

# PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY PLAN

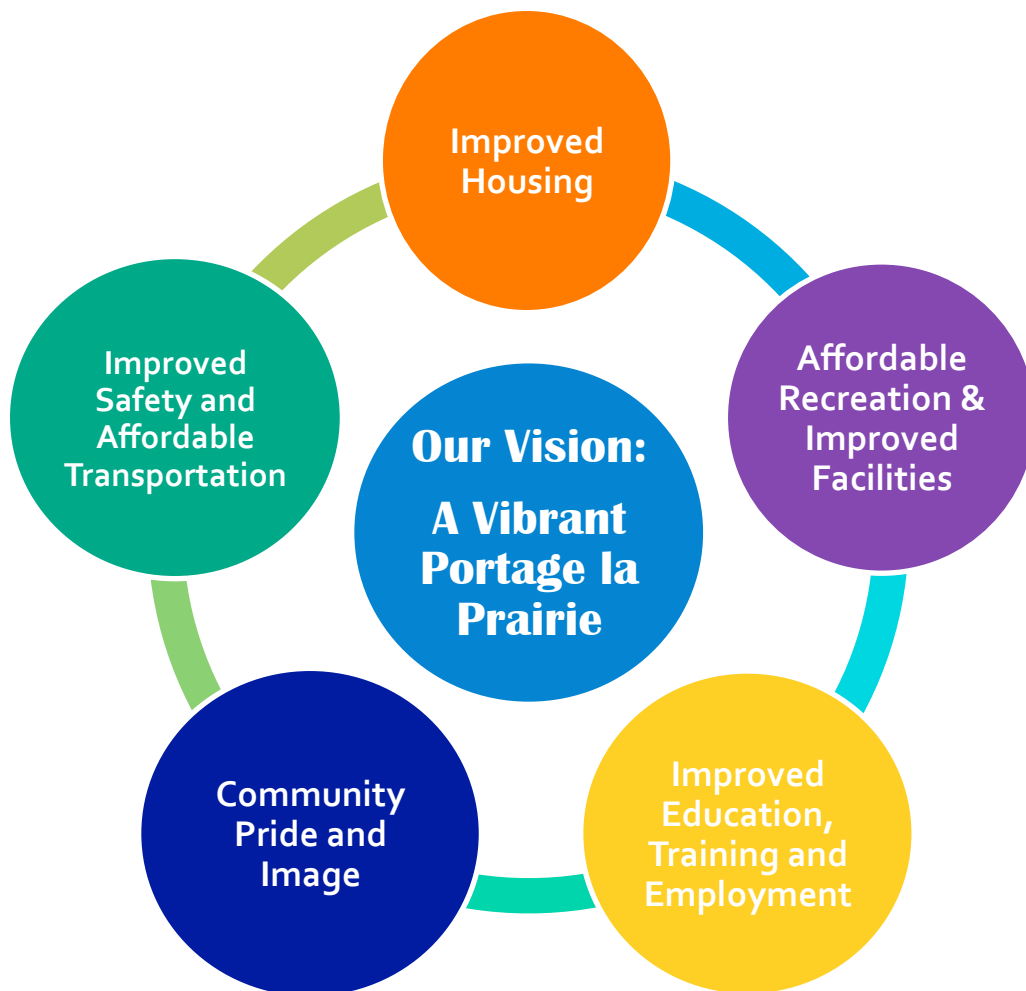
2017 - 2022



Portage la Prairie  
Community  
Revitalization  
Corporation

## THE COMMUNITY PLANNING PROCESS

Between November 2016 and March 2017, an eight-member Steering Committee led by the Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation (PCRC) undertook a community engagement process to inform the development of the 2017-2022 Five Year Community Plan for Portage. The Steering Committee included representatives of Big Brothers Big Sisters, Manitoba Housing, Southern Regional Health Authority, Youth for Christ, and PCRC.



The engagement process included the development and distribution of an online survey resulting in 866 surveys being completed. In addition to the survey, a total of 29 people participated in focus groups and a community open house. The focus group sessions were facilitated and recorded by members of the Steering Committee.

The data resulting from both survey and focus groups provided a profile of the key assets, concerns and priorities respondents felt were representative of Portage. In total, respondents identified and ranked 14 Community Priorities. Through analysis of this data, the Steering Committee identified six key Community Strategies that become the foundation of the Portage Five Year Plan.

On February 23<sup>rd</sup> 2017, a community meeting was held with 10 participants in attendance. The purpose of the meeting was to share highlights of the data collected and ask participants to confirm that the community's priorities were accurately portrayed, and to build upon these priorities by identifying groups and partners in the community who were already involved in similar work.



The result of the engagement process is a set of priorities and associated strategies for Portage that can be used to confirm and guide the work of community partners over the next five years. These priorities and strategies are reflective of cares and concerns respondents shared with the Steering Committee. As well, they are consistent with the objectives of the Neighbourhoods Alive! program.

Portage la Prairie Community Revitalization Corporation and the Steering Committee thank all stakeholders, interested citizens, businesses, agencies and groups that participated through the community survey, focus groups and meetings. We also acknowledge the assistance provided by Catapult Community Planning with preparing the Community Plan and community engagement process.

## FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY PRIORITIES

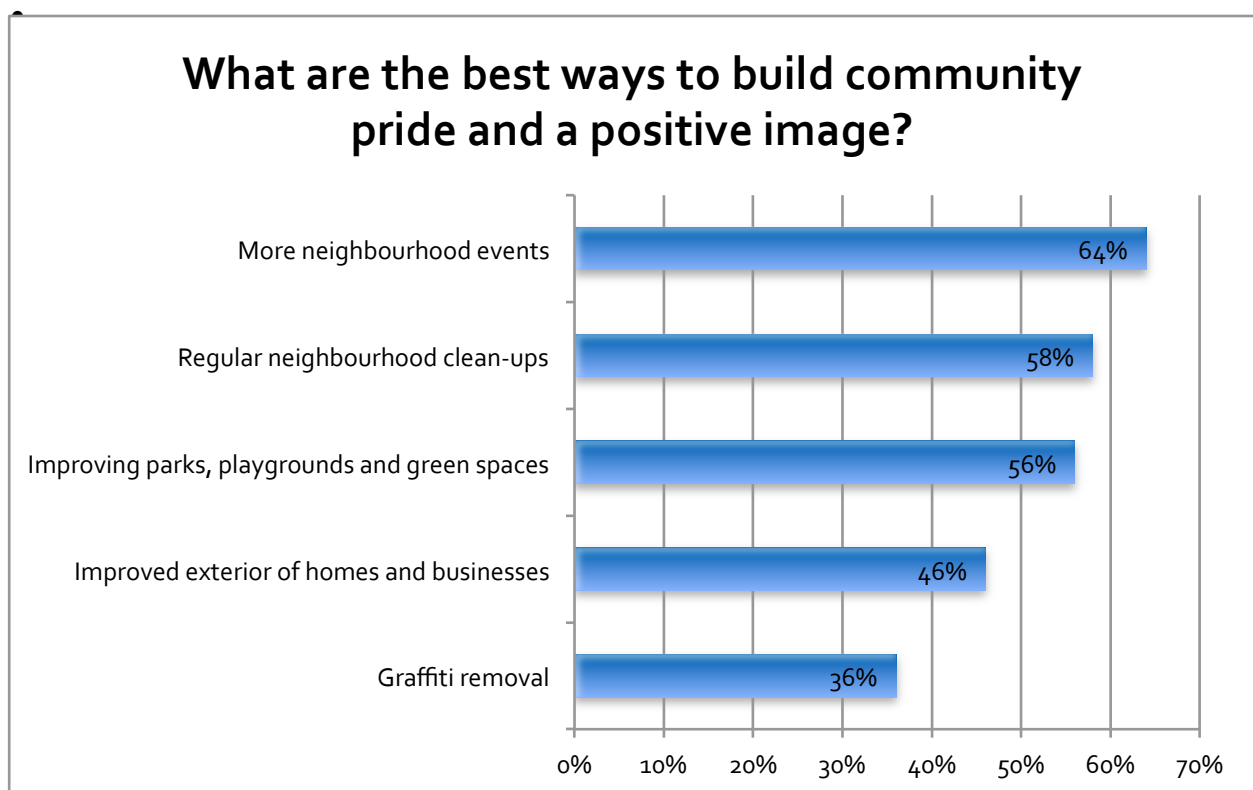
As part of the community survey, residents of Portage la Prairie identified and ranked the following Community Priorities in order of importance:

1. OFFERING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
2. PROVIDING OPPORTUNITIES TO ATTRACT YOUNG ADULTS AND FAMILIES TO PORTAGE
3. INCREASING FEELINGS OF SAFETY IN OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS
4. PROVIDING JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES
5. ENCOURAGING LOCAL SHOPPING AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT
6. ENSURING AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPTIONS
7. PROVIDING AFFORDABLE AND SAFE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS
8. IMPROVING PARKS, PLAYGROUNDS AND GREEN SPACES
9. IMPROVING COMMUNITY PRIDE AND PERCEPTIONS OF PORTAGE LA PRAIRIE
10. REDUCING POVERTY
11. ADDRESSING DISCRIMINATION AND RACISM
12. OFFERING SENIORS PROGRAMMING AND OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT
13. BETTER ACCESS TO FOOD AND GROCERY STORES
14. INCREASING CONNECTIONS BETWEEN NEIGHBOURS

## FIVE YEAR COMMUNITY STRATEGIES

Community Priorities were then grouped together by theme in order to establish five Community Strategies that could be initiated over the next five years. Community Strategies are identified below, along with specific actions suggested by the community.

### IMPROVE COMMUNITY PRIDE, IMAGE, AND ENGAGEMENT

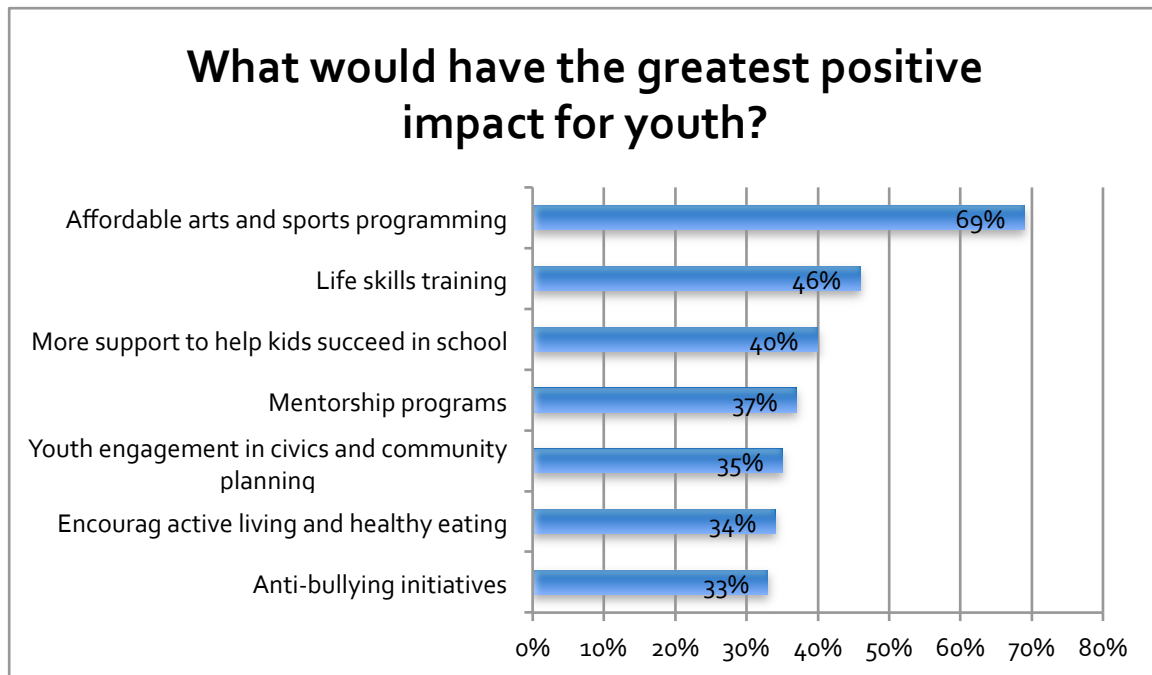


- Support and promote activities and events that build awareness of and celebrate the cultural and social diversity of Portage la Prairie
- Support and promote community building events and activities
- Provide supports for residents to undertake exterior improvements
- Reduce barriers to participating as a volunteer and build volunteer capacity
- Raise awareness of volunteering and volunteer opportunities



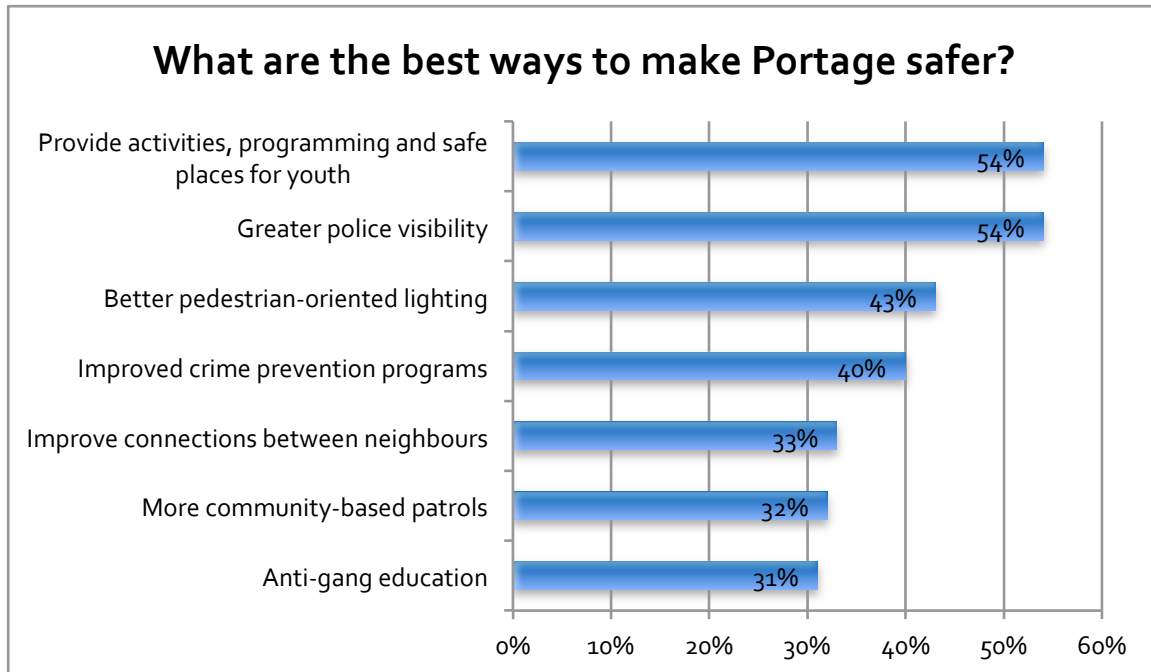
- Reward volunteerism
- Increase awareness of mental health issues and access to supports
- Support and promote age-friendly programming and opportunities
- Support actions to beautify Saskatchewan Avenue, and the downtown area in particular

**IMPROVE RECREATIONAL PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH, AND ENHANCE RECREATIONAL FACILITIES AND GREEN SPACES**



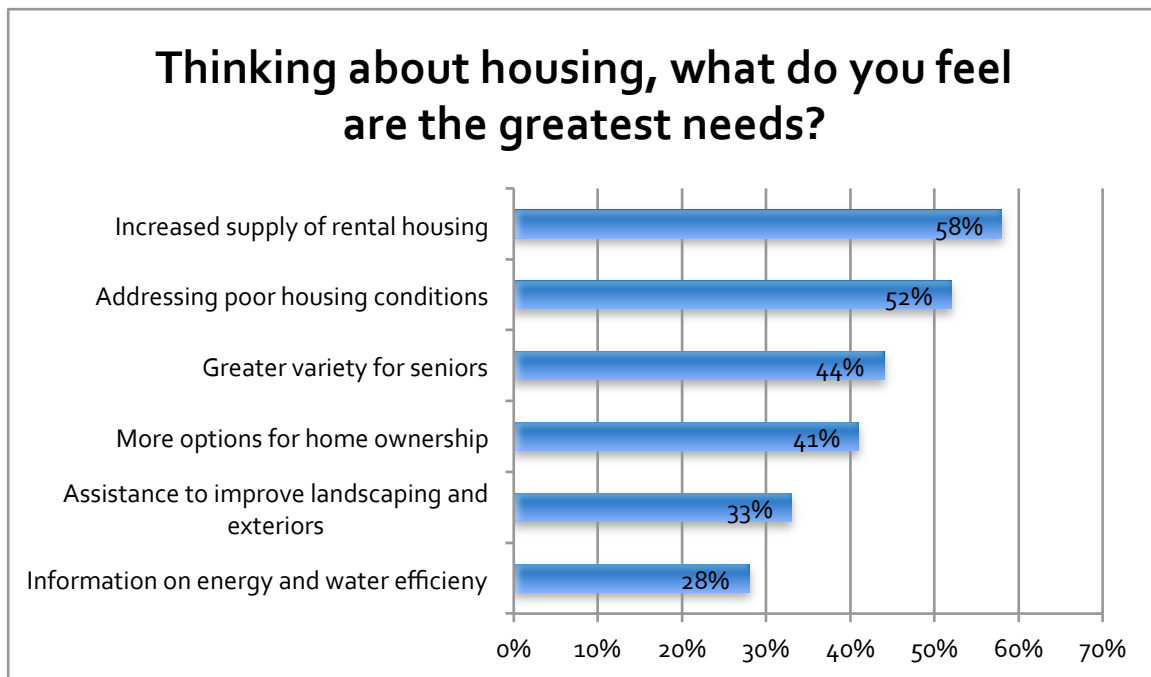
- Support affordable and accessible art and sport programming for youth
- Encourage more year-round recreation and leisure opportunities
- Improve amenities within existing parks, playgrounds and green spaces
- Develop recreational amenities in the North End
- Further develop Island Park and Crescent Lake for recreational opportunities

## IMPROVE COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROVIDE SAFE AND AFFORDABLE TRANSPORTATION OPTIONS



- Develop and support strategies aimed at improving crime prevention
- Increase dialogue and engagement between the RCMP and the community on key crime and safety issues
- Provide after school and evening socializing options for youth
- Provide better active transportation options including pathways, sidewalks and crosswalks
- Improve access to grocery stores
- Improve access to and screening of taxis and community shuttles

## INCREASE THE VARIETY OF HOUSING OPTIONS AND ADDRESS POOR HOUSING CONDITIONS



- Identify current housing needs and develop strategies to address those needs
- Identify options and supports for home ownership
- Support and promote improved conditions in public housing
- Support and promote by-law enforcement and financial incentives to address derelict or unsafe privately owned housing units
- Support investments in new affordable rental units and seniors housing options



## IMPROVE EDUCATION, TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- Support the development of life skills, employment training and mentorship opportunities for youth
- Reduce barriers to employment, by creating additional child care spaces and improving public transportation
- Develop employment opportunities for students and youth
- Identify opportunities to enhance the delivery of post-secondary education in Portage

## ENCOURAGE LOCAL SHOPPING AND BUSINESS IN PORTAGE

- Encourage investment in Downtown and Saskatchewan Avenue in particular
- Provide support for small business owners and home-based businesses
- Identify strategies to attract national retailers to downtown Saskatchewan Avenue and the Portage la Prairie Mall site

While PCRC will not take a lead on this Community Priority, we will engage in and explore partnerships with organizations whose mandate includes Economic Development.