



# Community News Commons

**Adventures in Citizen Reporting**  
*the medium IS the message*



- Community Information Challenge grant recipient 2011
- Canada's first community foundation – 93 years old
- Where the heck is Winnipeg?





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**News????**

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- **Locally-generated news is shrinking in volume**
  - **The digital revolution dictates new approaches to news**



# Initial Project Goals:

- To create community hubs
- To engage and train citizen journalists
- To provide new insights
- To improve digital media skills





# Initial Project Goals (more):

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- To provide technical capacity to tell stories
- Increase availability of information, enhance community awareness and community engagement
- To strengthen Foundation leadership

# Initial Project Elements

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- Training and outreach
- Internships for students
- Technology for participants
- Stand alone website for stories by citizen journalists



What's happening  
**in your**  
neighbourhood?

## Project Partners and Roles:

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- **Local daily newspaper - Winnipeg Free Press:**
  - Use content in print editions
  - Provide professional journalists to assist with training, mentoring, etc
  - Provide event space at News Cafe





## **Project partners and roles;**

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- **Winnipeg Public Library system (19 branches in city)**
- **Local College Journalism Program**
- **The Winnipeg Foundation**



# Expected Impact:

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- Engage people to be more active in their communities
- Educate and empower citizens
- Build stronger networks



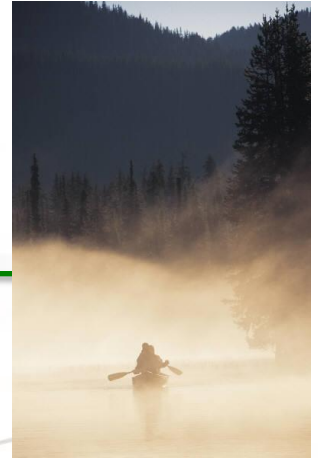
## Foundation Assets for project:

- Commitment to local issues
- Credible and independent voice
- Relationships across sectors
- Access to resources



# What we believed in 2011 ...and still believe

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- A healthy news ecosystem supports our Foundation's strategic goals
- News and information efforts strengthen our community leadership profile and improve our work
- Heading into the fog...together

# Canvassing community: What do Winnipeggers want from a citizen journalism website?





# Partnerships: ideas, benefits and challenges





# Training: twice yearly citizen journalism workshops plus ongoing editorial mentorship



- Chronicles day-to-day events
- On-the-surface reporting, done
- Tries to be fair, balanced
- Tries to cover both sides, or many
- Generally takes people, and claims, into



# Creating the platform – how a citizen journalism site is news by the people, for the people

The screenshot shows a Safari browser window displaying the Community News Commons website. The browser's address bar shows the URL: <http://www.communitynewscommons.org/our-city/health-safety/winnipeg-transit-drivers-amazing-act-of-kindness-stuns-passengers>. The website header features the logo for Community News Commons with the tagline "News by you!". A navigation menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT CNC, OUR CITY, CULTURE, OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS, PHILANTHROPY, CONTACT US, and BECOME A CITIZEN REPORTER. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation menu, a paragraph describes CNC as an online news hub authored by the Winnipeg community. A weather widget for Winnipeg, MB shows a temperature of 25°C. The main content area features a news article titled "Winnipeg Transit driver's amazing act of kindness stuns passengers" by Denise Campbell, dated September 18, 2012. The article text begins with "Today, as I was riding a Winnipeg Transit bus from Unicity to Downtown I did not realize that I would be a witness to something amazing." and continues with "The ride was, as usual, long and uneventful, until we reached the corner of Portage and Main. That's when the driver pulled over. This of course surprised all of the passengers on the bus. But, what happened next still brings tears to my eyes." An image of a Winnipeg Transit bus is shown. To the right of the article, there is a "DAILY NEWS PODCAST" section with a red boombox icon and a "CNC News Summary with Roger Currie CJNU 93.7 FM" entry. Below the podcast section are social media sharing options for Facebook (Like 21) and Twitter (Tweet), and icons for Facebook, Twitter, and RSS. At the bottom right, there is a "PHOTO OF THE DAY" section.

Winnipeg Transit driver's amazing act of kindness stuns passengers

Community News Commons News by you!

Search this site... Search

You are not logged in  
Log in or Register

HOME ABOUT CNC OUR CITY CULTURE OUR NEIGHBOURHOODS PHILANTHROPY CONTACT US BECOME A CITIZEN REPORTER

CNC is an online news hub authored by the Winnipeg community. All content on this site is created by you, your friends and neighbours, who are sharing stories to make Winnipeg a better place. By creating CNC, The Winnipeg Foundation believes that a more informed and engaged community is a more caring and giving community, building the capacity that creates stronger, healthier neighbourhoods.

Winnipeg, MB 25°C city GO

Browse: Home / Our City / Health & Safety / Winnipeg Transit driver's amazing act of kindness stuns passengers

## Winnipeg Transit driver's amazing act of kindness stuns passengers

By Denise Campbell on September 18, 2012  
Posted in Health & Safety, Local Heroes, Stories of Giving

Today, as I was riding a Winnipeg Transit bus from Unicity to Downtown I did not realize that I would be a witness to something amazing.

The ride was, as usual, long and uneventful, until we reached the corner of Portage and Main. That's when the driver pulled over. This of course surprised all of the passengers on the bus. But, what happened next still brings tears to my eyes.



DAILY NEWS PODCAST

CNC News Summary with Roger Currie CJNU 93.7 FM

Like 21 Tweet

Facebook Twitter RSS

PHOTO OF THE DAY

# Highlights and challenges of first two years – growing number of reporters and stories

**Restorative Justice — a different way (4-part series)**

*Restorative Justice is a different way of justice that brings the victim, offender and community together to resolve the harms of crime and understand its impact on our lives. Below are links to the four articles in this series that looks at the people involved with restorative justice programs in Winnipeg.*

**Healing our community through restorative justice (Part 1)**

With Restorative Justice Week Nov 17-24, CNC presents a series about this different view of justice that focuses on victims and the harm done, rather than on offenders and the punishment they receive.

**Multi-media program repairs relationships (Part 2)**

As part of Restorative Justice Week, CNC presents articles on this different view of justice. Part 2 in the series looks at a media program that provides refuge for youth trying to stay out of trouble.

**Staying charges, changing lives (Part 3)**

Onashowewin means “the way we see justice” – a fitting name for the city’s aboriginal restorative justice agency that helps those with criminal charges find a transformative way to resolve their charges without going to court.

**DAILY NEWS PODCAST**

CNC News Summary with Roger Currie CJNU 93.7 FM

Like 21 Tweet

**PHOTO OF THE DAY**

Working late  
Submitted by Michelle Pichette Breault

Submit your Photo here!



# Deepening our existing partnerships and creating more collaborations with others



# What we've learned so far

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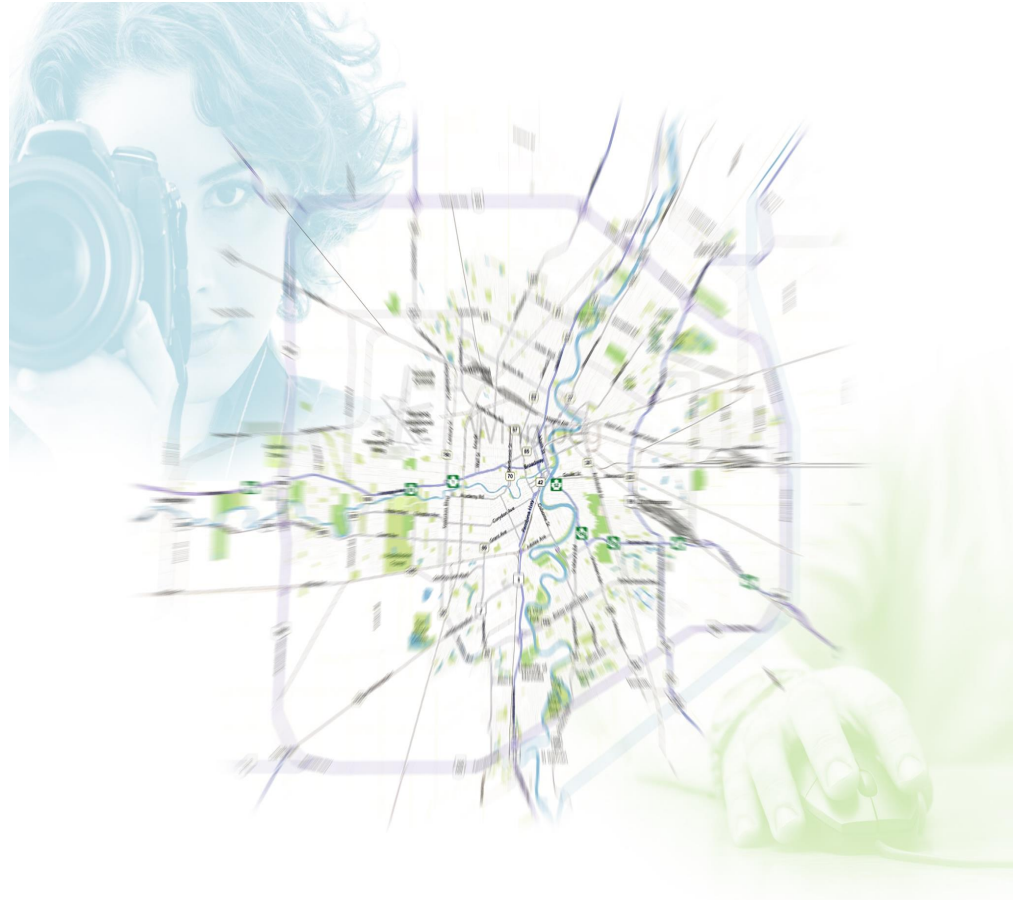
- Tips for engaging citizens:
  - Community consultation is an important starting point
  - Partners can bring much-needed elements to this type of project
  - Start small and grow as you are able
  - Journalism as important as community engagement
  - A good plan today is better than a perfect plan tomorrow!



# Where do we go from here?

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- Deepen collaborations
- Grow the profile and reach of the project
- Develop more multi-media tools
- Find new sources of funding





# Questions?



Noah Erenberg  
CNC Convener  
E: [nerenberg@cncwpg.org](mailto:nerenberg@cncwpg.org)  
[www.cncwpg.org](http://www.cncwpg.org)

LuAnn Lovlin  
Director of Communications  
E: [llovlin@wpgfdn.org](mailto:llovlin@wpgfdn.org)  
[www.wpgfdn.org](http://www.wpgfdn.org)