

# Spence Neighbourhood Association 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Timeline

1997: A group of local residents and business owners band together to clean back lanes in the neighbourhood, renovate a boarded up house and form the Winnipeg Inner City Home Ownership Inc (WICHO).

1997: A group of local residents begin the first community garden in the neighbourhood at 607/611 Langside St, laying the groundwork of SNA's future as an innovative greening organization.

1998: With funds from the Winnipeg Development Agreement, the WICHO begins the Light Up Our Neighbourhood Program.

1999: WICHO hires its first full time staff person.

2000: The Winnipeg Inner City Home Ownership Inc. changes its name to Spence Neighbourhood Association Inc. (SNA) and sets as its mandate to improve Safety, Health, Housing, Image and Employment. The SNA service area is between Balmoral, Agnes, Portage and Notre Dame.

2000: Along with changing its name, SNA adopts its current representative board structure and constitution.

2000: SNA committees include the Boarded Up House Committee, Lot development Committee, and Spence Team on Patrol.

2000: SNA moves from offices above Soap Opera Laundromat on Sargent to the Magnus Eliason Recreation Centre (MERC) at 430 Langside St.

2000: Spence Neighbourhood Association joins a consortium of agencies to renovate houses. Current and past members of this consortium are Winnipeg Housing Rehabilitation Corp (WHRC), Lazarus Housing, Housing Opportunities Program (HOP), Habitat, Westminster Housing Society (WHS), Lions Club of Winnipeg (Lions), SAM Management and University of Winnipeg. During the next 10 years, 96 houses are renovated or built new for homeownership and 106 units of rental property renovated or built.

2000: Housing Improvement grants are made available. Today almost \$70,000 annually is invested in improving housing in Spence.

2001: Adopt a lot project starts to level and green lots. This grows into 7 community gardens and several green spaces.

2001: In consultation with the community, the 2001-2006 Five Year Housing Plan is created.

2001: Home Fencing project to reduce cut through and crime in the community and Heritage Fencing project to restore wrought iron fencing in the neighbourhood.

2001: With funding through the Winnipeg Development Agreement, SNA starts phase 3 of the Light Up Our Neighbourhood home lighting program to increase safety in the neighbourhood. Almost every house in the neighbourhood participates.

2002: SNA works with St. Matthews Maryland Ministries and Klinik to start and oversee the Healthy Living Project, which provides community kitchens, teaching about food security and nutrition, physical activity opportunities and community events and meals.

2002: SNA works with the City of Winnipeg on a partial expansion and renovation of Furby Park.

2002: The SNA Image and Greening Committee decides that 4 lots on Sherbrook near Sargent will be designated for a future Aboriginal Park.

2002: SNA, with WHRC, builds the first two infill houses.

2002: The "Building with Blocks" program is created to fund community projects in the neighbourhood. This program, funded by Neighbourhoods Alive!, has annually provided grants to community residents and organizations for projects such as block parties, community garden and green space development, festivals, research projects, and youth activities.

2002: With grants from the Winnipeg Housing and Homelessness Initiative, SNA works with community members to establish community gardens and green spaces on vacant lots in the neighbourhood.

2002: The Building Belonging program is created, offering children's programming for 8-12 year olds after school at MERC.

2003: The Youth Advisory Committee program is created to give older youth in the community an opportunity to plan and facilitate activities.

2003: The SNA Safety Committee is reformed after taking a short break. The committee focuses on unsupervised children in the community, garbage, crime, vacant dwellings and issues related to poverty.

2003: SNA develops its new (and current) logo.

2003: SNA, along with WHRC and North End Community Renewal Corporation, start the Home Training Initiative to teach the rudimentary skills of home maintenance. This group has grown to include Daniel Macintyre/St. Matthews Community Association, Central Neighbourhoods Development Corp and Manitoba Urban Native Housing Association.

2003: Door Buzzer program for rooming houses so that people could contact their friends without having to throw objects at the windows.

2003: SNA, on its own, builds four infill houses which leads to the construction of 28 three bedroom homes over the last 7 years, of which 4 are wheelchair accessible. All are R2000 energy efficient homes.

2003: SNA starts a Community Economic Development (CED) Committee.

2004: I-CAN (Inner-City Aboriginal Neighbours) chooses its name, holds a logo contest and feast, hires a coordinator and begins programming. Programming and decision-making are done by I-CAN, with SNA administering the funds.

2004: Housing staff move to 415 Sherbrook as the housing and greening offices.

2004: The Building Bridges Forum is held to outline the next steps to be taken towards building bridges of respect between City Police and community members.

2004: The Youth Fathering Program is developed in partnership with I-CAN, it continues today in partnership with JobWorks.

2004: SNA runs the Mic Check program, introducing promising youth from the community to the details of writing, performing and recording their own music.

2004: SNA hires a year-round Safety Coordinator.

2004: SNA hires a year-round Image/Greening Coordinator.

2004: An environmental show garden was created out of the mud and weeds behind 415 Sherbrook.

2004: An inventory of vacant lots and community planning meetings leads to the Image Committee's development of green space goals for the next five years, the 2005-2009 Green Plan. The Green Plan is the first of its kind in the city and will be on its second incarnation in 2010.

2004: The Image Committee works on placing historic plaques throughout the community, outlining the significant history of artists, athletes, activists, places and events in our community.

2004: SNA joins the Winnipeg Minor Basketball League with two teams. This program has now grown to eight very successful youth basketball teams!

2004: A Newcomer Youth Program is started in Spence.

2004: SNA begins a Kids Gardening program that continues today and is based out of the Kids Garden at 435/437 Furby St.

2004: The Skills Bank is created to connect local residents to employment in the neighbourhood, capitalizing on the inventory of skills in our community identified by the CED Committee.

2004: The First Jobs for Youth program is developed in response to the Youth Advisory Committee and CED Committee's goals of breaking down the barriers youth face in getting jobs. The program continues to employ neighbourhood youth and support their employment with job skills training.

2005: SNA holds a call for proposals for the renovation of a rooming house. Two houses were renovated, one with 5 suites (2 wheelchair accessible) the other with 7 rooms. Both houses were well insulated and have in-floor heating.

2005: In partnership with RAE and New Directions, SNA runs a Youth Rental Training program, educating youth about their responsibilities as tenants.

2006: In consultation with community members, the 2006-2011 Five-Year Community Plan is developed.

2006: The Jacob Penner Park Playground Renewal begins, in partnership with the City of Winnipeg, West Central Community Program and Victor Play Centre.

2006: Building Belonging afterschool youth program is expanded from 3 to 5 days per week and now includes special outings. Currently, 40-60 youth ages 6-12 attend afterschool programming every week day.

2006: The Youth Committee is developed to guide SNA's youth projects.

2006: SNA launches a new website at [www.spenceneighbourhood.org](http://www.spenceneighbourhood.org).

2006: SNA begins plans for a community run business offering social research and related services to organizations and businesses. This initiative grew to become the Community Research Hub.

2007: The Three Stars and a Wish Literacy program begins; partnering local youth and their families with volunteers from the University of Winnipeg to work on writing stories.

2006/07: A Comprehensive Safety Audit is completed in the Spence neighbourhood.

2007: SNA purchases the office at 615 Ellice and over the following two years installs a new roof, ceiling insulation and office windows with help from Community Places and Thomas Sill Foundation.

2007: The Community Research Hub develops a business plan.

2007: Evening Youth Drop-In program begins at MERC. The program continues to grow over the years; currently 25-30 youth attend nightly.

2007: The Learning Centre is created at MERC to provide youth with an encouraging and comfortable space for homework.

2007: SNA invests in a van for youth programming, allowing for expanded work in the neighbourhood.

2007: A Recycling Depot is established behind MERC, making Spence the only inner-city area in Winnipeg to have a Recycling Depot.

2008: The Spence Green Map is launched, marking cultural sites, green spaces, and other sites that demonstrate environmental, social and economic sustainability.

2008: The Block Captain Program, now known as the Block Contact Program, is created by training over 20 volunteers to act as contact people on their block, helping people keep in touch with their neighbours and bring issues forward to the SNA Board.

2008: The Tool Lending Library is officially launched, allowing local residents to borrow tools for landscaping, home repair and odd jobs.

2008: A Rental Safety Coordinator is hired by SNA, offering basic physical safety improvements to apartments and assisting increased landlord-tenant cooperation in neighbourhood rental units.

2008: The Community Research Hub develops a vision to become a Worker's Cooperative, with work towards this goal continuing today.

2008: SNA works with HOP, Westminster Housing and the University of Winnipeg to move 4 houses from the area on Langside between Furby Place and Portage Ave. Two are located in Spence, one in Daniel Macintyre and one in West Broadway.

2008: SNA Housing Coordinator and Housing Coordinators of the West Broadway Community Development Corp., along with those in the NECRC, CNDC and DM/SMCA and city inspectors, set up a working group for the Neighbourhood Liveability and the Vacant and Derelict Buildings Bylaws to increase the positive impact of these two bylaws.

2008: After years of planning, the Spence Community Compass art piece, part of the Winnipeg Arts Council WITHart Program, is installed in Furby Park.

2008: SNA begins its Odd Jobs for Youth program.

2008: The first annual Community Tree-Banding event is held to create a community wide effort to protect neighbourhood trees.

2008: The Composting for Community program began, collecting compostable materials from local businesses and organizations and converting it into rich compost that is used in local community gardens.

2008: In partnership with the Daniel McIntyre/St. Matthew's Community Association and the West Central Women's Resource Centre, SNA starts the West Central Youth Outreach Project, supporting area youth who are disconnected from positive supports by advocating on their behalf and helping to connect them and their families to appropriate resources.

2008: Planning and lot cleaning began on the Community Greenhouse Project, which has grown into a busy and vibrant greenhouse site at 689 Maryland.

2009: The SNA Rental Outreach Program is created to assist community members with finding and keeping safe, affordable rental housing.

2009: SNA take part in the creation of the Winnipeg Rental Network's [www.winnipegrentnet.ca](http://www.winnipegrentnet.ca) website for affordable rental listings.

2009: SNA pilots with Manitoba Hydro the Energy Efficiency Program for Lower Income Homeowners.

2009: The First Jobs for Youth program develops a Career P.A.T.H. addition to the program.

2009: SNA is part of a working group for development of the area around Portage, Maryland and Sherbrook. This involves proposals for converting St. Matthew's Anglican Church to housing and alternative energy for existing and plan development with St. Matthew's Church, Lions Club of Winnipeg and Friends of Sherbrook Pool.

2009: SNA Staff become part of the board of B.U.I.L.D. an agency that trains unemployed inner city people house to weatherize houses under the Manitoba Hydro Energy Efficient Program for Lower Income Homeowners. Some of the other board members are from NECRC and Kinew Housing Corp.

2009: SNA initiates discussion on setting up a non- profit property management company.

2009: SNA soccer program begins with four teams in the Winnipeg Youth Soccer Association.

2009: SNA hires an Education Coordinator and convenes an Education Committee to work to address the barriers to education in the Spence community.

2009: SNA coordinates with the University of Winnipeg to have agencies refer student families for housing in McFeedors Hall housing is for families which have one or more adult members studying at any education institution in the city.

2009: After years of development with SNA, I-CAN begins operations as an autonomous organization.

2010: First Jobs for Youth develops a Mentorship Program.

2010: SNA celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!