



COMMUNITY WORKS

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LIST OF PROJECTS

(1990 - 2020)

- I. Community and Social Development
- II. Economic and Business Development

NOTE: This list includes projects in which one or both partners played a lead role as private contractors, under *Community Works* or while working for other employers. In 2019 *Community Works Manitoba Inc.* was incorporated as a not-for-profit corporation in the Province of Manitoba.

I. COMMUNITY and SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

ON-GOING PROJECTS

“AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER” (Digital Storytelling) (On-going since 2014) In this 3- to 5-day workshop a maximum of 6 participants produce a first-person narrative as a short video. The workshop concludes with a group screening of the completed digital stories.

“STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITIES” (On-going since 2010) Created and facilitated a series of 2-3 day training workshops delivered in Winnipeg, Northwestern Ontario and Saskatchewan. Workshop titles include: *Helping Children Through Grief and Loss*; *Deep Roots, Strong Wings: Raising Resilient Children*; *Pathways to Partnerships: Supporting At-risk Parents*; *Circles of Care: Supporting Substance-Involved Mothers: Building Bridges*, *Tearing Down Walls: Strategies for Community Recovery*; *Building Community Resilience*; and *Restoring Indigenous Community Economies*.

“MUSIC FOR LIFE” (On-going since 2018) Formed a volunteer working group to raise funds and solicit musical instruments to support music programs for Indigenous kids in Winnipeg and First Nations communities. The programs employ local musicians as teachers.

2017

“At the Heart of the Matter: Stories of Home & Community” Planned and delivered an arts-based program with participants from West Broadway and St. Matthews-Maryland community ministries over the course of two months. Participants used pin-hole cameras, digital photography, stencil art, photostories and digital storytelling, followed by a public screening and exhibit of their work.

“Livelihoods and Reconciliation: Restoring Indigenous Community Economies” Prepared a briefing paper and delivered a 6-week study course for the general public.

2016

“Pimicikamak Cree Nation Gathering of Artists” Facilitated community-based planning and delivery of a 3-day indoor/outdoor arts workshop taught by local and visiting guest artists teaching painting, beading, pottery, hide drum making, jingle dress making, puppet making and photography. This project was a response to the youth suicide crisis in Pimicikamak.

2015

VOLUNTEER TRAINING VIDEOS Directed and produced four short volunteer training videos for Oak Table Community Ministry (Winnipeg).

2011-2013

BLEAK HOUSE NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIOR PROJECT Conducted a Needs Assessment and coordinated implementation of new initiatives at a Seniors Centre in the North End of Winnipeg. Taught classes in Photography and Digital Storytelling.

STRATEGIC PLANNING: PROJECT PEACEMAKERS Facilitated strategic planning meetings for a Winnipeg-based organization to identify core strengths, establish priorities and develop staff/volunteer work plans.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS STRATEGIC PLAN, KITCHENUHMAYKOOSIB INNINUWUG FIRST NATION Facilitated a series of meetings and workshops with community organizations leading to the development of a strategic healing and wellness strategy document. Supported by Ontario Trillium Foundation .

“RECONNECTING THE GENERATIONS THROUGH ARTS AND CRAFTS: A CULTURAL RECOVERY PROJECT” Prepared funding proposals for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation that focus on the use of traditional arts and crafts to strengthen inter-generational relationships among residential school survivors and their descendants. Submitted to *The Healing Fund of the United Church of Canada* and to *Wasaya Weecheewaywin*. Facilitated strategic planning meetings re delivery of project.

2010

CULTURAL STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN FOR USING THE CREATIVE ARTS FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS: Prepared a funding proposal for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation (Northwestern Ontario) that focuses on using community art as a tool for addressing critical social concerns, honouring cultural traditions, and fostering community well-being. Submitted to *Creative Communities Prosperity Fund* (Ontario).

COMMUNITY WELLNESS STRATEGY: Prepared a funding proposal for Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug First Nation for a strategic planning process to address the community’s social concerns in a culturally-grounded, integrated fashion. Submitted to *Ontario Trillium Foundation*

2009

THE MOTHERING PROJECT: A Pregnancy and Parenting Support Program for Substance-Involved Women Developed a comprehensive program template for Mount Carmel Clinic, a community health clinic in Winnipeg, MB. Attachment theory, harm reduction, women-centred practice, cultural safety/competence, and participatory learning served as the guiding principles for the template.

“BUILDING RESILIENCE IN TIMES OF CRISIS” Organized a 4-day training conference on fostering resilience in communities, organizations, families and individuals in times of crisis.. Facilitators included Rev. Stan McKay, Prof. Kevin Lamoureux, art therapist Julie Epp and Community Works partners Frances Ravinsky and Robert Miller.

2005-2008 *PIKANGIKUM MAAMOOWII WIICHHI’ITEWIN INITIATIVE (Northwestern Ontario)*

Developed a Community Wellness Program using arts-based activities in collaboration with Pikangikum School and Pikangikum Minosaywin Projects Committee, on contract with Nishnawbe Aski Nation (Thunder Bay, ON). Activities included traditional arts and crafts taught by local elders, puppet and mask making workshops, photography workshops, theatre training, a 5-day improvisational theatre workshop by the De-ba-jeh-mu-jig Theatre Group, a 4-day Festival of Arts & Crafts with local and visiting artists, and elders feasts and storytelling gatherings. Secured funding from several sources.

2003-2007: *ISLAND LAKE HEALING & WELLNESS PROGRAM COORDINATION (Northern Manitoba)*

- **PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT:** Facilitated a series of planning workshops in four Island Lake First Nations to develop community-based strategies to address broad-based healing and wellness goals, as well as specific social afflictions. Secured funding through proposal writing for projects focussing on FASD, violence and addictions, crime prevention, youth suicide, strengthening of inter-generational ties, creation of recreation and wellness opportunities, etc.
- **MENTAL HEALTH PROGRAM COORDINATION:** Provided ongoing supervision and support for Four Arrows Regional Health Authority in-house mental health therapy staff. Responsible for meeting government administrative and reporting requirements. Established ongoing staff training schedule. Facilitated program planning and evaluation meetings and retreats.
- **CRISIS RESPONSE:** Facilitated strategy meetings and assisted in coordination of community

crisis teams in response to specific crises such as outbreaks of youth violence; untimely deaths through accident, suicide and violence; confirmation of HIV outbreak, etc.

- **STAFF RETREATS & WORKSHOPS:** Facilitated program planning/evaluation meetings and healing and learning opportunities for front line staff on topics such as grief and loss, sexual abuse, and youth recreational programming . Facilitated staff retreats on self -care and team-building.

2004-2007 ISLAND LAKE CREATIVITY-BASED PROGRAMMING

- **YOUTH AND THE ARTS:** Developed and implemented a community-based crime prevention program in partnership with Island Lake schools and community agencies, using local artists as resource workers and establishing ‘Lighthouse’ youth centres for arts-based programs. These included traditional crafts and ceremonial regalia making, painting, puppetry, music, theatre and photography. Secured funding from several sources.
- **STORYTELLING AND THE CREATIVE ARTS:** Developed and delivered program using local and visiting artists as a resource for healing and wellness. Included puppet making workshops, Mother Goose Parent-Child train-the-trainer workshops, photography workshops, and two 3-day land-based Creative Arts festivals at Old Post, an island in Island Lake, in 2005 and 2006. Secured funding from several sources.
 - **INTER-GENERATIONAL THEATRE AND AUDIO ART PROJECTS:** Facilitated inter-agency planning meetings in communities. Secured funding and coordinated delivery of two inter-generational creativity-based projects developed to bridge inter-generational distance by reciprocal sharing of individual and communal stories. Provided logistical support for 6-day inter-community *Theatre for Living* workshop and performance/forum on the theme of violence and addictions; and for two 5-day audio art/storytelling workshops and public performances at a Youth-Elder gathering, delivered in the summer of 2007.

2005 **PIKANGIKUM HEALTH PLANNING RETREAT.** Facilitated 3-day Strategic Planning Retreat for community elders, political leadership, and front line workers from Pikangikum First Nation, along with representatives from external social service agencies. Prepared number of strategic planning documents for political leadership.

2003

PIKANGIKUM FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE Prepared a feasibility study for a family crisis shelter and healing facility. First Nation did not secure funding to proceed.

PIKANGIKUM FAMILY CAMP Wrote a proposal for a land-based camp facility and later an all-season cabin for healing and wellness activities. Secured funding from Mennonite Central Committee-Manitoba and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

2002

“KII-NII-CAA NIHSI NAANIK” (Our Children) Secured funding and edited a monthly newsletter of positive stories about First Nation communities in Northwestern Ontario; widely distributed as an insert in Wawatay News.

PIKANGIKUM “GIRL POWER” Secured 3-year funding commitment from Ontario Women’s Directorate for activities to support healing and empowerment for women and girls. Facilitated program planning, delivery and evaluation with staff.

2000-2002 **PIKANGIKUM HEALING PROJECT** Facilitated planning and delivery and secured

funding for a *Talking/Learning Circle* healing project for front line health staff, a women's committee, and a *Girl Power* team. Project was developed in partnership with Victims' Voices (Mennonite Central Committee, Manitoba), and Dr. Jessie Saulteaux Centre (Beausejour, Manitoba). Delivery took place at a number of healing facilities in Manitoba and Northwestern Ontario, as well as in the community.

1998-2002 *PIKANGIKUM EARLY YEARS PROGRAM* Facilitated development and secured funding for community's first early years program - a drop-in Play Centre for pre-school children. Facilitated strategic planning and program evaluation meetings with program staff. Provided ongoing program development support. Organized series of experiential training events on issues of interest and concern to staff. Negotiated in-community delivery of Early Childhood Education Diploma courses with Sault College and Northern Nishnawbe Education Council. Selected instructors and taught psychology course components of curricula. Established Adult Resource Library.

2001

PIKANGIKUM "*MAAMOWII WII-CHI-ITEWNIN*" ("*Working Together*") *YOUTH WALK* Provided planning and logistical support for 21-day walk from Pikangikum to Winnipeg (700 kilometers). Forty community members started out; over 150 had joined by the time they arrived at the Manitoba Legislature.

PIKANGIKUM MINOSAYWIN PROJECTS (Follow-up to the Youth Walk) Assisted in establishing a community-based committee to carry out activities for healing and wellness. Wrote proposals and secured funding for staff and programs: sports and recreation, camping and other land-based activities, movie nights, etc. Provided on-going accounting, training and program development support until 2008.

ABINOGEESH WE-GAMIK "Kid's Place" Pikangikum First Nation. Developed program and secured funding and MCC volunteers for a summer recreation program in Pikangikum. Soccer, games, playground, arts and crafts, story telling, snack program, etc.

2000 *PIKANGIKUM HEALTHY COMMUNITY PROJECT* Facilitated community planning meetings leading to a community-based suicide prevention strategy linking health workers with community healing & recreation.

1999 *PIKANGIKUM YOUTH SERVICE PROJECT* Developed program and secured funding for 6-month youth service project for 15 youth aged 18-24: gardening, recreation, construction, child care, community clean-up, etc.

II. BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS

[Note: Robert Miller was the lead facilitator or consultant in these projects.]

On-going since 1988

Private accounting practice: bookkeeping, year-end financial statements and income tax returns for individual, small business and non-profit clients.

2010-12

K.I. ECONOMIC STRATEGY AND ACTION PLAN. Facilitated a 12-month community-based planning process and prepared an economic strategy and action plan with Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwig First Nation.

2009

WHITEFEATHER WATERS TOURISM ASSOCIATION. Consulting on business recovery strategy for eight fishing camps operated by Pikangikum First Nation and individual band members; prepared proposals and funding applications. (on-going)

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TOOLKIT. Prepared a Community Economic Development Guide and Workbook for Manitoba Economic Development Advisory Committee, on contract with Keewatin Tribal Council, for the use of economic development officers in Manitoba. Facilitated training workshops on the use of the Toolkit.

WINDIGO ISLAND FISHING LODGE. Consulting on feasibility and financing for a small fishing lodge for an individual who operates a guide service catering to U.S. sport fishermen in Lake of the Woods, Ontario.

2008

BUSTER'S POOL HALL. Business planning for a private youth-oriented pool hall and confectionary store in Pikangikum First Nation.

TORONTO PARENT-CHILD MOTHER GOOSE PROGRAM. Business analysis and preparation of annual operating budget.

2006

TEKIE'S TAXI. Business plan for a successful wheelchair accessible taxicab owned and operated by an Eritrean immigrant in Winnipeg.

2004

SHOAL LAKE RV PARK AND CAMPGROUND. Business Plan prepared for Neebawin Economic Development Corporation, Iskatewizaagegan #39 Independent First Nation (Shoal Lake, Ontario).

2003

BIG TROUT LAKE TOURISM. Planned and facilitated a 3-day community-based tourism development workshop.

2001

BARTON LAKE OUTPOST CAMP (Pikangikum). Developed a Business Recovery Plan and facilitated partnerships for successful recovery of a fishing outpost camp. Provided on-going management support.

WHITEFEATHER WATERS OUTPOST CAMPS (Pikangikum). Developed a Business Recovery Plan for eight fishing outpost camps. Liaison with marketing agent, funding agencies and trainer.

2000

WASAYA CONSULTATIONS ON MINING AND TOURISM. Planned and facilitated two 3-day workshops to gather First Nations economic development workers, industry representatives and government agencies to explore opportunities to expand Aboriginal participation in these sectors in Northern Ontario.

ROCKY'S POOL HALL. Business Plan for a privately operated pool hall in Pikangikum First Nation. Business operated successfully until destroyed by fire approx. 3 years later.

1999

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, Big Trout Lake. Long-term economic development strategy with a focus on mobilizing the community to become involved in economic initiatives.

PIKANGIKUM ECO-TOURISM. Business plan for a family-based eco-tourism business involving trapline and fishing camp tours. Family did not proceed to implement the business.

WASAYA MA MOW LTD. Business planning for a new float/ski plane enterprise involving 3 aircraft flying from 3 different northern Ontario First nations. Business started July, 2000, and is on-going.

1998

LYNX RAPIDS OUTPOST CAMP. Business plan for a new fishing outpost camp on the Berens River, Ontario. Did not proceed due to death in the family.

PIKANGIKUM RESTAURANT. Business Plan and Training Plan for a successful new restaurant operation; recruited general manager/trainer. Business is operating successfully.

PIKANGIKUM WINTER ECOTOURISM. Liaison with MNR, Band Council, and dog-sled ecotour operator to develop tours to a Pikangikum family's March fishing camp. Did not proceed due to owner's health issues.

PIKANGIKUM HOT DOG CART. Business plan for a successful youth micro-enterprise, a partnership between two women. One partner later became manager of Pikangikum Restaurant.

1997

DEER LAKE "MEALS-ON-WHEELS". Business plan, liaison with equipment dealers, food suppliers, gas fitters, etc. for a successful mobile fast food restaurant (pizza, hamburgers, fries, chicken) set up in a former school bus.

NORTHERN NISACHEWAN CAMP, The Dalles. Organized pilot tours; prepared funding applications; assisted in planning a family-operated fishing, cultural and wilderness tourism operation on the Winnipeg River north of Kenora.

KIKA-AH-SHA-MITISOO-MIN "We Will Feed Ourselves", Pikangikum First Nation. Developed long-term strategy to replace food imports with food produced in the community. Secured funding and MCC volunteer for Youth Gardening Project, baking, poultry raising, etc.

PIKANGIKUM COMMERCIAL FISHERY. Assisted a Pikangikum family in reviving a commercial fishery for export and for consumption in the community.

"THE TAILGATE". Business and Marketing Plan for a livestock tailgate designed and manufactured by a Metis entrepreneur in the Manitoba Interlake district.

1996

WINDIGO ISLAND COMPUTER TRAINING, Northwest Angle #37 First Nation. Conducted 6-month computer training course for community residents.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, Koocheching First Nation. Facilitated community consultations; prepared economic analysis and 5-year economic development strategy.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, Windigo Island, Northwest Angle #37 First Nation. Facilitated community consultations; prepared economic analysis and 5-year economic development strategy.

BERENS RIVER BOAT TOURS, Pikangikum First Nations. Trip planning, training plan and promotional materials for a proposed family-run 5-day motor boat trip on the Berens River. Family did not proceed with business due to involvements in family sport fishing camps.

1995

GRANDBOIS LOGGING, Kenora, ON. Business plan, grant & loan applications and financial management training for successful privately owned tree slashing operation based in Kenora.

BIG TROUT LAKE OUTPOST CAMPS, Big Trout Lake First Nation. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, management plan, grant & loan applications, to renovate and re-open a Band-owned fishing tourism camp.

MA-HA-BO-WIN CANOE ADVENTURES, Big Trout Lake First Nation. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications, to establish a commercial wilderness canoeing outfit. Provided promotional materials, liaison with European marketing agents.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT TRAINING, Pikangikum First Nations. Planned and delivered a 6-month C.D. training project for 2 Band office staff.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY, Pikangikum First Nations. Facilitated community consultations; prepared economic analysis and 5-year economic development strategy.

1994

DALLES MARINA, GAS BAR & STORE, Dalles First Nation. Prepared Business Plan and loan application for successful privately-operated Marina and Store north of Kenora, in building leased from the First Nation.

BUSINESS MANAGEMENT TRAINING, Shoal Lake #39 First Nation. Conducted 4-week business management training course as part of a larger forestry training program for Band members.

AU-GEE-MACH FORESTRY (SAWMILL), Windigo Island, Northwest Angle #37 First Nation. Prepared operational plans, business plan, grant & loan applications for bandsaw operation, an expansion of logging operations (see above). Wrote & coordinated training proposal.

MIKINAAKO MINISS OJIBWAY FOODS, Shoal Lake #39 First Nation. Family-based enterprise. Project manager for Research & Development project leading to new aboriginal food products based on "popped manomin" (wild rice), dried blueberries, and locally harvested Manitoba Maple Syrup. Worked with design and packaging firms to develop packaging. Small scale production facility established in community. Operation suspended due to owner's health issues.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT TRAINING, Pikangikum First Nations. Provided 12-month manual and computer-based bookkeeping and accounting training to staff of Band's community development corporation.

1993

HANK'S CHIP TRUCK, Shoal Lake #39 First Nation. Prepared Business Plan, grant & loan applications

for a successful privately owned fast food outlet run from a converted school bus.

AMIK TIMBER, Wabauskang First Nation. Prepared timber volume estimate, feasibility study and training plan for a proposed First Nation softwood harvesting and sawmill operation. Implemented on small scale.

WABASEEMOONG COMMUNITY FORESTRY, Wabaseemoong (Whitedog) First Nation. Facilitated formation of a community-based development corporation to undertake forestry operations (pulpwood harvesting, silviculture, brush clearing). Conducted feasibility study; provided financial management training, liaison with Band and Provincial officials. Operation ceased after 1 season due to management problems.

PIKANGIKUM BARGE FREIGHT, Pikangikum First Nations. Feasibility study, Business Plan, grant & loan applications for a successful Band-owned barging operation on the Berens River.

SHOAL LAKE LAUNDROMAT, Shoal Lake #39 First Nation. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications. Brokered agreement to purchase used laundromat equipment. On-going Band-owned business.

ZUTEESIKGOSING DEVELOPMENT CORP. PINE CONE HARVESTING, Kenora, ON. Prepared Business Plan and loan application to assist Kenora-based community development corporation start resource development for off-reserve First Nation members. Provided financial management and computer training.

1992

FORT SEVERN LAUNDROMAT, Ft. Severn First Nation. Band-operated coin laundry. Prepared operational plan to overcome challenges of permafrost, trucking waste water to disposal site, transportation of fuel by barge on Hudson Bay, transportation of building materials and equipment by tractor train. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications. Business is on-going.

WINDFALL ISLAND CAMP, Windigo Island, Northwest Angle #37 First Nation. Primary advisor for community-based tourist enterprise. Facilitated plans to renovate 2 old cabins, install solar electrical power & composting toilets. Prepared Feasibility Study, Business Plan, grant & loan applications. Prepared training plan. Prepared promotional materials and coordinated advertising & promotion. Packaged and promoted cultural/historical lake tours. Provided financial management training and year-end financial statements.

WAABTEGWAN INC. LAUNDROMAT/STORE, Deer Lake First Nation. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, water supply & waste disposal plan, grant & loan applications. Not implemented, due to Province's rejection of economic means of disposing of waste water.

PIKANGIKUM HEAVY EQUIPMENT CONTRACTING, Pikangikum First Nations. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications for First Nation to purchase heavy equipment for summer and winter road building, site development, etc.

1991

AU-GEE-MACH FORESTRY (LOGGING), Windigo Island, Northwest Angle #37 First Nation. Primary advisor to community-based forestry operation, sustainable logging of hardwoods on island reserves. Prepared pilot project plan, timber volume estimates, operational & business plans, grant & loan applications. Sourced new and used equipment. Brokered agreement with Big Island First Nation on access to timber. Prepared and coordinated training program. Recruited resident volunteer trainer/assistant. Provided financial management training; year-end financial statements.

SHOAL LAKE FISH CANNERY PROPOSAL, Shoal Lake #39 First Nation. Preliminary feasibility

work for a *namaybin* (red sucker) cannery and whitefish caviar processing plant. First Nation did not proceed.

WABIGOON METIS WILD BLUEBERRY HARVEST, Wabigoon, ON. Provided financial projections, marketing assistance, liaison with contractors, leading to construction of a freezer plant, purchase of a refrigerated truck, and wholesale/retail operation in fresh and frozen wild blueberries.

WHITEFEATHER WILDERNESS CAMPS, Pikangikum First Nations. Series of Business Plans, grant & loan applications, training programs & marketing proposals leading to 7 new fishing outpost camps operated by former trappers and commercial fishermen. On-going training, support & liaison with marketing agents.

1990

*WABAUSKANG WILDFRUIT*s, Wabauskang First Nation. Primary consultant leading to on-going women's community-based enterprise. Coordinated research & development of blueberry jam & dried blueberry "leather". Designed processing equipment line, processing building. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications, Marketing Strategy. Provided liaison - equipment suppliers & building contractors. Sourced ingredients. Provided small business management & financial training. Conducted marketing & distribution in North America, Europe & Japan. Prepared financial statements.

PIKANGIKUM LAUNDROMAT, Pikangikum First Nations. Successful Band-operated coin laundromat. Facilitated planning meetings; prepared business plan, grant & loan applications, building plan, dual wood/propane water heating system. Recruited construction manager. Provided financial management training.

KAGIWIOSA MANOMIN INC., Wabigoon First Nation. Accounting and business planning for successful on-reserve, community-based cooperative wild rice buying, processing and marketing enterprise.