

Message from CEO Robert Byers

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a happy and restful holiday season. Here at Namerind, we are looking forward to all the excitement ahead in 2012. Last year saw many new developments for us. Namerind, working with our contractors, started offering commercial and residential services to homeowners and businesses across Regina, we created new partnerships and alliances through various projects, including our co-hosting of the national Sustainable Solutions Conference for housing providers and experts across Canada, and we continued to grow our environmental initiatives, as you will read in this newsletter.

In this issue, you will also hear from our staff on how we work with tenants to ensure that they are reducing their environmental footprint each day. Environmental and financial



sustainability continue to be our top priorities and we are excited about the new projects and initiatives to be announced in the coming months. To stay abreast of the latest developments, visit us online at www.namerindhousing.ca.

As always, I welcome your feedback and look forward to hearing from you with comments or ideas. All the best in 2012!

Recent Announcements

Follow Namerind's Energy Savings in Real Time Online!

In 2010, Namerind announced the second-largest solar project in the history of Saskatchewan when renewable energy systems were installed on all Namerind-owned multi-dwelling units, including our office building and mall. Now you can follow the energy savings by day, week or month online at www.namerindhousing.ca on the Environmental Stewardship page.

Each of Namerind's four participating properties are listed, along with the amount of coal that would have been used and CO2 that would have been released into the air had this technology not been installed. Solar panels assist in heating water that

is used and regenerated throughout each day. For example, water heated each afternoon is used in the evening and throughout the morning, depleting much of the system's resources, but then is regenerated by the sun mid-day for future use. This ensures a constant reduction of reliance on traditional fossil fuels and a constant improvement to the air throughout the community.

There is also a mechanism on the website to view the energy savings in relation to pollution resulting from miles driven in a car. From May through December 2011 alone, Namerind saved the equivalent of pollution caused by driving over 2,500 miles, which resulted in nearly 2,000 lbs LESS carbon dioxide being pumped into the air we breathe.

Visit www.namerindhousing.ca to see for yourself!

What's New

Each year, **Namerind helps families in our community create lasting holiday memories.**

We collect donations from our various contractors, suppliers, Board members and staff to



create **Christmas Hampers for families in need.** This year was our most successful year yet as we were able to provide hampers to 25 families as well as making a donation of warm winter clothing to Carmichael Outreach in Regina!

We would like to thank all those who supported our Christmas Hamper Fund this year, including:

- Allan Plumbing and Heating
- Bald Eagle Construction
- Brian Wood Design Studio
- Christie Maintenance
- Cobra Installs
- Crown Clean Janitorial
- Eclipse Fencing and Decks
- Fisher Electric
- Graham's Thermal Windows
- Jack Fiesell
- Linka Howe Law Offices
- Lyle Parisian
- Mannie Amyotte
- Phil Robertson
- Poise Communications
- Robert Byers
- Rolan Renovations
- Spotless Cleaning
- TAS Plumbing and Heating/Mr. Rooter
- The Painted Chair
- Troy's Appliance
- Vic Darling

Ask the Expert



Mannie Amyotte is the Maintenance Manager at Namerind Housing.

Q: Now that we're well into the winter season, what should tenants and homeowners keep in mind around the house until the spring thaw?

A: One of the most important things you can do for your home is to change the furnace filter each month. This will help improve the quality of the air you breathe and also ensure that your furnace is running at its most efficient. Any of our tenants can take note of the size of filter that they need and come into our office to pick up a new one each month. Also, when you're near the furnace changing the filter, it's a good idea to ensure that any storage items are at least one foot away from the furnace and hot water heater. If you have a high-efficiency furnace, you can also check that the outside outlets are not blocked by anything.

Q: How can we all ensure that we're using the least amount of energy possible in the cold winter months?

A: Always unplug appliances when you're not using them. Not everyone realizes this but when your toaster, kettle, phone charger or other small appliance is plugged in, it continues to draw electricity even when not in use. Exterior lights and car plugs can

be put on timers so they only draw the power they need. Also, many people plug in their car overnight without realizing that most cars can be ready to start in about 3 hours. Installing a timer can ensure that you only use the energy that your car actually needs.

Q: Do you have any other tips to get us through the winter months?

A: Ensure your walkways and sidewalks are cleaned regularly and free of ice and snow. This is important for your family, but also for neighbours, mail and delivery people and others who are using the walkways. Also make sure that your hot and cold air vents are clear of furniture and heavy drapery. This will improve your heating efficiency and also keep moisture off the windows. Ensure that no electric heaters are left unattended and that they are always unplugged when you leave your home. If any of our tenants have an issue, however small it may seem, I always tell them to call into our office as soon as possible so that we can send someone to take a look. Small leaks and cracks grow larger over time and if a home is not properly maintained at the first sign of a problem, the job becomes much larger as time goes on. Homeowners can also call Namerind for a wide range of indoor and outdoor contracting services in any season. We're always here to help.

C O N T A C T

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Meet our Staff



Name:
Judith Langen

Position:
Tenant Relations Manager

Describe a typical day for you at Namerind:

It's my job to find suitable houses for our applicants and maintain ongoing relationships with them once they become tenants. I conduct home visits to each unit every six months to provide information on how to run a healthy home as well as spring and fall maintenance tips. I also work with our tenants on an ongoing basis to provide budgeting and financial planning advice, and to make sure that they know there is always a familiar face at Namerind to call with any questions or issues.

What is your favourite thing about working at Namerind?

It gives me great satisfaction when someone makes a change, following my advice, and it changes their life for the better. My goal is to keep all of our tenants in their homes, so when a new budgeting exercise leads to a tenant achieving financial success, for example, I always enjoy celebrating that achievement with our tenants.

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

I always enjoy spending time with my family. For the past three years, I have also volunteered for The Open Door Society, which provides settlement and integration services for refugees and immigrants who are new to Regina. I've been hosting a family from Burma for just over a year helping them familiarize themselves with Regina and learn key language and lifestyle skills as they settle into their new home here.

Judith has been part of the Namerind team for 6 years.