

Funding:

- "Want to commend Minister Bradshaw, Ralph Goodale and City of Regina for opportunity to look after our own, build capacity and service our community members as Métis people."
- Long-term core funding is needed to develop strategic plans and programs. "Program by program funding is killing us. We've survived since 1995 without any core funding. But the project is becoming so huge we'll no longer be able to survive in that manner."

Transitional Services

- People need the whole circle of supports, addictions treatment, literacy and education, food security, shelter, employment opportunities. "These are the real bread and butter issues, to stabilize the families. Then we won't see the crime that goes along with homelessness, or the poverty."
- People need to build up their capacity to live in and own houses. They need supports to reach that point. "In many instances, people don't want to get into a house, because the responsibility scares them. ... People need to be stabilized and transitional supports put in place before they can take on a home."
- Mentors are needed to help families and youth stabilize their lives.

Shelters:

- Since the beginning of the National Homelessness Initiative, Regina Métis Sports and Culture has noted a reduction in the numbers without shelter. "There has been an impact since the national homelessness initiative: more rooms at Salvation Army, Y, for temporary shelter. There is a reduction in camping out. Fewer clients are coming in who are homeless."

Social and Affordable Housing:

- The whole circle of housing options is needed from safe houses to shelters, transitional housing to social and affordable housing.
- Regina Métis Sports and Culture is losing subsidies on 80 of 304 units in 2005. This may contribute to homelessness. Presently there is a wait list of approximately 250 families. With a trend to young people moving out earlier, there is a need for more subsidized housing units, not less.
- Transitional supported housing is needed to build the capacity to rent or own a home.

Youth at Risk:

- Single youth are unfairly penalized by income support services and/or funding bodies. "A single person can't get a house, it has to be a family, with kids. Youth who wait until they're economically stable to have a family are being penalized. Those who are full-time students are considered full-time employed, so can't get funding."
- Families, schools and the justice system need to build success into the lives of children and youth.

Senior Citizens

- The elderly need a Level I care home with other people who are Metis individuals.

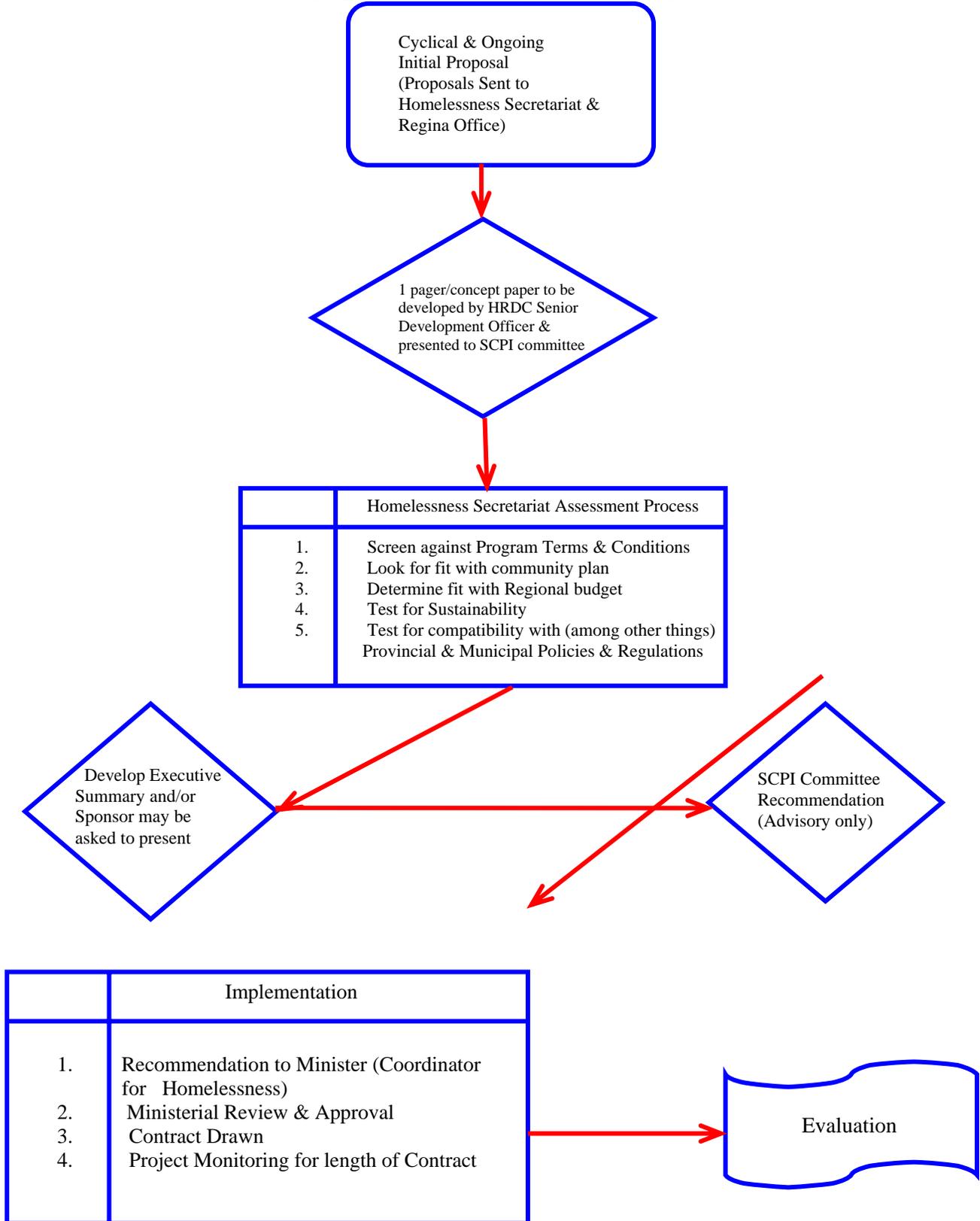
**MEMBERS OF THE 2001-2003 REGINA SUPPORTING COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS INITIATIVE
COMMITTEE**

Members	Organization
Peggy Clark	City of Regina Community Services Department
Dave Hedlund	Regina Qu'Appelle Health Region
Rose Hill	Human Resources Development Canada Community Services Unit
Vic Huard	United Way of Regina
Urban Services Representative	File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council Treaty Four Territory, Reserve #77
Clifford Larocque	Regina Métis Sports and Culture Inc.
Daniel Messett	Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Lana Phillips	Government of Saskatchewan Social Services

Guests	
Joe Blayone	Saskatchewan Council of Senior Federal Officials
Gail Douglas	Human Resources Development Canada
Cathy Frasz	Human Resources Development Canada
Ruth Robillard	Regina Metis Sports and Culture Inc. (alternate to Mr. Larocque)

Administration	
Carole Aymer	City of Regina Community Services Department
Bruce Rice	City of Regina Community Services Department
Bob Bjerke	City of Regina Community Services Department

APPENDIX VIII – SCPI & UAH Flow Chart



APPENDIX IX

Regina City and Community Support for Programs and Services to Homeless Individuals and At-Risk Populations, 2003	
	2003 Approved
1. CITY GRANTS AND SUPPORTS	
Community Association Program Phase I - Community Development	
Al Ritchie Community Association	\$ 61,800
Cathedral Area Community Association	\$ 39,140
Core Community Association	\$ 50,600
Eastview Community Association	\$ 34,000
North Central Community Society	\$ 41,000
North East Community Association	\$ 12,000
Sub-Total	\$ 238,540
Social Development Grants Program - Project and Multi-Year Service Agreements	
Carmichael Outreach	\$ 23,000
Circle Project	\$ 45,450
John Howard Society of Sask - Regina Council	\$ 46,965
Mobile Crisis	\$ 136,350
North Central Family Centre	\$ 15,000
Peyakowak	\$ 5,000
Rainbow Youth	\$ 54,060
Regina and District Assoc. for Com. Living	\$ 2,000
Regina and District Food Bank	\$ 27,775
Regina Anti-Poverty Ministry	\$ 8,000
Regina Early Learning Centre	\$ 30,300
Regina Education and Action on Child Hunger	\$ 79,285
Regina Home Economics for Living Project	\$ 20,200
Regina Indian Community Awareness	\$ 10,100
Regina Rescue Mission	\$ 7,000
Regina Transition Womens Society	\$ 17,170
Sofia House	\$ 20,200
Street Culture Kidz Project	\$ 10,000

Street Workers Advocacy Project	\$	29,120
Visitation House	\$	4,000
YMCA of Regina	\$	3,286
YWCA of Regina Isabel Johnson Shelter	\$	17,170
Sub-Total	\$	634,931
Community Centre Operating Grants		
- Centres operated by non-profit community board		
Eastview Community Centre	\$	30,653
North East Community Centre	\$	12,180
Sub-Total	\$	42,833
Miscellaneous Grants and Supports		
CAP II Allocations - YMCA of Regina	\$	7,500
Central Zone Board	\$	15,300
North Central CPTED Project	\$	16,000
SCPI Program - North Central Community Partnership	\$	13,000
Sub-Total	\$	51,800
Office and Program Space		
- market value of office and program space covered by City		
Al Ritchie Community Association - Office & Programs	\$	13,200
Al Ritchie Computer Room	\$	3,000
Al Ritchie Police Service Centre	\$	13,200
Cathedral Area Community Association	\$	4,704
Cathedral Neighbourhood Centre - Partnerships	\$	1,331
Core Community Association - Office and Programs	\$	17,472
Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre - Partnerships	\$	2,297
North Central Community Society - Office and Programs	\$	12,000
North Central Community Society Affiliated Groups	\$	2,146
North Central Police Service Centre	\$	1,010
North East Community Association	\$	720
North East Centre Board	\$	720
Regina Food for Learning	\$	17,682
Regina Indian Community Awareness - Office	\$	2,400
Regina Indian Community Awareness - Programs	\$	12,059
Sub-Total	\$	103,941

Free or Subsidised Programming	
Affordable Fun Program	\$ 54,684
Al Ritchie - Fun Spots	\$ 10,000
Albert Scott Community Centre	\$ 30,000.00
Cathedral Neighbourhood Centre	\$ 22,000.00
Core Ritchie Neighbourhood Centre (estimate)	\$ 41,605.00
Eastview - Fun Spot	\$ 2,800
North Central - Fun Spots	\$ 5,800
North East - Fun Spot	\$ 5,000
North East After School Program	\$ 3,500
North East Youth Strategy (estimate)	\$ 7,500
North East and North Central Community School Programs	\$ 11,000
Sub-Total	\$ 193,889
Free Outdoor Pools	
- maintenance, operation and staffing	
Dewdney Swimming Pool	\$ 112,908
Maple Leaf Swimming Pool	\$ 108,536
Sub-Total	\$ 221,444
Municipal Property Tax Exemptions	
* Des not include all property tax exemptions: including places of worship, schools, all crown corps, Regina Housing, Sask. Housing, seniors' care homes, CMHC, YWCA.	
Core Community Association	\$ 1,944
Metis Health and Addictions Council of Sask.	\$ 8,604
Phoenix Residential Society	\$ 2,767
Regina and District Food Bank	\$ 30,034
South Saskatchewan Independent Living Centre-Housing Project	\$ 54,100
Sub-Total	\$ 97,449
TOTAL CITY FUNDING AND SUPPORTS	\$ 1,584,827

2. OTHER COMMUNITY SUPPORTS	
Urban Aboriginal Community Grant Program - 2003	
(Funding is from Casino Revenues)	
Aids Program South Saskatchewan Inc.	\$ 6,505
Amen House Inc.	\$ 7,500
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples of Saskatchewan	\$ 7,500
Ehrlo Community Services Inc.	\$ 5,000
National Aboriginal Day Planning Committee - Regina Inc.	\$ 3,000
O-Tee-Paym-Soo-Wuk Metis Local Inc.	\$ 7,500
Regina First Nations Survivors of Res. Schools	\$ 4,240
Regina Friendship Centre Corporation	\$ 7,500
Regina Metis Sport and Culture Inc.	\$ 7,500
Regina Metis Women 1995 Inc.	\$ 7,500
Regina Treaty/Status Indian Services	\$ 3,000
Sâkêwêwak First Nationals Artists' Collective	\$ 7,500
First Nations University of Canada (formerly SIFC)	\$ 3,000
Women of the Dawn	\$ 7,485
YMCA of Regina Inc.	\$ 7,500
Other requests in progress	\$ 107,770
Sub-Total	\$ 200,000
Saskatchewan Lotteries Community Grant Program - 2003	
Al Ritchie Community Association	\$ 6,750
Al Ritchie Health Action Centre	\$ 2,560
Career Headways Inc.	\$ 6,000
Ehrlo Community Services	\$ 5,051
Regina Early Learning Centre	\$ 660
Regina Eastview Community Assn.	\$ 6,000
Regina North East Community Association	\$ 6,000
SCEP Centre Society	\$ 4,500
Street Culture Kidz Project	\$ 4,400
YWCA - Big Sisters of Regina	\$ 4,720
Sub-Total	\$ 46,641
TOTAL LOTTERIES AND OTHER FUNDING	\$ 246,641

APPENDIX X

**Regina Households Spending More than 50% of Income on Shelter
2001 Census**

