

NMFCCC Funding

✓ 2014

# Sherridon Kitchiwapaw Clan Mothers Garden

**Location** The **Kichewapaw Clan Mothers** live in Sherridon with a population of 75 residents, most of whom are Aboriginal. It is a post-mining town (mine closed in 1952) that still deals with the leeching of acids into local lakes and streams. It is part of a federal Orphaned Mine Site Rehabilitation and more than \$34 million in federal money has been invested in site rehabilitation.

**Objective** To mentor youth in gardening skills and provide community members with locally grown, healthy foods.

While the project sought to construct and prepare a garden for the 2014 growing season, this occurred in 2015. Local volunteers and Cold Lake School children participated in and learned about gardening. Connections with the school and advertisements through flyers encouraged community participation. Financial administration and project support was provided by Food Matters Manitoba.

## Successes

- Greenhouse was built to produce seedlings and vegetables throughout the season.
- Location was finalized next to the youth centre and it is an accessible spot for community members and highly visible.
- Harvested vegetables were shared with over a dozen community families – many of whom helped with planting and garden maintenance.
- Networking opportunities expanded through working relationships in the community.

## Challenges

- The greenhouse was too hot for plants in summer.
- Securing an accessible garden location impeded progress in 2014.
- Poor weather and rain slowed the growth of many plants.
- Forest fires kept many community members from attending training, as people were employed to fight the fires.
- High staff and volunteer turnover required continuous training and made it difficult to maintain community interest.

“ *The harvested vegetables were shared with over a dozen families, some who helped with the garden.* ”

## Next Steps

- Increase ventilation in the greenhouse to plant heat-loving vegetables.
- Continue building interest in the community to increase participation.
- Provide more training on greenhouse maintenance and planting, harvesting and processing vegetables

“ *This project began with great intentions of local partnerships with similar projects and spawned other working relationships within the community.* ”

