

Thompson Multicultural Centre Horticulture

Location **Thompson** is known as the 'hub of the North'. It is the regional trade and service centre of northern Manitoba. It has a population of about 13,000.

Objective To establish a community garden to allow New Canadians to have access to healthy foods, lower food costs and improved health through physical activity.

The Thompson Multicultural Centre is managed and utilized primarily by New Canadians who live and work in Thompson. Since 2013, horticultural opportunities for interested members have been created. In 2014 raised beds were established and a greenhouse was re-constructed on the site. In 2015, a new greenhouse was ordered to better meet the needs of gardeners. They intend to continue to improve horticultural opportunities as the price of healthy foods in this northern center is about twice as high as in Winnipeg.

Successes

- Ten families participated.
- Gardening days and events occurred.
- Crops were harvested and shared with people in the community to promote participation.
- Participants' confidence was increased from skills learned.
- Good cold weather crops were produced (cabbage, carrots, cauliflower, broccoli, garlic, zucchini, etc.)
- Many kids were involved in the gardens and greenhouse activities.
- A new greenhouse was purchased and shipped to Thompson for use in 2016.

Challenges

- Larger areas for growing were needed and land was difficult to secure.
- Greenhouse was not well-oriented or well-suited in its design for the space at the Multicultural Centre.
- A heater was needed in the greenhouse to keep temperatures warm during colder periods.
- The delivery of the funds from NMFCCC was delayed into late summer because of challenges from Canada Revenue Agency and the City of Thompson (a financial partner of the project).

Next Steps

- Expand funding and support sources.
- Erect the new greenhouse.
- Add heaters and grow lights to the greenhouse.
- Work with Thompson to access land to expand garden space.
- Acquire more agricultural inputs, such as a tractor and equipment.



NMFCCC Funding

✓ 2015