

Welcome to our first edition of Namerind News – a newsletter that we’ve designed to share updates, advice and learnings about our model for providing affordable housing. Each quarter, we’ll send you a newsletter that will keep you up to date on our projects and exciting announcements.

We decided a number of years ago that to truly live our mission statement and serve our community in the best way possible, Namerind must become a self-sustaining organization. We have now diversified our revenue stream to include our rental units, our Patient’s Lodge, a warehouse that serves as a hub for our contractors and trades, and a mall and pharmacy. We are always looking for opportunities to invest in Regina, while providing affordable housing and jobs for our Aboriginal community.



## Message from Robert Byers

Last year saw us announce 19 new condo units in partnership with the provincial government and we are proud to now also be offering contracting services to both commercial and residential clients in Regina. We are providing a new kind of affordable housing – that which empowers a community and creates opportunities while giving families a place to call home. We welcome your feedback on our

newsletter as well as any questions or suggestions you might have. For more information on the Namerind model, please visit our website at [www.namerindhousing.ca](http://www.namerindhousing.ca).

I’m so proud of our team at Namerind and what we’ve accomplished over the past five years. I hope you enjoy reading about our progress as much as we’ve enjoyed living it.

## Recent Announcements

### Namerind Goes Green!

From October to December 2010, Namerind installed solar Photovoltaic (Pv) and solar thermal technology on all multi-dwelling units, including the Winnipeg Street Mall and the Namerind office building. This project represented the second-largest environmental undertaking of its kind ever to be conducted in the province of Saskatchewan.

The new technology allows the participating buildings to vastly reduce reliance on fossil fuels over the 25 - 30 year life cycle of the systems, which immediately started providing power and heat. This environmental project represents part of Namerind’s overall sustainability strategy, adding cost-efficient, clean power to the grid, while allowing Namerind to make a



long-term investment in the community.

As a result of environmental tax credits and overall cost savings in heat and power bills, Namerind will recoup the initial investment in 7-10 years. Installed on otherwise unused space on each property’s roof at six properties in 2010, the solar technology will replace an equivalent of over 28, 000 litres of gasoline annually, providing approximately 66.5 tons of Green House Gas (GHG) reduction.

## What’s New

Namerind is thrilled to be hosting **Sustainable Solutions for Housing Providers**, the National Aboriginal Housing Association’s annual conference, from **September 14-16, 2011**. This conference will allow housing providers from across Canada to come together and share ideas, while learning from each other. More details will be available in the next edition of Namerind News.

**The Other Closet** is the used clothing store located in our office building. All proceeds from the store go to fund our Christmas hamper campaign. In December 2010, **Namerind staff, Board and contractors provided our turkey and ham hampers to over 100 people.**

Our hampers provide gifts for the entire family and bring a happy holiday to all the families we support. Clothing donations to The Other Closet are always welcome and appreciated.

Along with our recent solar thermal project, Namerind has embarked on an **environmental initiative** in all our tenant dwellings, replacing windows and doors, and upgrading furnaces to more energy efficient models. **This will save tenants each month on their energy bills, while also saving our environment.**

# Ask the Expert



*Mannie Amyotte is the Maintenance Manager at Namerind, managing a staff of four and a team of contractors and trades who service all Namerind tenants. Here he provides advice on preparing your home for spring.*

**Q:** What is the most common issue you encounter in the spring?

**A:** The most common problem that we find each year is water getting into the homes, either through the basement or leaking on the roof. The best thing to do to prepare for the spring thaw is to make sure that all snow and ice are cleared away from your home, especially around eavestroughs, downspouts and basement windows. As a precaution, we always recommend storing items in your basement in plastic tubs or bins, and keeping the basement clean and organized just in case you do need a professional to access to walls to fix a leak.

**Q:** What else can homeowners and tenants do around the house to prepare for spring?

**A:** Other than clearing ice and snow, we recommend checking the sump pump to make sure that it is plugged in and operational. Spring

is also a great time to do an annual check of all smoke detectors in the house. Regular replacement of furnace filters every 1-2 months will both save energy and dollars each month on your energy bill. After the furnace has been working hard all winter, it's especially important to ensure that everything is clean and in good working order.

**Spring is the time to prepare your yard – consider hiring professionals to trim your trees and plan in advance to ensure that trees are properly taken care of. For example, in Regina, April 1st is the deadline for pruning elm trees. Each tenant or homeowner can contribute to environmental sustainability by doing their best to conserve energy and keep trees and shrubs trimmed and healthy.**

**Q:** What should Namerind tenants do if they encounter an issue while preparing for the spring thaw?

**A:** All of our tenants may call 306-525-0147 anytime to advise us of an issue. We are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week and all work orders are prioritized with health, fire and tenant safety issues handled first and general maintenance issues handled second. Our team is always available to handle any indoor or outdoor problems and provide advice on how to avoid future issues.

## C O N T A C T

Namerind Housing Corporation  
1121 Winnipeg Street Regina, Saskatchewan S4R 1J5  
Phone: 306 525-0147 • Fax: 306 525-0111

## Meet our Staff



**Name:**  
Margaret (Maggie) Gordon

**Position:** Namerind Receptionist

**Describe a typical day for you at Namerind:**

I am the first point of contact for those who call or come into our office. I answer all telephone inquiries, greet tenants and other guests who come into our office, accept rent payments, and provide clerical assistance to the Namerind President & CEO. On any given day, I work with a number of different staff members and stakeholders. For example, I work with Indian Bands and Health Canada's First Nations & Inuit Health Department regarding room bookings at our Patient's Lodge for those in Regina for medical appointments or treatments. I also work closely with our Tenant Relations Manager and Maintenance Manager to ensure that all tenant needs are met in a timely manner.

**What is your favourite thing about working at Namerind?**

Definitely our "family support" environment and knowing that we all support each other and work hard to provide quality housing for our tenants. When I get a thank you call for something that one of our staff has done, no matter how minor, I feel very rewarded.

**Outside of work, what are some of your favourite ways to spend time?**

When I'm not at Namerind, I'm often with my son or daughters or my seven grandchildren, all of whom I'm very proud of. My three dogs Chase, Molly and Bean and two cats, Dallas and Melba, keep me busy at home and I enjoy spending free time watching sports, especially the NBA and CFL. Maggie has been part of the Namerind team for over 7 years.