



Action for Neighbourhood Change
Simpson-Ogden News
SPECIAL EDITION

JANUARY 2006

HAVE YOUR SAY!

IMPORTANT!

WHAT IS THE FUTURE FOR SIMPSON-OGDEN?

GET LOUD AND PROUD!

VISION AND PLANNING SESSION

**OGDEN COMMUNITY CENTRE, 600 MCKENZIE STREET
SOUTH POD ROOM**

SATURDAY 1-7 PM

JANUARY 14, 2006

RSVP REQUIRED

**Celebration dinner and entertainment will be included!
Call 626-1765 to reserve your place by Wednesday January 11 or
stop by 500 Simpson Street at the ANC office for a ticket!**

Childcare and transportation are available-call for details

MEET THE JANUARY 14TH FACILITATORS



David Pell

David Pell is a consultant working with Action for Neighbourhood Change on behalf of Tamarack.

He provides tailored speaking, training, coaching and strategic consulting to meet the particular needs of the requesting groups.

David has 30 years experience establishing non profit organizations and helping them to grow. His work has taken him to every province and many countries around the globe. David's primary interests include community economic development, entrepreneurship and community planning. He was a partner in Development Initiatives Inc., the founding President of the Community Business Resource Centre and the CEO of the Canadian Youth Business Foundation.

David's publications include: Building Effective Relations with Corporate Sponsors, Livelihood Pathways; Third Sector, Sustainable Development and Community Empowerment, Community Economic Development in Canada and Community Profit, Community Economic Development in Canada (co-author).

David's other interests include: strategic planning, organization development, project development and management, comprehensive collaborative initiatives, community engagement processes, community economic development and environmental conservation.



Ron Kanutski

Mushkiki-Gizhi-baa-sense-Kwaa, Bear Clan, Ron Kanutski, Registered Social Worker, Native Cultural Coordinator/ Mental Health & Addictions Counselor is an Ojibway tribal member of Opwaagaanassining 1st Nation (Lake Helen Reservation/Red Rock Band) and Whitewater 1st Nation

Ron, who best describes himself as a cultural teacher and facilitator, has been working in the human services field for 15 years. He has worked extensively throughout northern Ontario, Manitoba, Wisconsin, Michigan, Minnesota and most recently, Illinois. As a consultant, group facilitator and counselor, Ron delivers a wide variety of mental health, addictions, and wellness prevention related services to northern children, youth and adults residing in urban, rural and remote communities.

Ron has lived in the Ogden neighbourhood since 1998, with his immediate family of four and is presently employed by Children's Centre Thunder Bay and is a past employee of the Norwest Heath Centre. Ron currently delivers community based programming and counseling to youth 12-17 years, who are struggling with concurrent disorders through the New Experiences Program. In addition, he volunteers with the Ogden Public School when his services are required.

Ron's gift is his natural ability to bridge cultures in a respectable sensitive manner to provide unique learning experiences and opportunities for all participants who attend. Ron always looks forward to meeting new people and he is invested strongly in his community.



JANUARY 14, 2006

THE CHANGING POINT HAVE YOUR SAY!
PRIORITIZE, PLAN & VISION FOR YOUR FUTURE!

Agenda

The agenda is subject to change based on the needs of the participants, as this is a fluid process.

- 1 pm** **Opening remarks and National Film Board Production**
- 1:15** **Review**—Action for Neighbourhood Change Project, \$80,000 Project Pool update, discussion group and interview summaries with neighbourhood information, question and answer
- 2:00** **Vision**— what are your dreams for the future? Consensus building and how we will work together. Small group visioning with sharing back to the large group.
- 3:15** Refreshment Break
- 3:30** **Draft Vision** developed with and presented to large group
- 4:00** **What are your top five priorities for Simpson-Ogden?**
- 5:00** **Nominations** for a neighbourhood committee
- 5:20** **Next Steps**
- 5:30** **Celebration dinner and entertainment!!!**

The neighbourhood vision and plan will only be as strong as the ideas and work the neighbourhood puts into it!

How ANC will support the neighbourhood plan and vision:

1. Support neighbourhood committee
2. Provide \$80,000 of project funding to the neighbourhood
3. Research sources of funding for the neighbourhood plan
4. Neighbourhood profile compiled
5. Coordinate training for plan development
6. Coordinate policy input to our Federal funders
7. Partnership supports



**WHERE IS
THE
ANC FUNDING
COMING FROM?**
The ANC budget is jointly funded by:

- National Secretariat on Homelessness (HRSDC)
- Office of Learning Technologies (HRSDC)
- National Literacy Secretariat (HRSDC)
- Canada's Drug Strategy (Health Canada)
- Crime Prevention Strategy (PSEPC)



What is meant by local assets?

- **Social** participation, pride, voice, and influence
- **Service** programs, collaboration, etc
- **Physical** housing, shopping, & transit
- **Diversity** language, settlement, employment
- **Safety and Mobility** participate safely without fear

SIMPSON-OGDEN PLANNING REPORT JANUARY, 2005

This summary is the first comprehensive report from Action for Neighbourhood Change (ANC) to the Simpson-Ogden Neighbourhood. This report is part of a process to validate the information gathered from individual interviews and discussion groups and determine if residents, businesses, and organizations see the information as representative and accurate. Furthermore, gaps in information are important to note and report back to ANC staff about. This report was compiled with the assistance of the neighbourhood as a whole, organizations, and contract researchers. The report will outline how information was gathered, consolidated, and reported on.

This information in the full report (20 pages) is available to inform stakeholders (residents, businesses, organizations, etc.) for the January 14, 2006 Vision and Planning session. It will provide a snapshot of others thoughts on aspects of life in Simpson-Ogden paired with any statistical information that was in the public domain. This information may assist in determining the vision and priorities for those who will be working to revitalize Simpson-Ogden. Plans coming from this report must be achievable with the stakeholders and support from ANC. A more detailed report will be made available in the spring of 2006.

The 20 page report can be requested by phoning 626-1765, emailing anc@unitedway-tbay.on.ca, or stopping by the ANC office at 500 Simpson Street.

In gathering information, individuals and discussion groups were asked about:

1. What are the assets of the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood?
2. Who are the leaders/potential leaders in the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood?
3. What are the issues/needs of the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood?
4. What are the solutions to address the issues/needs?
5. What two solutions would you invest in?

Participants in the discussion groups were aboriginal elders and seniors, youth at the Boys and Girls Club, aboriginal service providers, residents brought to the table by neighbourhood resident George Saarinen, St. Luke's Church, Thunder Bay Christian Community Centre, craft group attendees at the NorWest Community Health Centre, Cadets, Aboriginal and Métis families, people who use Shelter House and those attending the two focus group training sessions. Additionally, two discussion groups were conducted by School of Social Work students with guidance by Dr. JoAnne Zamparo and Sandra Albertson. These groups, seniors living at Assef court and Simpson Street businesses, were asked questions similar to those above.

Individual Questionnaires

To broaden the reach of the discussions, Neil Otke-Street Chaplain and Marg Stadey Vice-Chair of the Regional Food Distribution Association were contracted to do street level interviews and 18 were completed. Additionally, 54 questionnaires from an initial April 2005 consultation were also analyzed.

Total Informants: 229

ANC staff, volunteers, federal funders, and others who are interested in this project have been immensely enjoying our conversations and work around neighbourhood revitalization and are thankful for the spirit of camaraderie around making Simpson-Ogden a better place to live, work, and visit.

From the above questions, the following themes around assets, issues and solutions emerged from the stakeholder input are ranked in order of frequency of mention with statistical references. See table 1.

1. **Safety** was mentioned **238** times (crime, addiction and substance abuse, general safety, animal control, policing, traffic and transportation). See table 2.
2. **Housing and Homelessness** was mentioned **45** times in the interviews with 72 stakeholders.
3. **Infrastructure** (location, municipal concerns, and physical condition) was mentioned **45** times in the interviews with the 72 stakeholders.
4. **Income, Poverty, and Economy** were mentioned **33** times in the interviews with 72 stakeholders.
5. **Recreation** was mentioned **33** times in the interviews with 72 stakeholders.
6. **Social, Political and Legal, Education, Health and Service Concerns** were mentioned **51** times.
 - a. Social mentioned 19 times
 - b. Political and legal aspects were mentioned 11 times
 - c. Health was mentioned 10 times
 - d. Education was mentioned 7 times
 - e. Services were mentioned 4 times

Table 1. Themes by frequency of mention with individual stakeholders

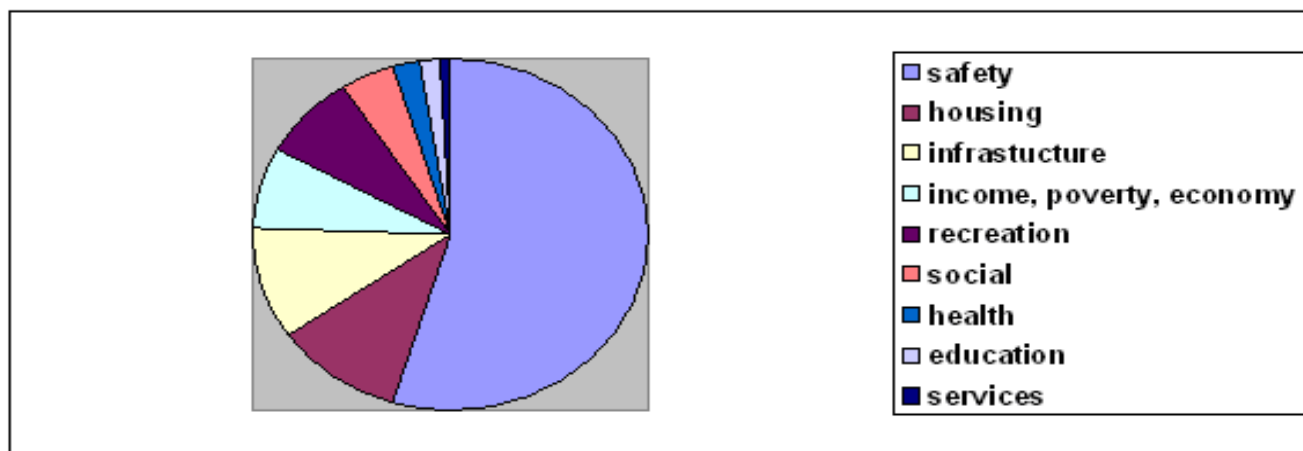
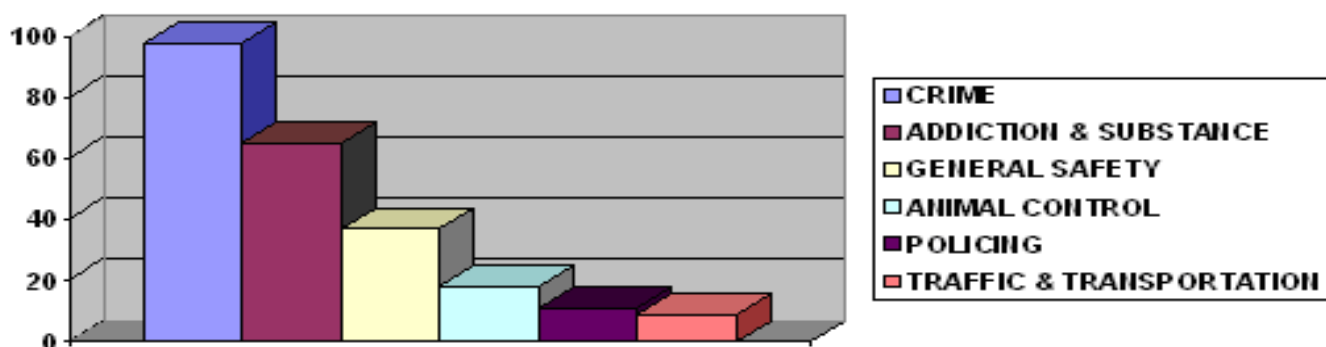


Table 2. Safety by frequency of response



Crime Information- McKellar, Ogden- Simpson and Vickers Area for January-December 2003

Sexual Assault=37
Domestic
Violence=107
Firearms=7,
Assault=348
Other Violent
Crimes=70
Robbery=35
Other Criminal
Code=681
Drug Offences=49
Liquor Act=759



Policing Information-

Among census metro-politan areas, Thunder Bay reported the most officers per 100,000 populations, followed by Regina, Montréal and Winnipeg.



HOW WILL ANC WORK?

ANC brings together a variety stakeholders - residents, business, governments and support agencies - to learn about, practice and evaluate approaches that combine resources in new ways.

Building healthy neighbourhoods begins with the knowledge found in the neighbourhood itself.

SAFETY ASSETS

- Neighbourhood policing
- Community police
- No violence or shooting, like in Winnipeg
- Safety, surveillance-camera by bridge
- Block parents
- Superior Points
- Prompt emergency service: cops, fire and ambulance
- Close to emergency services

Safety Issues: *(this list is a snapshot of comments from the discussion groups)*

Discussion group participants state safety concerns around prostitution, alcohol, drugs, gangs, crime, personal violence, fear, policing, traffic, dangerous physical environment, and animal control.

HOUSING ASSETS

- Geared to income housing
- Nice, small seniors' housing
- Affordable housing for people
- Architecture (steeple, crosses, and character homes)
- Cheap rents
- Shelter House for homeless
- Group homes
- Low rental rate

Housing Issues:

Bad buildings, neglected buildings and homes, moldy buildings, no good housing, poor housing conditions, falling ceilings, have to sleep on floor, lots of empty spaces, bad repairs, housing needs to upgrade the living standards, no addresses, absent landlords, need adequate and suitable housing, rooming houses and above bar apartments, halfway houses, and no effective enforcement of housing standards.

Statistical Information Ogden - East End Redevelopment Plan, 1976, states that in a survey of housing in the area, approximately 500 dwellings were found to be below minimum standards for exterior conditions. Furthermore:

"It is the feeling of many residents, particularly of the East End, that if this situation were to be remedied, the neighbourhood would improve substantially."

Community Planning Department cites (1990) that the average age of dwellings in the Simpson Street area is 1913. Over half of the housing in the study area was constructed prior to 1946.

Housing mix census tracts 6, 7, and 10.02 -nearly an equal mix of ownership

Homelessness

Income levels is the most significant contributor to the cause of homelessness. Five of the top six reasons given related to income:

1. Lack of sufficient funds each month
2. Affordability of accommodation
3. Availability of subsidized accommodation
4. Lack of work, and
5. Changes to the welfare system

Lack of Affordable Housing - Housing waiting lists indicate that many individuals and families are either in sub-standard, inappropriate housing or in accommodation that is costing them more than they can afford.

INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS

- Central location to services and recreation
- Historical Value-Nice Old buildings
- Architecture (i.e. cosmetic capital)
- Development opportunities
- Bus Routes (three with frequent service)
- ANC
- Charry's Corner-character
- Green spaces
- Simpson Boulevard
- Similarity to Gastown or Winnipeg's Osbourne Village
- Incremental cosmetic improvements (streetlights and paving stones)
- Streets (good traffic flow)
- NorWest Community Health Centre (good image for area)
- Quiet
- Clean
- Whalen Tug

Infrastructure Issues: *(this list is a snapshot of comments from the discussion groups)*

Bio-hazardous waste, Charry's corner eyesore, empty buildings and empty businesses between operating ones, some streets and alleys do not have lights, dirty streets and yards, graffiti, dumping of garbage, no public washrooms, neglect of capital: roads and potholes, blown over trees, inconsistent application of by-laws, lack of parking or difficult parking, broken sidewalks, trees growing over sidewalks, declining infrastructure, snowplowing and street cleaning, train shakes the houses, and bad bridge, and hotels causing businesses to close.

Statistical Information

- Neighbourhood Improvement Plans (NIP) between 1978-1984 resulted in funds being allocated to five areas in the city including Ogden-East End. Generally, NIP funds were invested into parks (50%), servicing (25%), administration (20%) and housing rehabilitation (5%). Private investment and public housing did not materialize.
- Simpson Street in 1992 benefited from PRIDE, and other federal/provincial money of 5 million with 2 million for servicing that focused on streetscape and typically involved installation of interlocking paving stones, trees, lights, and street furniture.
- Core Area Improvement Programs are financial assistance programs developed by the Planning Division, which are intended to encourage new construction and development in business zones. The program provides funds for building permit rebates, assessment increase rebates and funds for facade improvement loans.
- The neighbourhood measures 1,770 meters (North to South) and 815 meters (East to West) with the total land area approximately 300 acres or 123 hectares. Within this boundary there are 1,551 separate parcels of land, however, there are 1,512 street addresses, since about 40 are landlocked.

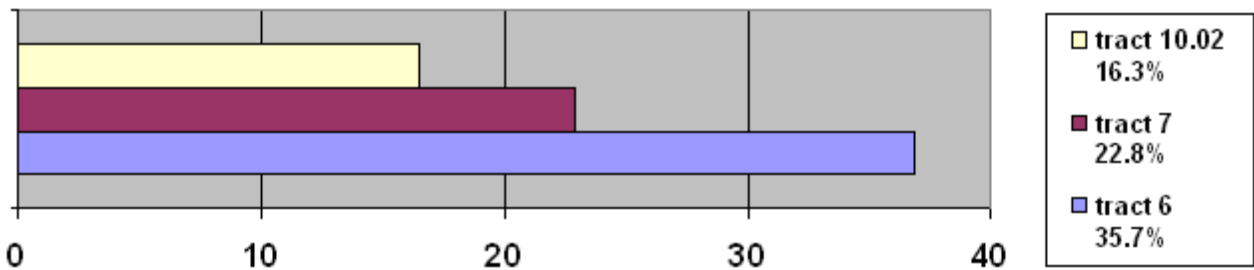
INCOME, POVERTY, AND ECONOMY ASSETS

- Regional Food Distribution Association
- NorWest Community Health Centre-Community and Soup Kitchen
- School Breakfast-St. Jude and Ogden School
- Free Clothing
- Thunder Bay Coalition Against Poverty
- Food Banks
- March of Dimes Store
- The Rock- homemade soup
- Business Approximately 150 diverse (unique blend) businesses are located within the boundaries
- Simpson Street Business Improvement Association (BIA)
- Restaurants
- Specialty Food Stores (Multicultural)
- Long-standing businesses (shopping)
- Small stores
- Malls (Victoriaville & Intercity)
- Development opportunities
- Banks, Ukrainian Credit Union, and Western Union
- Pawnshop
- Low rental rate
- Merchants want to be here with long-standing businesses

Poverty Issues: poverty heavy, basic needs first, hunger, nutrition, and needy people asking for money.

Economic and Income Issues: unemployment, closing and declining businesses, lack of business to attract people and promotion of a viable business section, services can be detrimental to business owners, economy of the city (large employers & big industries are closing, resulting in lost jobs), not enough jobs, work is far away, no quality jobs, lack of development, out-migration, closing businesses (retirees, no apprentices or new businessmen), businesses are struggling, so, the street is dying (clientele is changing, before 40 yrs ago: 90% of clients were from Simpson/Ogden area, Dease St. - East End, past 18 yrs, it is 10%, before they could get all their needs here), need better businesses (Victoriaville killed the business), business must do better & more in the neighbourhood, better access to things like groceries, shopping is difficult (no more transportation, no more phone ordering or deliveries), big store would make a better neighborhood, need coffee shop, more places for adults to have coffee & sandwiches, need a Laundromat (who wants to bring kids to the one in the bar).

Low Income for by Census Tract 2001



RECREATION ASSETS

- Ogden Community Centre
- Close to activities like Intercity Mall
- Parks (Minnesota Park with Widnall Pool, Charry Park in the East End, Kamistiqua River Heritage Park, Friendship Gardens and Paterson Park)
- Walking distance to social activities
- Community halls (Royal Canadian Legion, Elks, Prosvita, Polish, Ukrainian)
- Close to green space at Ogden School and St. Luke's
- Underground Gym (keeps kids off streets, pizza night, controls drugs, police check kids over 18, no swearing-respectful, no gangs, helps kids with drugs, alcohol, divorce, etc, has workout equipment/computers)
- Thunder Bay Multi-cultural Youth Association
- Ice cream truck
- Boys and Girls Club
- Good place to walk
- CLE
- Fort William Gardens
- Silver City movies
- Basketball courts
- Cadets
- Dease Pool
- Bowling alley
- Central location
- Rink
- Street hockey
- Neighbourhood events (Riverfest)
- Bingo
- Kayaking in the Neebing river
- Conservation area
- Thunder Bay Recreational Centre

Recreation Issues: better place for children to play, parks left to last-swings not put up, bullying in the playgrounds, need affordable recreation, no recreation facility for youths, no activities for children, not enough activities in general, need for men's/women's, and older adult programs, places to hang out, drop in centre for all needs, and supervision for youth programs, lack of youth-oriented recreational services (space & programs, no proactive investment, expect higher numbers of youth family from remote areas), nothing to do, need things for the kids to do, lack of children's & teens' programs, need family-oriented activities, need hang-out for adults, not enough close-captioned screens (device for the deaf) at Silver City, and kid's programming with family subsidies (like city employee discounts).

SERVICES, EDUCATION AND SOCIAL CONCERNS

1. Social mentioned 19 times
2. Political and legal aspects were mentioned 11 times
3. Health was mentioned 10 times
4. Education was mentioned 7 times
5. Services were mentioned 4 times



SOCIAL ASSETS

- Pride of citizens in the neighbourhood
- Rich History
- Vibrant and cohesive village culture
- Long-term residents with strong roots
- Diverse residents
- Much to offer (language)
- Mobile population
- People and good friendships
- Youth
- Childcare
- Many friends in the neighbourhood

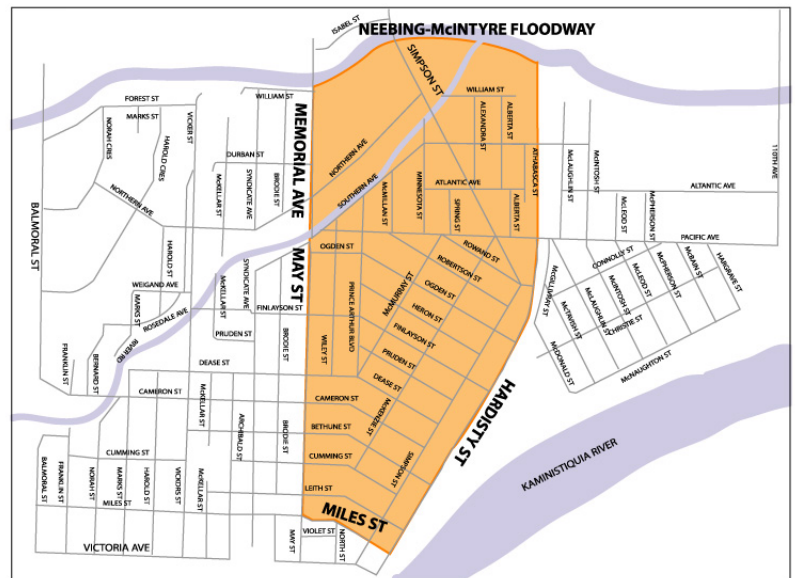
- Open and friendly people
- Multicultural
- Many volunteer services and volunteerism
- Shared interest (development & communication)
- Neighbourhood has a heart
- Neighbours watch out for, look after, and help one another
- Family support with illness
- Faith based organizations (*Thunder Bay Christian Community Centre, Knox United, Dease St. Centre, St. Lukes Anglican, New Life Christain Fellowship, and ringing church bells*)

Social Issues: Family: changes in family values, family breakdown, young single mothers living on government support, transient families, children using profane language, and child abuse **Ethnic Division:** lack of partnerships with Aboriginal people **Alienation:** isolation **Psychological:** negative perception of the neighbourhood, stigma of the neighbourhood (media-induced paranoia), stigma of Simpson Street (negative, unsafe, fear), negative attitudes/stigmatization of youth, racism, labeling people, and hurtful assumptions, image of the area as cheap/poor/tough “fringe element”, easy prey for gangs, labeled as a bad part of town so people drive through and do not stop, and ignorance of the situation. **Diversity:** racism.

Statistical Information The ANC area population is 1246 residential lots x 2.17= 2,700 persons. Adjusting for some occupancy in multiples and above commercial (200 x 1.6) increases total to 3,200 persons. The ANC area is comprised of a portion of each census tracts (6, 7, and 10.02).

- 23% of the study population is children and youth 0-24 years of age.

Under 6	670
6-14	850
15-17	260
18-24	355
- 10% or 655 of the population is over 65 years of age.
- The population of Thunder Bay has declined 4.1% 1996-2003.



Census Year	Tract 6	Tract 7	Tract 10.2	City
1996 population	1,037	5,410	3539	113,662
2001 population	835	5,048	3374	109,016

POLITICAL ASSETS

- Legal Aid (Victoriaville)
- City Hall
- Involvement at grassroots level

Political Issues: citizen apathy, need for Aboriginal support, lack of information and communication, lack of political support, need for training in advocacy, planning, and funding, and ANC.

HEALTH ASSETS

- NorWest Community Health Centre (Senior's Lunch, transportation, speakers, recipe exchange, walk-in, programs for kids, and good image for the area)
- Medical care and treatment
- Health Unit
- Superior Points (support, counseling, and needle exchange)
- Hearing Society

Health Issues: Within the study area there is not a dentist, optometrist, or pharmacy, no hospital in area, no safe injection site, no specialized health care, no consistent medical care with family doctor, health practitioners not sensitive to needs, no centralized place to access service, service providers should go to clients not vice versa, need for timely health care, no public washrooms, public urination rodents, dog feces, condoms in back lanes, alcohol addiction, drug abuse, parents do not know where to turn for youth substance abuse, needles openly discarded, need travel subsidies for medical appointments; help to fill forms for Ontario disability, and health care professionals mislabeling a patient as drug addict.

EDUCATION ASSETS

- St. Jude School (JK-6) established 1966
- Ogden Community School (JK-6) established 1902 rebuilt in 1973
- Good education
- Vigilant teachers at St. Jude
- Canadian Broadcast Corporation
- Library

Education Issues: closing of schools, lack of education, half of school population is transient, attendance and punctuality, lack of educational resources, no training for work skills, more technology for youths needed, resources for urban social skills for youths, and literacy.

SERVICE ASSETS

- Diverse services
- Group homes (Kairos)
- March of Dimes
- Hearing Society
- Shelter House
- Food banks
- Mahmowenchike Day Care
- The Rock (mom and tot program)
- Family Centre
- Catholic Development Centre
- Ishaawin native counseling centre
- Native Language Table
- Accessible childcare

Solutions to address the issues in the Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood will be able to be posted on www.ideasthunderbay.ca. This website can act as an idea generator for this neighbourhood as well as the city of Thunder Bay. It is hoped that the ideas generated will promote new businesses, services, and projects.

Action for Neighbourhood Change

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anc@unitedway-tbay.on.ca

www.anccommunity.ca



***ENGAGE ALL
To make this
neighbourhood
vision a reality,
community input
and information is
needed.***

***Please contact ANC
staff about how you
can help!***

Volunteers are needed for:

- Advisory committee
- Special event planning
- ANC communications
- Administrative tasks
- Resource developer
- Data collection
- Policy committee

**To volunteer
please call
626-1765**

Service Issues: lack of partnerships with Aboriginal people, not enough input and participation, no coordinated and concerted effort to include all resources working toward one goal-leading to a big black funding hole, need more policing, duplication of services (competing services), lack of information about who can help what, and getting people to services, need services to be more responsive to needs; not be treated like a head count; neighbourhood web site needed; no entry point for resources; Child and Youth Services around lack of opportunities for jobs, trades, etc. for youths; youth services need more supervision and discipline, has bullies; Youth services need more support to do more; positive things for teens aged 12-18; and free after-school program, services only helps during hours it is open, but not after hours; no services for high-risk Aboriginal women, Aboriginal women find it hard to be self-sustaining; family support for Northern Aboriginals; no AA or such services; better access to transportation for people with disabilities; Hagi schedule is rigid; \$22 taxi fare to the hospital; bus drivers abuse, ignore, & disrespect elders; bus drivers taken off to fast; hard to access busses, due to busy road; and busses don't access all areas.

LEADERS

A list of leaders for the Simpson-Ogden Neighbourhood is being generated. To protect the privacy of those listed ANC will contact the individuals to determine if they are comfortable with their name being shared. The leaders are those perceived by stakeholders. This list will be further developed for invitations to join work around the five priority areas to be considered for future activities. The leaders identified to date come from these categories: general, religious, cultural, educators, health providers, welfare providers, economic leaders, politicians, academics, media, military, law and law enforcement, other professionals, recreation providers, youth and youth organizations, community organizations, respected figures, those who are committed to improvement, the residents, and those in the public eye.

CONCLUSIONS

This report was prepared with the thought that stakeholders would be able to make the best decisions around priorities if they were provided with information. Because the stakeholders living and working in the neighbourhood are seen as the experts on the context in which they live the undertaking of a qualitative analysis was chosen over quantitative to capture the expertise and be able to illustrate opinions and perceptions rather than numerical analysis. The Simpson-Ogden neighbourhood is a complex interface of diversity around economic, social, cultural, life experiences, and individual stories in which local expertise and commitment is needed to work within the tight timelines of ANC.

Materials referenced will be made available upon request.
Please phone 626-1765 or anc@unitedway-tbay.on.ca