THANKS TO OUR GENEROUS DONORS, MERCHANTS CORNER IS TAKING SHAPE!

Assiniboine Credit Union has also made a significant commitment of $50,000 toward the Merchants Corner project. For many years, Assiniboine Credit Union has been very involved in supporting community economic development and neighbourhood revitalization, something that is known to many in our communities. They opened a branch here in the North End when bank closures left our community without access to financial services, they work with community partners to help those without access to financial services become members in the credit union, and they invest additional resources through grants such as these to support initiatives that positively impact our communities.

To date we have raised just under $2 million dollars in donations! This is over and above the more than $15 million that has been contributed towards the project by the provincial government through Manitoba Housing and Community Development. This is an amazing collective effort, but we are not done yet. The community continues to raise another $1 million to go towards technology infrastructure and community programming and training within the complex, including a community kitchen and social enterprise café fronting onto Selkirk Avenue.

All financial gifts however big or small are appreciated. We are also seeking corporate donors willing to help furnish the educational and community spaces including computer equipment. Coming soon: watch for our crowd funding campaign.
The original three storey Merchants building, constructed in 1913, is being converted to a mix of affordable housing and educational uses. The interior of the existing Merchants Hotel has now been gutted, leaving the façade. Most of that work has been done by local labour. Hiring local workers continues to be a central feature of the construction work. Construction is slated for early March on the south side and early April on the north side, and we expect to be teaching in Merchants Corner by September, 2017. Redevelopment of Merchants Corner is led by a community-based steering group that includes broad stakeholder and resident input. The mixed-use housing and education project is guided by the principles of community economic development and respect for Indigenous culture.