

## Message from CEO Robert Byers



With spring right around the corner, it seemed fitting for this issue of Namerind News to focus on renewal and the rejuvenation of Regina's housing sector, as well as the approach being taken to solve the challenges facing affordable housing across Canada. It has been my privilege to participate in many committees and commissions over the past number of years and I am always proud to share Namerind's model of providing affordable housing while working towards a self-sustaining business model.

We at Namerind believe that it is critical that all housing providers find ways to encourage financial sustainability so that we can all provide affordable housing for decades to come. In diversifying our revenue streams and directing all profits back to affordable housing, we have ensured our ability to continue to support our community. To read more, please visit our newly re-launched website at [www.namerindhousing.ca](http://www.namerindhousing.ca).

As always, please feel free to get in touch or stop by our office for more information on any of our activities or to share your ideas.

### Recent Announcements

## Regina Mayor Launches Housing Commission

In the Fall of 2013, Regina Mayor Michael Fougere launched the Mayor's Housing Commission, to provide recommendations to City Council on initiatives to strengthen Regina's housing sector. Robert Byers, President and CEO of Namerind Housing, will sit as a Commissioner, along with eight others.

"I welcome the challenge of representing the interests of the affordable housing sector, and those community members that we serve, at the table," said Byers. "It is important that we all work together to address challenges to the provision of rental housing in Regina."

The Commissioners will meet monthly and share their recommendations with the Mayor, who will bring them forward to City Council. Discussing overall housing strategy, along with addressing the city's low vacancy rate and looking at specific issues like tax incentives and creative approaches to new housing stock, the commission aims to take action to ensure accessible housing across Regina.

## Namerind President and CEO to hold position as Director of Aboriginal Communities as Board Member, Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA).

Increasing the scope of Namerind's involvement in both local and national housing issues, Robert Byers was recently appointed the Director of Aboriginal Communities on the Board of the CHRA. In this capacity, Robert will join the forefront of the national debate about how best to provide affordable housing across the country.

This appointment serves Namerind's core community in Regina, as Byers now holds positions working with municipal, provincial and federal governments and organizations.

"In participating at all levels of the affordable housing sector, I am able to ensure that Namerind tenants and the communities we serve in Regina are benefitting from the best ideas and practices in Canada," said Byers. "It has been a wonderful experience to hear these ideas while sharing our learnings and business model with others."

Byers will serve on the 15-member Board of Directors, which advises the Federal government on affordable housing issues such as cost management, social enterprise and sustainable solutions.

### What's New

We have recently re-launched our website at [www.namerindhousing.ca](http://www.namerindhousing.ca). Please visit the website to learn about our latest projects and partnerships, read past issues of our newsletter, and track the energy savings from our solar project in real time.



## C O N T A C T

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### Meet our Staff



**Name:**  
Clifton Favel

**Position**  
Maintenance Technician

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

My day usually depends a lot on what season we're in and what the weather is like. Our work takes place both indoors and out, whether it's shoveling snow from walkways and de-icing in winter or fence repair and yard work in the summer. We also handle the general maintenance calls to all of our tenant properties that come through our office.

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

The atmosphere at Namerind is really like that of a family. Not only the people on our maintenance team, but the office staff, our tenants – everyone is a pleasure to work with and looks out for each other. As one of Namerind's newest employees, I can say that the environment here doesn't even really compare to that of other employers. The length everyone goes to help people is remarkable and you really leave each day with a sense of having made something better.

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

When I am not at work, I am usually spending time with my wife and three daughters. I've lived in Regina all my life and enjoy taking my family to many community and cultural events.

*Clifton has been part of the Namerind team for just over a year.*