



# INCLUSION

WCWRC Annual Report 2014

## A Message from the Executive Director & Board Chair

In 2014, we worked to stabilize our Centre after a year of transition. We hired new staff who have helped shape our vision, we welcomed new board members, who were vital in establishing the governance of the board; and we worked on building our values of inclusion in the Centre. At the same time, WCWRC remained committed to the development and empowerment of women and families living in the West Central community.

An Indigenous Program Coordinator was hired to expand our traditional Indigenous Programming and a new position was created - Education and Employment Coordinator – to work with women around job readiness and educational opportunities.

One central priority this past year was to ensure that our Centre be a welcoming space to all women. With this goal, we established an Inclusion Committee with staff members and a Diversity Committee, comprised of board members. Each group is working to honour the diverse voices and perspectives of those we work with and to build real inclusion into our programs and services.

We continue to grow and learn from our participants, volunteers and mentors, as they learn and grow with us. The success experienced over the last year shines along with the commitment and dedication of the WCWRC staff and board. While working together, staff, community members and donors have worked to create a safe and positive space that remains a vital and integral part of the West Central Community. We welcome financial and community support, volunteers, and community members into our Centre and into our vision.

Sincerely,  
Tanya McFadyen  
Interim Executive Director

Lauren Konrad  
Board Chair

## Staff

- |                   |                  |                   |
|-------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Warda Ahmen       | Lorie English    | Christine Merasty |
| Bridget Ayotte    | Chelsea King     | Fiona Muldrew     |
| Rachel Bergen     | Gloria Knott     | Rena Shorting     |
| Shannon Buck      | Alexandra Lozado | Madeline Simons   |
| Beverley Couchene | Tanya McFadyen   | Lisa Spring       |
| Dina Delgado      | Melissa McGregor |                   |
| Nel Derksen       | Lynn McLeod      |                   |



## Board of Directors:

- |                          |                       |
|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Erin Anderson            | Lauren Konrad         |
| Patrisha Bell            | Meredith Mitchell     |
| Nan Colledge             | Melissa Jagger Plante |
| Chantel Ducey            | Deborah Sayer         |
| Lori Dueck               | Lynne Skromeda        |
| Deborah Dworan           | Susan Smiel           |
| Liubov Gavrilova-Crozier | Shelly Smith          |
| Traute Klein             |                       |

## Mentors

- |                   |                     |
|-------------------|---------------------|
| Bridget Ayotte    | Tiffany Langan      |
| Mevis Bittern     | Sandra MacKinnon    |
| Minerva Calimbas  | Delores McGillivary |
| Sonia Cashman     | Vanessa Patrick     |
| Ricamina David    | Chantell Quill      |
| Vienna Desjarlais | Olga Rogozina       |
| Rachael Durocher  | Samantha Trout      |
| Vanessa Kozak     |                     |

# Inclusion Committee

The Centre has started to see a greater diversity in participants. Staff noticed that many newcomers accessed newcomer-specific programming only. An Inclusion Committee formed in May 2014 to identify ways to make the Centre and all of its programming more inclusive and accessible for all women in our community.

Our first event was a Cultural Teachings Circle where women shared stories and lessons from their cultures. The event encouraged cross-cultural understanding and allowed women from different cultures to get to know each the better. Before sharing, we all enjoyed a meal together. A volunteer chef taught our kitchen mentors new, diverse recipes including bannock, stew, chole and spring rolls.

The focus for 2014 has been on cultural inclusivity. The Inclusion Committee is now looking to expand their scope by creating awareness and community events around gender identity, mental health and ability.



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# Mentorship Learning Internship

(MLI)

In 2014, the MLI program was developed to extend our Mentorship model into all WCWRC's programs. The goal is to give our Mentors comprehensive training, focused goal setting and support, and work experience.

Participants receive 120 hours of training in all WCWRC program areas. All MLI graduates are eligible to apply for one of our 8 Volunteer Mentor positions which include a monthly honorarium and up to 18 months experience working in one of our program areas.

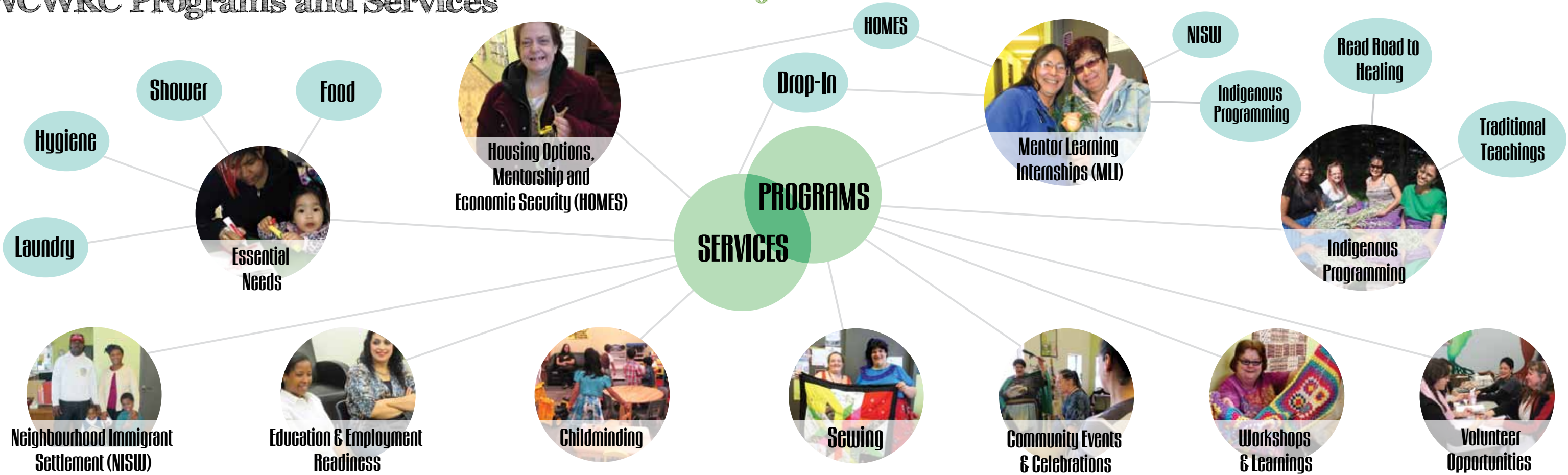
Our first MLI class took their training in the fall of 2014 and 7 new mentors have since been welcomed onto the WCWRC staff.

***One graduate says, "MLI and the mentor opportunity helped me get beyond myself. I have purpose. I tell my family and friends about the opportunity to both benefit from and contribute to something big."***

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# WCWRC Programs and Services



## Volunteer Profile - Donalee

"Hello, my name is Donalee Basarowich; my friends call me Dona. I started as a Drop-in volunteer in March 2014. I'm one of the first faces people meet when they come in and I will always greet them with a friendly hello. The Centre has really inspired me to reach for bigger, better things. In spring I decided I wanted to be a Mentor. I completed the Mentorship Training Program and received my Food Handlers certificate. By the end of the year, I was hired to be a Mentor in the Centre's Drop In. When I decided I wanted to be a Mentor, I also decided that one day I'd like to be the Director. So..."



## Staff Profile - Chelsea

"I have always been passionate about social justice and women's issues in particular, but I wasn't sure where those interests would lead me after University.

I started at the Centre in the fall of 2014 as the Drop-In Facilitator. I was instantly struck by how welcoming the women in the drop-in are and how open they were to sharing their life and their stories with me. I never expected to be accepted into the community so quickly and feel so at home amongst all the staff and participants. Every day that I come to work I know that I am in the right place, doing good work that I can be proud of."



# The Beading Group

## Indigenous Programming

The Beading Group began in 2014 as part of the Centre's Indigenous Programming and is aimed at reconnecting Indigenous women to traditional and contemporary forms of cultural art. Before the group began, we knew there was a lot of excitement from Indigenous women in the community to learn to bead. We were thrilled to discover that beading would also become a point of connection within the broader community, particularly among Indigenous and Newcomer participants.

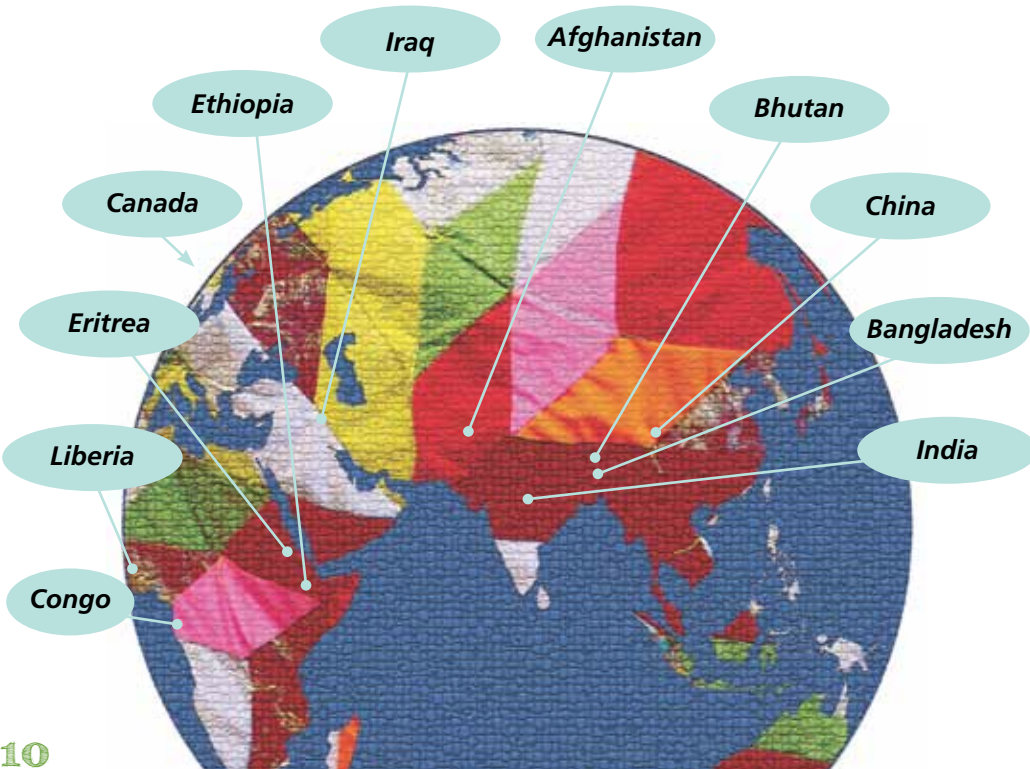
In addition to learning new skills and creating beautiful art, the women in the Beading Group are learning, sharing and creating an atmosphere of acceptance and understanding.

***"The group gives me a sense of belonging. It is wonderful to sit in a room of women of all different ages and share our knowledge and skill with each other."***



# Country of Origin

WCWRC welcomes women from all over the world, including:



Number of visits  
to the Centre in 2014  
**15000+**

*"Thank you so much,  
I am so happy and it's such  
a huge weight off me  
that I don't have to  
look for a place to live  
and I'm out of the shelter."  
~ HOMES Participant*

Number of Mentors  
working in 2014 **15**

*"Every time I come to the Centre  
something good happens!"*

# 2014 Stats

*"The drop-in is good,  
I feel comfortable here."  
Drop-In Participant*

Volunteer Hours  
**5,700+**

*"I like meeting other  
people and understanding  
other cultures..."*

Number of Beading  
Group participants  
between **10-20**  
per session

*Drumming – weekly group  
with **5** core members,  
welcomed close to **100**  
people into the circle  
throughout the year.*

*"I got my first ever job in Canada,  
and I want to thank you for  
helping me get that"  
~ NISW Client*

Number of sewing  
participants **415**

*You really saved me and  
showed me a new light in  
my life. Thank you"*

## Our Funders

- Assiniboine Credit Union
- Canadian Heritage
- Canadian Women's Foundation
- Citizenship and Immigration
- City of Winnipeg – Homelessness Partnering Strategy
- Communities 4 Families
- Daniel MacIntyre St. Matthew's Community Association
- Jewish Foundation of Manitoba
- Neighbourhoods Alive
- Province of Manitoba
- Spence Neighbourhood Association
- Status of Women Canada
- United Church of Canada
- United Way
- Winnipeg Foundation

The printing of this report was generously  
donated by Councillor Cindy Gilroy

# Your Support

The contributions of individual donors are essential for our ability to continue providing programs and services in our community. Gifts of \$20 or higher will receive a charitable tax receipt.

If you wish to contribute on an ongoing basis, please visit us at [www.wcwrc.ca](http://www.wcwrc.ca) and click on the **Donate Now** button.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

\$20     \$84 (1 hour)     \$68 (2 hours)     \$250     other

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Province: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

For a one-time gift, please send a cheque along with this form to:  
**WCWRC / 640 Ellice Ave / Wpg. MB / R3G 0A7**

## Time for Change Campaign

In 2014, WCWRC's Drop-In was open for **1,300** hours. At a cost of \$84/hour this was no small feat! Time for Change is the WCWRC's core fundraising initiative that aims to grow and expand our Drop-In and improve access to the centre for all women.

By contributing today you can help WCWRC continue to:

**Expand** our lunch and nutritional programming through a renovation of our kitchen space so we can run innovative cooking programs and hands-on training.

**Contribute** to societal change as we support women to participate in political forums, raise awareness about family violence, and give voice to their diverse experiences.

**Reach out** to women and link them up with appropriate services, information, and programs.

**Build community** by providing a safe space where women can connect and support one another.

**Help us keep our doors open for the 15,000+ women we serve.  
Be a change maker today!**



Thank you