



## **Annual General Meeting - Rotary Club of Winnipeg held December 1, 2021**

The following are presentations made by the respective Board Directors at the AGM.

### **PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:**

By Nancy Cosway

To begin, I would like to sincerely thank the members of the Board for all their hard work, contributions and ideas over the past 6 months. They have been a super group to work with.

We also want to extend our concern and prayers for the people on both coasts of Canada who are dealing with the devastation and loss of life that flooding has created.



Also today is world AIDs day. There have been great strides in the treatment of HIV and AIDS and we are thankful for that.

Let's look back with a few more details to see how things have progressed over the past months. Who would have imagined that COVID would have been with us the entire time, challenging us to be more creative, imagining ways we can engage with each other and at time testing our patience. We have not let COVID prevent us from being a **People of Action to Serve**.

The first 6 months of 2021 were led by Brent Jorowski who accomplished many of the goals that he had set out at the beginning of his term including the following.

- Our financial system has been upgraded to achieve sustainability with the use of Quick Books as recommended by the auditors.
- We also have closed the office at the RBC Convention Centre and moved most things to offsite storage provided free of charge by our member David Ross.

We have recruited several new members and our membership is becoming more diversified which reflects the multiculturalism of Winnipeg. This is great. I am very proud of our club's diversity. Engagement of members has been a challenge as COVID has limited our ability to meet in person, have social events and participate in groups we support. Yet when a call has gone out for assistance members have responded:

- with linen and personal supplies for a woman's shelter,
- books and games for northern communities,
- support to Polio Plus and other causes.
- Jeannette Brigit will provide some details on our local successes.

Our **Newsletter** continues to be a great source of information and a good way to share important events of our club. Remember this is your newsletter so please forward items to Frank Cosway for inclusion in the publication. All newsletters are posted on our website.

Our **Public image** was boosted with the cooperation of all Rotary Clubs in Winnipeg through ads placed in the Winnipeg Free Press in March. Filler ads continue to be seen for the next few months. Many people have seen these ads and perhaps this is how we have had several inquiries about membership. I will ask Taiseer to tell us a little more about our social media.

Our work internationally continues to bloom and grow – literally, with the **1000 Survival Gardens**

**Project.** Our club has taken the lead with many others joining to support. We have a very strong and productive relationship with several clubs in South Africa. We will expand that international reach to the Congo and Bangladesh in the near future as applications are in progress for global grants

**Peace Days in 2021** was successful with many virtual events and participation with our partners. There were 16 days of events and 11,898 people were reached through these events

Our first spring **Garden Sale fundraiser** through Glenlea Greenhouses was a success as well as the holiday plant sale. Thanks to Dan Jonsson and all who purchased plants

We held a successful **Social Night** at the Granite Club with 27 in attendance. More are planned.

We continue to be very active in addressing **Reconciliation** and we have responded to needs identified by our indigenous community members. Shipments of books, computers and games to a number of Northern Communities have been completed. We currently have a partnership with 10 indigenous communities. Our **HIP committee** is very active. Darren Swanson and Strini Reddy will fill us in.

We are involved in several **Youth programs** including the RLC, MUNA, Adventures in Citizenship, Adventures in Human Rights, Murdock McKay FLEX program . Creating youth leaders is a focus of our club.

Now Let me call on a few of the Board members to provide more information on our activities and successes

- Jeanette Brigit
- Darren Swanson
- Strini Reddy
- Gary Dawyduk
- Taiseer Sharief

We do need a few more Board members – Directors for Fundraising and Youth. Board members are always looking for committee members. Your ideas are important and we welcome them. Do you have ideas of innovative ways to engage with the community and continue to be a People of Action. Please be in touch with one of the Board members and share your talents for the success of the club.

You can see we have been busy, we have impacted lives and I believe we have contributed to making the world a better place.

Rotary is about People. Rotary is about Service. Rotary is about Action and Rotary is about Change.

## **COMMUNITY SERVICES REPORT:**

By Jeannette Brigit



### **Murdock McKay Flex Program**

In June we came to the end our 3-year Funding Partnership.

### **COVID19 Response “Supporting Local Restaurants”**

Restaurants were suggested and Rotarians responded. Every two weeks a restaurant was identified for Rotarians to support. The feedback from restaurants was overwhelming gratitude! Good job Rotarians.

### **Habitat for Humanity**

This fall Rotarians and Rotaractors participated in the Templeton Avenue Project Build located at 1466 Templeton Avenue in the Amber Trails development. The location was chosen because of its proximity to schools, community centers, bus routes and parks. Ten “side by side” homes are being built. When the project is completed, it will be home to 20 families, including 22 children all 19 years or younger.

Thank you to all who donated to this worthy project raising \$2,725 including \$340 from *the Big Daddy Taz Comedy Evening*. Generous donations also paid the \$100 Registration fee for 5 Rotaractors to participate in the build.

The build took place on Aug 10, 2021. Our builders were Rotarians Brent Jorowski, Eva Vida, Garry Hirsch, Gerry Storie and Rotaractors Grace Gao, Isham Behl, Chadine Majhi, Ahmed Elsamahy and Jaydon Gan. Rotarian Abbie Bajon was unable to participate.

Photos of the build can be found at: <https://www.facebook.com/HabitatforHumanityManitoba/>

### **End Polio Now Campaign**

Donations of \$40 or more were entered to win painting by Winnipeg polio survivor Jim Corbett "Suspended in Paradise". Thank you to Taiseer for posting on our social media a/cs

### **City of Winnipeg Anti-Racism Week March 2021**

The Rotary Club of Winnipeg was invited to participate in the first Anti-Racism Week events. An ad hoc committee was established with Nancy Cosway, Taiseer Shareif, Rob Tisdale and Jeannette Brigit.

### **Diversity/Inclusion Strategy**

Set in motion after the successful events of the City of Winnipeg 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-Racism Week March 22-28, 2021, Rotarians, on the planning committee, recognized the need for our Club to continually expand our understanding of racism and racist practices. In August your Board of Directors passed the following MOTION That the Rotary Club of Winnipeg Board approve the establishment of a Anti-Racism Strategy Ad Hoc Committee that would operate in accordance with the attached Terms of Reference.

## Committee Members

Chair: Izzeddin Hawamda, Taiseer Shareif, David Newman, Simone Cohen, Brenda Newman, Rob Tisdale, Brent Jorowski, Jeannette Brigit, and Honouring Indigenous People co-chair. Others are welcome to join.

## Preamble

The Rotary Club of Winnipeg believes that cultivating a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture is essential to increasing our membership and effectively selecting and executing our service projects. We value diversity and celebrate the contributions of people of all backgrounds, across age, ethnicity, race, color, disability, learning style, religion, faith, socioeconomic status, culture, marital status, languages spoken, sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity as well as differences in ideas, thoughts, values, and beliefs.

We recognize the need to continually improve our understanding and practices in this area. Therefore, we believe a strategy to address racism is an important component of an overall strategy to cultivate a diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture.

## Purpose

The purpose of this ad hoc committee is to develop an anti-racism strategy that will be submitted to the Rotary Club of Winnipeg Board for approval as part of the club's ongoing effort to cultivate a more diverse, equitable, and inclusive culture.

## Mandate

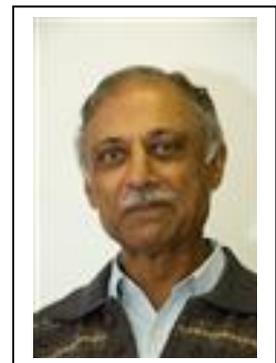
The committee is to operate independently of, but in consultation with the Peace Builders Committee and the Honoring Indigenous Peoples Committee to develop the anti-racism strategy. This strategy may include both a Policy statement and strategic objectives for the Club. The Committee will report into the Board through the Director of Community Service.

## INTERNATIONAL SERVICES COMMITTEE Report

By Strini Reddy

Our club continues to be engaged with a number of **Global Grant projects**.

- 1) We are on the verge of getting approval for our project for the **education of female adolescents residing in the Rohingya refugee camps in Bangladesh**.
- 2) We hope to submit a Global Grant application for the **education of girls and women in the Democratic Republic of Congo**, the original home of our fellow Rotarian Bagula Rubasha. We are getting close to reaching our fund raising goal for this project.
- 3) Our Global Grant **water project in the village of Taweni in South Africa** is making progress despite the challenges presented by COVID.



- 4) The **1000 Survival Gardens project** is making excellent progress. Rtn Gary Dawyduk will be providing a more detailed report soon. The demand has exceeded our expectations so we have to continue to raise more funds. Contributions over the holiday season will be greatly appreciated.

Many thanks to our members for contributing to the Annual Fund of the Rotary Foundation. **A minimum donation of USD50 per member is required by March, 2022, in order for our club to qualify for District and Global grants.**



**RECOGNITION of our “OUTSTANDING ROTARIAN”:**

By President Nancy Cosway

In October, Ronald Reider asked Club members to nominate an outstanding Rotarian from our club to be recognized at the Annual General Meeting.

We had several worthy nominations and the decision by the Board to select one person was not easy. In the end Darren Swanson was selected.

Darren joined our Rotary club in March 2017. In the almost 5 years he has been a member he has been active, committed and a visionary.

Darren is Director of [Novel Futures Corporation](#) and an Associate of the [International Institute for Sustainable Development \(IISD\)](#). He has over two decades of experience assisting United Nations agencies, governments, businesses and community organizations around the world in the arenas of strategic management and sustainability. With master's degrees in public administration (international development) from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and Geo-Environmental Engineering from the University of Saskatchewan,



Darren draws from a diverse science-policy knowledge base when assisting organizations in the collective pursuit of sustainability, accountability and adaptability.

He thinks of others and has been extremely helpful and knowledgeable in what he contributes to the Rotary Committees. He has tremendous and unique skills that exemplify his dedication to whatever he commits to for organisations and I am sure his personal life as well. (from Ingrid Dowan, HIP)

Darren's work with the Model UN committee has been transformational. He has been involved as a committee member, co-chair and now Chair. During his time with MUNA he has led the transition to the UN consensus format for the deliberations, built an in-house website, made the transition to electronic payments and now is leading the efforts to make MUNA more student-led.

These are all labour intensive initiatives and they have made the organization better. Changing the format involved bringing William Yotive (head of the World Federation of United Nations Assemblies) from New York City and creating all of the student leadership scripts, and running training sessions for delegates, counsellors, and table officers. Not content to then rest on his laurels, Darren used his expertise to move the MUNA website to an in-house GoDaddy version which significantly reduced MUNA's costs and made making changes and updating information much easier. Concerned about the time it was taking other volunteers to register delegates and collect payments, Darren helped Jane and Jacqueline to automate those processes. While these changes have all made the MUNA committee's work easier, Darren has also transformed the student experience, by giving them the opportunity to lead the proceedings, create the resolutions, and this year, serve on the MUNA organizing committee. Darren is a dedicated leader and his expertise has greatly benefitted MUNA (from Donna Alexander, MUNA)

As co chair of the HIP committee, he has brought his wealth of knowledge and dedication to that committee as well. Thank you Darren for all you do for Rotary. Today you are being recognized as our Outstanding Rotarian.

## **GENDER & OUR CLUB**

By Philis Akunne

### **Sustainable Development Goal #5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.**

Women and girls represent half of the world's population, so in effect, half of it's potential. However, gender inequality persists in most places and hinders social progress.

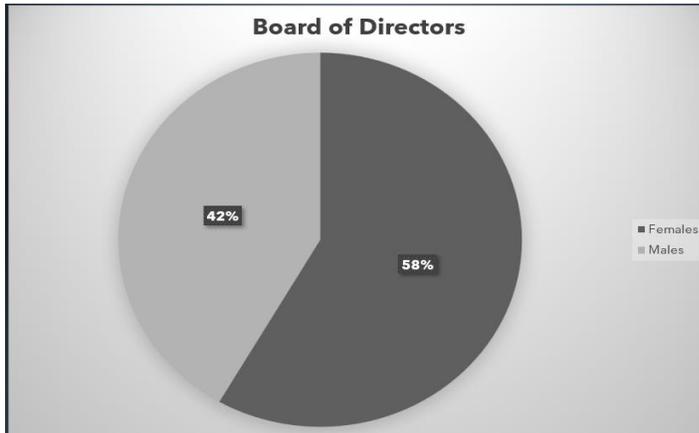
#### Target areas to be addressed by the club.

- Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic, and public life. This is measured by:
  - a. the proportion of seats held by women in decision making roles.
  - b. the level of engagement of women in various projects.

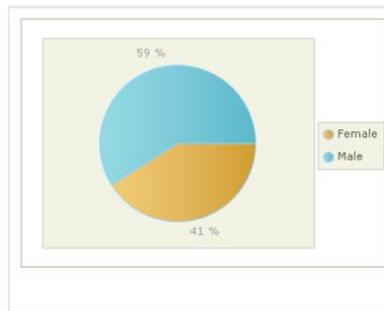


- Have specific projects that advance gender equality in a fully integrated manner, apply a human-rights based approach, and examine how intersecting identity factors impact access for and inclusion of those most at risk of being left behind.

Our progress report on gender equality



**Gender Distribution Report**



[Export to Excel / CSV](#)

Gender		Active		Honorary		Total	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Female	<a href="#">View</a>	29	39.7	1	1.4	30	41.1
Male	<a href="#">View</a>	43	58.9	0	0.0	43	58.9
Total	<a href="#">View</a>	72	98.6	1	1.4	73	100.0

What more can be done?

- Canvas for enrolment of more women members in the club
- Increase the number of women actively involved in various projects especially the ones focused on women/girl empowerment
- Collect gender disaggregated data of the various projects through surveys, interviews, opinion polls, or focus group discussions. Basically, we need to be able to have a statistical analysis of “who is involved in the project”, “who makes the decision”, “who owns and controls the resources”.

From the Board of Directors, we wish each of you a joyful holiday season and best wishes for 2022.