



Steps in the Right Direction

**Annual Report
2008-2009**

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REPORT OF THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

This has been a very busy and productive year for the Staff and Board of Directors of Career Trek.

I became Chair after the AGM last year and I have really enjoyed this year. It has been a privilege to serve in this position and to be a part of such a dynamic and progressive organization.

At the Board of Directors level, we identified the need to update some of the processes of our Board Governance. To this end, Career Trek applied for and received some funding from the Winnipeg Foundation to allow us to hire subject matter experts to assist us in our journey. We have put in many hours over the past year to identify the issues and processes that need to be updated. Our hard work has resulted in new Vision/Mission and Value statements as well as the updated By Law #1 that we will be asking you to approve later in the meeting. We are pleased with our progress but the journey is not over and we will continue to work on our goals into next year.

As I stated earlier, this has been a very busy and productive year for the Staff and Board of Career Trek. The organization expanded its horizons within Manitoba, including extending services further into the Parklands and into the Westman region. In Winnipeg, the Young Moms program was reinstated and the Phase II program was expanded. I won't go into much detail as I don't want to steal Darrell's thunder but the staff of Career Trek has accomplished some amazing things this past year!

Career Trek is finally getting the recognition it deserves as a leader in career development services to youth and others in Manitoba and this is due to the talented and dedicated staff that work so hard to fulfill Career Trek's mandate.

So, on behalf of the Board of Directors, I would like to congratulate and thank the staff of Career Trek for their continued professionalism and commitment to excellence.

We also need to express our gratitude to the Government of Manitoba for the continued support for Career Trek. I would like to particularly recognize Minister McGifford and Tom Glenwright for being our champions within government.

We look forward to a very exciting year ahead with increased expansion of some of Career Trek's programs and we will continue to take "steps in the right direction".

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

"Now it's time to shine"



It seems like only yesterday that Career Trek was in the process of incorporating and transitioning from a successful pilot project into a fledgling organization. Since that momentous occasion ten years ago, there have been many accomplishments and many challenges: our programming has expanded and improved; we have received provincial, national and international recognition for our work; the increasing demand for our services has reaffirmed for us that our mission is both needed and desired. Yet there have also been many challenges during this time that have served to test our will: understaffing, growing pains, caution towards a radically different approach to education and career development and a lack of financial stability. However, as an organization that is dedicated to “practicing what we preach”, I am pleased to note that our message to young people that you cannot enjoy success without hard work and commitment has held true to our organization. It is only because of this dedication by our staff and volunteers that I am able to bring you this message of wonderful news.

The past year has been a hallmark year for Career Trek. After many years of financial challenges, we have been blessed by the reception of core funding from our provincial government. This support caps what was essentially a thirteen-year quest to have our work recognized and sustained. It should be noted that this funding does not mean that our need for funding support from others has ended. On the contrary, we will continue to need the support of foundations, industry, other levels of government, donors, and of course, our own revenue generating efforts, so that additional programming can be undertaken. What this funding does mean, however, is that we now have the beginning capacity to accomplish the things that we need to be able to do if we are going to be a sustained, viable and vibrant organization that is able to meet the demand for its services.

The support of our partners has not only meant the stabilization of our organization, it has also provided us with the opportunity to expand to meet the growing demand for our services. This past year was one of incredible program growth, with projects being established in the Parkland Region (eight communities) and in the Westman Region (26 communities). As well additional sub-projects were added to our Phase 2 program in Winnipeg and our support for young mothers in the city of Winnipeg was re-established. In total, we were able to support an additional 200 young people (and their families) this year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many individuals and organizations that have supported us through the years so that this event could be realized. This is a time for all of us to celebrate and reflect on what has been accomplished. The events and support shown will now allow us to move forward and show everyone what we can really do for our fellow Manitobans. Now it's time to shine!

Darrell Cole

Our Vision

A Manitoba where all citizens are able to realize their full career and educational potential.

Our Mission

To provide relevant people in Manitoba with the awareness, knowledge, skills and motivation needed to improve educational and career success. These people include participants, family, staff, private, public and not-for-profit sectors and the general community.

What We Do

Like the rest of our nation, Manitoba is struggling with unacceptably low education attainment rates and shortages of skilled labour. The issues negatively impact on all segments of society, but even more so on Aboriginal, newcomer and lower-income members of our society. The thought of our neighbours being unemployed or underemployed while our various employment sectors are left wanting is a troubling one. Career Trek wants to close this gap.

In response to the aforementioned situation, Career Trek has dedicated itself to engaging young people and their families about how the gaining of a formal education can be relevant to their respective lives. This is accomplished primarily through the provision of dynamic career development programming that allows young people the opportunity to *experience* the relationship and value of secondary and post-secondary education and career attainment. Our programming is based on a foundation of beliefs that can be summarized as being holistic, long-term, inclusive, experiential, performance-based and self-empowering.

Moving Beyond Colour

Manitoba has been uniquely gifted through the presence of our Aboriginal community, but a combination of past historical injustices and lack of understanding between Aboriginal People and the rest of our community continues to disadvantage both. In response to this situation, Career Trek initially partnered with Skownan First Nation to develop what has now become an integrated program involving eight communities. The program brings Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal young people and their families together with a common message: that real success will only be realized when we value each other and walk together as equals.



"The hands on projects were very interesting because my child learns by doing. Sitting and listening to someone talk for an hour doesn't keep her attention." - Parent

Why Wait?



Everyday in our province, many young people struggle to understand why school is worth their time and effort. That's because the answer is often not as apparent as we would like to think. Our entry program partners with young people and their families while the child is as young as ten years of age, with the goal of providing them with the clarity needed to help them focus their efforts early, instead of waiting until later when many have disadvantaged themselves.

"Every subject was great. I love school and learning. Now it is going to be a harder choice of what I want to be when I grow up because everything is so fun." - Participant

The M Project: Two (or more) for One



Young members of our community with children face increased challenges for themselves and their children in terms of life success. As a consistent leader in teenage pregnancy rates, our community needs to assist young women and their babies if they and we are to succeed. That is why Career Trek operates the "M" Project, a project that delivers on our belief that a happy and successful mother means a happy and successful child.

I was a teen parent that lived for the moment. The program gave me the insight I needed. [It] showed me that I too can become more than a teen parent. I too can attend university of college and become something." - Parent

Helping Take the Guesswork out of the Future



“I liked the way we learned because there was hands on work and there was always an instructor around if you needed help. It was fun.”

It should not come to us as any surprise that many young people coming out of secondary school (and those that aren't) are doing so without any real sense of direction or purpose. Asking them to make major life decisions, such as the selection of their high school courses, without any basis for doing so is a major contributor to low educational and skilled labour rates. In response to this situation, Career Trek allows past graduates to return for “Phase 2” of our programming. Participants enrolled in grade nine are able to return and select a career of their choice for an in-depth experience, all outside of school hours. The concept is simple: if you want to know what to do with your life, you should have the chance to try it first.

Meeting the Needs of Rural Manitobans

While facing all the barriers of their urban cousins, rural youth find themselves even more disadvantaged by additional costs and lack of exposure to post-secondary settings. Career Trek responded to the needs of young people in the Westman (southwest Manitoba) Region by launching a project for them this year. This will allow one hundred twenty young people from more than 25 communities with the opportunity to connect with the value of education.



*Westman Region
Career field studied: Nursing*

Growing Mentors



Everyone knows how important having that special person in your life can be. Unfortunately, need often outstrips the ability of society to provide enough mentors for those who would most benefit from them. That is why Career Trek grows its own mentors. Our Junior Staff program allows past graduates of our entry-level program, now enrolled in grade ten, with the opportunity to return to Career Trek with our Junior Staff program. This leadership program allows these amazing young people to grow their own leadership skills, while inspiring young people coming after them. As well, with a part-time staff contingent of approximately 160 post-secondary students, Career Trek is able to inspire hundreds of young people, while opening the hearts and minds of an entire generation of future young professionals.

THANKS TO OUR PROGRAM PARTNERS AND FUNDERS!

Career Trek subscribes to the belief that “it takes a village to raise a child”. To this end, Career Trek programming brings together all levels of our community to work towards one common goal: the success of our children.

Red River College

Creative Communications
Business Administration

Construction Technology
Electronics Engineering Technology

University of Winnipeg

Biology
Education
Criminal Justice
Theatre & Film
UWSA Daycare Centre

University of Manitoba

Agriculture
Chemistry
Engineering
Environmental Science
Geological Sciences
Kinesiology & Recreation Management
Native Studies
Political Studies
Mini-University
University College
Development & Advancement Services
Human Ecology
Campus Daycare Centre
St. Andrew's College
University of Manitoba Aboriginal
Student Recruitment
Engineers Without Borders
Housing and Student Life-University of
Manitoba
University of Manitoba Women's
Basketball Program

Winnipeg Technical College

Culinary Arts & Design
Motosport Technology
Microcomputer Systems Technology
Technical Drafting

Electrical Applications
Business Administration
Pharmaceutical Technician
Rehabilitation Assistant
Medical Administrator
Computer Technician

Independent Partners

Stevenson Aviation
St. Boniface Research Centre
Health Sciences Centre
Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation
Youth Parliament of Manitoba
Lincoln Learning Systems Inc.
Manitoba Aerospace Human Resources
Coordinating Committee
Mini-University and Sport Camps
SEED Winnipeg
Manitoba Model Forest Inc.
Oak Hammock Marsh
Assiniboine Park Zoo
Camp Manitou
Booth College
South Winnipeg Family Information
Centre
Child & Family All Nations Coordinated
Response Network
Tec Voc High School (Food Services)
CancerCare MB
School of Radiation Therapy
Standard Aero, M.A.H.H.R.C.
Prairie Theatre Exchange
MDM Design and Innovation
Learning Agents Inc.
E.V.O.L.V.E. Athletics
Youth Parliament of Manitoba

Seine River School Division

Arborsgate School
Dawson Trail School
Ile des Chenes School
Richer School
St. Adolphe School

La Barriere Crossings School
La Salle School
Ecole Lorette Immersion
Ste. Anne Elementary
Ecole Saint-Anne Immersion
Ecole Saint-Norbert Immersion

Seven Oaks School Division

O.V. Jewitt Elementary School
Margaret Park School
Arthur E. Wright Community School
Elwick Community School
James Nisbet Community School
Governor Semple

River East-Transcona School Division

Hampstead School
Sherwood School
Salisbury Morse Place School
Bertrun E. Glavin Elementary School
Polson School
Prince Edward School
Waotaya Elementary School
Bernie Wolfe Community School

Louis Riel School Division

Frontenac School
Marion School
Archwood School
Nordale School
Ecole Henri-Bergeron
Ecole Provencher
Glenwood School
Lavallee School
St. George School
Victor H.L. Wyatt School
Victor Mager School
Ecole Varennes

Winnipeg School Division

Cecil Rhodes School
Champlain School
David Livingstone School
Dufferin School
Fort Rouge School
Gladstone School
Greenway School
John M. King School
Kent Road School

Machray School
Mulvey School
Niji Mahkwa
Norquay School
Principal Sparling School
Shaughnessy Park School
Sister MacNamara School
Strathcona School
Wellington School
Weston School
William Whyte School
King Edward Community School
Lord Roberts Community School
Wi Wabigooni Educational Program
Adolescent Parent Centre
R. B. Russell School

Brandon University

Music
Nursing
Anthropology
Education

Assiniboine Community College

Criminal Justice
Web Design
Business Administration
Geographic Information Systems

Parkwest School Division

Hamiota
Miniota
Birtle
Shoal Lake
Strathclair

Prairie Spirit

Glenboro
Baldur
Cypress River

Independent

CFB Shilo
Sioux Valley First Nation
Canupawakpa First nation

Southwest Horizon School Division

Hartney
Souris

Wawanesa

Rolling River School Division

Erickson

Forrest

Minnedosa

Oak River

Rivers

Rapid City

Turtle Mountain School Division

Boissevain

Ninette

Killarney

Pine Creek School Division

Austin

Gladstone

McGregor

Mountain View School Division

Winnipegosis

Frontier School Division

Rorketon

Waterhen

Gypsumville

Pine Creek

Fairford

Lake St. Martin

Little Saskatchewan

Duck Bay

Camperville

OUR FUNDERS

Career Trek receives funding from a wide variety of sources, whether it is from the Government of Manitoba (our primary funder), foundations, industry, awards, fundraisers, donations, or in-kind support from our programming partners, every contribution is vital to our operations.

The organization receives money from various levels of government. In some cases, the funding is received in the form of flow through funding from other agencies.

Government of Canada

- PromoScience Reconciliation of Active Awards-NSERC
- Indian and Northern Affairs (West Region Child and Family Services)

The Province of Manitoba

- Aboriginal and Northern Affairs (University of Winnipeg)
- Advance Education and Literacy
- Competitiveness, Training and Trade – Labour Market Agreement
- Education, Citizenship and Youth
- Education, Citizenship and Youth – Manitoba Student Aid
- Labour and Immigration

Graham C. Lount Family Foundation

Tallman Foundation

Winnipeg Foundation

Youth Philanthropy – Winnipeg Foundation

West Region Child and Family Services, Inc.

Louis Riel School Division

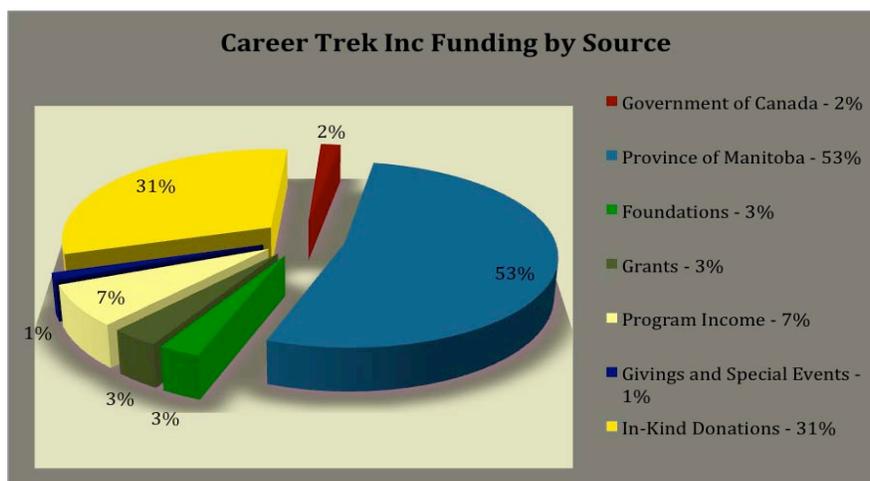
River East Transcona School Division

Seine River School Division

Seven Oaks School Division

Winnipeg School Division #1

Winnipeg School Division Pupil Services



2008/09 CAREER TREK MANAGEMENT STAFF

Darrell Cole
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Elena Anciro
Director of Programming

Dianne Little
Office Manager

Fairy Wong
Apinochek Pasaquok Project Manager

Chris Tekpetey
Phase II Project Manager

Melissa Reynolds
Phase I Project Manager

Judy Schau
Adolescent Mothers Project Manager

Agnes Contois
Apinochek Pasaquok Project Coordinator

Ron Sanderson
Apinochek Pasaquok Project Coordinator

Vicki Neufeld
Westman Project Coordinator

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Manitoba Aerospace

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Aboriginal Student Recruitment Officer
University of Manitoba

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Crown Counsel, Department of Justice
Government of Manitoba

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University of Manitoba

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People First HR

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Past-Vice President
Business Partnerships
Red River College

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Holly Leost, and Lorielyn Castillo

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Marti Ford, Barb Bowen, Soon Kong,
Linda Beaudry

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Barb Bowen, Holly Leost, Victor Bellay

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Gord Hannon, Victor Bellay, Darrell
Cole, Dianne Little

Research Committee

Kathy Levine, Dawn Sutherland

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