



**JUST
CITY**

**ANNUAL
REPORT**
2020



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Our Mission

1JustCity’s mission is to strengthen and sustain social justice work in Winnipeg through the financial support of its member charities.

Our Vision

1JustCity works towards a city that is founded on justice, where all are heard, all are welcome, all are cared-for, all are celebrated and all are working together.

Our Members



Oak Table Inc.



**St Matthews Maryland
Community Ministry**



**North End Stella
Community Ministry**



**West Broadway
Community Services**



1JustCity Pillars



We Actively Love the Underloved

This means building a relationship beyond providing basic needs where the person feels valued and welcome. It means serving meals at our three drop in locations that fill people up and give people a chance to let their guard down in a safe space. It means a warm place to sleep, someone to do complicated paperwork with you, or the joy of karaoke on a rainy afternoon.



We Work Toward Reconciliation

This means providing Indigenous Cultural Programming in our spaces including sharing circles, Pow Wow demonstrations, arts and crafts as well as connecting guests with programming in the neighbourhood.



We Help People Grow

This means supporting folks who are often turned away from volunteer opportunities to build up the skills they need to be meaningful contributors to the space. Whether it's small skills being built like showing up on time, making coffee or serving sandwiches, or big skills like website design, policy drafting and public speaking, our volunteers have a nurturing space to grow in.



We Build Inclusive Communities

This means that everyone is welcome in our spaces. Everyone needs to be respectful. From newborns to nannies, newcomers to Canada and Indigenous people newly in Winnipeg, youth homeless due to homophobia, seniors homeless due to retro-fitting, and all those inbetween. We see it all and love all equally.





Our 2020 Achievements

 <p>Nourishment 87,872 Meals Provided</p>		<p>6,475 Hygiene Items & Over 20,000 Masks Distributed</p> 
<p>Loads of Laundry 274</p> 	<p>53,300 Times Washroom accessed</p> 	<p>Emergency Food Kits 8,196</p> 
<p>48,564 donated meals, shared with 8 other non profits</p> 		<p><i>Coffee to Go</i> Barista Service 1,647</p>
<p>Warm Sleeps 4,126</p> 		<p>520 Bingo Participants</p> 
<p>MB Harvest 2,167</p>	<p>200 Guests in Attendance at First Socially Distanced Pow Wow</p> 	
<p>12 Days of Christmas</p> 	<p>84 Participants Took Home Art Kits</p> 	<p>Income Tax Clinic: 23 Tax Returns Prepared</p> 
<p>Summer BBQ's 14</p> 	<p>Over 70 Guests Participating in Indigenous Cultural Programming</p> <p>Beading & Sewing Sharing Circles Ojibway Language Bingo</p> 	



A Letter From the Chair



No one will forget 2020. A year that was a great equalizer in many ways. Billions of people across the world fought the same virus, felt the same fear, lived the same experience. Many of us felt what it was to be truly vulnerable, to be scared for our livelihood, our family, our homes, and for some of us, it was the first time we were faced with something that was so far beyond our control.

It was a glimpse into the lives of those we care for at 1JustCity, and many drew the parallel: “If I’m feeling this scared and I am housed, loved and supported, what must it be like for those who aren’t?”

The beautiful thing is that people thought about it, and then they acted. 1JustCity raised a record amount of funds in 2020. We received donations of masks, cleaning supplies, meals, socks – anything we asked for, someone gave. We formed new partnerships with private businesses and other non-profits. We got creative with funding, programming, volunteering and site services. Among the darkness and fear of Covid-19, the people in Winnipeg brought light.

We also moved forward as a board. As of January 1st 2021, West Broadway Community Services (WBCS) officially began their move towards operating fully under the umbrella of 1JustCity. This is a step towards a more efficient organization, towards better supporting each site and each person who needs our help.





Our board continued to bring forward new policies and put a lot of work into refreshing our by-laws and all of the structure required to make them work for all of our sites. Above and beyond that, many of our board members also upped their time spent on site to keep things running smoothly during these unprecedented times.

We look forward to new by-laws, new operational structures and new ideas that will keep us moving forward in our mission of loving the underloved. It takes a village, and we certainly have a great one behind us.

To Tessa, Josh, Lynda, Lara, Lori, Laura, Jaden, Zyta, Susan and our interns: you are amazing. I always knew you were flexible, creative and generous people but this year, you blew me away. You took every twist and turn with a determination to keep going and a smile. We're so lucky to have you. Thank you.

To our volunteers, partners and donors: you're changing lives every day for people who really need it, and in a time that demands it. Thank you for stepping up, for thinking outside the box, and for showing up, however you could. Our city is better because of you.

Jocelyne Nicolas

Chair of the Board
1JustCity



Board of Directors

Jocelyne Nicolas

Chair

Gail Purcell

Vice Chair - Chair of Nominating

Kelly Thompson

Secretary

Rorie McLeod Arnould

Treasurer

Isidora Draskovic

Chair of Fundraising

Marion McKay

Chair of Policy Committee

Ken DeLisle

Director

Cindy Tinsley

Director

Dell Dyck

Director

Jack Cameron

Director

Irene Rainey

Director





Policy Committee Report

The Policy Working Group has met regularly during 2020. Despite the interruptions created by the Covid 19 epidemic, the group drafted four policies which were approved by the Board during 2020. In addition, through an arrangement with Spark Winnipeg, we secured the voluntary services of an experienced financial advisor to draft financial policies for 1JustCity. This arrangement was necessary because none of the advisory group members had the necessary expertise to do this work.

At present, the working group has an additional 7 policies (2 financial, 2 operations, 2 HR and 1 Board) under active development.

Respectfully submitted,

Marion McKay *(board member)*

Rorie McLeod *(board member)*

Josh Ward *(1JustCity employee)*





Fundraising Committee

Isidora Draskovic
Chair

Luke Rempel
Tyler Andrade
Stacey Archer
Marc Baldwin
Noah Cote
Andre Bazin
Erin Rafferty

Transition Committee

Jocelyne Nicolas
Ken DeLisle
Marion McKay
Kelly Thompson
Harvey Stevens
Tessa Whitecloud
Rorie McLeod Arnould





Fundraising Committee

The activities of the fundraising committee this year were similar to 2020 - ever changing and unpredictable! But we stayed our course in our commitment to Winnipeggers who need love, community, and a warm and safe place to be overnight.

We had another incredible year at our second annual Beat the Cold Triathlon. 130 brave participants had a blast and helped to raise over \$10,000 for Just a Warm Sleep. The motivation from the racers was clear from messages on their fundraising pages: They know how cold it gets in Winnipeg's winter and they're grateful for the roof they have over their heads.

A new chair was appointed to the fundraising committee in March of 2020 (it's me!). I am so happy to have joined the committee after working at Just a Warm Sleep as an overnight administrator and volunteer on the social media side of 1JustCity.

Our in-person fundraising events had to be cancelled of course, but we created partnerships with our friends at Tiber River and Tupperware, who used their platform to hold virtual fundraisers in support of 1JustCity. Our supporters recognized that this pandemic exponentially affected the people we serve and they reached out to see how they could help (even when we know they experienced some loss or struggle too).

Beat the Cold 2021 planning went virtual in light of pandemic restrictions and keeping our participants as safe as possible. Our amazing committee came together throughout the year and through all the changes they found ways to make the race more accessible to all Winnipeggers by giving participants the option of creating their own race course, or challenging the original course.

In each meeting you can tell how passionate every member is and how excited fundraising events and opportunities make us. We are grateful to each other and our generous community who help support the work of 1JustCity. Thank you!

Isidora Draskovic

Fundraising Committee Chair

1JustCity



1JUSTCITY

BEAT THE COLD

WINTER TRIATHLON

2020





SECOND ANNUAL BEAT THE COLD VIRTUAL WINTER TRIATHLON



Beat The Cold 2020

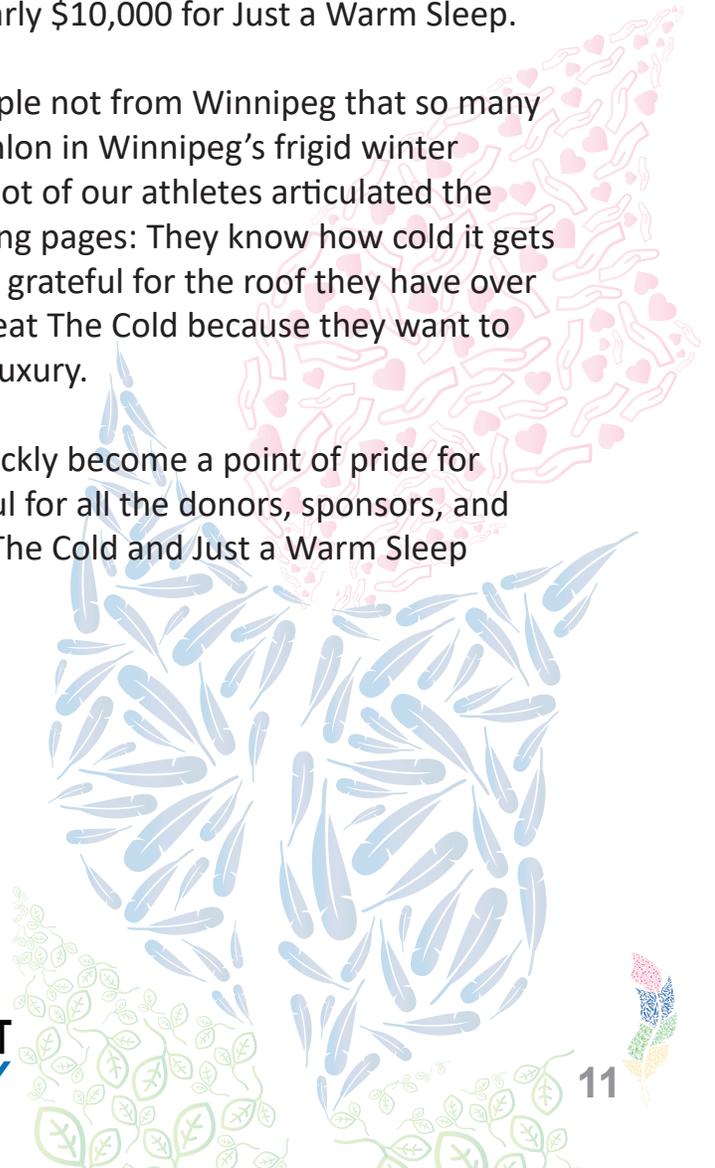
Second annual race triumphs over weather challenges

The second annual Beat The Cold Winter Triathlon looked a little different in 2020. When The Forks let us know the river wouldn't be safe to skate on, the race became a duathlon instead (run-bike-run). Participants were very understanding of the hurdles mother nature threw our way and 130 athletes came out to brave the Winnipeg winter elements, fundraising nearly \$10,000 for Just a Warm Sleep.

It may come as a surprise to people not from Winnipeg that so many people are willing to race a triathlon in Winnipeg's frigid winter temperatures. But we noticed a lot of our athletes articulated the same message on their fundraising pages: They know how cold it gets in Winnipeg's winter and they're grateful for the roof they have over their head. They participate in Beat The Cold because they want to help those who don't have that luxury.

We're excited to see the race quickly become a point of pride for Winnipeggers, and we're thankful for all the donors, sponsors, and volunteers that help make Beat The Cold and Just a Warm Sleep happen.

Luke Rempel
Beat The Cold Race Director





Indigenous Cultural Programming 2020

Letter from Lori



The year 2020 began with a feeling of excitement and opportunity as we planned a full schedule of programming that included crafting, teachings, a Pow Wow and language revitalization through playing Bingo! With the restrictions that resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to adjust our plans, but because of your support we managed well during this difficult period. You supplied all the required PPE and sanitizer to participants, while we adjusted our physical spaces to adhere to social distancing guidelines. Your support buffered the effects of COVID-19 allowing joy and meaningful moments for people to connect with Indigenous Culture and each other.

Our summer quickly filled with a schedule of beading and sewing circles that saw a full circle registering to participate in learning the craft. The sewing patterns of different tribal styles were our focus when learning “flat beading”. This style is easiest for beginners and soon our participants ventured into other beading styles creating jewelry, lanyards, and bracelets. Our beading class was offered year round and was held twice a week in order to afford participants as much exposure and time required in order to finish larger projects.

A Medicine Wheel Teaching was introduced that had participants learn what each medicine means and the importance of creating one during a pandemic. Teachings were given with instructions from rural Elders who shared a message early in the year (at the beginning of COVID-19) to turn to and use our medicines for protection. This class was well received, and I was excited to learn of community demand for an additional two sessions devoted to making pouches for family





members. It was in this session that I was happy to learn from participants and witness them share their very own knowledge and teachings within the group. The sharing group also facilitated the opportunity for two men to participate, sew, and share their familial teachings about medicine with us. We were most proud to see men engaging with this group.

In summer our Socially Distanced Pow Wow was popular in the community. All invited guests and even passersby who normally wouldn't attend such an event came together and shared their stories of dance and history of community. We learned how meaningful it can be to come together successfully as most of the community pow wows that usually take place everywhere in Canada over the summer months were shut down. Medicine was also top of mind this summer as we travelled for a picking trip to Beaudry Park during which a bus load of women and children wearing PPE came together to pick medicines for themselves and the Indigenous Cultural Program at the St. Matthews Maryland site. This was our first trip to learn how to locate, identify, and respectfully gather medicines for personal use. We had a second winter trip planned to collect cedar at Birds Hill Park in January 2021, but with Code Red restrictions that trip has been put on hold for now.

Ojibway Language Bingo! Our folks LOVE bingo, and by introducing a bingo which teaches easy phrases in the Ojibway language participants were determined to not only win a prize, but to communicate with each other the words they learned that day! This group did not require registration and was open for those who were interested that day and was offered every second Friday. Our entire community showed up for this one! We were so proud of how our folks leaned on one another for support during the game, this also gave us a chance to see how our folks were learning the language and speaking it among themselves in laughter and jokes.

Upon reflecting I cannot wait for the restrictions to be lifted in order to pick up exactly where we left off. We are grateful to our staff and volunteers who have worked diligently to ensure we could gather in the safest way possible for all our attendees. Without them our summer programming would not have been a success. Thank you!

Lori Abraham

Indigenous Cultural Safety Leader



A Letter From the Executive Director



This year, you made possible an expansion of our hours and programs while we were able to grow a great team. Throughout the pandemic at every moment, when we made an ask, you answered! Thanks to you we were a source of comfort, education and caring for our guests through it all!

Although it didn't look the same as it has in the past, this year we saw our biggest impact on the community ever. Thanks to you, our team was able to quickly access personal protective equipment including masks, smocks (that you sewed!!!), and sanitizer without delay. We had goggles from Princess Auto, face shields from Balmoral Hall's 3D printer and more. We were a place people could get a mask for free and we handed out thousands to community members in need.

Just a Warm Sleep had its busiest season ever, and as requested by the Task Force on COVID Regarding Homelessness, we stayed open an extra two months. Then we started the 2021 season of Just a Warm Sleep on Christmas Eve of 2020. As the severity of the pandemic grew so did the strength of our partnerships. Thanks to a major donor, and a movement that caught on from their generosity, we were able to have restaurants provide meals to our guests and other charities. This meant that our food service didn't have to slow down and could meet the rising need even though most of our food prep volunteers had to be at home! In 2020, over 50,000 meals flowed through our restaurant partnership to our three sites and eight other not-for-profits.





Social distancing didn't stop us celebrating Indigenous Culture in the community via our first Pow Wow demonstration! You must read Lori's letter about Indigenous Cultural Programming (page 12). We are astoundingly grateful for her leadership and the reconciliation work this is allowing us to do and to plan for in the future.

One of the major goals of 1JustCity has been to streamline the operations of our member charities. Lynda Trono, Community Minister at WBCM said it best "Our 12 Days of Christmas campaign was amazing and the capacity to do it came from our collaboration with 1JustCity." Each team member from SMMCM spent one day helping with the event and your donations of gifts allowed for a Christmas where no one felt forgotten. The Christmas store was also a huge success this year at SMMCM, and a new partnership with Scout Coffee + Tea helped us get great gifts for a lower cost. Next year when it's safe for you to shop for them yourself, we hope you'll consider going there!

Ultimately my favorite part of this year was witnessing the growth of our volunteers, staff, and board. Our diverse team grew from ten people to almost 20 (including the Just A Warm Sleep team). Our diverse team is motivated by the same values:

- To love the Underloved with a deep recognition that we all deserve dignity.
- To work toward Reconciliation, as we each have an important role to play.
- To grow individuals' capacity, including our own!
- To build an Inclusive community, through education, accountability and modelling.

Whether you sewed a mask or 500, donated your senior's cheque or your piggy bank, volunteered for the first time or stayed home safely with us in your thoughts, you are the heartbeat behind the love we offered this year! You keep us going!

Tessa Blaikie Whitecloud

Executive Director
1JustCity



SEE YOU NEXT YEAR!