

Name

Exec Dept U. of M.
John Loxley
AN & Admin Program

**COMMUNITY INQUIRY
INTO INNER CITY REVITALIZATION:
SUMMARY REPORT**

**Presented by the Community Inquiry Board
to the Urban Futures Circle, Inter-Agency Group**

August 1990

INTRODUCTION

Since 1981, the federal, provincial and municipal governments have jointly responded to inner city issues through two successive – and, for Canada, unique – five-year agreements commonly known as the Winnipeg Core Area Initiative (CAI I and II).

These agreements followed several years of unchecked decline in the inner city's population base, economy, physical infrastructure and social environment, coupled with the growing needs of particular groups – single parents, elderly persons, and aboriginal and immigrant communities.

The premise underlying the CAI has been that a comprehensive and coordinated intergovernmental approach can arrest the decline, encourage new investment, and thus improve employment opportunities and living conditions for inner city residents.

However, CAI II will end on March 31, 1991. With no firm commitment from governments on how they intend to proceed after this date, many inner city residents and organizations are concerned about the future of revitalization programs.

To give voice to these concerns, a voluntary, 10-member Community Inquiry Board was set up in March 1990 under the sponsorship of Inter-Agency Group's Urban Futures Circle. The Board's tasks were to solicit input from all sectors of the inner city community as to the needs and directions for future revitalization and to report on its findings.

Input there was. Over approximately a three-month period, the Board held nine public meetings and, as of June 29, received 90 verbal and written presentations from a wide range of organizations and individuals (see Attachment).

These submissions offered much insight into the challenges facing communities both within and outside the CAI's geographical boundaries. They also reflected the dedication and ability of those who, often with very limited resources, are making strenuous efforts to assist inner city residents in their search for a better quality of life. The needs are great and the difficulties severe, but there clearly is a determination to persist on the principle that it is better to light a candle than to curse the darkness.

What follows is a summary of the Board's report on the main themes raised before the Inquiry. This information has been distilled from written briefs, tapes of verbal presentations and summaries prepared after each public hearing.

THE BASIC MESSAGE

A four-part consensus emerged from this community consultation:

- Continue the tripartite commitment to inner city revitalization. Much has been accomplished by the CAI, but much more needs to be done. The time has come to reassess direction and focus, not to abandon the undertaking and leave that which has been achieved vulnerable to erosion.
- Give priority to initiatives that foster community and individual empowerment and that directly improve the conditions in which current inner city residents live. To accomplish this:
 - Broaden the partnership to include a much greater planning and decision-making role for inner city communities.
 - Provide greater support to education, training, employment, community-based economic development, and social service initiatives that promote ownership, self-help and self-determination, not dependency.
 - Focus physical renewal on neighbourhood needs – adequate, affordable housing, infrastructure (hard services) and community facilities.
- Be more open, flexible and accountable in program delivery. As well, recognize the level of expertise that exists in inner city communities to support more decentralized implementation.
- Better relate overall public policy and programs to inner city revitalization, particularly in terms of:
 - employment, income security, aboriginal and immigration policies;

- development of an integrated physical, economic and social plan for Winnipeg's inner city; and
- the ongoing public-sector commitment to human services.

SPECIFIC FINDINGS

About the CAI

1. On balance, the CAI is perceived to have made a positive contribution to inner city revitalization over the past decade. Of particular value:
 - its support for innovative projects that responded to previously unmet needs and successfully demonstrated alternative, non-traditional ways to deliver services; and
 - its education, training, housing and neighbourhood improvement initiatives.
2. The constituency which appeared before the Inquiry had criticisms of the CAI in four main areas:
 - program and spending priorities (in terms of resources allocated to large-scale, "bricks and mortar" projects);
 - scope (in terms of geographical coverage and diversity of programs);
 - role in ensuring the long-term development and stability of successful projects/services; and
 - some aspects of administration.
3. The CAI partners are urged to proceed with the Inner City Foundation (Program 7 of CAI II) and to involve inner city groups in defining its role, objectives, criteria and structure. Several concerns were expressed about the lack of public consultation, the adequacy of the \$1 million program commitment, and the impact of implementation delays on the foundation's potential effectiveness in the post-CAI II period.

The Context for Inner City Revitalization

4. The conditions which gave rise to the CAI persist, not because past revitalization efforts have failed, but because they have only scratched the surface of problems that are long-standing, complex, deeply-rooted and dynamic.
5. Many inner city issues – poverty, unemployment, lack of education, poor health, discrimination, race relations – are systemic. They require a broader community response than a revitalization initiative alone can offer.
6. The CAI partners, in particular the City of Winnipeg which has statutory planning responsibilities, are urged to involve residents and groups in the development of a comprehensive, long-term, inner city plan. The purpose: To ensure appropriate integration of initiatives within the inner city, and between it and other areas of Winnipeg. As well, the Inquiry was told that there is a need to open up participation and build public consensus on future directions – a need that is not being fulfilled through the current Winnipeg 2000 economic development process.
7. Many frustrations were voiced over a lack of long-term, core operating support for inner city projects/services. These concerns indicate that, at minimum, there must be better linkages between government line departments and future revitalization programs. More fundamentally, they suggest a need to re-examine the place of social services within public policy.

The Next Phase of Inner City Revitalization

8. The CAI partners are urged to continue as a priority their comprehensive tripartite commitment to inner city revitalization. While this approach has not been easy or perfect, too many inner city issues cut across governmental jurisdictions to make a return to unilateral, uncoordinated approaches a viable policy alternative.
9. The broad goals which have been pursued over the past decade remain valid for the next phase of revitalization. However, there was a consistent call from Inquiry participants for a reorientation

of priorities – i.e., a greater emphasis on individual and community empowerment, human services and physical renewal at the neighbourhood level.

10. There also was a consistent call for greater community participation in the needs assessment, planning, decision-making and implementation associated with future renewal activities. It was amply demonstrated to the Inquiry Board that the capability to play a more active role exists in inner city communities.
11. The CAI partners are urged to reassess the geographical boundaries used to determine program eligibility. The Inquiry heard some strong arguments that current boundaries exclude certain high-needs areas (e.g., Weston, Shaughnessy Park/Gilbert Park), while enabling assistance to flow to other neighbourhoods where conditions are not as pressing.

Priorities Expressed to the Inquiry

12. Many groups outlined the kinds of programs and projects they would like to see supported in a subsequent revitalization thrust. The following issues were foremost:
 - housing;
 - neighbourhood improvement;
 - education and training;
 - affirmative action employment;
 - community-based economic development; and
 - child care and youth services.
13. The next phase of inner city revitalization must recognize the resource needs of aboriginal communities whose members have come to make up a large part of the inner city's population. A number of presentations to the Inquiry outlined the strengthening network of aboriginal service organizations and the aspirations of aboriginal peoples. However, other submissions reminded the Board that much must yet be done to address the lack of understanding and acceptance which confronts these aspirations in the broader society.

14. Two pre-CAI issues – revitalization of North Main Street and relocation of the Canadian Pacific Railway main line and yards – were put forward as priorities by some Inquiry participants.

Implementation

15. Within the constituency that appeared before the Inquiry, support for continuation of the CAI's administrative structure for policy-making and program delivery is contingent on that structure becoming more open, flexible and accountable. For example, the Inquiry heard several calls for greater representation of inner city communities at the staff and advisory group levels, and for applicants to have more direct access to decision-makers when their proposals for funding are under consideration.
16. Some presentations highlighted the need for future revitalization programs to place greater emphasis on encouraging cooperation and coordination among inner city groups and agencies. Attention also was drawn to the need for ongoing support and training for those who receive funding, particularly newer and smaller groups that may require assistance in areas such as board development and administration.
17. As the expiration of CAI II approaches, the three levels of government are urged to ensure that there is not a repetition of the delays and uncertainties that affected the 1986-87 transition from CAI I. Moreover, if a new revitalization initiative is not to be pursued, governments should provide early clarification of their respective program and funding responsibilities.

ATTACHMENT

List of Presentations to the Community Inquiry

The Inquiry Board gratefully acknowledges the efforts and ideas contributed by:

Action Centre Day Nursery
Anishinabe RESPECT
L'association des résidents du vieux Saint Boniface

Beat the Street West
Beckta, Jim
Big Brothers Association of Winnipeg
Bookmates

Canadian Paraplegic Association
Canadian Union of Public Employees, Local 500
Child and Family Services Central of Winnipeg
Child Guidance Clinic
Community Dispute Centre
Community Education and Development Association (CEDA)
Cooper, Ray
Cornish Child Care Centre
Creative Retirement Manitoba
Crossroads Family Centre
David Livingstone Parent Council
Denton, Thomas R.
Downtown Arts Council
Downtown Business Improvement Zone

Elizabeth Fry Society of Manitoba
Explorer's Children's Centre
Forks Renewal Corporation
Gilbert Park Tenants' Association
Greening the Forks
Habitat for Humanity
Health Action Centre
Hope Centre Women's Circle

Ikwewak Justice Society
Ikwe-Widdjiiliwin
Indian & Metis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg
Inner City Voice
Inter-Agency Group Coordinator
Italian Canadian League of Manitoba
Journeys Education Association
Keeper, Linda
Keewatin Community Council
Kekinan Centre
Labour Election Committee
Logan Community Committee

MacDonald Youth Services
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
Manitoba Action Committee on the Status of Women
Manitoba Association for Native Languages
Manitoba Association of Social Workers
Manitoba Child Care Association
Manitoba Home Builders' Association
Manitoba Indian Cultural Education Centre
Martindale, Doug
Marymount School
Mennonite Central Committee

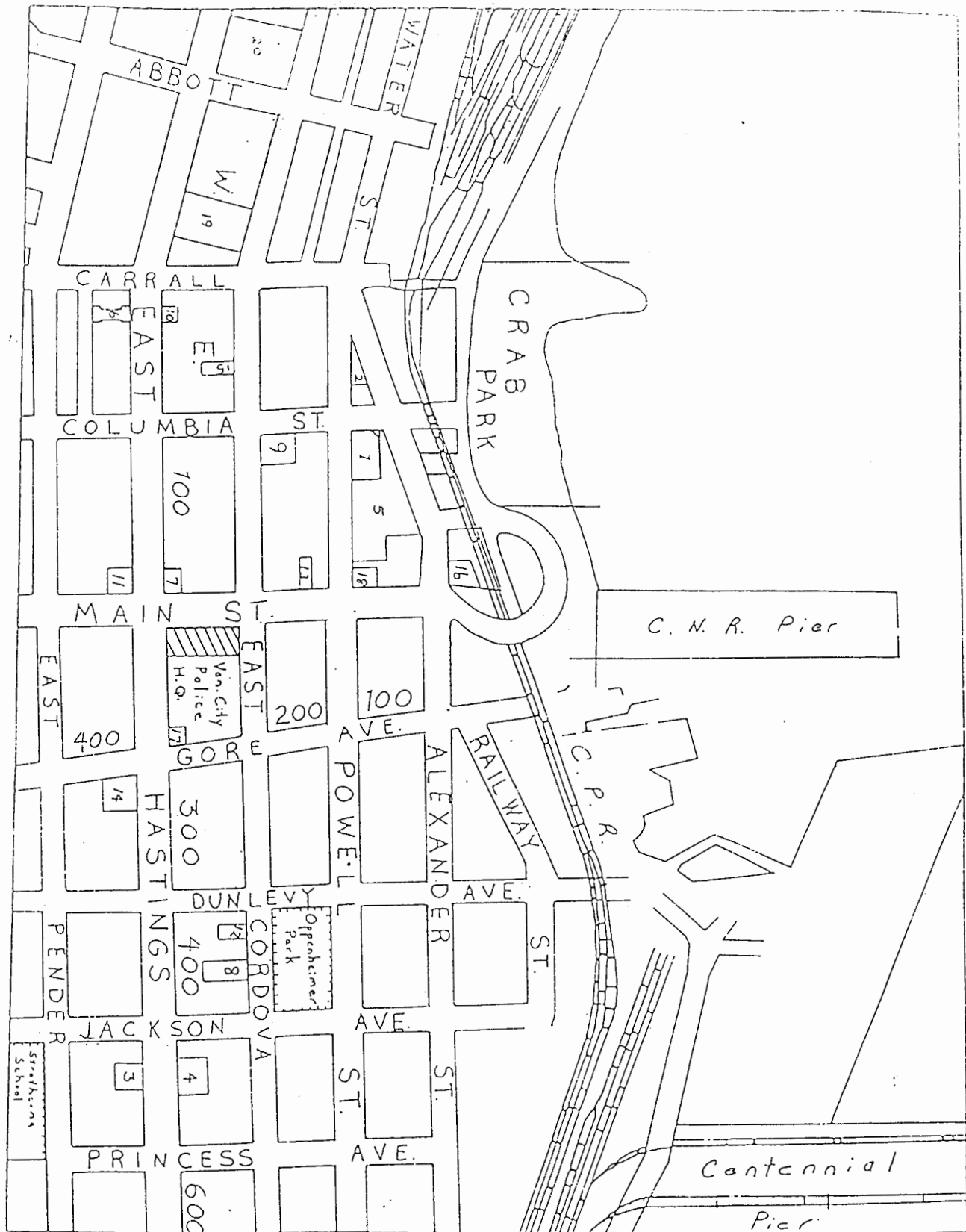
Native Women's Transition Centre
North End Community Council
North End Women's Centre
North-Main Development Corporation
North Portage Development Corporation
Northeast Winnipeg Family and Child Extended Social Services (NEW
FACESS)
Northwest Child and Family Services
Northwest Co-op Sunshine Day Nursery

Original Women's Network
Parent-Child Centres
Philippine Association of Manitoba
Playmates Preschool
Point Douglas Residents' Committee
Point North Project
Popular Theatre Alliance
Pritchard Place Drop In Centre
Prostitutes and Other Women for Equal Rights (POWER)

Redboine-Ellice Community Council
Rossbrook House
Selkirk Avenue Business Association
Shaughnessy Park Laughing and Learning After School Hours Program
(SPLLASH)
Shaughnessy Park Parent Council
Social Assistance Coalition of Manitoba

West Broadway Family Centre
West Broadway Residents' Association
West End Teen Council
Weston Community Residents' Association
Weston Resident Advisory Board to the Manitoba/Winnipeg Community
Revitalization Program
Winnipeg Boys and Girls Clubs
Winnipeg Chamber of Commerce
Winnipeg Education Centre
Winnipeg in the Nineties
Winnipeg Labour Council
Winnipeg School Division No. 1
Women in Second Stage Housing (WISH)
Women's Post Treatment Centre

Young Aboriginal Artists
Youville Clinic Outreach



NON-PROFIT HOUSING PROJECTS:

1. Columbia Place
2. Europe Place
3. Bill Hennessy
4. Jonny Pantland
5. Four Sisters
6. Tellier Tower
7. Ford Building
8. Mavis/McMullen

SERVICES

9. Crabtree Corner Childcare (YWCA)/DELAYS
10. DERA
11. Carnegie Centre
12. Downtown Eastside Community Health Clinic
13. Downtown Eastside Women's Centre
14. First United Church
15. Club Alex - Multi-Use Centre
16. Legal Services Society
17. Post Office
18. Fire Department
- Bus Lines

OTHER:

19. Army & Navy
20. Woodward's