



Report from the Dakota CC Board Chair

The past six years serving as a board member of Dakota Community Centre has been an incredible journey, one that has truly been rewarding watching our community centre continue to grow and evolve under the guidance of our CEO Michele Augert, and her executive team Colleen Mahon, Jody Wreggit, and Mark Spencer. It has also been a pleasure getting to know the other volunteer board members, and all of the other volunteers that help keep our centre running. As my last year as the Board Chair at Dakota CC, I'd encourage other community members wanting to get involved and make a difference in our community to consider volunteering with our centre, or joining the board of directors in the future.

In 2023/2024 we have seen significant investment and upgrades to our facility, starting with the room that we are meeting in today, the brand new Dakota CC Event Hall (formerly known as the Great Hall). This room is dividable into three separate rentable spaces, or one large space. We have hosted events such as weddings, celebrations of life, birthday parties, baby showers, etc. already in this space. The grand opening and open house was successfully held on June 11th, 2024. We are grateful to the Provincial Building Sustainable Communities Grant program for \$240K towards this important revitalization of space in our centre.

While we look to the future with optimism, we would like to reflect on some of the notable highlights, investments, and events that took place over the past year:

- There is a new Volunteer Office/Sportsplex Reception area now open in the office nearest the front of the Sportsplex doors. Very positive feedback received following the creation of this space for volunteer greeters and ambassadors to be available to assist visitors and renters entering through the Sportsplex doors.
- The new \$850,000 Storage facility was operationalized in early November, following construction completion, and now houses DCC's outdoor ice bear, as well as our fleet of vehicular equipment.
- New/Upgraded Security Camera systems upgrades have been complete – all cameras in Sportsplex and fieldhouse replaced; 18 additional cameras for a total of 65 new cameras. All cameras now on one system with upgrade and remote access available. 50% of the cost of this project (\$31K) was covered by a previous Building Sustainable Communities Grant.

- Kids Camps were well attended this year with 308 campers attending a variety of camps offered at the Centre each week throughout the summer. This was marked increase in attendees vs the 228 participants in the program last year.
- Dakota CC launched our new website after significant testing in late July and in preparation for the opening of fall registrations starting August 15.
- New \$141K Outdoor Fitness Playground (75% of funds provided under Canada Community Revitalization Grant) is complete between the library and CJS. Our new fitness playground features several pieces of fitness equipment made specially to appeal to a child's (ages 5 and up) desire for adventure, while providing them with age-appropriate challenges. Equipment includes over under bars, a spiderwalk, stepping rock, boogie board, Mobius climber, high step rope and jump hang.
- Dakota CC canteen & food services is now offering a home delivery menu available through Skip the Dishes.
- Dakota CC continues working with the City of Winnipeg with remediation work in the basement of the Sportsplex following the spring flood and sewer backup.

Including what has been shared above, I'm very pleased to report nearly \$800,000 in capital grants and operating grants were received by DCC in fiscal year 2023/24. This total includes grants from The Province of Manitoba's Building Sustainable Communities Fund, City of Winnipeg Renovation Grant, Canada Community Revitalization Fund, Red Cross Community Services Recovery Fund, Canada Summer jobs, as well as the Manitoba Green Team grant program and the City of Winnipeg Universal Funding Formula. These funds are essential to support our growth, improvements and operations at Dakota CC.

On behalf of the Dakota CC board, management, staff, and volunteers, we would like to sincerely thank our members, patrons, and stakeholders for their continued support as we successfully complete another busy year at our centre.

I would like to extend warm wishes to you and your family for a happy and healthy holiday season.

Sincerely,



Christian Kennedy

Board Chair