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## 2020 : the year in numbers

2020 was certainly a year to remember. Despite its challenges to our community programming, here are some things we got to do:

- **4 cubic metres** of electronic waste collected at fall cleanup
- **3,385 visits** to our resource centre/ service window
- **90 visits** to our public computer hub
- **47 people** found employment through PREP Employment Training
- **44 home repair grants** provided
- **718 Good Food bags** distributed
- **110 faxes** sent for our community members
- **200 people** attended PREP employment training courses
- **75 community garden plots** tended at four sites

## Here to serve the community

DM/SM Community Association's Harm Reduction & Basic Needs window distribution project started in April of 2020 to meet the needs of the community during the pandemic. While the centre was closed for a few weeks at the beginning of the pandemic, we have since hired more resource centre staff and expanded the hours, and the window's activity exploded parallel to these changes.

We have also expanded the range of items offered; harm reduction (safer drug use and safer sex) kits, hygiene supply kits with mini-sized shampoo, conditioner, soap, lotion and a razor, basic needs items such as socks, underwear, cold weather gear, menstrual hygiene products, dental hygiene products, and bottled water.



December's stats broke records for almost everything we offer; if there's one thing the DM/SM communities know how to do, it's share and spread the word! Every day, new people come to the window and say a friend or neighbour told them to drop by. Regulars come daily and we memorize their requests.

We'd love to see and serve you, too! If you have any of the listed supplies that we offer that you would like to donate, please call 204-774-7005 between 1 PM and 6 PM.

## PREP Employment Training (MORE ON BACK PAGE...)

### JOB INTERVIEW PREP WORKSHOP

Free & online, Feb. 19, 9:00 am – 11:00 am

To register: maria@dmsmca.ca or 204-774-7005 ext. 106

### MOCK JOB INTERVIEW SESSION

Free and online, Feb. 26, 10:00 am – 1:00 pm

To register: omotayo@dmsmca.ca or 204-774-7005 ext. 109

### CUSTODIAL SKILLS TRAINING

Online and in-person, Feb. 18 – 20

PREP is offering free custodial skills training with an honoraria paid to participants who successfully complete the course. This requires both online and in-person participation. To see if you qualify, contact Abdi at 204-774-7005 ext. 113 or abdikadir@dmsmca.ca. Registration deadline is Feb. 15.

# Putting a focus on affordable housing needs in Winnipeg

By Cindy Gilroy, City Councillor, Daniel McIntyre Ward

I am happy that the City made a \$2 million investment in affordable housing from the federal Safe Restart funds as part of the 2021 budget.

This past summer the City of Winnipeg Comprehensive Housing Needs Assessment made it clear that there are growing gaps in the City's affordable housing. More than one out of five families spend more than 30 per cent of their gross income on shelter. Our seniors population is growing and Indigenous and recent Immigrant households are struggling to find suitable housing.

When I was elected in 2014, one of my top priorities was to have the City develop a housing plan that provides a way to address those needs. With the advocacy and support of community groups I have championed this work at City Hall and built support with my fellow councillors. While the City is not the direct provider of housing in Manitoba, we recognize that all governments must play a role.

In this year's budget, we will be implementing the Affordable Housing Strategy that will help meet those needs. Since 2000, \$1 million has been set aside each year in the Housing Rehabilitation Reserve Account to help fund projects. The

2021 budget invested an additional \$2 million from the federal safe restart agreement to provide capital grants and permit fee rebates to developers of affordable housing. These measures allow us to leverage federal funding that was available but not being accessed.

These funds will complement the Tax Increment Financing Plan, being prepared for consideration, that will leverage funds from the Canadian Housing and Mortgage Corporation to support construction of affordable housing. Another way the City can contribute is through the sale of City-owned property to non-profit housing providers at less than the assessed value. The Public Service will report back to Council on options to renew and expand a successful pilot project that used this strategy in the William Whyte area.

In addition, Council recently approved \$12.5 million from the Federal Rapid Housing Initiative to help those experiencing homelessness. The funding will be used to create 88 new housing units aimed to help people leaving rehab, people with cognitive disabilities and youth aging out of foster care.

These are important steps. Housing is something all Winnipeggers should have regardless of



**CINDY GILROY**  
City Councillor · Daniel McIntyre Ward



[www.cindygilroy.com](http://www.cindygilroy.com)  
[cgilroy@winnipeg.ca](mailto:cgilroy@winnipeg.ca)  
(204) 986-5953  
#workingtogetherworks

income, race, or gender. I am proud to say we are moving forward with a housing strategy that will help us build a city where we all have a place to call our own.

*Thank you!* We would like to thank the following for their financial contribution to our programming: Province of Manitoba, City of Winnipeg, Assiniboine Credit Union, United Way Winnipeg, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, Canada Summer Jobs, Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, and Councillor Cindy Gilroy.



*Need help with your resume?*

The PREP program can help you on your job search journey and become successful in gaining entry level employment. We offer assistance with resumes and cover letter preparation, including printing and scanning. Call 204-774-7005 ext. 105 or email [workprep@dmsmca.ca](mailto:workprep@dmsmca.ca)

## Working for Wolseley

# LISA NAYLOR

MLA for Wolseley

**204-792-2773**  
101-686 Portage Avenue  
[Lisa.Naylor@yourmanitoba.ca](mailto:Lisa.Naylor@yourmanitoba.ca)



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892 Sargent Avenue  
Phone: 204-984-1675  
[Leah.Gazan@parl.gc.ca](mailto:Leah.Gazan@parl.gc.ca)

## Job ready?

Amidst the pandemic, the PREP Employment Readiness Program continues to grow with the addition of our new Employment Outreach Counsellors, Marina and Tayo. They joined our team in December and we are excited to expand our employment services and workshops!



PREP offers assistance to job seekers with free employment-related training courses in First Aid/CPR, Safe Food Handling and Custodial Skills. A 40-hour Security Guard Training course is also offered with subsidies available to unemployed, underemployed and low-income individuals.

We are now offering Job Interview Preparation Workshops and Mock Interview sessions to help you ace that job interview! In addition, an online job board and job placement program will be launching soon! Keep an eye out for launch dates.

For the latest on upcoming workshops and training programs or to make an appointment to talk to one of our employment counsellors, visit our website, call 204-774-7005 ext. 105 or email [workprep@dmsmca.ca](mailto:workprep@dmsmca.ca)

*The PREP Employment Readiness Program is funded by the Manitoba Government.*

## Stay up to date

The best way to keep up on the latest programming information is to visit our Facebook page or sign up for our bi-weekly community newsletter at [www.dmsmca.ca](http://www.dmsmca.ca)



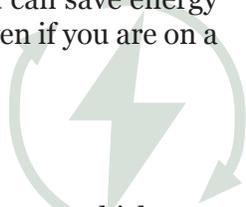
## Energy Efficiency

**Online, Wednesday, February 18, at 6:00 pm**

Hear about Efficiency Manitoba's energy efficiency offers and how you can save energy and money in your home – even if you are on a limited income!

### LEARN ABOUT:

- The Income Qualified Program, which offers FREE insulation and a furnace replacement payment program for qualifying households;
- Other programs and rebates to help you save more;
- Plus energy efficiency tips to keep your bills down in winter and summer.



## PREP Employment Training (con't)

### FIRST AID/CPR TRAINING

**Online Info Session – Feb. 12, 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm**

**Course – Feb. 22-26, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm**

Our PREP Employment Readiness Program is accepting registrations for Emergency First Aid and CPR Training with session dates TBD. The program consists of online study and in-person practical skills. Training is free to those who qualify. For more information, contact Abdi at 204-774-7005 ext. 113 or [abdikadir@dmsmca.ca](mailto:abdikadir@dmsmca.ca)

## Klinik Crisis Line

The pandemic has negatively affected many people's mental health. Klinik's Crisis Line is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, to provide free and confidential counselling, support and referrals if you feel you are struggling or having difficulty coping. Phone: (204) 786-8686. Toll free: 1-888-322-3019 or visit their website at [klinik.mb.ca](http://klinik.mb.ca)

## Calming Stitches

**Online, Mondays from 1 pm to 2 pm until March 29**

A neighbourhood crochet enthusiast has created crochet kits that include the materials and instructions to create three simple washcloths. Join her online to crochet together or ask questions. Perfect for beginners or those looking to get back into an old hobby.

Kits can be picked up at DM/SM Community Association office or contact us at 204-774-7005 or [housing@dmsmca.ca](mailto:housing@dmsmca.ca) to have one dropped off.



Community member Amy picks up a Calming Stitches crochet kit.

## Contact us!

**Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthews Community Association**

823 Ellice Ave. (at Arlington)  
Winnipeg, MB R3G 0C3

 [facebook.com/dmsmca](https://facebook.com/dmsmca)

 [dmsmca.ca](http://dmsmca.ca)

 [resource@dmsmca.ca](mailto:resource@dmsmca.ca)

 204-774-7005

Due to COVID restrictions our hours and services may vary. For the latest programming news, visit our Facebook page, sign up for our biweekly electronic newsletter through our website, or contact us in advance.

Jesse Gair, Executive Director  
[director@dmsmca.ca](mailto:director@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 101

Laurel Dawn Cassels,  
Community Programs Coordinator  
[safety@dmsmca.ca](mailto:safety@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 104

Christian Cassidy,  
Community Programs Coordinator  
[housing@dmsmca.ca](mailto:housing@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 102

Jeff Sarmiento,  
Employment & Training Coordinator  
[workprep@dmsmca.ca](mailto:workprep@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 105

Ella Taylor, Resource Centre  
[ella@dmsmca.ca](mailto:ella@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 111

Maria De Guzman,  
Employment Counsellor  
[maria@dmsmca.ca](mailto:maria@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 206

Abdikadir Ahmed,  
Employment Counsellor  
[abdikadir@dmsmca.ca](mailto:abdikadir@dmsmca.ca) | ext. 113

Marina Freitas  
Employment Outreach Counsellor  
[marina@dmsmca.ca](mailto:marina@dmsmca.ca)

Omotayo Adekoya  
Employment Outreach Counsellor  
[tayo@dmsmca.ca](mailto:tayo@dmsmca.ca)

**NEW TO OUR CREW:**  
Welcome Alyssa, Tianna and Kailey to our Resource Centre staff, plus Marina and Tayo, our newest Employment Outreach Counsellors!

The Daniel McIntyre / St. Matthews Community Association (DMSMCA) is a community-driven not-for-profit Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation that serves the Daniel McIntyre and St. Matthews neighbourhoods in the West End of Winnipeg.

