

# Young Winnipeg's Report Card



youth  
vital**signs**

2014

# About the project

**Youth Vital Signs** is a report card on our city, based on survey results from young people, aged 14-29, in Winnipeg.

It is modeled after similar reports produced by the Vancouver, Calgary and Victoria Foundations; many community foundations across Canada have created their own versions. All of these projects are part of the Community Foundations of Canada's annual Vital Signs campaign.

Youth Vital Signs 2014 creates a new way for youth to share their experiences living in Winnipeg, and their perspectives on local issues. The goal is to give youth a platform to express their perspectives and be heard. Survey results have the potential to influence decision-making at many levels. The responses compiled in this publication begin a conversation and provide a unique and exciting chance to make constructive change.

Many thanks for the perspectives shared by the 1,864 youth who took the time to fill out this survey!



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Artwork in this report has been contributed by artists from Graffiti Art Programing (Studio 393) and photos have been drawn from The Winnipeg Foundation's archives.

# Methodology

**Youth Vital Signs is based on two primary research methods to capture the perspectives and experiences of youth in Winnipeg: a survey and analysis of secondary research.**

## THE SURVEY

The Youth Vital Signs survey was developed in consultation with a broad cross-section of young Winnipeg.

The first section of the survey invited young Winnipeggers to grade 15 key areas of life. Next, they were asked to identify opportunities for change most important to them, and categorize priorities for community investment. Responses were gathered through a succession of open-ended and multiple-choice questions. The survey was voluntary and anonymous with the option for participants to fill out demographic information.

The Winnipeg Foundation Youth Vital Signs team provided survey design and delivery, and field tested the survey with three groups. Probe Research provided guidance in survey research and response compilation.

Online and hard copy versions of the survey were available between March 17 and May 30, 2014. Outreach to post-secondary institutions, high schools, junior high schools, young professionals and youth-serving agencies (that connect with young people outside school and work spheres), took place to ensure all young Winnipeggers had the opportunity to have their voices heard. In total, 1,864 surveys were returned: 1,359 online and 505 on paper. A detailed list of youth advisors and agencies that helped distribute the survey is available at the end of this publication.

The results of the survey were compiled in report card format by the Youth Vital Signs staff team at The Winnipeg Foundation. The report uses the pronoun “we” to represent the voices and opinions of youth who took part in the survey.

## SURVEY CHALLENGES AND LIMITATIONS

- Youth were able to skip any questions they chose, therefore survey completion was not 100%. The demographic section was entirely optional.
- The survey was only available in English, which may have presented an obstacle for some young people.

**Note:** In this report card, the words *Aboriginal* and *Aboriginal peoples* are used to represent First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples.



# Young Winnipeg Snapshot and secondary research

The Youth Vital Signs Winnipeg team partnered with Probe Research to gather a demographic profile of youth in Winnipeg using data from a range of primary and secondary sources. An extensive list of secondary sources is available online at [wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect](http://wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect).

- There are about 148,100 Winnipeg residents aged 14-29. This represents 22% of the population. (*Statistics Canada, 2011*)
- The highest concentration of young people is in the Osborne Village area and near the University of Manitoba. (*Statistics Canada, 2011*)
- The youth population isn't growing as quickly as older adults. Between 2001 and 2011, Winnipeg's under 30 population grew by 2% (from 248,200 to 252,100), while the 55-plus population grew by 26% (from 141,900 to 178,100). (*Statistics Canada, 2001 & 2011*)
- Manitoba's newcomers are younger on average than newcomers in Canada overall: 31% of Manitoba's newcomers (who arrived since 2001) were children under the age of 15, compared to 27% of Canada's newcomers overall. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)
- The Philippines, India and China have consistently ranked as the top three source countries for immigrants to Manitoba. In 2012, emigration from the Philippines and China decreased while numbers from India increased. (*Manitoba Immigration Facts, 2013*)
- Manitoba's Aboriginal population is significantly younger than the Manitoba average. In 2006, over 33% of Aboriginal peoples were under the age of 15. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)
- According to the 2011 Census, 40,255 Winnipeggers were Aboriginal peoples aged 29 or younger (representing 56% of all Aboriginal peoples in Winnipeg and 6% of all Winnipeg residents). (*Statistics Canada, 2011*)



## HIGHLIGHTS

### Through survey comments, some prevalent concerns emerged.

Youth understand that poverty is a complex issue that intersects with education, employment, rising costs of living and housing, and other issues. Many respondents commented on the difficulty of moving into an independent lifestyle. Their challenges include: lack of access to affordable and safe housing, poor availability of entry-level jobs, rising costs of living and education, and transportation woes. It seems harder than ever to achieve self-sufficiency in early adulthood.

Discrimination, particularly along cultural lines, was a common thread and was reflected in comments from both those who perpetuate and those who face negative stereotyping. The city's incredibly diverse cultural make-up was cited as a great asset and a challenge. Many young Winnipeggers described societal and generational divides, specifically between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people.

Personal safety was another ongoing concern for many survey participants and was closely connected to where they lived. Access to mental health services and awareness programs to reduce associated stigma were important to young Winnipeggers as well.

Among all Winnipeggers, infrastructure (including roads and potholes) and crime are considered the biggest issues facing our city (*Probe Research, 2014*). Young Winnipeg, however, is calling for investment in a variety of innovative social programs to make our city a better place.

## BIG ISSUES

**Youth graded 15 areas of importance. The five areas identified as needing the most immediate attention were:**

- 1 | Poverty
- 2 | Housing and homelessness
- 3 | Safety
- 4 | Employment
- 5 | Transportation

## PRIORITIES FOR INVESTMENT

**Young Winnipeggers also ranked 21 services and programs in which they would like to see more resource investment. Top of the list were:**

- 1 | Education
- 2 | Affordable housing
- 3 | Mental health services
- 4 | Public transportation
- 5 | Gang prevention programs

## NO "A"S OR "D"S

While young Winnipeggers have not ranked any area a complete failure, they also don't see aspects in which our city excels. Thinking about their futures, 41% said they plan to relocate; 46% say they don't know.





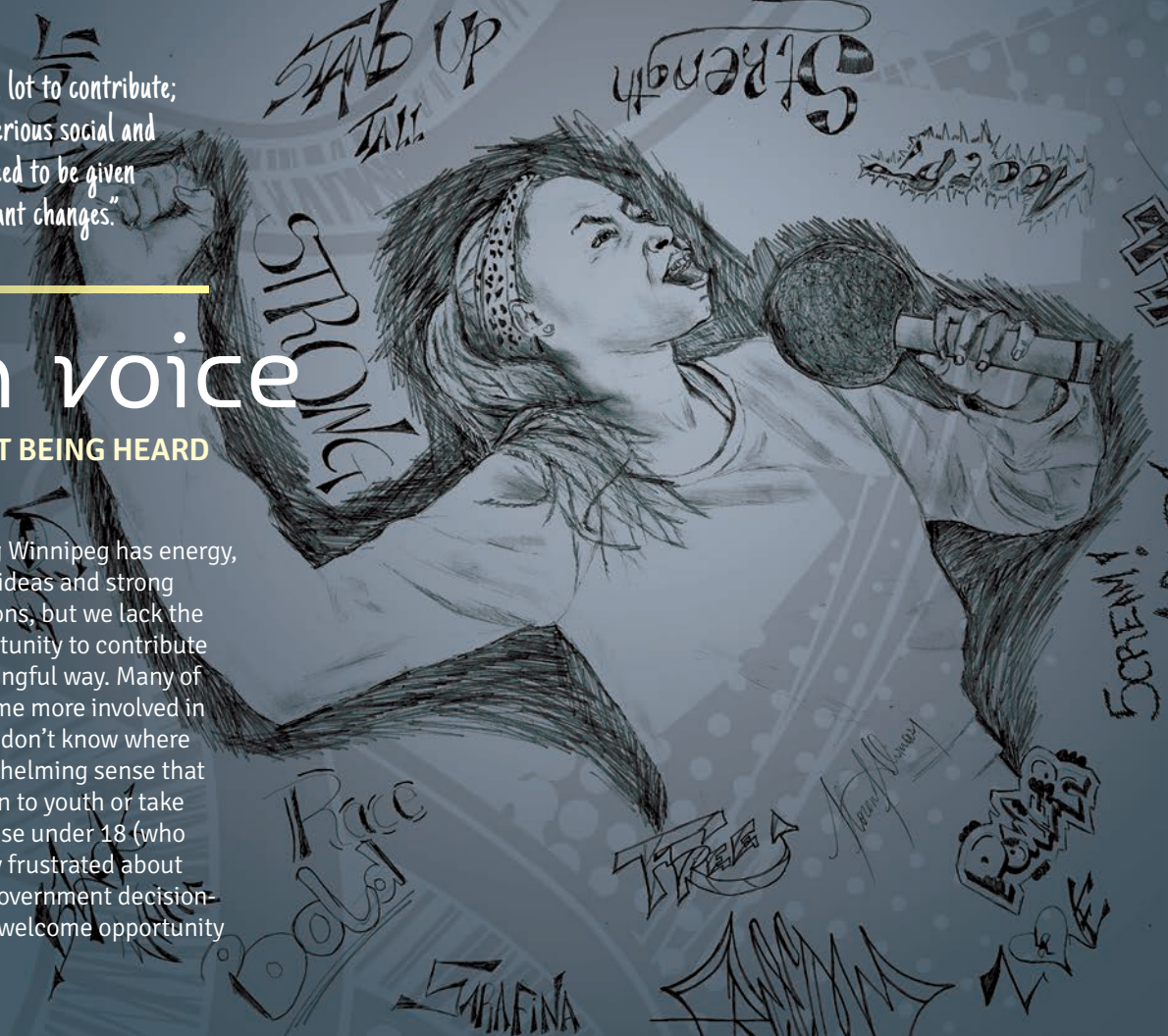
"The youth in our city have a lot to contribute; many are passionate about serious social and environmental issues — we need to be given opportunity to make significant changes."

# Youth voice

NOT BEING HEARD

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

Young Winnipeg has energy, fresh ideas and strong opinions, but we lack the opportunity to contribute those resources in a meaningful way. Many of us have the desire to become more involved in politics or civic issues, but don't know where to begin. There is an overwhelming sense that people in power don't listen to youth or take our opinions seriously. Those under 18 (who can't vote) feel particularly frustrated about our inability to influence government decision-making. This survey was a welcome opportunity to express ourselves.



# Top Priorities

ESTABLISH A YOUTH COUNCIL TO ADVISE WINNIPEG CITY COUNCIL

ENSURE OPPORTUNITIES TO PARTICIPATE ARE OPEN TO ALL, REGARDLESS OF CULTURE, ACADEMIC STANDING OR SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS

"I rarely hear things that matter to me, it's always property taxes (too far out of reach for me) or things for middle class white people. Politicians need to talk to me about school, bike lanes, activity options, starting a business or job resources, etc..."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ The MB4Youth Advisory Council is made up of 15 members, aged 15 to 24, who provide feedback to the Minister of Children and Youth Opportunities on issues relating to youth. (*Province of Manitoba*)
- ⊕ Many local organizations have youth councils, including: The United Way, Canadian Museum for Human Rights, Winnipeg Public Library, Child and Family Services.
- ⊕ Youth who are involved in decision-making are more likely to become active citizens, vote, and engage in the democratic process. (*apathyisboring.com*)



# Youth spaces

A PLACE OF OUR OWN

**B**  
YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

Although the overall grade is fair, we see room for improvement in Winnipeg's youth-friendly spaces (community centres, libraries,

gyms and pools, parks, coffee shops, night clubs and other places that are affordable for young people). Extended evening and weekend hours for community centres and libraries, reduced or eliminated entrance fees at recreation facilities, and places geared to older teens, are all on our wish list. Our ideal space is casual and open late, where we can hang out and meet new people without having to participate in structured activities or purchase expensive food or drinks.



# Top Priorities

"Almost everything costs money that we do not have, and/or, is in a distant place that we do not have transportation to."

MAKE SAFETY A PRIORITY IN YOUTH SPACES

LOWER THE COST FOR YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE IN ACTIVITIES

DEVELOP MORE YOUTH SPACES THROUGHOUT THE CITY

"A lot of the social activities in Winnipeg seem to revolve around alcohol..."

"My neighbourhood club, the Riverview Community Centre, is a great place to hang out but most of the programming seems to be geared towards younger kids... (except for the rink, which is used by all ages all the time). If they hosted art classes or something especially for teens-and-up that would be great."

## Fast Facts

⇒ Winnipeg's public recreation amenities include 64 community centres, 28 arenas and 11 public pools (currently operating). Many offer free drop-in activities for youth, including swimming and skating. (Greater Council of Winnipeg Community Centres, 2014)



# Poverty

BUILDING BRIDGES BETWEEN “US” AND “THEM”

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

Young Winnipeg understands poverty is connected with issues of affordable housing, a living wage, poor health, racism, food

access, public transportation and more. We are concerned that Aboriginal peoples are over-represented among Winnipeg's poor. We see a growing gap between the wealthy and the poor, linked with divides between the north and south ends of our city. We want to build connections between the diverse communities in Winnipeg to break down stereotypes.

*“Have more affordable housing as well as a guaranteed annual income for all members of society. This would lead to higher education, resulting in more career establishment, resulting in a robust economy.”*





# Top Priorities

BRIDGE DIVIDES BETWEEN COMMUNITIES TO  
ELIMINATE “US” VS. “THEM” MENTALITY

IMPROVE EDUCATION ABOUT POVERTY,  
COLONIALISM, RACISM AND ABORIGINAL  
CULTURES

INCREASE MINIMUM WAGE OR INSTITUTE A LIVING  
WAGE OR GUARANTEED ANNUAL INCOME

TEACH STUDENTS HOW TO RUN A HOUSEHOLD,  
INCLUDING COOKING, SHOPPING AND BUDGETING

“People in the suburbs are often ignorant and oblivious of the inner city. Most people prefer to stay in their own community. I would say that about those who live in the inner city, too.”

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ A living wage means full-time work should provide basic economic security. In Winnipeg in 2013, the living wage for a family of four was \$14.07/hour. Minimum wage was \$10.45/hour. (*Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives*)
- ⊕ In 2011, the overall poverty rate in Winnipeg was 9.1%, up from 8.8% in 2010. During the same year, the child poverty rate was 11.7%, up from 11.0% in 2010. (*Community Foundations of Canada*)
- ⊕ In this survey, Young Winnipeg ranked poverty the top priority for community action. By comparison, only 6% of Winnipeg's general population considers poverty to be the most important issue facing Winnipeg today. (*Probe Research, 2014*)

"We should work on schools to be more environmentally friendly to set a good example for youth."

# Sustainability

IT'S NOT EASY BEING GREEN

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

We are concerned about the environment and want to make our daily lives greener, but sometimes we aren't sure how to make a difference. Using more sustainable transportation, such as transit, cycling,

carpooling and car sharing, is one way we can reduce our environmental footprint. However, Winnipeg's urban sprawl can be a barrier to getting around without a car. We would also like to become more politically engaged in environmental issues, because we are the ones who will feel the long-term effects from today's decisions.





# Top Priorities

INVEST IN SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION

INCREASE RECYCLING AND CREATE A CITY-WIDE  
KITCHEN WASTE COMPOSTING PROGRAM

PROVIDE EDUCATION AND BUILD AWARENESS ON  
ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

“Too many people drive individual cars in Winnipeg. Providing incentive to use public transit or to carpool could definitely help reduce our carbon footprint.”

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ Transportation is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions associated with climate change, accounting for 37% of emissions in our province. The largest contributor is passenger vehicles. (*Green Action Centre*)
- ⊕ Organic materials in landfills produce methane gas, a harmful greenhouse gas. Residential waste is 40% compostable materials. (*Statistics Canada, 2005*)
- ⊕ Winnipeg's curbside yard waste program was launched city-wide in October 2012. Last year 23,223 tonnes of yard waste was collected and diverted from the landfill; this is four times what was collected in 2011 at Leaf It With Us depots. (*City of Winnipeg*)



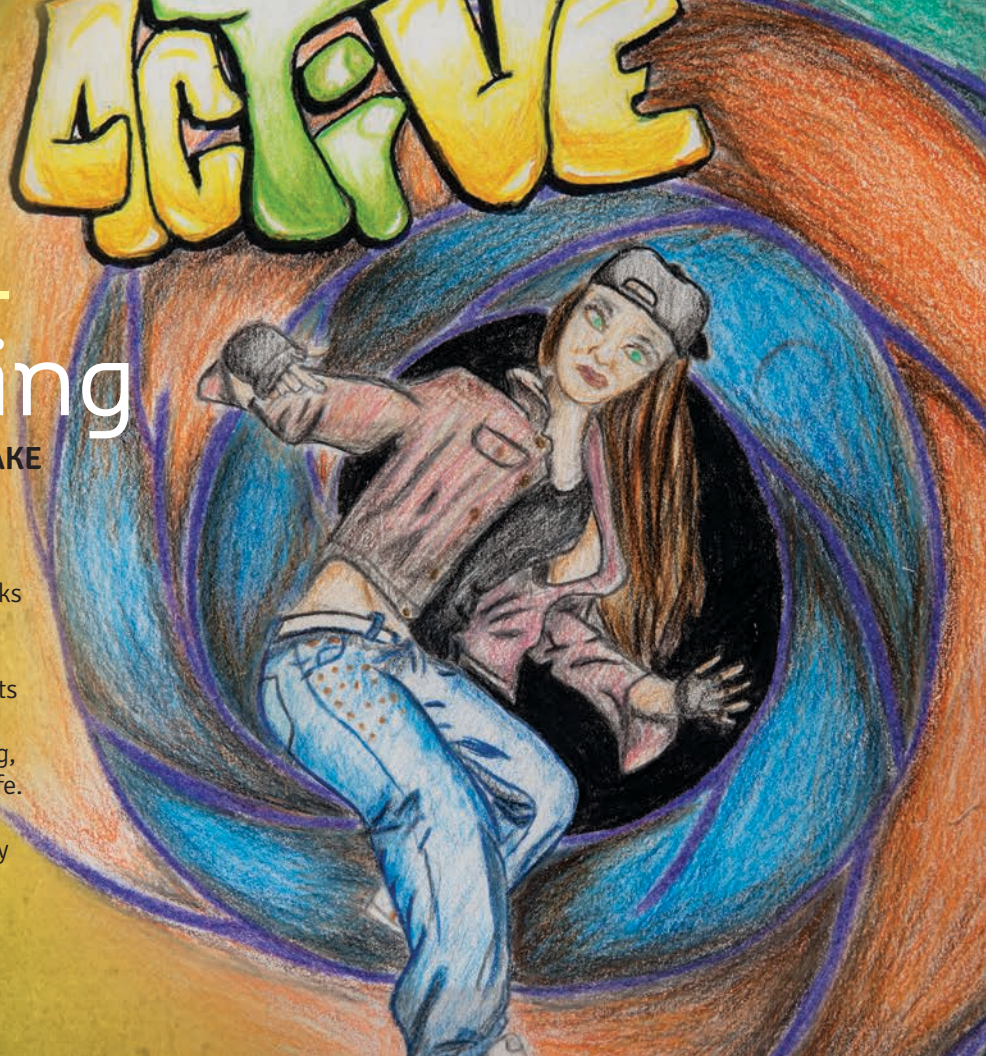
"There are activities available but the cost of gyms, etc. can be high for students or youth managing on a low income."

# Active living

## ACTIVE YOUTH MAKE ACTIVE ADULTS

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

In elementary school, being active is easy thanks to free play options at schools and recreational facilities. In young adulthood, active living gets more expensive and less accessible. Many of us enjoy biking, skating, boarding and walking, but the infrastructure is often absent or unsafe. More affordable programming and secure, youth-specific spaces are essential, especially in winter. The spaces we have are great, but we need more support to encourage an active lifestyle into adulthood.



# Top Priorities

INCREASE AFFORDABLE PROGRAMS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO BE ACTIVE IN AND OUT OF SCHOOL

CREATE MORE OUTDOOR, GREEN, FAMILY AND WINTER-FRIENDLY RECREATION SPACE

BOOST AWARENESS, PROMOTION AND EDUCATION ABOUT THE BENEFITS OF ACTIVE LIVING

ENHANCE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE

IMPROVE ACCESS TO RECREATION FACILITIES AND DISTRIBUTE THEM EQUALLY ACROSS THE CITY

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ The Government of Manitoba offers a tax rebate for physical activity for youth under the age of 25. (*Manitoba Finance*)
- ⊕ Among youth aged 12-19, 75% report being at least moderately physically active during their leisure time. Among those 18 and over, 80% of males and 70% of females are active. (*Statistics Canada, 2011-2012 & Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)

“Make [active living] more of a priority, as we often do not realize the importance of it. Promote healthy lifestyles, not simply sports that not everyone plays, but activities such as cycling, hiking, and other non-competitive sports that youth will carry into adulthood.”



# Health, healing, and well-being

## DIVERSE SUPPORT FOR DIVERSE PEOPLE

Each of us defines health differently and schools need to reflect this by offering additional mental, sexual and spiritual health education and support. This includes promoting holistic and alternative health methods such as general well-being, exercise and nutrition. Exercise programs, like yoga, swimming and tai chi, should be free or discounted for young Winnipeggers. Connecting with others, by interacting with diverse communities and volunteering, is also a key to our general well-being.

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

B





# Top Priorities

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY OF TEEN CLINICS, WITH LONGER HOURS AND LOCATIONS IN EVERY AREA

BETTER PROMOTE HEALTH SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOUTH

INCREASE MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT AND AWARENESS ABOUT EARLY WARNING SIGNS

"We need more initiatives, especially to support young people in need of healing from abuse – we need holistic approaches. Also, approaches that support people, especially Aboriginal people[s], in the context of their culture."

"My friend just killed himself. He's been trying to see a psychiatrist for more than four months but nowhere would take him in time."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ Only 4% of students eat the recommended seven or more fruits and/or vegetables per day. (*Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, 2009*)
- ⊕ Approximately 16% of females and 30% of males in grade 12 have driven within an hour of having two or more drinks. Nearly half of grade 11 and 12 students have ridden in a car driven by someone who has been drinking. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)
- ⊕ Suicide rates among Aboriginal peoples aged 15-24 are five times the national average for males and seven times that for females. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)



# Culture, identity and belonging

## SHARING OUR DIFFERENCES

Young Winnipeg is vibrant in terms of cultures, beliefs and identities, and we see these as defining assets for our generation. However, we also see evidence of widespread discrimination in our community. We feel there is a pressing need to increase intercultural awareness through education, specifically by sharing stories about the history of Aboriginal peoples in Manitoba and the experience of newcomers.



# Top Priorities

EXPAND EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES ABOUT CULTURE, IDENTITY AND INCLUSION

CREATE NEW FESTIVALS, EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS TO EXPLORE AND UNDERSTAND CULTURE AND IDENTITY, AND ENSURE EVERYONE HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND

SUPPORT MORE INTERCULTURAL RELATIONSHIP-BUILDING PROGRAMS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

“...being proud of who you are, and being made to feel like you should be proud of who you are, strengthens identities and allows us all to better celebrate the strength of different identities.”

“We need to work on relationship building between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal youth. There needs to be a focus on intercultural understanding. Aboriginal youth often feel like outsiders.”

## Fast Facts

- ⇒ Interviews with youth-serving organizations identified “prevalence of racial discrimination” as a key issue faced by those who access their services. (*Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2010*)
- ⇒ LGBTQ2S youth in Winnipeg aged 18-34 say they most commonly experience homo/transphobia on the street, while those under 18 indicate they experience it most in school. (*Rainbow Resource Centre, 2011*)
- ⇒ In September 2013, *Bill 18: the Public Schools Amendment Act* was passed. It aims to ensure student inclusion and safety, including respect for human diversity. (*Legislative Assembly of Manitoba*)



"I would give more opportunities for public forums where people of all cultural groups could tell their stories, their woes, their joys, and in general share about their lives. Part of compassion is understanding where someone is coming from."

# Human rights

## LISTENING BEFORE TELLING

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

B

Our city is an exciting hub of human rights knowledge, research and activity; however, like many urban centres, Winnipeg struggles with discrimination. We want to use these assets to unite our city, starting with strengthening relationships across cultural boundaries. Young Winnipeggers believe no one should be prevented from living life to the fullest. To achieve universal respect for each other's rights, the whole community must be onboard.

*resumes, goals,  
success, employment*



# Top Priorities

ENSURE EVERYONE IN WINNIPEG HAS ACCESS TO BASIC NEEDS (FOOD, WATER, SHELTER AND SERVICES)

CREATE OPEN PLATFORMS FOR DIALOGUE AND PERSONAL STORYTELLING TO ENHANCE UNDERSTANDING AND COMPASSION

INCREASE FOCUS ON HISTORY OF RELATIONS BETWEEN ABORIGINAL AND NON-ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN EARLY EDUCATION CURRICULA

"I think Winnipeg's biggest struggle in this area is the racism towards Aboriginal [peoples]. I felt [there was a] lack of education through my elementary and high school years. It was not until my time at university, [when] I chose to learn, that I was able to grasp some of the issues surrounding Aboriginal [peoples] and the issues in Winnipeg."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ The Canadian Museum for Human Rights is the first museum solely dedicated to the evolution, celebration and future of human rights. Educational programming is a core focus of the museum. (*Canadian Museum for Human Rights*)
- ⊕ Winnipeg is a growing centre of human rights scholarship: University of Manitoba, University of Winnipeg, Université de St. Boniface and Canadian Mennonite University all offer human rights studies. (*Canadian Museum for Human Rights*)
- ⊕ The *Under 18 Handbook* introduces young Winnipeggers to human rights, laws and community resources. (*Manitoba Association for Civil Rights and Liberties*)

# Housing and homelessness

**AFFORDABILITY OR SAFETY?**

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

For many young Winnipeggers, moving out of our parents' homes and getting a safe, affordable apartment is unattainable; the affordable places are in unsafe neighbourhoods, and the safe neighbourhoods are too expensive. Knowing more about tenant rights and responsibilities as well as financial support for first-time renters would help us move towards independent lifestyles. We'd also like to see additional resources available for those who are homeless, including implementation of a comprehensive housing policy.





# Top Priorities

ENSURE CLEAN, AFFORDABLE HOUSING IS AVAILABLE IN ALL AREAS OF WINNIPEG

IMPLEMENT MORE LONG-TERM SUSTAINABLE HOUSING OPTIONS, LIKE RENTALS AND CO-OPS

ACT ON "HOUSING FIRST" STRATEGY FOR THE HOMELESS

IMPROVE CONDITIONS IN GROUP HOMES AND SCREENING OF FOSTER PARENTS

"More studies are finding that providing basic housing is essential for homeless folks to break the poverty cycle. I know Winnipeg does that a bit, but more can be done! The savings for health care and law enforcement would be huge!"

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ As a general rule, your monthly rental costs (rent, electricity, heat, water and municipal services) should be less than 30% of your before-tax household income. (*Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation*)
- ⊕ "Housing first" is an approach to ending homelessness that quickly moves homeless people into independent and permanent housing and then provides additional supports and services. (*The Homeless Hub*)
- ⊕ The proportion of children in care (as a percentage of all children in Manitoba, age 17 and under) increased from 3.7% in 2003 to 4% in 2009. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)
- ⊕ In Winnipeg, 16% of Aboriginal peoples live in dwellings in need of major repair, compared to 8% of the non-Aboriginal population. (*Healthy Child Manitoba, 2012*)

For those of us with physical or language challenges, a number of barriers make it difficult to fully participate in life in our city. We need universal accessibility to facilities and transportation, ensuring restaurants, shops, entertainment, gyms and more are open to everyone regardless of ability. Accessing resources, such as health care, or navigating social supports can be exceptionally difficult for those of us who primarily speak French or a language other than English.

# Access and ability

CITY OFF LIMITS



C

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:



# Top Priorities

IMPROVE ACCESSIBILITY TO BUSINESSES AND FACILITIES FOR THOSE WITH MOBILITY CHALLENGES

CLEAR SNOW-PACKED SIDEWALKS IN A MORE TIMELY FASHION

OFFER MORE RECREATION OPTIONS FOR YOUTH WITH PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

BREAK DOWN LANGUAGE BARRIERS BY EXPANDING E.A.L. LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES, OFFERING MORE SERVICES IN FRENCH, AND HAVING A.S.L. INTERPRETERS AT EVENTS

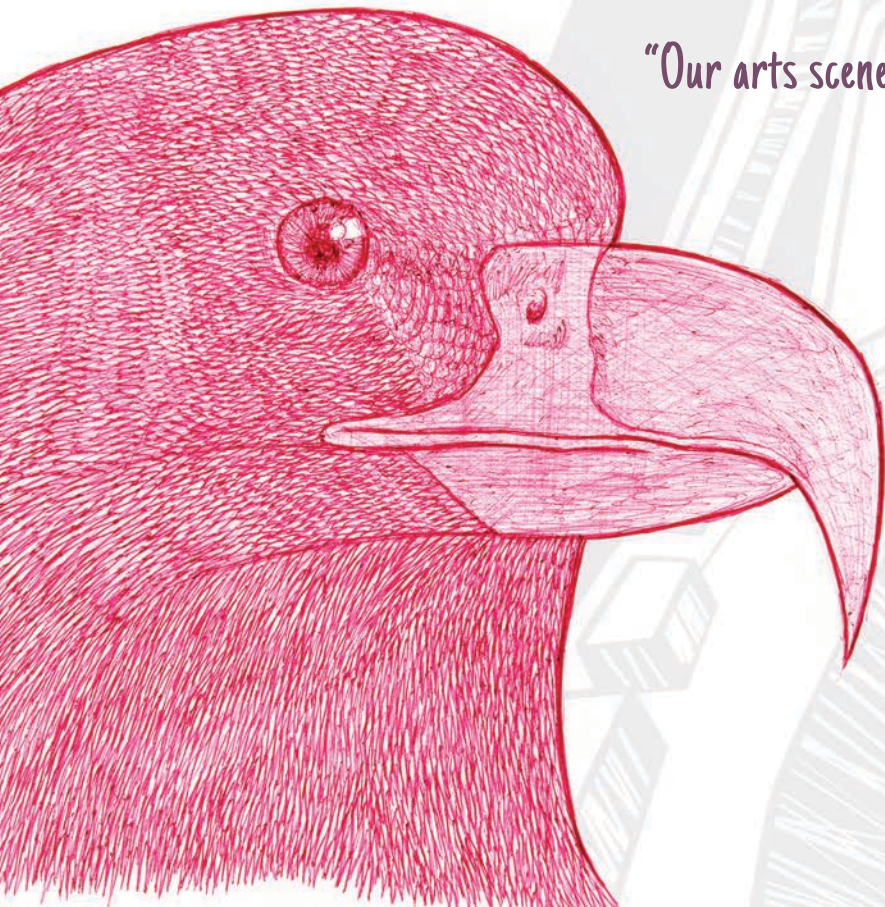
"An old city with harsh winters make[s] accessibility a challenge for those with physical disabilities. I would like to see more support for Handi-Transit, as they are busy and often late."

"Only St. Boniface has signage in French and English. It is difficult to access health care services in French if you don't know where to look for guidance."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ Considered landmark legislation, the *Accessibility for Manitobans Act*, which became law in December 2013, removes barriers for people with disabilities across the province. About 200,000 Manitobans (almost 1 in 6) live with disabilities. (*Legislative Assembly of Manitoba, 2013 & Statistics Canada, 2012*)
- ⊕ One hundred locations in downtown Winnipeg are included in Access Together, an international, crowd-sourced community accessibility website where users can rate buildings and facilities. ([www.accesstogether.org](http://www.accesstogether.org))
- ⊕ In Winnipeg, 3.8% of people speak only French at home and 21.4% speak only a non-official language at home. (*Statistics Canada, 2012*)





"Our arts scene is pretty awesome."



# The Arts

## EXPRESSION VS. ELITISM

We are excited about our city's thriving arts and cultural scene, but many of us feel excluded by high ticket prices. We also want to express ourselves creatively and participate in arts activities, but again feel prohibited by the cost of classes and workshops. We'd like to see more promotion of local events and exhibits and we wish the city could attract more top quality music tours.

# Top Priorities

OFFER DEEPER DISCOUNTS, INCLUDING FOR OLDER YOUTH AND NON-STUDENTS, TO PAID ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS

OFFER MORE LOW-COST OPPORTUNITIES TO LEARN ABOUT ART AND PARTICIPATE IN ART-MAKING

IMPROVE PROMOTION OF ARTS AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES


HOLD EVENTS AND EXHIBITS OUTSIDE OF DOWNTOWN

"I appreciate that most events offer student pricing, but still this is sometimes not enough for low-income people. There are a wide variety of free events like Jazz Fest opening weekend that utilize public space to bring people together."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ Winnipeg hosts 6,272 arts and cultural events per year. That's 17 options every day! Winnipeggers attend an average of 3.3 arts and cultural events every year. (*Winnipeg Arts Council*)
- ⊕ One-third of admissions to Winnipeg arts and cultural events are free. Winnipeg Public Library offers Theatre and Arts Passes for free admission to performances. The Cultural Access Pass, through Institute for Canadian Citizenship, provides new immigrants with a year of free access to arts and cultural events. (*Winnipeg Arts Council*)
- ⊕ Martha Street Studio, Graffiti Art Programming, Film Training Manitoba and others offer outreach and internship programs for youth. ACI Manitoba offers a mentorship program for youth interested in careers in the arts.





you  
deserve  
to be  
safe.



YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

# Safety

## PERCEPTION IS REALITY

Crime in Winnipeg may be declining, but how safe we feel depends on where we live. Some of us are fearful of going downtown and riding public transit, especially at night. Many distrust Winnipeg police and cadets; if police had a better presence in schools and the community it would help us feel more comfortable seeking their support. We'd like to see more preventative programming to deter crime, such as more 24-hour drop-in or late-night programs, plus additional support for youth attempting to avoid or leave gangs. Information about how to protect ourselves online and from sexual exploitation would also be beneficial.



# Top Priorities

IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY, INCLUDING ON TRANSIT

BUILD STRONGER RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN YOUTH AND POLICE/CADETS

OFFER MORE ALCOHOL-FREE AND 24-HOUR ACTIVITIES

IMPROVE EDUCATION ABOUT ONLINE SAFETY, CYBER BULLYING, SEXUAL EXPLOITATION, GANGS AND DRUGS

"I taught at Gordon Bell last year, and the cops in the school had great rapport with the students. That was really good to see. I think we're headed in the right direction, we just gotta keep going!"

"We need to teach kids in school about sexual assault and Internet safety. The statistics for rape [are] incredibly high. Stop the [lessons about] 'stranger danger' and talk about how it is most likely someone you know."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ From 2012–2013, Winnipeg's violent crime rate decreased by 13% and property crimes decreased by 17%; over a five-year period, these declines were 21 and 33%, respectively. While youth crime was down 1% from 2012–2013, it's increased by 50% over the last five years. (*Winnipeg Police Service, 2013*)
- ⊕ Of Winnipeg students in grades 9–12, 80% say they agree or strongly agree with the statement 'I feel safe in my school'; 16% say they disagree or strongly disagree. (*Winnipeg Regional Health Authority, 2009*)

[illegible]

# Transportation

## GETTING AROUND

# Top Priorities

IMPROVE BUS SERVICE AND MAKE TRANSIT MORE AFFORDABLE

INCREASE BIKE PATHS AND IMPROVE BIKE SAFETY

"We need to capitalize on the potential for increased cycling traffic by creating more bike lines, separated bike lanes that are focused on commuters, not just recreational cyclists. There is huge potential here because Winnipeg is flat and relatively small!"

"Getting around is very easy when one has a vehicle and very difficult when one does not."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ In June 2014, 41% of Winnipeggers aged 18-34 said they'd used Winnipeg Transit at least once during the previous 30 days. (*Probe Research*)
- ⊕ In February 2014, Winnipeg's city council approved a universal bus pass for students at the universities of Manitoba and Winnipeg. Under the proposed plan, all undergraduate students at the two universities will pay \$260 in additional student fees for an eight-month transit pass. If students vote yes, the program will take effect in the fall of 2016. (*Green Action Centre*)
- ⊕ Winnipeg has the third highest rate of bike commuters in Canada, behind Victoria and Ottawa. (*National Household Survey, 2011*)



*"Many educated young adults graduate with no jobs. Co-ops, practicums and on-the-job training should be mandatory for all levels of education."*

# Employment

LOOK AT ABILITY, NOT AGE

YOUNG WINNIPEG'S GRADE:

Higher demand for experienced employees and lower numbers of employers willing to train youth has impacted our ability to find jobs. Even after post-secondary education, many Young Winnipeggers are

working entry level jobs for wages that barely cover the cost of living. In high school, we are working in unsafe environments, uninformed about our employee rights. In spite of these challenges, we are eager to work and give back to our community. Our willingness to work and real-world experience make us efficient and dedicated workers.



# Top Priorities

INCREASE THE NUMBER OF YOUTH INTERNSHIPS,  
CO-OPS, APPRENTICESHIPS AND OTHER TRAINING  
PROGRAMS

INFORM YOUTH ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS AS EMPLOYEES

INCREASE WAGES TO MATCH COST OF LIVING

IMPROVE ADVERTISING OF JOB OPPORTUNITIES

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ In 2012, 11.4% of Winnipeggers aged 15-24 were unemployed, rating us fourth-lowest among major cities in Canada. The 2014 national youth unemployment rate is 13.1%, almost double the overall rate (7%). (*Economic Development Winnipeg & Statistics Canada*)
- ⊕ The average amount of time to be unemployed in Manitoba is 15.3 weeks. (*Employment and Social Development Canada, 2012*)

"I have a professional degree and cannot get a job because I do not have any experience... I cannot get an entry level or serving job because an employer believes I will leave as soon as a better position comes along. I have no way of supporting myself."



B

# Education and Learning

## PREPARING FOR WHAT'S NEXT

Overall we think that there are good educational opportunities in Winnipeg; however there is work to be done. School curricula should focus on practical knowledge that will prepare us for the next stages of our lives. We need more classes that focus on cultural sensitivity and social justice to prevent discrimination. Most of all, we want to learn and work with our educational institutions to become the successful young professionals we aim to be.





# Top Priorities

IMPROVE SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS IN THE AREAS OF MENTAL HEALTH AS WELL AS POST-SECONDARY AND WORKFORCE PREPAREDNESS

PROMOTE ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION, DECREASE CLASS SIZES AND INCREASE CLASS VARIETY

MOVE AWAY FROM THE NO-FAIL SYSTEM

HELP OFFSET TUITION FEES, ESPECIALLY FOR DISADVANTAGED FAMILIES

"High schools need to do a better job of preparing students for post-secondary education. Educational systems should not automatically pass students because that won't help them in the future."

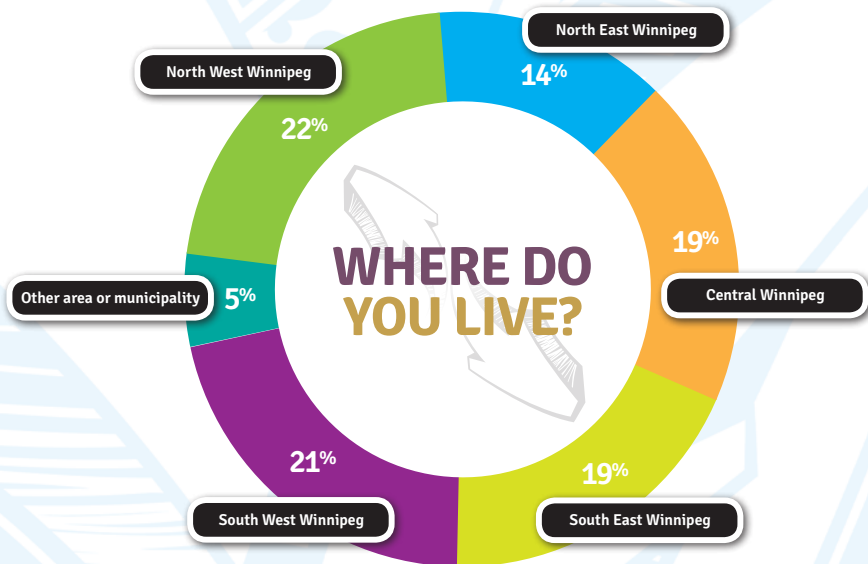
"Our education system is not a system of teaching as much as a system of assessing. Education should be an invitation to learn."

## Fast Facts

- ⊕ Averaging \$3,779/year, Manitoba has the third lowest tuition fees across Canada. (*Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives, 2014*)
- ⊕ There are more than two dozen schools across Winnipeg offering vocational or alternative high school and post-secondary programming. (*Province of Manitoba*)
- ⊕ In a 2012 national study, Manitoba students scored third last overall in math and second last overall in reading and science. (*Council of Ministers of Education Canada*)

# Community Connectedness

WHO TOOK PART IN YOUTH VITAL SIGNS AND HOW CONNECTED DO THEY FEEL TO THE COMMUNITY?



## CITY AREA REPRESENTATION:

Each quadrant of the city was represented almost equally by participants. Some former Winnipeggers also responded.

## AGES:

Of the 1,465 people who included their ages, approximately 40% of participants were aged 20-29 and 60% were 14-19.

## GIVING BACK:

Of the 1,561 people who answered the question "Do you volunteer?", 63.3% answered "yes"; of the 1,544 people who answered the question "Have you ever made a financial contribution to a charitable organization?", 59.5% answered "yes".

## RELOCATION:

Of the 1,559 people who answered the question "In the future, do you plan to relocate to another city/province/country?", 41% answered "yes", 13% answered "no", and 46% answered "I don't know".

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# What's Next?

## COMMUNITY CONNECTEDNESS:

In addition to finding out Young Winnipeg's opinion on a range of topics, we also asked questions about volunteering, contributions to charitable activities and connections to community. For those who volunteer, 69% also make financial contributions to causes they care about, while only 44% of those who don't volunteer make donations. Those who volunteer also feel much more connected to the community, with 81% responding with "very" or "somewhat" to the question "How connected do you feel to your community?" By contrast, 59% of those who don't volunteer responded with "very" or "somewhat."

This survey checks the vital signs of Winnipeg from a youth perspective. Overall, there is excitement and hope about the future of the city. In areas that can be improved, there have been recommendations for constructive change.

The intent of this report is to initiate an ongoing discussion between youth, community organizations, government and the general public about how young Winnipeggers can be meaningfully engaged in decisions that directly affect their lives.

We look forward to bringing youth and decision-makers together to consider the grades and recommendations of this report. The Winnipeg Foundation makes grants every year to hundreds of community agencies that work to address the issues identified by youth. These findings offer the opportunity for a more focused response.

## HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED:

- Give your own grade. Visit our website and grade each of the subject areas. We invite you to share your grades and opinions through Twitter and Facebook to spark a discussion among your peers. #yvswpq
- Do you have an idea for positive change in your community? We want to hear from you! Share your thoughts and ideas:

Visit: [wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect](http://wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect)  
Email: [youthvitalsigns@wpgfdn.org](mailto:youthvitalsigns@wpgfdn.org)

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# Thank you!

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## RESEARCH PARTNER

Probe Research

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## ART

Pat Lazo and artists at Studio 393:

Cassidy Aquila

Chelsea Petrie

Chloe Chafe

Dana Lance

Eddie Dewey

Florent Alimasi

Marizza Cacho

Marvin Joseph Barawid

Raquel Alice

Rene Marriott

Skyler Ashu

Stephan Girard

Stormy Angecone

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## YOUTH VITAL SIGNS ADVISORS

Community Foundations of Canada

Calgary Foundation

Vancouver Foundation

Victoria Foundation

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## YOUNG WINNIPEG ADVISORS

Alyssandra Edwards  
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Noah Copiak  
Remi Durocher  
Serenity Irvine  
Sienna Anderson  
Tamika Reid  
Trinh Ha

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## PARTICIPATING POST- SECONDARY INSTITUTIONS AND HIGH SCHOOLS

*All of our wonderful Youth in  
Philanthropy committees and all  
others who participated!*  
Canadian Mennonite University  
CanUCanada (University of Manitoba)  
Red River College  
Université de Saint-Boniface  
University of Winnipeg  
Wii Chiwaakanak Learning Centre

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## PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

Art City  
Boys and Girls Clubs of Winnipeg Inc.  
Broadway Neighbourhood Centre  
Graffiti Art Programming Inc.  
Immigrant and Refugee Community  
Organization Of Manitoba Inc.  
Inner City Youth Alive  
Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc.  
Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad Inc.  
Newcomers Employment & Education  
Development Services (NEEDS)

Rainbow Resource Centre  
Resource Assistance for Youth  
Rossbrook House  
Spence Neighbourhood Association  
Teen Stop Jeunesse  
West Broadway Youth Outreach Inc.  
Youth Agencies Alliance  
*Special thanks to Youth Agencies  
Alliance for getting the word out to  
Young Winnipeg!*

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# Acknowledgements

Vital Signs is a community check-up conducted by community foundations across Canada that measures the vitality of our communities, identifies significant trends and supports action on issues that are critical to our quality of life. Special thanks to the Toronto Community Foundation for developing and sharing the Vital Signs concept and Community Foundations of Canada for supporting a coordinated national Vital Signs initiative. For more information visit: [www.vitalsignscanada.ca](http://www.vitalsignscanada.ca).



COMMUNITY  
FOUNDATIONS  
OF CANADA  
*all for community.*

We would like to acknowledge our partnership with 26 other community foundations releasing Vital Signs reports this year:

Abbotsford, BC

Calgary, AB

Clayoquot, BC

Cranbrook, BC

Edmonton, AB

Fredericton, NB

Grand Forks, BC (Phoenix  
Foundation of the Boundary  
Communities)

Kingston, ON

Kitchener-Waterloo, ON

Lethbridge and  
Southwestern Alberta, AB

London, ON

Medicine Hat, AB

Nanaimo, BC

Newfoundland and  
Labrador

Nova Scotia (youth)

Peterborough, ON

Regina, SK

Salmon Arm (Shuswap), BC

Simcoe County, ON

Squamish, BC

Sudbury, ON

Sunshine Coast, BC

Surrey, BC

Toronto, ON

Victoria, BC

Windsor-Essex, ON



# The Artists

THANK YOU TO ALL THE YOUNG ARTISTS WHO CONTRIBUTED THEIR CREATIVITY TO THIS PUBLICATION!



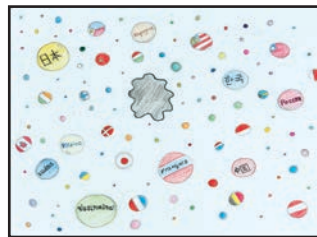
RENE MARRIOTT



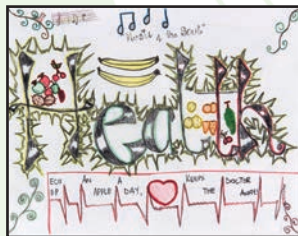
RENE MARRIOTT



STEPHAN GIRARD



DANA LANCE



SKYLER ASHU



MARVIN JOSEPH BARAWID



RAQUEL ALICE



# The Winnipeg Foundation's youth programs

## YOUTH IN PHILANTHROPY

Made possible through the generosity of our donors, The Winnipeg Foundation's Youth in Philanthropy (YiP) program was established in 1999 as a way to introduce high school students to philanthropy and community development. In 2014-15, 27 high-school based committees, and two committees at community organizations will be participating. Over the past 15 years, more than \$1.5 million has been distributed in community grants by more than 5,000 participating students.

## SUMMER INTERNSHIP PROGRAM

The Winnipeg Foundation's Summer Internship Program (SIP) is designed to build on the non-profit experience students receive through the YiP program. Student interns are matched with hands-on, full-time, paid summer jobs in the non-profit sector and work closely with a mentor. Over eight weeks, interns gain meaningful employment and learn about all facets of a local charity's operations, while organizations increase their capacity to undertake important, short-term projects.

## EMERGING LEADERS FELLOWSHIP

The Emerging Leaders Fellowship (ELF) encourages post-secondary students and young professionals to learn more about the local non-profit sector, while increasing their experience and understanding of community issues. Applicants design and propose a project based on the needs of an agency of their choice. Qualifying ELF applicants work with the local charitable organization to develop and implement these projects providing the Fellows with hands-on experience in the community and helping the organization take on short-term projects.



[wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect](http://wpgfdn.org/YoungWinnipegConnect)





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