

Message from CEO Robert Byers



The beginning of Spring always signals hope and opportunity as people come together and bring fresh, new ideas to the table. We are thrilled to announce our partnership with Kids First Regina, where we will be providing newly renovated houses to families who so badly need a safe, stable place to call home. Kids First is a wonderful organization and we are happy to be working with them to support our community.

Also during this season, we at Namerind feel a renewed passion for our environmental sustainability projects. Watching the new growth all around us, we are reminded of the importance of sustaining our environment for generations to come. For more information on our environmental work or on any of our projects, please visit our website at www.namerindhousing.ca. I also, as always, welcome your feedback on our newsletter and any of our projects so please feel free to contact us or stop by the Namerind office anytime.

Recent Announcements

Namerind and Kids First Regina Partner to Provide New Homes to Families in Need

Namerind Housing is excited to announce a new partnership with Kids First Regina, an organization dedicated to supporting children and families by enhancing parenting knowledge, providing support, and building on family strengths. The project will provide affordable housing to Regina families by using homes purchased by Namerind that have been upgraded and renovated by Namerind's team of contractors and trades.

"One of the most important components of our being able to support young families is that they must have a safe and suitable home where children can flourish," said Heidi Fisher-Phillips, Program Manager at Kids First. "Namerind was a natural partnership for us as they are very like-minded in their focus on supporting families in our community. We look forward to continuing to work with them and even expanding the program in the future."

Namerind is providing six newly renovated houses for the first phase of the partnership. Each house will be home to a young family and will allow Kids First to conduct home visits to support parenting, nutrition, education, employment and other skills crucial to the family's success. Kids First runs a variety of programs promoting healthy behaviours,

supporting families as they prepare for the birth of their child, then continuing to support parents as they navigate challenges and build the necessary skills to raise a healthy family.



"We at Namerind are thrilled to be part of this project. Our contractors and staff are passionate about providing top quality housing. This partnership represents for us another way in which we can support our community and create opportunities for families in need."

Namerind currently owns 275 homes and provides safe, affordable housing, along with economic development opportunities to Aboriginal people in Regina. In an effort to become a self-sustaining organization, Namerind also owns a Patient's Lodge which houses suites rented to those in Regina for medical reasons, a warehouse with storage and workspace for contractors and trades, and a retail mall, which includes the Namerind-owned Winnipeg Street Pharmacy. All profits from these ventures are reinvested into affordable housing.

For more information on Kids First, their partnerships and programs, please visit www.kidsfirstregina.com.

Ask the Expert

Dwayne Snider is Owner of Advanced Energy, and has installed hundreds of residential and commercial renewable energy systems since 2001.

Q: How can home or business owners contribute to sustainable energy solutions?

A: There are various ways to determine how to reduce your current energy consumption either at home or at work, and also to determine if you are a candidate for green energy solutions. The first step is to assess your current consumption and we have a process that includes a home or business visit where we go through your energy use and set up a monitoring system for you. This will monitor your energy use to determine how you can use less, and it will also indicate where you use the most power and what types of alternate solutions might be an option for you. Our website at www.adv-energy.com provides further information.

Q: How can people use less energy in their home?

A: Whether you rent or own your home, there is almost always a way to reduce the amount of energy that you use. This will not only benefit the environment, but will also reduce the cost of your monthly bill. You would be surprised at how much power you can save by using simple solutions, such as upgrading your appliances, furnace or hot water

heater to energy efficient models, using efficient light bulbs, unplugging small appliances or electronics when not in use and turning off the lights when you leave a room. You can also program your thermostat so that your air conditioning or heating are used less when you're not at home. Once you have reduced your energy use by using these solutions, the next step would be to add solar technology to take your power use off the grid and create your own sustainable energy source.

Q: Other than the environmental benefits, what benefit is there to installing this type of technology in your home or business?

A: There are many tax credits and rebates from both government and local power companies. For example, installing solar technology can earn you up to a 20 % rebate from your local power company on your monthly energy bill. We worked with Namerind in 2010 to install environmentally sustaining energy technology on all of their multi-dwelling units and commercial buildings, and you can now track the savings in real time on their website at www.namerindhousing.ca. The project saved Namerind approximately \$50K last year alone, which is a very significant savings for a not-for-profit organization. We can also set up this type of monitoring system for residential clients, so that you can log onto your home computer to track energy use and savings.

C O N T A C T

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Meet our Staff



Name:

Ashley Fayant

Position:

Housing and Tenant Relations Assistant

Describe a typical day for you at Namerind:

My job consists of both administrative duties in the office, like entering data and updating tenant applications in our system, and duties out of the office where I will attend property checks, move-ins and visits to our tenants.

I also answer questions for tenants when they visit our office and need information and help with rent collection, maintenance issues and responding to other calls that come into our office.

What is your favourite thing about working at Namerind?

I most like the staff here at Namerind and the people that we work with. I really enjoy working with and getting to know our tenants, especially when I help participate in a family's move into a new house or apartment. Everyone is so excited for their fresh start and it's great to be a part of that.

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

I do work another job, which I enjoy as it's very different. I am more on the retail and sales side there, so I still enjoy working with people but in a very different way than my job at Namerind. I also enjoy spending time with my family and I am currently training for a marathon, which is a lot of work, but very rewarding.

Ashley has been part of the Namerind team for just over 2 years.