

Students learn the importance of fair trade



Photo by Amanda Boyd

During the MCIC Fair Trade Conference in Minnedosa, students brainstorm ways to plan and promote fair trade in their schools.

By **AMANDA BOYD**

As part of International Development Week (February 5-11), the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation (MCIC) hosted its annual Middle Years Conference at the Minnedosa

Community Conference Centre Wednesday, February 1st. The MCIC is a coalition of over 40 organizations involved in international development. Entitled *Generating Momentum for Our World: Go Fair Trade*, the conference was intended to inform

and encourage students to take action and improve Fair Trade availability in their schools and communities.

Schools that participated in the activities included Brookdale School, Erickson Collegiate, Gladstone Elementary School,

MacGregor Elementary School, Neepawa Collegiate, Plumas Elementary School, Strathclair School and Tanner's Crossing School. Over 40 students took part in an opening plenary that offered a simulation of trading.

"I think the activity we did this morning was a pretty good example of what happens," commented Erickson Collegiate student, Megan Huculak. "We were workers and used clay to make beads that other people would buy off of us. We had a whole bunch of limits put on what we could do and it was kind of unfair. We only made \$7.00. The second round we were able to change the rules and we ended up with \$14.00 so we pretty much doubled our profits."

This plenary was followed by circuits on public speaking, planning and promoting, and rewriting the rules. "The goal is to explore how schools might be able to support fair trade by using fair trade products in their procurement strategies," explained Rewrite the Rules workshop facilitator, Bequie Lake. "So when they're purchasing soccer balls or hoodies for their school they consider using fair trade options so the school isn't buying things

made using child labour, for example." Later that afternoon, students participated in their choice of silk screening, video, digital photography, or theatre workshops. "The day's been great," remarked TCS student, Josh Woychshyn. "We are learning about Fair Trade between the continents and how we need to

Fair Trade conference in the Parklands region, but it is the first time it has ever come to Minnedosa; previous events have been held in Rosburn and Strathclair. Minnedosa's was the fifth in a series of six conferences this year and MCIC Executive Director, Janice Hamilton, is curious to see what students



Photo by Amanda Boyd

Breanne Morgan assists Isabella Onyshko during the silkscreening workshop. Students also participated in theatre, digital photography and video.

buy, say cocoa beans, from another country at a reasonable price so they can pay for their children's schooling."

2012 is the fifth year MCIC has been offering its

do with their newfound knowledge on Fair Trade. "It's always amazing to hear what the students do when they return to the schools."

Communication changes

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Many see books, newspapers and telephones becoming obsolete and some even predict the degradation of the English language due to over-reliance on tools such as Spell and Grammar Check. Others foresee increased face-to-face Internet calling (Skype), more abilities with Bluetooth technology and voice recognition and other advances that will make communication even easier and more convenient.

"We'll definitely learn more about the world," said Grade 10 student, Melissa Pearson. "I think that's a good thing. With regards to people becoming lazy and too dependent on sitting in front of screens, we just need to educate kids and find a balance."

Perhaps the most important thing to acknowledge is the life cycle of introduction, growth, maturity and eventual decline that all forms of technology go through. Examples of outdated technology that have gone through this process include the telegraph and rotary telephone systems. Change does not necessarily mean decline. In fact, if we are responsible and educated in our practice of new technology, change can mean progress.



The Public Utilities Board

400-330 Portage Avenue
Winnipeg, Manitoba
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www.pub.gov.mb.ca

NOTICE OF APPLICATION

January 20, 2012

The Rural Municipality of Harrison (RM) has applied to the Public Utilities Board (Board) for revised rates for the Newdale Sewer Utility as set out in By-law No. 6/2011 read the first time on October 5, 2011. The current rates were approved in 1986.

The previous, current and proposed rates are noted below:

CUSTOMER CHARGES	Current	2012	2013	2014
Service charge	\$3.00	\$51.25	\$52.75	\$54.35
Commodity charge per REU*	\$52.00	\$258.00	\$264.00	\$269.00
Total annual charge	\$55.00	\$309.25	\$316.75	\$323.35

* Residential equivalent unit

ANNUAL CHARGES REU's	Current	2012	2013	2014	
Single family, hall, church, store, municipal office, garage	1	\$55.00	\$309.25	\$316.75	\$323.35
Building	1.5	\$81.00	\$438.25	\$448.75	\$457.85
Curling Rink	2	\$107.00	\$567.25	\$580.75	\$592.35
Hotel**	9	\$263.00	\$2,373.25	\$2,428.75	\$2,475.35
Senior Citizen Home	9	\$471.00	\$2,373.25	\$2,428.75	\$2,475.35

** Currently assigned 5 REU's

Details of the RM's application are available for review at the municipal office.

Any person wishing to make representations to the Board should write the **Public Utilities Board, 400 - 330 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 0C4**, or email the Board at publicutilities@gov.mb.ca on or before **February 29, 2012**, following which date the Board will decide whether any further notice and/or an oral hearing is necessary.

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT IN CONSIDERING THIS APPLICATION, THE PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD MAY OR MAY NOT FIND IT NECESSARY TO DETERMINE RATES DIFFERENT FROM THOSE APPLIED FOR BY THE MUNICIPALITY.

Note: All proceedings will be conducted in accord with the Board's *Rules of Practice and Procedure* which the Board may vary in order to constrain regulatory costs. The Rules are available at www.pub.gov.mb.ca.

Kurt Simonsen P.Eng.
Associate Secretary
Public Utilities Board

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THE TOWN OF MINNEDOSA

Financial Report for 2011

as per Manitoba Gaming Control Commission Licensing Authority

Received in license fees for the year: \$115.75

No. of Raffle Licenses issued for the year: 24