

CWC Reports

Affordable Housing Working Group

At the most recent meeting of CWC Affordable Housing Working, we were discussing the upcoming federal election and decided to draw attention to housing issues letter to the editor of Carman Standard. Our report this month is a copy of this letter, which appeared in Carman Standard on April 10, 2025. We encourage you to share this letter with others and to include housing in your conversations about the federal election.

To the Editor (Carman Standard):

Affordable housing in rural and northern Manitoba is an important issue that impacts our fellow citizens in Carman and Dufferin. As we prepare to vote in the upcoming federal election, we can ensure that expanded housing options for low and moderate income renters are part of the conversation. While the private market does play a role in ensuring an adequate supply of housing, the housing crisis we are facing in Manitoba and across Canada is so severe that a significant investment of public resources will also be required to ensure everyone has safe secure housing.

In 2023 Manitoba Non-Profit Housing Association research determined that Manitoba needs to create at least another 10,000 units of social housing in Manitoba over 10 years to ensure all households in core housing need with very low incomes (less than \$15,900) and some households with low incomes (less than \$39,750) can access affordable housing. Affordable is often used to describe housing that is actually not affordable for people with the highest housing need and the lowest incomes. Truly affordable housing is generally defined as rental housing that costs no more than 30% of a household's gross income, and is often described as rent geared to income.

In order to build healthy communities where every household can enjoy the stability that comes with safe, secure and truly affordable housing, we need our political leaders to commit to investing more financial resources in social housing. The private market is simply not able to meet the huge demand for housing, especially housing for very low-income households.

In response to the ongoing housing crisis and the impact of trade wars, a coalition of Canadian housing organizations have recently released a plan to protect Canadians and build a resilient housing system. You can read their report and the 10 actions they recommend, including a doubling of social housing, at caeh.ca/housing-canada-release/

According to the 2021 Census for Carman, 12.2% of our citizens are low income (based on Statistics Canada low income measure after tax). These neighbours of ours have a right to



safe affordable and secure housing. We will all reap the benefits of this public investment. Please speak up and speak out for public investment in social housing as an important part of the solution to our housing crisis!

Karen Tjaden
Carman Wellness Connections Housing Working Group

Submitted by Karen Tjaden

Affordable Recreation and Leisure Working Group

Report for CWC Board Meeting April 17, 2025

Goal: Access to affordable recreation and leisure activities for children, youth, and adults

Members: Susan Wepler (Lead), Rose Durupt, Sheila Dick

Working Group met on March 17/25

Next meeting: Monday April 21st at 6:30pm

Activities:

Curling

- Three sessions on Saturday mornings 11am - 1:15pm in Elm Creek
- Donation of \$210 to the EC Curling Club (\$70 per session)
- Plan to partner next winter with the curling club to offer free curling again

Bowling

- Cost to CWC \$25 per lane, shoes free, all ages & abilities
- Three free 1-hour sessions of bowling at Carman 5 Pin Bowl (3 lanes = 18ppl)
- Friday March 28th - 5:15 - 6:20pm - 10 ppl - variety of ages - 2 lanes (several ppl cancelled, some did not confirm)
- **Next Dates** Friday April 11 & 25th **TIME CHANGE to 7 - 8 pm** to allow ppl who work later to bowl

Drop In Art

- Maximum 10 ppl at Golden Prairie Arts Council -free - no cost to CWC
- Tuesday mornings 11:30 - 1pm, Tuesday evenings 6 - 8 pm - clay & art
- Saturdays - 1 - 2:30pm

Plans for spring & summer - no cost


- Fishing in the Boyne - Saturday in May (1 time)
- Intro to Pickleball - King's Park - June & September (2 - 3 times)



- Intro to Disc Golf - July & September (2 times)
- Three pool rentals for 25 ppl - June - Parent & Tot, July & August - all ages

Submitted by Susan Weppler

Education and Employment Working Group

<p align="center">Carman Wellness Connections Working Group Monthly Report</p>	 <p>Carman Wellness Connections</p>
<p>COMMON VISION: Together, creating a community where everyone has the opportunity and supports to flourish where they live, learn, work and play.</p>	
<p>COMMON VALUES: Common values will guide our behavior, inspire our actions, and encourage conversation within every component of this community initiative. Empowerment, Sustainability, Accessibility, Best Practice, Respect. Shared Responsibility, “Nothing about us, without us”, “It takes a village”</p>	
<p>Deadline for Submission: by 2nd Wednesday of each month</p>	
<p>Submit to: CWC Coordinator – office@carmanwellnessconnections.ca</p>	
<p>Name of Working Group: Education and Employment</p>	
<p>Working Group Members: Allison Abbott-Wiebe (Lead), Wendy Durand, Deb Russell</p>	
<p>Last Meeting Date: March 27 2025 9:30 am-1:30 pm</p>	
<p>Summary of Past Month’s Activities/Meeting(s):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Held a lengthy meeting covering an agenda of 6 discussion/action items. • We reviewed and submitted our section of the Annual Report which led to some E and E goal reflection. • This in turn led to placing some plans on hold within our Action Plan and taking next steps with plans underway for the partnered fall Career Fair with the Chamber of Commerce. • Drafted our plans for E and E table purpose & contents for the June AGM. • We’ve received expressed interest in E and E involvement by one community member and have two more persons of interest. Will connect for possible E and E involvement and/or membership. 	



Action Plan Accountability:	Target Date(s)	Projected Cost	Date(s) Actioned	Budget or RFF Approved Amount	Total Amount Submitted
1. Plan and host 2 nd Annual Roads to Success; subject to whether the partnership with the fall Chamber of Commerce career fair (adult portion) in Carman Collegiate proceeds (see 4. below)	Fall 2025	\$1500			
2. Hold One Stop ID Day at Boyne Regional Library	Dependent on our other events and needs	\$150			
3. Meet with Chamber of Commerce Executive Director to explore partnership for larger scale Community Job Fair	January 2025				
4. Partner with Chamber of Commerce, PRSD to hold large scale Career Fair	Fall 2025				
4. Partner with SEH for Dress for Success clothing event with add on services-resumes, ID etc.	Fall 2025		Tabled for 2025-May revisit in 2026		
5. Recruit more E and E members specifically engaging those with lived experience	Ongoing				

Revised November 2024

Submitted by Allison Abbott-Wiebe

Carman and Area Food Pantry

The Food Pantry Board met on April 8. We accepted two new board members - Amber Enns and Cliff McKercher. Both of these people are faithful volunteers with the Food Pantry and plan to continue their volunteer commitments.

The growth in our client numbers has slowed down from the rapid growth we experienced in the first two years of our operation. We have about 200 registered households and usually about 80% of those turn up each time.

A search for another facility continues to be on our radar. We have until about January 2027 to use our current facility and so we are hoping to form a committee that will consist of



other CWC members and other community representatives to give guidance to the task of finding or creating a place that can house many of our community's services under one roof. We are only in the beginning of this but hope to seek members to form this committee soon.

We are hosting a Volunteer Appreciation Barbecue on May 13 to honour and give thanks to our many volunteers, about 40 in number. We plan to organize sign up sheets for our volunteers who come on Tuesdays and Thursdays so we can keep track of their hours and submit them to CWC each month.

Submitted by Evelyn Rempel Petkau

Food Security Working Group

No report received at this time.

Supporting Emotional Health Working Group

Supporting Emotional Health working Group report to the Board

Month: April 2025

Members: Julie Hesketh, Linda Sylvester, Linda MacNair, Lisa Lehmann, Louise Sanders, Nigel Bart, Audi Dewit, Terry Warburton

Last meeting date: March 3, 2025

Next meeting April 28, 2025

Summary of Month's activities:

- Support Group March 26. Also, informal meetings after Community Supper continue.
- Carman Community Corner - SEH attended April 8 to promote our WG activities, share mental health resources and hear from community members about successes, needs and challenges.
- Small town run & walk - resumes in May
- Healing after Trauma sessions- under discussion
- Narcotics Anonymous (NA) - community member with lived experience is planning to start NA group. Planning is ongoing.
- ASIST group met on March 25.

Submitted by Julie Hesketh



Transportation Working Group

Transportation Working Group

Tuesday April 8, 2025

9:00 – 10:30 am at Memorial Hall lower level

1. Welcome – Kathie Findlay, Evelyn Rempel-Petkau, Rob McClement, Karen Tjaden, with regrets from Melissa Emerson-Froebe
2. Review of 2025 Action Plan – Kathie reviewed our plan which prompted discussion about expanding our WG members, and who might join our WG – try to think of younger people, people who are new to the community, Kathy will ask some younger people if they have any ideas of younger people the present members might not know, perhaps a newcomer with experience of transportation solutions that have worked in other countries? Maybe Melissa has connections with different people? Yes Melissa will also try to connect with some new people who might be interested in this WG
Karen T, with regret, is no longer able to be part of Transportation WG, so the group is still seeking a chairperson – none of the current members have time and energy to take on chairing, although Rob agreed to prepare and circulate the next agenda
3. Handi-Van updates
Funding in partnership with BRL for community funded rides – grant was used up, upon hearing of the need several local donors donated funds, and BRL is applying for the grant again
Quiz Night raised \$1800, upcoming fundraiser Town Wide Garage Sale June 21
469 rides in March, with additional 400 meal trips
Continuing to explore replacement of van, including EV options (information from Stonewall has been shared)
Suggestion/question about considering a smaller more fuel efficient vehicle for meal delivery rides, this would be an excellent application for an EV car
Possible partnerships in the future might help make full use of a vehicle that might be added to the fleet
4. Active Transportation (Melissa will follow up on this for a future meeting – Evelyn is willing to work with Melissa on this)
 - a. update from Town on bike lane
 - b. pedi cabs
5. Increased access to vehicles for personal use
 - a. GO Manitoba update
Lisa sent email inquiries to 500 Stephen, Central Station, The Community Exchange in Altona – waiting response from them re whether they use or are considering using GO Manitoba or other local ride sharing options



Evelyn has tried to contact GO Manitoba, no response from email
Karen will provide Evelyn with a Transportation contact from Green Action Centre

b. update from Prairie Golf

Rob talked to Mayor Brent Owen – previous proposal to allow legal use of low speed EV's within town limits, crossing highways but not traveling on them, was narrowly defeated by Town, but there is continued interest in pursuing this option

Rob will follow up with Brent again to get more details about the proposal and to offer support of our WG

c. update from Eco West (Rob still following up on this)

6. What might CWCs role be with coordinating information – this is a future question for when we have information to share!

7. Enhanced access to transportation for medical and appointments for younger people

Karen Kucharsky joined us to share information about the registry of volunteer drivers

Karen K shared that some people do use social media to request rides and try to connect with someone to give them a ride – Kathy has seen these posts on Facebook

Karen K also shared some of the data CWC is now collecting about transportation needs and this led to a discussion about how this could be shared with our WG (and other data relevant to other WGs with those WGs) on a regular basis

8. Resources:

Mobilizingjustice.ca (link sent from Lisa)

Connecting Communities: Strengthening Public Transportation Options in Rural Manitoba (Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives report released fall 2024)

Tamarack Institute – Maureen Owens

Rob and Evelyn will review Tamarack resources and connect with Maureen and Lisa (and consult with Melissa who is part of an anti-racism group through Tamarack)

9. CWC AGM June 11 – report due for 2024 Annual Report (Evelyn will complete)

10. Next Meeting Tuesday, May 6, 2025, 9 – 10:30 am at Memorial Hall

Future agenda items:

CWC is tracking calls including identifying transportation inquiries – 8.9% of the calls received – CWC also collects some more detailed information about these requests ie.



Destination, type of appointment, it is important for Transportation WG to receive this data and Karen K will figure out how to provide our WG that information on a regular basis

We should consider whether we have a role in future advocacy around medical transportation needs that might not be covered

Clarify what Seniors Resource Council transportation criteria and scope – Kathie will follow up with Nancy McFarlane, Karen suggested also checking with Lisa because there may have been some previous clarification or information gathering done on behalf of CWC

Learn from Steinbach about their focus on transportation spring 2025

Tasks from April 8, 2025

Rob - will follow up with Brent Owen about previous conversations with Prairie Golf Supplies and talk with Brent Owen about potential bike lane

- Shane Peltier at Eco West / RM of Richot

- Prepare and circulate agenda for May 6
- Review Tamarack Institute resources with Evelyn

Melissa – will follow up when she is able with Dale Reimer bike lane and research Canadian versions of pedi cabs, possibly ask through Tamarack

Evelyn – GO Manitoba follow up

- 2024 Annual Report
- Check with Melissa about working together on Active Transportation
- Review Tamarack Institute resources with Rob

Kathie – talk with Nancy McFarlane, Seniors Resource Council about transportation services they offer, and clarify criteria and scope

Karen – book space for May 6 meeting, share Green Action Centre transportation contact with Evelyn

Submitted by Karen Tjaden



Coordinator Report – Submitted April 10 2025 by Lisa Lehmann

These activities reflect CWC's ongoing commitment to strengthening partnerships, enhancing community impact, and supporting both staff and community development. Further updates will be provided as these initiatives continue to unfold.

1. Community Engagement and Networking

- **Carman Chamber of Commerce:** Their AGM – I did not attend.
- **Healthy Communities:** Chair this (every 6 weeks) – but will be working at BTHC for next two - will ask Karen K to chair
- **Clearwater Memorial Playground Project:** Continued active participation in the Clearwater Memorial Playground Project committee, contributing to the project's progress and community engagement efforts. Note: Proceeds of Elegant Ladies event put on by BRK and CC in Bloom – This project will receive funds from that event.
- **Town and RM:**
 - Awaiting to hear back from Joint Council regarding our requests
 - They hired new CFO – Curt L
- **Tamarack**
 - Circle of Actions – Belonging Cohort Project with Chantal, and Admin staff
 - Included a couple of meetings and some individual homework
- **Secretary Search** – met and talked to another possibility – awaiting to hear back
- **Rat River Council/ Debby Iverson and CCHC** – Notes – Introductory Meeting with Caman Wellness Connections – March 21, 2025 From Carman: Lisa Lehmann, Debby Iverson; From RRHC: Maureen Sicotte, Joel Lemoine, Murielle Bugera
 - Their request is to meet again, but they would like to meet with two members of the CHCB as well.
 - They also want a copy of our Nature of Calls.
- **CHN of Manitoba** - Lisa invited to Community Health Nurses of Manitoba - Spring Education Session to be a panelist with a focus on Harm Reduction and how to bridge challenges and solutions through collaborative care, with a focus on CWC.
- **Palliative Care** – met with Sandy Cameron – she is now attending ASIST meetings.
- **Addressing Houselessness** – met with community groups regarding discussing a safe, consistent, collective approach.
- **Media** – Sent article to **Ty Dilello** re update on Strategic Planning and Looking for Volunteers
- **Carman Stakeholders Meeting – put on by SHSS** – attended on behalf of CWC Talbot Bergsma, (member of the SHSS Board of Directors) came up to me afterwards thanking me for coming that he has wanted to learn more about CWC – I offered to present to their Board – and he was going to bring that back to them.
- **SAFE TALK** – Lisa attending training through SHSS ½ day



2. CWC

- **Strategic Planning:** Facilitating next steps: 3 of the 4 Goal Groups will meet April 15 2025 with Candace Bartel for one hour each. I will attend all.
- **Working Groups (WGs):** Asking for WG Reports for Annual Report (Karen K and I will work on this)
 - Continue to collaborating with key CWC members re collaboration with schools for Mental Health kits
- **Funding:**
 - **Sponsorship letters for Community Supper** – rec'd five responses – Thank you to Janzen's Chevrolet – Carman, Newman Hand and Nakonechkey & Power Chartered Accountants, Vanderveen Commodity Services Ltd., and Carman Vision Services.
 - **Completed CAF grant application** – Connection Lounge
- **Data Collections:** continued refining and collection of data
 - Volunteer Hours
 - Volunteer Database
 - Event/ Program Database
 - Nature of Calls
 - Program Evaluations
- **Communications:**
 - Met with Val who is doing Social Media with guidance from Sheryl. We reviewed Volunteer Orientation; Volunteer Hours Logging – Awaiting completion of Technology Agreement and Code of Ethics before asking her to sign, but did discuss same.
 - Met with Tom regarding changes on our Website

3. Office Day to Day

- **Staff:** Prepping for 6 month Review; guidance re Watch Party; AGM planning along with regular office tasks.
- **Handbook:** Awaiting date to meet with HR Committee to finalize
- **Client:** attend to increased social support needs for clients as needed
- **Board:** attended Executive Meeting April 3 2025 and Feb Board Meeting

3. Programming

- **ASIST**
 - Continuing to meet with collaborative group. The group is excited about Lindsey Hainsworth and the SHSS (Provincial Program) Roots of Hope. Lindsey will be



leading upcoming meetings – taking a neutral approach as she facilitates the group through the process of determining next steps for our community.

- **WRAP**

- Sent *What is HF WRAP?* to Kori da Costa to share with Carman Community Health Centre Board.

Submitted by Lisa Lehmann

