



**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

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

### **University of Winnipeg**

Biology  
Education  
Criminal Justice  
Theatre & Film  
UWSA Daycare Centre

### **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

### **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

### **Seine River School Division**

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

### **Winnipeg Technical College**

Culinary Arts & Design  
Motosport Technology  
Microcomputer Systems Technology  
Technical Drafting



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

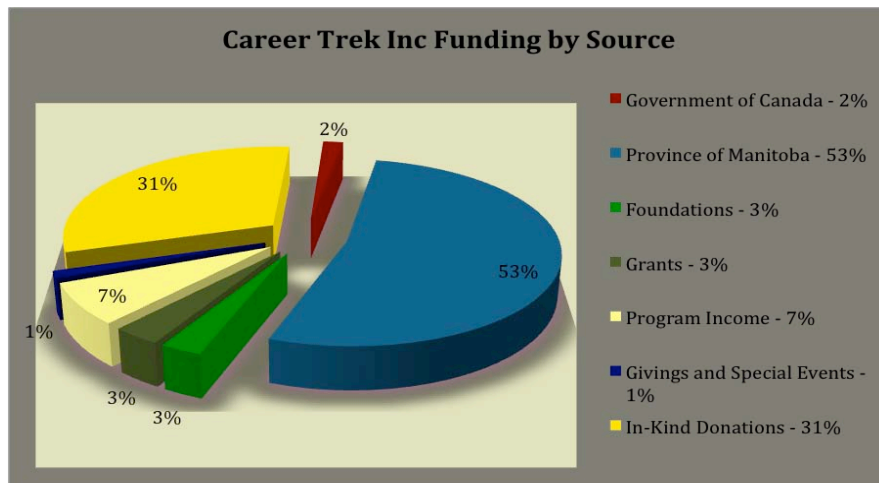
### River East Transcona School Division

### 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**  
Executive Director

**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

## 2008/09 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### **Barb Bowen, Chairperson**

Manager, Special Programs  
Manitoba Aerospace

### **Christine Pierre, Vice-Chairperson**

Aboriginal Student Recruitment Officer  
University of Manitoba

### **Victor Bellay, Treasurer**

Crown Attorney, Department of Justice  
Government of Manitoba

### **Gordon Hannon, Secretary**

Crown Counsel, Department of Justice  
Government of Manitoba

### **Holly Leost**

Program Manager-Aboriginal Health  
Services  
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority

### **Dr. Christine Blais**

Director, University One  
University of Manitoba

### **Marti Ford**

Dean, Aboriginal Education  
Red River College

### **Colin Russell**

Registrar  
University of Winnipeg

### **Linda Beaudry**

Vice-President  
People First HR

## **HONOURARY BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

### **Dr. Fred Shore**

Executive Director of Accessibility  
University of Manitoba

### **Helen Robinson-Settee**

Director  
Aboriginal Education Directorate  
Manitoba Education and Youth

### **D'Arcy Phillips**

Chief Executive Officer  
M.A.H.R.C.C.

### **Margaret Braid**

Past-Vice President  
Business Partnerships  
Red River College

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

### *Membership Committee*

Soon Kong, Steve Marsden, Angela Bye,  
Holly Leost, and Lorielyn Castillo

### *Special Events Committee*

Marti Ford, Barb Bowen, Soon Kong,  
Linda Beaudry

### *Personnel Committee*

Barb Bowen, Holly Leost, Victor Bellay

### *Finance Committee*

Gord Hannon, Victor Bellay, Darrell  
Cole, Dianne Little

### *Research Committee*

Kathy Levine, Dawn Sutherland

### *Board Development Committee*

Dwight Botting, Colin Russell, Barb  
Bowen, Christine Blais, Darrell Cole