



THUNDERWING

Annual Report to the Community

April 2015-March 2016

Thunderwing Name

On Dec 10, 2013, Elders Stella Blackbird and Audrey Bone held a naming ceremony at Urban Circle Training Centre.

The name that came from the spirits was **Thunderwing**, thunder representing rejuvenation and wing representing protection.

The Ojibwe name for Thunderwing is **Animikii Aningwiigan** and the Cree name is **Khakitochuk Ohkun**.

The colors of Thunderwing are blue, red, white, and yellow.

We honour the name and colors of Thunderwing through a feast and tobacco offering each spring.

Vision & Mission

Thunderwing, the first project of the *Block by Block Community Safety and Wellbeing Initiative*, coordinates and mobilizes existing resources across sectors to give families the support they need so they can prevent and permanently stabilize crisis situations.

Our **vision** is that Thunderwing residents have equal opportunity and their community is recognized as a safe neighbourhood for all.

Our **goals** are to:

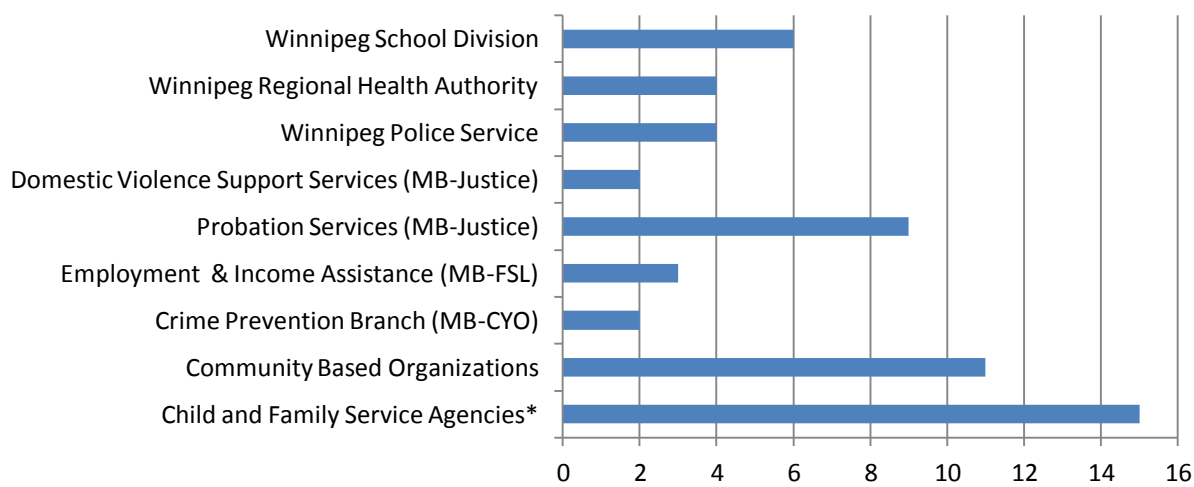
- Increase community safety
- Enhance the wellbeing of families living in the Thunderwing community (William Whyte & Dufferin Neighbourhoods)
- Improve the relationship between service providers and the coordination of services provided in the Thunderwing Community
- Improve the relationship between families and systems

Thunderwing Referrals

Thunderwing began accepting referrals in September 2014

- ✓ 56 referrals have been received from partnering agencies to date
 - 37 received in 2015-2016
- ✓ 41 of the referrals received to date were accepted
- ✓ 31 of the families accepted agreed to participate in the project

Number of Referrals by Partner Agency (n=56)



*13 of the Child and Family Agency referrals were received from Métis CFS



Block by Block Guiding Principles

Thunderwing is guided by the Block by Block Guiding Principles:

- ◆ **Possibility:** Real transformation happens when we focus on what is possible
- ◆ **Strength-Based:** All communities, families and agencies have strength, value, and the capacity to be well
- ◆ **Family Centered:** Families know their own lives best and are capable of identifying their own needs
- ◆ **Engagement:** Everyone has value and something to contribute.
- ◆ **Accountability:** Sustainable impact is quality driven.
- ◆ **Cultural Diversity:** There is more than one way of doing and thinking
- ◆ **Integrity:** Collaboration starts with building meaningful relationships.

Family Support and Outcomes

Thunderwing has provided direct and ongoing support to **28 families** including 33 adults and 102 children/youth. A few outcomes are provided in the table below:

Family Outcomes	# of families
Children returned to parents	3 (8 children)
Reunification process begun	4
Increased visits with children	8
Improved relationship with CFS	15
Obtained safe housing/Housing became safe	16
Entered into workforce	2
Began job training/education program	1
Children began attending school regularly	6 (8 children)
Connected to new resources/services	22

Thunderwing has provided indirect support to an additional **63 families**:

- ✓ 31 families/individuals connected with Thunderwing looking for information or resources
- ✓ Hub members received support from secretariat or Hub to assist a family they are working with (18 families)
- ✓ Partner agencies received support from secretariat or Hub for inquires or referrals that did not meet the project criteria (14 families)

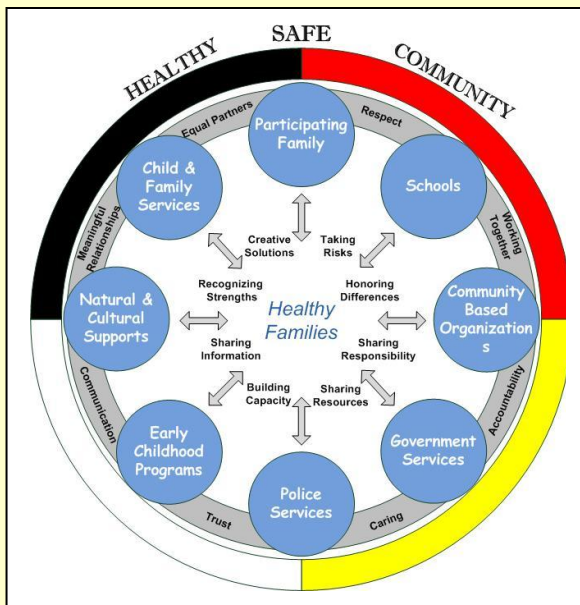
Thunderwing Support Teams

Thunderwing brings together existing and new supports in a family's life to assist them in meeting their goals. Families are encouraged to invite natural supports to join their Support Team. Thunderwing has engaged **51 different agencies** on one or more Support Teams.

- ✓ 14 Community Based Organizations
- ✓ 13 Schools
- ✓ 9 Child and Family Service Agencies
- ✓ 6 Manitoba Government Programs (EIA, MB Housing, Turnabout, Probation Services, Victim Services)
- ✓ 5 Winnipeg Regional Health Authority Programs (Families First, Primary Care, Public Health, Homecare, CODI)
- ✓ 2 Winnipeg Police Service Units (District 3, Counter Exploitation)
- ✓ 2 other (Childcare Centre & Public Trustee)

Support Team Meetings are guided by the *Thunderwing Collaboration Model*. Frequency of support team meetings and length of Thunderwing involvement on a Support Team is unique to each family.

- ✓ 116 support team meetings held to date
 - 81 held in 2015-2016



Thunderwing Collaboration Model

“Thunderwing Support Team has been a great opportunity for all agencies to come together for the benefit of the family. Communication and team work is so important to making a difference.”

“I have been inspired by the hard working team members I’ve met and will carry that around from day to day. I have people to reach out to if I have a problem in the future.”

Thunderwing Hub

The Hub is a multi-sectoral committee with both government and community based agency representatives. This committee reviews the family's goals for the purpose of addressing system and policy barriers getting in the families way of reaching their goals.

The Hub first met in April 2014 and dedicated 6 months to process development. Hub meetings are held twice a month:

- ✓ 73 Hub meetings held to date
 - 30 held in 2015-2016
- ✓ 19 System Mobilization Discussions
- ✓ 19 Resource Discussions
- ✓ 18 System Barrier Discussions
- ✓ 4 Presentations from partner agencies



Thunderwing Hub

"The Hub has been a good way of learning about different systems"

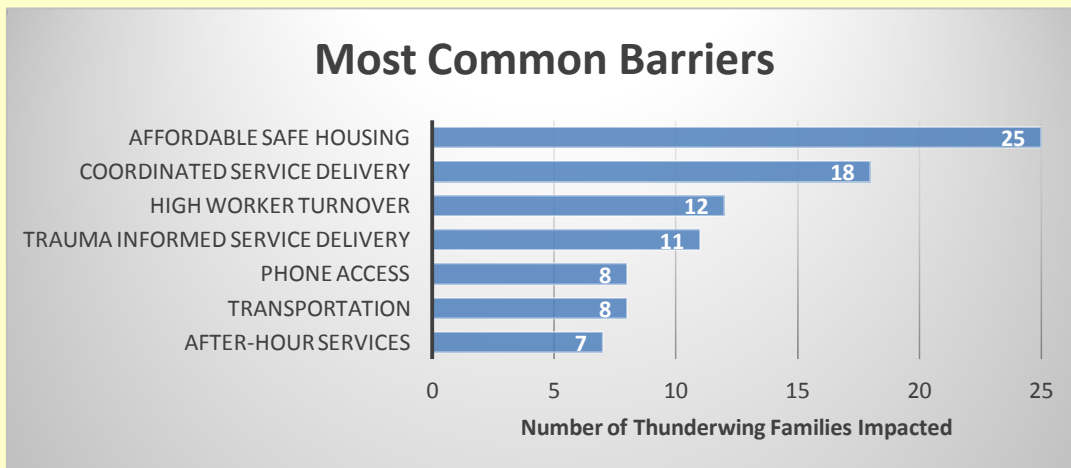
"Great opportunity to come together to problem solve some difficult client situations"

"We are making a difference by gathering information on systemic barriers"

"I love that we are helping families. I see the change and impact it has on the families"

System and Policy Change

Thunderwing documents barriers preventing Thunderwing families from reaching their goals as well as barriers reported by partner agencies. Approximately 350 barrier reports have been entered into our database and coded into approximately 80 different themes. The barriers affecting the most Thunderwing families are shown in the chart below:



Barriers affecting the highest number of families or those determined to have a significant community impact are brought forward to the Block by Block Centre of Responsibility (COR) Committee for discussion. Thunderwing has brought forward the following:

- Children remaining in foster care longer than necessary because of difficulty securing adequate housing
- Children in foster care/not living with legal guardian not registering/staying in school
- Access to washer/dryer
- Access to after-hour support workers
- 24/7 youth safe spaces/coordinated response

Hub Membership

The following agencies are represented on the Hub at the time of this report:

- ◆ Crime Prevention Branch
- ◆ Domestic Violence Support Services
- ◆ Employment and Income Assistance
- ◆ Probation Services
- ◆ Manitoba Early Learning and Childcare
- ◆ Manitoba Housing
- ◆ Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
- ◆ Community Services (City of Winnipeg)
- ◆ Winnipeg Police Services
- ◆ Child Protection Branch
- ◆ Manitoba Adolescent Treatment Centre
- ◆ Andrews Street Family Centre
- ◆ Wahbung Abinoonjiiag
- ◆ Mount Carmel Clinic
- ◆ William Whyte School
- ◆ Niji Mahkwa School
- ◆ Ndinawemaaganag Endaawaad
- ◆ North End Women's Centre
- ◆ Addictions Foundation of Manitoba
- ◆ Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre
- ◆ Southern First Nations Network of Care Child and Family Services Authority
- ◆ First Nations of Northern Manitoba Child and Family Services Authority
- ◆ Neighbourhood Immigrant Settlement Program

Block by Block Secretariat

The Block by Block Secretariat provides support to Block by Block and Thunderwing.

Heather Leeman
Executive Director

Cassandra Dokken
Policy and Evaluation Analyst

Pauline Jackson
Thunderwing Project Coordinator

Tanja Harder
Communications and Project Support

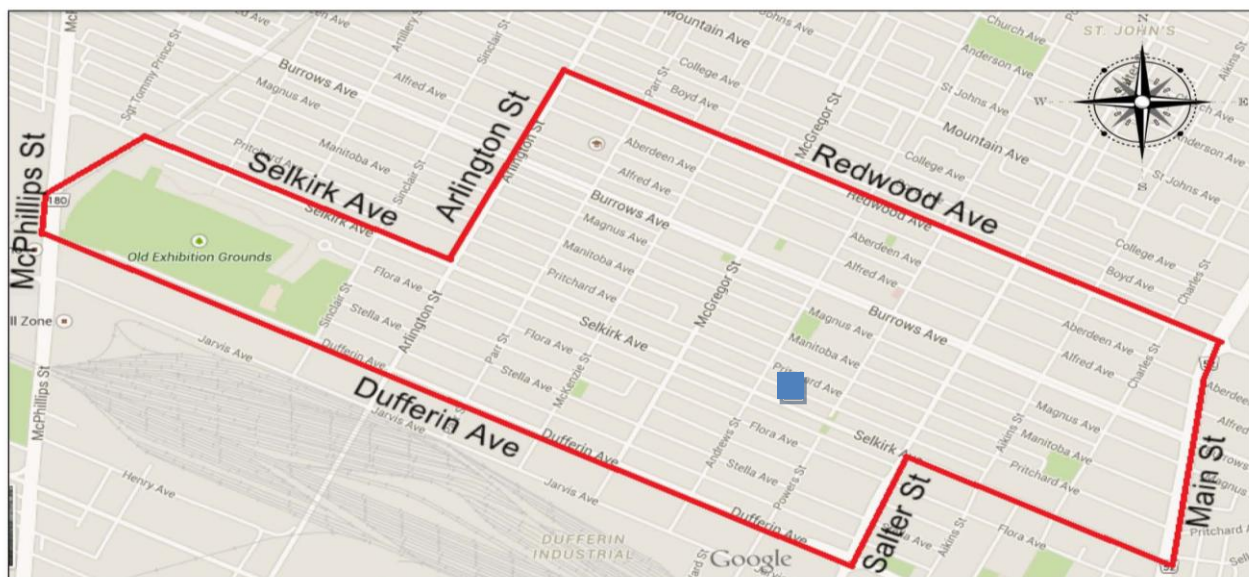
P/Sgt Dave Tyndale
Block by Block Safety Liaison

S/Sgt Bonnie Emerson
Strategic Initiative

Project Successes

- New relationships have been built and existing relationships have been strengthened at both an individual and agency level.
- New partnerships have been formed within and across sectors.
- Agencies have reported internal agency shifts to a culture of collaboration.
- Community Based Organization representatives have reported having a better understanding of the policy and procedures of government.
- Government Agency representatives have reported a better understanding of the issues/barriers facing families in crisis.
- Hub members have connected outside of meetings to support other families.
- Agencies have reported more connections that assist in their daily work with families.
- Resource sharing at Hub meetings.
- Partner Agency information gathering and information sharing at Hub Meetings.
- Thunderwing Barrier Identification process developed.

Thunderwing Community Map



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