

Message from CEO Robert Byers

Our July edition of Namerind News brings together some exceptional people in our community and the things that Namerind is doing to support them. In this issue you'll hear from one of our tenants, Tracy Desjarlais, whose son Michael has become a local football hero and an inspiration to a generation of kids who will overcome challenge and circumstance to realize their dreams.

We feel privileged to know Tracy and Michael, as well as many more amazing individuals and families in our community. It is no secret that we are in a time of economic restraint, and some have responded to funding cuts by saying that they can no longer fulfill their mandate. Instead of cutting back, Namerind has charged forward and begun to achieve growth during the last few years. You'll hear from our Controller, Bob Cannon, who will reveal that Namerind has managed to replace a nearly \$1.4 million funding cut by diversifying our revenue streams.

It is our goal to continue to replace funding with revenues that we can reinvest into affordable

housing until we are an entirely self-sustaining organization. It remains important to us to support our community in as many ways as possible. In doing so, we have created an organization that will be able to provide affordable housing to Regina's Aboriginal community for generations to come.

As always, I encourage you to call or drop by our office to hear more about any of our exciting projects. For more information on Namerind and our community initiatives, please visit our website at www.namerindhousing.ca.



What's New

On June 28th, 2012, Namerind hosted the 5th annual Family Day, providing an opportunity for staff, Board members, tenants, contractors, tradespeople and their families to gather, relax and enjoy the summer weather together. Evraz pool and park provided the perfect location with swings, a giant slide and a wildlife park for the children to enjoy along with face painting, a dunk tank, games and prizes.

With approximately 100 people participating in the annual games and BBQ, Family Day once again proved a great way to bring the community together and to thank all of Namerind's tenants, staff and those they work with for all their hard work during the year.

Recent Announcements

Michael Desjarlais to Attend University of Saskatchewan on Football Scholarship

Namerind tenant Tracy Desarlais and her son Michael have a very exciting Fall approaching. Fresh from playing as part of Team Saskatchewan at the Football Canada Cup in Lethbridge, and playing locally for his school (The Regina Miller Marauders), Michael is set to leave Regina and move to Saskatoon to become a Huskie at the University of Saskatchewan, as the recipient of a football scholarship.

"The Huskies coach had heard of Michael and came to his high school to recruit him," said Michael's mom Tracy. "There were other coaches interested as well, but Michael chose U of S because of



their great dentistry program. He's already thinking about his future."

Michael didn't show a great interest in sports until grade 9, when he learned he

had a natural talent for football. "He had tried a bit of soccer and baseball when he was 7 or 8 years old, but wasn't really into sports as a kid," said Tracy. "Now that he's had such great success in football, he's talking to younger kids and family members telling them to stay in school and work hard to achieve their dreams."

Tracy shared that she has known many Namerind staff members for several years and that she enjoys going into the office because of the personal connection that Namerind staff have to each of their tenants.

"We are so proud of Michael's achievements. He is a fantastic role model for young people in our community and a wonderful example of the many amazing tenants and families we interact with each day," said Robert Byers, CEO of Namerind.

Ask the Expert



Bob Cannon is Namerind's Controller, in charge of the Finance department.

Q: How is Namerind managing to maintain its level of service to tenants while faced with the challenge that subsidies and funding are being reduced year over year?

A: A number of years ago now, we made the decision that we could not allow ourselves to be dependent on government funding to operate our properties. In order to ensure we are able to provide service to our tenants and support our community for years to come, we had to become a self-sustaining organization. This is of course a challenge, but one that we readily accept. We have made great progress in diversifying our revenue streams so that when we make profit from our pharmacy or from leasing space in our warehouse or retail mall, we are able to reinvest 100 per cent of that profit into affordable housing. As our various enterprises grow, so will our ability to provide affordable housing to Regina's Aboriginal community in the future.

Q: What approach do you take to Namerind's budgeting process to ensure that funds are sustained for affordable housing support?

A: I would say we take a fiscally responsible but entrepreneurial approach to budgeting. We are very conservative in our growth, yet we have big ideas that we are executing year over year. When one new revenue stream becomes

successful, as with The Resting Place, our Patient's Lodge, which we designed to provide a place to stay for those in town for medical appointments or treatment and their families, we ensure its long-term stability before moving onto the next project. The Patient's Lodge was one of our first projects outside of maintaining the affordable housing units and we realized quickly that we had met a need because in no time it was nearly fully booked and bringing in revenue that could support affordable housing. Once we knew that our Patient's Lodge was going to continue to serve families on an ongoing basis, we moved onto supporting our Contractor's Warehouse and other projects.

Q: What is Namerind's current financial outlook?

A: Our subsidy agreement allows for funding to decrease as houses come off subsidy. As this happens each year, our funding is less, but our assets increase. As we take ownership, we create a mix of market rent properties as well as affordable housing properties. We have even facilitated the sale of one of our homes to a long-standing tenant, a wonderful opportunity that would not have been possible had we not been able to help provide financing support. We have replaced approximately \$1.4 million in subsidy thus far by taking profits from our various projects and enterprises and reinvesting them into Namerind's affordable housing. With hard work and due diligence, we will continue on this path, providing homes for generations to come.

CONTACT

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Meet our Staff



Name:

Bev Brooks

Position:

Pharmacist at Namerind-owned
Winnipeg Street Pharmacy

Describe a typical day for you at Namerind:

My day is mostly made up of providing advice or information to those who use our pharmacy. The only typical thing about patients is that there are no two exactly alike! I offer help and information about prescriptions that are being filled, but also help patients with our over-the-counter products like sunscreen, bandages, eye drops and those sorts of things.

The pharmacy can sometimes be an overwhelming place when you're not sure what you're looking for and part of my job is to make it easy for patients who use our pharmacy to find what they're looking for and maintain their best possible health.

What is your favourite thing about working at Namerind?

Working for Namerind has been a wonderful opportunity for me to run an independent pharmacy. As the sole pharmacist at the Winnipeg Street Pharmacy, I do everything there from sweeping the floors to filling prescriptions to answering calls when people call in with questions. I really like being able to take as much time as I need with every patient to ensure that all their questions are answered and they have everything they need. It's great to be able to help people every day and the numbers of patients we serve grows every month.

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

Aside from working with patients at the pharmacy, I enjoy spending time with my husband, reading, spending time outdoors and eating great food. I enjoy living in Regina and all our community has to offer.

Bev has been part of the Namerind team for three years.