An Analysis of Race Relations in
Saskatoon Saskatchewan:

The Contributions of the Housing Sector

Presented to:
Bridges and Foundations Project on
Urban Aboriginal Housing

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ABSRACT

Race is a distinguishable feature within the community of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Saskatoon is unique in that it serves one of the largest populations of Aboriginal people in Canada. It is also unique in that Saskatoon has one of the largest percentages of Aboriginal people at or below the poverty level. Moreover, the community design of Saskatoon maintains much of the Aboriginal population concentrated within deteriorating and specific neighborhoods, while development persists in more affluent communities.

This paper examines how the housing sector specifically relates to the Aboriginal community and to the perpetuation of racial inequalities. To do so, the disparities between groups, as well as studies on the quality of life among communities, will be presented. The result of these differentiations will be translated to the housing sector, including a discussion of effects of segregated residential patterns and the contribution to racial tensions. Recommendations of mixed neighborhoods will be presented in the effort to encourage equitable and safe communities and the development of new affordable housing options.

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A race relations intern was contracted by the Bridges and Foundations CURA Project on Urban Aboriginal Housing to explore the fundamental racial inequalities of the Aboriginal community and the connection to the housing industry within the city of Saskatoon. Moreover, this internship was to serve the mandate of Bridges and Foundations in the attempt to create research, policies, and partnerships that might establish affordable housing options for Aboriginal people, as well as to improve discourse in the community of Saskatoon, in the effort to reduce discrimination that Aboriginal people currently face in the housing sector (Thomarat, 2004).

This specific discussion of race relations is focused within the urban center of Saskatoon. The term "Aboriginal" refers to those whom identify themselves with Aboriginal descent, according to Statistics Canada census data. This grouping is not conceived as homogenous as it includes all peoples identifying as: North American Indian, treaty and non-treaty; the Métis; Inuit; and those with multiple groupings (Statistics Canada, 2001). The expression "non-Aboriginal" refers generally to the majority population in the dominant position of power, largely with European ancestry.

The broad assumption is that racial relations in Saskatoon suffer as a result of differences between these two broad groupings. The observed differences in neighborhood dynamics include: demographics, level of quality of life indicators, quality and affordability of housing, and income differentiations. The contrasts between the Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities are specifically examined.

Several surveys were conducted within the inner-city communities in Saskatoon on behalf of the Bridges and Foundations Project. A survey was therefore developed specifically for this study and conducted on a sample of east side neighborhood residents. This survey worked to more broadly evaluate issues surrounding race relations, the development of affordable housing, and community dynamics in the city of Saskatoon as a whole. The results of these interviews are referred to throughout the following discussion. As well, full explanation of the survey process and questions employed in the interviews can be found in the attachments of this paper.

The general conclusions of this discussion indicate the non-sustainability of current residential patterns paying particular attention to issues connected to residential segregation. Furthermore, this discussion makes suggestions and identifies issues related to the development of Aboriginal affordable housing outside the inner city and focuses on creating more diverse neighborhoods throughout Saskatoon. The potential for partnerships are indicated as essential to achieve more equality and opportunity for Aboriginal residents within the communities of Saskatoon.

The discussion and suggestions revealed in this paper are by no means expected to provide definitive answers to such complex social issues as inequality. Every new alternative creates new obstacles, not to mention further opportunities to discuss the pathway towards greater equality and improved racial relations. It is difficult to make assumptions on how the process towards equality will end, as it is evident that we, as a society, have much work to do and many commitments to make.

1.0   INTRODUCTION

The urban center of Saskatoon, Saskatchewan requires a genuine discussion about racial equality. This center is in the midst of a rapid demographic change but there exists a widespread perception that either nothing needs to be done about race, or nothing can be done because of failures in our histories. Some people believe that issues of discrimination have been solved and that everyone now has equal opportunities.

Saskatoon maintains communities with evident concentrations of poverty, severely decaying housing stocks, hungry children with poor school achievements, and an increase of crime. Although there are serious differences in average income levels among Saskatoon neighborhoods, these communities are segregated not only by economics but also by race.

Before there can be any real understanding of the meaning of segregation in this urban center, there must be some discussion of how serious the problem is, what it is related to, and the subsequent effects. This report will explore the severe educational, employment, economic, criminal and other consequences of segregation and inequality.

This report furthers the issue of racial inequality outside congested inner-city neighborhoods. While the revitalization of inner-city communities is important, it does not encourage or force our society to face the challenges of racism. Racism and stereotypes are perpetuated, allowing for poverty and growing disparities among people to continue. While the efforts and energies of those working within the inner-city are essential and must be supported, housing options and opportunities need to be expanded for Aboriginal people outside traditional parameters.

The patterns of inequality and exclusion are neither healthy nor inevitable but they are obviously deeply rooted and self-perpetuating. The existing pattern is a result of a history of discrimination. It is not likely to change without the commitment of local leadership and government policies. The impact of racial segregation and concentration of poverty can be seen within the city of Saskatoon. Perpetuating the pattern of our grim histories in future housing developments is not recommended. Improved housing options and community development will also improve the position and opportunities for the growing Aboriginal population in Saskatoon, and with this, much potential to reduce racial tensions.

2.0   OVERVIEW OF THE SASKATOON URBAN CENTER

The global trend of urbanization has shaped and changed our social realities. One of the consequences of this process is the concentration of resources and opportunities within urban centers. The pull of resources from rural areas has consequently pushed a growing number of diverse people toward growing urban centers. These augmented migration patterns significantly contributed to the changing dynamics and pressures of our cities.

In 2001, the Census Metropolitan Area of Saskatoon measured 5,192 square miles, with a population density of 43.5 km² (Statistics Canada, 2001). However, Saskatoon recently expanded territory, particularly at the eastern outskirts to provide for its growth (City of Saskatoon, 2004). According to 2001 census data, Saskatoon CMA had a total population of 222,635. Among this population, those identifying with an Aboriginal identity number 20,275, representing 9.11% of the total population. This percentage represents the largest population of Aboriginal people in any urban center across Canada (Populace, 2001).

During the five year period of 1996 to 2001, the population within Saskatoon has grown by 3.1%. Much of this growth is a result of urbanization. Aboriginal people, in particular, have contributed considerably to this growth due to large migration patterns as a result of the lack of opportunity and options in reserve communities (Frideres, 2001: 151; Ohirko, 2004; Muskeg Lake, 2004). In 1996, Statistics Canada recorded a 6.6% growth of the Aboriginal community within Saskatoon and an increase to 7.3% in 2001 (Statistics Canada, 2001). These migration figures indicate an Aboriginal community growing at a significantly higher rate than the non-Aboriginal population (FSIN, 2001).

The demographic profiles of this considerable and growing population within Saskatoon are younger, with 40% under 15 years of age compared to 22% within the non-Aboriginal community. This group is also characterized with a rise in the female sector of the population, particularly those in child bearing years, along with a 65% poverty rate (Statistics Canada, 2001). It is projected that by 2035, the Aboriginal population will make up 44% of labor force in Saskatoon (FSIN, 2001). Pressures on the city of Saskatoon are certainly mounting. The results of these changing demographics of a large young population, as well

continuing migration, will place increasing demands on the housing market.

Much of the Aboriginal population in Saskatoon (80%) is concentrated on the west side of the city, with percentages up to 30% in some neighborhoods (City of Saskatoon, 1999). On the east side, the presence of Aboriginal people is drastically lower, ranging from 0% up to 10% in the most diverse neighborhoods. A physical divide separates the city. The North Saskatchewan River flows through the center of the city, functioning as a natural topical barrier dividing the west side neighborhoods from the east side neighborhoods. Idylwyld Drive distinctively runs parallel to this physical barrier and has been identified as "the great divide" (Saskatoon Star Phoenix, 2004). Land development and infrastructure aggressively persists in the eastern direction, while those working and living on the west side consistently complain of lack of services (Aboriginal Neighborhood Survey, 2004; Whitecap, 2004).

This progression of residential planning in Saskatoon is much in line with the urban theory of the concentric zone model (Burgess, 1925). This theory suggests that the growth of outlying areas creates a differential effect as the outer suburbs are of a different design and composition than the inner core area. With this type of urban design, the inner core is often poor, surrounded by increasingly wealthy neighborhoods (Clinard, 1970: 20). Although outdated and flawed in its conception of race divisions as natural rather than socially constructed, the argument is correct in the description of differentiation observed in Saskatoon and the channeling of resources toward the affluent and outlying suburbs. The growth of wealthy neighborhoods on the outskirts surrounding low income neighborhoods within the center produces severe differentiations and lack of cohesion among communities. In sum, the concentration of poverty in many core neighborhoods creates serious community differences and social, economic and political tensions.

2.1   DIFFERENTIATIONS OF NEIGHBORHOODS

A neighborhood is not just special territory, but also represents a matrix of social relations with wider symbolic and ideological meanings. The physical form of housing and community design literally represents the social structures and values of the society which produces it (Valentine, 2001). The term community is often intrinsically linked to neighborhood, and although controversial and dynamic in meaning, it is useful to conceive community simply as social groupings. Community members affect community identity by shaping it with their values and capabilities. As people produce and endow these values which dictate the level of quality of life, it is important to explore the differentiations of Saskatoon neighborhoods. The differentiations found in our communities represent the differentiations within our society and relations as a whole.

2.1.1 Income:

Evidence and literature supports the fact that income polarization and economic inequalities are growing across Canadian cities (Pendakur and Pendakur, 1998; Maxim, White, Beavon, 2003; Royal Commission, 1996). In the study of income differentials, the Federation of Canadian Municipalities indicated Saskatoon as a prominent example of a pattern developing among urban centers in Canada; the concentration of low and high income sectors contained largely within specific neighborhoods (Federation of Municipalities, 2003). The majority of low income neighborhoods are concentrated in the southwest section of the city, while affluent neighborhoods are within the eastern periphery. These residential patterns encourage growing polarities.

Saskatoon has further income polarization among its population. Saskatoon's large and rapidly growing Aboriginal population makes up a disproportionate share of low income families in Saskatoon, with the largest representation within the lowest sector of the economy, while seriously under represented in the highest sectors. The City of Saskatoon Aboriginal Profiles (1999) indicated that over 2/3 of the Aboriginal population has an income under $20,000, 1/3 of those are under $10,000. Furthermore, the median total income of Aboriginal persons fifteen years of age and older is $12,437 (Statistics Canada, 2001). For the non-Aboriginal population, the median total income is almost doubled at $21,605 with only 5% under the $10,000 marker and only 10% under $20,000. Almost 10% of the non-Aboriginal community reaches an income

level of $100,000; while a mere 0.8% of the Aboriginal community shares this category (City of Saskatoon, 1999). Refer to figures 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3. This differentiation has not only been devastating to the Aboriginal people, but also to the relations and perceptions within the Saskatoon community as a whole.

The income differentials of neighborhoods in Saskatoon are spatially evident. The five highest median income neighborhoods are found east of the river, while the five poorest are found on the west side. By comparing the average income of these most affluent neighborhoods (Briarwood, Erindale, Arbor Creek, Lakeview, and Lakeridge) and the average income of the five poorest neighborhoods (Kelsey/ Woodlawn, Airport Industrial, Riversdale, Pleasant Hill, and Confederation Park), the figures indicate that the highest sector makes 5.7 times that of the lowest sector (FCM, 2003). The median income of the top income earning neighborhood in Saskatoon, namely Briarwood, is $128,715, while the median income for the poorest income earning neighborhood, Pleasant Hill, is $20,670 (City of Saskatoon, 1999). Pleasant Hill has the largest population of Aboriginal people; while in contrast, there is not a single percentage of Aboriginal families living in Briarwood (City of Saskatoon, 1999). Numbers indicate the serious differences between the highest and lowest sector of Saskatoon's communities; however, the geography of Saskatoon makes these disparities easy to ignore.

2.1.2 Quality of Life:

The evidence of increasing disparities and gaps between the lowest and the highest income communities has sparked interest from academics to policy makers in the attempt to create and measure so-called quality of life indicators. Such indicators for assessment include: adequate physical wellbeing, perceptions of wellbeing, basic level of satisfaction, sense of self worth, as well as: social, environmental, economic, and political opportunities and positions. The goal of quality of life indicators is to measure and discourage the growing number of high poverty neighborhoods by improving the equitable distribution quality of life in the effort to achieve a healthy, sustainable community (CUISR, 2001).

The Community-University Institute for Social Research at the University of Saskatchewan (CUISR) has been developing and supporting quality of life research in Saskatoon. Their research concerning factors which enhance or detract from quality of life was collected from 2000-2001 in the form of telephone surveys, focus groups, and face to face interviews with

residents from low, moderate, and high income neighborhoods. A briefing paper was prepared for the Quality of Life Public Policy Forum, held in 2001. A follow-up to the 2001 research is currently being prepared.

Findings indicate a positive relationship between income and quality of life; as income increases, so does quality of life. Furthermore, as quality of life increases, so does the satisfaction with neighborhood, housing, income, health and services. In summary, all quality of life indicators were met with satisfaction within the medium to high income level neighborhoods. The main concern within these neighborhoods relate to income levels, accumulation of goods and materialism in relation to others (CUISR: Briefing Paper, 2001). For those residents in the low income neighborhoods, housing, safety, security and the perception of self as inadequate to others, were all considered detrimental to quality of life (CUISR: Briefing Paper, 2001). Furthermore, the decrease in quality of life indicators, such as housing, reproducing feelings of loss of dignity and self respect (CUISR: Briefing Paper, 2001).

2.1.3 Housing:

The city's growing dual residential pattern is encouraged by the steady increase in the qualitative and quantitative value of housing. Reportedly, Saskatoon has had the highest increase in the average home selling price in Canada in 1997, 1998, and 1999, compounded by the lowest recorded vacancy rates in 1999 and 2000 at 0.7% (FCM, 2003). There has been some improvement in vacancy rates, to 1.7% in recent years; however this rate is still considerably below the ideal vacancy rate of 3% (City of Saskatoon, 2001). Furthermore, failure to continually upgrade existing housing stock also contributes to the process of disinvestment and the shrinking of capital in some neighborhoods. This disinvestment, particularly within older inner city neighborhoods, is creating a crisis situation where families are occupying substandard housing.

The publication, Keeping the Plan Alive (2002), indicated that 16.5% of Saskatoon households are in core need, meaning that they are paying over 30% of household incomes on adequate housing and thereby are "unable to afford shelter that meets adequate, suitable and affordability norms" (CMHC, 2003). Of the Aboriginal population, 37.4% are in core need, translating to 8,000 residents (City of Saskatoon, 2002). Again to illustrate community differentials, Pleasant Hill, with a 44% Aboriginal composition, has a 25.5% homeownership rate, with an average home selling price of $54,107 (City of Saskatoon, 1998). In contrast, Briarwood,

with a 0% Aboriginal population, has a 100% homeownership rate, with $225,624 as the average home selling price (City of Saskatoon, 1998). In general, the higher the Aboriginal concentration, the fewer the owner occupier, and the lower the ownership rate with less new construction or development.

As market prices are steadily increasing, high end housing developments are flourishing, while disinvestment in some neighborhoods are creating substandard living conditions. This contributes to a growing crisis of the shortage of quality, affordable housing. The lack of investment and homeownership is a concern for inner city communities. Community stability and homeownership contributes to community cohesion and a sense belonging. Furthermore, it also encourages political, social and economic participation while contributing to a higher quality of life as stakeholders in the community. Social cohesion increases as people develop local connections, relationships and support that stabilize communities and their residents.

2.1	Non-Sustainability:

Wilkinson (1973) and Lynch and Kaplan (1998) concur that high degrees of income inequalities create racial tensions and stereotypes. An increase of the lowest economic social sector supported by government transfers, does not only translate to higher taxes and transfers to maintain the growing poor, it also contributes to class and racial tensions. Furthermore, maintaining a sector of the population below the poverty level creates even greater social problems. It is far more advisable to maintain standards and commit to improve the conditions of this sector of the population in order to create a stronger more viable foundation for future growth. With a stronger social position and greater economic contribution of our Aboriginal people, reduced resentments and tensions among communities will likely occur.

The existing residential trend creates further divisions and worsens race and class polarities. The continued maintenance in the City's west section of lower income neighborhoods and substandard housing creates the implication that Saskatoon is sustaining and encouraging residential differentials. Graham & Peters (2002) warns us of the dangers of split populations. They confirm that as inequalities between communities perpetuate, the resulting lack of social and political cohesion creates a tense environment. Such an environment increases the susceptibility to crime, violence, and threats to public safety, as well silencing important minority issues including poverty and inequalities. The current inequalities in Saskatoon are compounded by spatial inequalities further encouraging such dangers.

3.0   RESIDENTIAL SEGREGATION: Discussion

As suburban housing opportunities increase, more affluent people are moving further out to suburban communities, particularly in the east and south eastern areas of Saskatoon. Accordingly, core need neighborhoods, with a high concentration of Aboriginal people, are also increasing with the increasing migration of Aboriginal people. This trend separates communities, not only by race but also by poverty rate. Moreover, this tendency can be expected to expand, and more housing options in the core neighborhoods demanded, as the Aboriginal

population is increasing relatively faster than the non-Aboriginal population.

The growing residential differentiation makes a discussion of residential segregation useful. Urban centers increasingly apply exclusionary policies where suburbs are characteristically separating and isolating people based on economics, race, or other status differences (Dasgupta, 2000). The separation of communities encourages community conflict, unequal access to resources, misconceptions and other social consequences. The lack of affordable housing options throughout the city of Saskatoon creates isolation for some communities and residential segregation for others. Segregation of communities is not only widespread and predominant within developing urban centers; the effects violate our widely respected and highly regarded fundamental human rights, such as equality and freedom of choice. Furthermore, segregated residential patterns create poorer life chances and opportunities to residents.

3.1 Separating people

The rising demand for affordable housing further suggests that the gaps among communities are increasing. Politics of exclusion have created a bad image of "affordable housing". Some residents resist integrated or affordable housing in their neighborhoods for fear of demographic change, worries over property values and the invasion of the poor (Spence, 2004). What escapes the minds of many is the fundamental right to decent and affordable housing, as well as the gross injustice being served to a growing number of people by not providing affordable housing in communities with quality services. Diversifying neighborhoods would, perhaps, create a greater social consciousness to the flaws of our advanced capitalist society, such as poverty and inequalities.

3.2   Isolating poverty

A wide perception exists that poverty is the problem of the poor, forcing the poor to bear responsibility for the fundamental failings of our modern structure. Poverty is intrinsic to the very structure of the global economy. There is not a remote chance that poverty will be abolished under our current social arrangement (Seabrook, 2003:21). Trends indicated in this discussion suggest that the degree of poverty will actually increase. The perceptions of deprivation or scarcity of resources is entirely ideological, as can be seen by the growing indulgence and affluence of some, while

a growing number of others continue with a lessening of resources. Simply put, in a closed economic system, if some are gaining more, others must have less. The segregation of poverty pushes the overwhelming imagery of the poor out of sight, allowing for the pressures for major changes in social and housing policies to be resisted or ignored.

3.3   Subsequent Effects

The segregation of poverty creates misconceptions and stereotypes, but mostly segregation exacerbates other social problems such as: crime, poor education, lack of municipal services, obstacles to job opportunities, disempowerment and withdrawal from community involvement, including political participation. Furthermore, poverty- related social problems, such as crime, dramatically increase with the concentration of poverty. These grossly unequal living conditions and the subsequent lower quality of life and life choices, creates a dependency on monetary support and tensions among communities. The discussion of segregation is important for a number of reasons as it has a significant impact on other social phenomena.

3.3.1   Educational Achievement

Quality and security of housing are inextricably linked to educational success. Several studies demonstrate a direct link between inadequate housing or homelessness and the lack of educational achievement (see: Haven and Wolfe, 1992) Children simply can not be expected to fulfill individual potential while dealing with concerns connected to substandard or lack of housing. When a continuity of education is disrupted by excessive residential mobility, academic performance significantly decreases. This process could be particularly damaging if relocation occurs during adolescence, due to considerations of peer group pressures, the development of identity, or social isolation. Moreover, mobility and student turn-over is detrimental to teaching strategies as it creates discontinuity, instability and disruption within the classroom (Kerbow, 2002).

Both inner-city school administrators and academic experts agree that the vast majority of school mobility, and academic failure, is the result of housing instability (Blunt, 2004; Kerbow, 2002). The community-based organization, Community Solutions for Children Not in School, reported that on average, elementary school children living in the inner-city switch schools three times per school year, with inadequate housing being the major reason (City of Saskatoon, 2001). Stability and security are necessary requirement for a developing child to thrive. Policy and development plans must focus on stabilizing housing arrangements.

The Gaultreaux program in Chicago is an example of the benefits of attending school in a more stable community. The program provided affordable housing to African-American single mothers in suburban neighborhoods. The children who moved into these more stable and affluent neighborhoods were four times less likely to drop out of school, and twice as likely to attend college. They were much more likely to be employed during high school, to graduate and to obtain stable employment and a decent wage with benefits (Rothstein, 2002). Housing with a proximity to quality education connected these children to opportunities which are systematically different for those children in the inner-city.

3.3.2 Crime and Gang Activity

Resident surveys within the inner-city neighborhoods demonstrate the serious situation people face in respect to crime and deteriorating neighborhoods (SIIT, 2004). The connections between poverty and crime have long been recognized. The general assumption is that a higher concentration of poverty equates to a higher degree of criminal activity (Shaw & McKay, 1942). There is a high degree of poverty among Saskatoon's Aboriginal population. Racial segregation concentrates poverty and therefore crime. Furthermore, the industrial organization theory suggests that the competitive nature of capitalism encourages conflict among races (Sheppard, 2001). The predictable development of the "gang" within impoverished areas would be a likely response to the competition which drives the capitalist system, creating conflict over territory and resources (Cozic, 1996:45).

When communities with high crime rates are also of high Aboriginal population, stereotypes form, linking the concept of criminality to the Aboriginal characteristic. However, deviant behavior and crime are NOT inherent properties of the individual, rather a result of a series of internal and external forces (Friedman, 2002). Simply put, Aboriginal people are not by nature more deviant or criminal than the mainstream Whites. Criminality has much more to do with environmental factors, such as poverty; or internal factors, such as necessary or expected behavior, to ensure survival in a competitive model. Crime is largely rooted not in race but in the structural differences among communities.

The crime rate itself is a source of residential segregation. As people who can afford to move to escape crime, economic segregation is increased

as crime is increased. The crime rate unsurprisingly varies among neighborhoods. As the 2003 crime statistics of the Saskatoon police services indicate, there are concentrations of criminal offences within the most impoverished areas of the inner-city. Comparing the crime rates between high and low diversity neighborhoods, it is evident that the inner-city neighborhoods are certainly exposed to a higher degree of violent crimes than any other neighborhood in Saskatoon (Figures 2.1, 2.2, 2.3). Exposure and tolerance to crime certainly is part of the process which spatially separates people and leads to disparate residential outcomes.

The social conditions and economic struggles observed within the inner-city contribute to weakened social norms and authority which could effectively control crime. Sgt. Grant Obst of the Saskatoon Police Services suggests that the police themselves cannot control crime. He suggests that a reduction in crime must come from the will of the community (Obst, 2004). In sum, the differentials and structural inequalities among people and communities can be expected to continue and will likely increase the level of criminal activity in high poverty neighborhoods.

3.3.3 Economics

The concentration of poor residents creates communities with low property and tax bases, in turn benefiting from fewer public resources and services. The concentration of poverty ensures that inner-city neighborhoods do not have the economic strength to support a sufficient retail sector, so goods within the inner-city are either unavailable or over priced. The focus of inner-city development needs to be the encouragement and growth of inner-city based businesses, as well as nearby employment opportunities for inner-city residents. A sustainable economic base can be created in the inner-city, but will rely on encouragements and incentives by government, Aboriginal agencies, and local authorities to create a competitive advantage for investment initiatives. To build healthy and sustainable inner-city communities, it is necessary to create healthy economies in and near the communities themselves. Naturally, as job opportunities increase, Aboriginal people will be better able to achieve the necessities of life such as wealth, power, prestige, education, health care, respect, and in turn, are better able to contribute to a larger degree to the community as a whole.

High unemployment rates and segregation of poverty creates perceptions that economic success is unattainable, weakening traditional societal norms. Children and adolescents without positive role models are

susceptible to a cycle of poverty. Furthermore, unemployment is highly correlated to juvenile delinquency and the spread of the informal market (Friedman, 2002). An increased misfortune to the future of young residents of these neighborhoods would be the progression toward ghetto formation. An urban ghetto is commonly defined as an area where 40% or more of residents are poor (Jargowsky and Bane, 2004). Some Saskatoon neighborhoods are near this level of poverty, and show signs of ghettoization. The subculture that develops to respond to these desperately impoverished conditions promises few life chances for those residents within such communities. Economic development plays an intrinsic role in reducing segregation and formation of an urban ghetto.

3.3.4 Political Exclusion

There is an inherent contradiction between power and poverty. Those within poverty are realistically and symbolically isolated from political spheres. It is argued that the political isolation of poor inner city residents, and the resultant apathy toward municipal affairs, leads to a loss of power by the minority group and a diminishment in the share of local public services it can command (Pascal, 1989). It is alleged that poorer neighborhoods are short-changed in public services such as sanitation, recreation, transportation, education and fire and police protection (Dasgupta, 2000). Without the power to enforce one's will, those within poverty must rely on the empathy of those with power to place their needs on the political agenda. The situation of our urban context represents both a challenge to the political system and our social order.

The change of our cities' social and cultural texture is of great significance in understanding where our societies are heading. There have been increasing demands for Aboriginal people to have control over the institutions which affect Aboriginal lives. This is likely a progressive move in light of fundamental claims for self-determination. However, this important transfer of responsibility ignores the more subtle benefits of meaningful communication between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, particularly those with political power. This progression suggests the separation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people within important institutions. Political, economic, and social partnerships would perhaps instead reduce the direction of further isolation and segregation of Aboriginal people from society as a whole.

3.4 Voluntary segregation

The propensity toward voluntary segregation is both natural and understandable. Minority cultures can be expected to a degree to create separate communities to a degree. Homogeneous communities become cohesive when people share a culture, common experiences, histories, and kinship ties. Community "sameness" also permits easier communication and understandings, encouraging the establishment of support and services for the population. Segregation is not necessarily harmful; its outcome is dependant upon the condition and attitudinal factors of the community. The already established Aboriginal communities

provide an opportunity for Saskatoon to develop and support our Aboriginal people by focusing on rebuilding these neighborhoods.

As explored above, Saskatoon segregates much of its poor in a section of core need neighborhoods. When the effects or motivation of segregation are detrimental, segregation negatively affects racial perceptions across the whole community, creating stereotypes and stigmas. Though voluntary segregation plays some role in residential choice, race prejudice of non-Aboriginals toward Aboriginals, as well as Aboriginals toward non-Aboriginals, in addition to the intolerance of the rich toward the poor, and visa versa, bears a substantial responsibility for the observed segregation in housing (Pascal, 1989). Furthermore, when asked, only 0.6% of the surveyed members of the Aboriginal community expressed a preference to live in neighborhoods with a high Aboriginal proportion (Aboriginal Neighborhood Survey, 2004).

3.5   Future of residential segregation

The future of racial residential segregation patterns will depend on a number of factors, including the changing of racial attitudes and perceptions, the strength of the tendency towards the increase of disparities in socio-economics between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, the relative rate of population growth between the two populations, and importantly, factors and policies regarding the housing market. The propensity of disparities relies largely on the commitment of leaders and those in positions of power. As previously discussed, the growth of the Aboriginal community, particularly in the urban centers, is considerably increasing. This suggests the absolute need for change as the current situation is shaping an unsustainable model with an increasing dependency rate and the sub sequential increase of tensions.

Developing a change in approach to community and housing design depends, in turn, on the development of an explanatory model of segregation. Little discussion of the consequences of segregation prevents specific public goals and policies that would address racial settlement patterns. Furthermore, no clear perception exists of what the optimal pattern might be. However, the spectrum is greater than the polarity between the ghetto and assimilation integration. Improving integration options would be a way to promote integration, presumably reducing bigotry levels. Neighborhoods can be required to build a fair share of affordable housing. Policies regarding equitable treatment in the housing

market probably constitute the most likely approach to overcoming segregation patterns.

Racial segregation involves the deprivation of opportunity. By allowing it to continue, we consign a growing generation of people the same future and status as those generations before them. The fundamental hypocrisy of non-Aboriginal east side residents is that people have the choice and the right to live where they want to live, even suggesting that Aboriginals want to live with other Aboriginals (Spence, 2004). In a structure that maintains poverty, those disadvantaged, by race or other factors, do not have the same opportunities as those who can gain from the benefits of our society. People, particularly Aboriginals with low incomes, cannot choose, by rights of affordability, where they live. By suggesting that Aboriginals want to live in inner-city neighborhoods to be with other Aboriginals negates the perhaps overwhelming desire for respect, for self and from others.

4.0   Rights to housing

Housing forms an indispensable part of ensuring human dignity, equality, and respect. Housing is essential for normal, healthy living. It fulfills deep-seated psychological needs for privacy and personal space; physical needs for security and protection; and social needs by creating a basic gathering point where important relationships are shaped and nurtured. It is to be ensured to all persons, irrespective of income, ancestry, or any other form of discrimination. Perhaps the ironic element of these facts is that housing has been confirmed as a basic human right at an international level, but has yet to be realized, particularly for those in the most marginalized positions within our small communities, such as Saskatoon. This negligence is an embarrassment to our social values and evolution as a whole.

The right to adequate housing is founded and recognized under in-ternational law. Enunciated under article 25(1) of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the right to adequate housing has been codified in other major international human rights treaties (refer to appendix 1.0). These rights to housing do not suggest that governments are to provide free housing. It simply implies that governments ensure, through policy, that affordable and acceptable housing is made available to the whole populace. The right to adequate housing therefore provides a unique opportunity for our leaders to take steps towards the

provision of housing, through the demands of their citizens and their insistence upon the fulfillments of this basic human right.

Adequate housing is not only a fundamental social right, shelter in the form of housing, renovations, and related infrastructure is also a treaty right, and forms part of our governmental responsibility. This position derives from the special Indian-Crown relationship dating back to the *Royal Proclamation of 1763*, enhanced by section 91(24) of the *Constitution Act, 1867* and sections 25 and 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982 (*UN, 1996*)*. In its brief to the Commission of Aboriginal Affairs, the National Aboriginal Housing Committee stated that "the federal government has a moral, ethical and legal responsibility to continue funding Native housing both on- and off-reserve, until at least such time as parity in living conditions between Natives and non-Natives is achieved" (Assembly of First Nations, 1992). The adoption of a clear housing strategy to fulfill basic rights is an important step in moving toward this equal social and economic position.

5.0   Community Rejuvenation

Community rejuvenation is the key to stability and growth of our inner-city neighborhoods. The efficient use of Saskatoon urban space includes the conversion of declining inner-city neighborhoods into communities where home are affordable, diversity is respected, and services are available to create a place where people want to live. The provision of adequate housing creates the foundation for a community to grow.

Housing and infrastructure is more than just buildings. Buildings represent the history and spirit of a community. When buildings slid into a state of disrepair, they also become symbols of a decline and disrespect of the entire community. When these neighborhoods are largely comprised of Aboriginal people, the disorder of the neighborhoods perpetuates negative attitudes and perceptions of the Aboriginal community as a whole.

These neighborhoods are not only valuable urban space; the people are important members of the community. A commitment to development within the inner-city through financial assistance, incentives, and grants are a valuable way to support and encourage middle class working families to stay within inner-city neighborhoods; in turn, promoting conventional values and responsibilities among the residents. A stabilized community further encourages new growth and investment. The improvement of inner-city neighborhoods in general, and the perceptions of Aboriginal residents in particular, both work to reduce tensions among and within communities.

The City of Saskatoon has created many initiatives to strengthen inner-city neighborhoods and encourage investment in the communities. Local area plans created with intense participation of community organizations and associations provide a foundation of planning for growth within these neighborhoods. Wide recommendations are made to help stabilize and encourage growth of the communities. The Local Area Plan for Pleasant Hill is an elaborate report with an enlightened recognition of the condition of the neighborhood. Many recommendations are included addressing land use policies and rezoning, deteriorating housing and abandonment issues, vacant lots, pawn shops, neighborhood safety, support and municipal services, the necessary park and green space upgrades and the recommendation for initiating senior housing developments (City of Saskatoon, 2002). The report does identify the difficulty in dealing with dilapidated buildings and vacant lots within the neighborhood. These

local area plans are important foundations for future development, and need to remain a focus of City Planning.

The Housing Facilitator for the City of Saskatoon discussed the ongoing engagement, as well as the difficulties in encouraging owners of some of these properties to be better landlords through incentives as well as penalties for property conditions. Furthermore, renters are also encouraged to become more responsible tenants (Miller, 2004). In response, the Race and Cultural Diversity Office, along with the Community Planning Department have contracted an updated version of the Renter's Handbook, which will be circulated to community organizations. This important and community supported literature educates renters on their basic rights and responsibilities when renting, as well as contacts for further information and support (see attachment 1.0).

The provincial government has also invested in inner-city revitalization. The Saskatchewan Housing Corporation (SHC) provides funding for several programs to encourage homeownership in inner city communities. The Neighborhood Home Ownership Program (NHOP) was initiated in 1998 and has provided financial assistance to many eligible lower income families, with incomes under $30,000 and are qualified for conventional mortgages, to purchase homes through the provision of a forgivable down payment facilitated by the cooperation with a community based organization. This program has had considerable success and is building stability and investment in inner-city communities (Kovac, 2004). The Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program (RRAP) provides forgivable loans up to a maximum of $12,000 available to low income people to make necessary repairs in the effort to bring properties up to minimum health and safety standards. This initiative assists in maintaining existing housing stock to create safe and affordable housing. The objective of the Centenary Affordable Housing Program is to develop affordable housing for moderate income households including non-profit rental property, market rentals, or homeownership options. This innovation is also targeting inner city and mature neighborhoods, as well as other locations with a demonstrated long term housing need. These initiatives are delivered through SHC, and are supported by municipal and federal authorities.

Financial investment and support for inner-city communities promote community rejuvenation and development. It is necessary, however, to be aware of the effects of gentrification or over-investment, which would push the poor out of these neighborhoods. By encouraging investment, while avoiding gentrification, and by raising attention to responsible property management, these established communities create an opportunity to provide further affordable, quality housing within diverse

communities. Investing in these growing communities by providing quality housing options and other necessary services to make these communities desirable, while encouraging responsibility and respect of residents, will ensure viable and progressive community development.

6.0 MIXED NEIGHBORHOODS:

Understanding residential integration is essential because of the apparent loss of the general acceptance of integration as a social goal. From upper end east side residents to Aboriginal leaders and advocates, there is an inclination toward the direction of racial separation (Ohirko, 2004; Spence, 2004). Perhaps it is based on a foundation of fear or disparity of integration; however in any case, the cons to separation and segregation must be openly discussed, in hopes that the benefits of a truly integrated society will be understood as the progressive alternative.

It may need to be clarified that the notion of integration is not equated to the conception of assimilation, or the acceptance of white values as ideal or superior. Integration can be conceived as a progressive and substantial part of building an ever-growing multiracial society. Integration does not mean that we become like each other, but rather, that we must learn to accept and respect our social positions and differences.

The occurrences of integrated neighborhoods in Saskatoon are far short of acceptable. Reports indicate that Saskatoon has the highest rate of economic segregation than any other urban center (CCSD, 2000) with a substantial increase in the concentration of poor families in high poverty neighborhoods in the past few years (CCSD, 2000). Many of the neighborhoods in Saskatoon, mainly east side communities, contain less than a 3% population of Aboriginal residents. Some, particularly upper end income communities, have under 1% of their population as Aboriginal. Many of residents in these neighborhoods seem to feel threatened at the perceived growth of the Aboriginal population, and perpetuate very negative stereotypes of Aboriginal people (Spence, 2004). Highly integrated neighborhoods which sustain a considerable proportion of the Aboriginal population of 20% or more are, without exception, concentrated in West side, core need neighborhoods (refer to attachment 2.0). These diverse neighborhoods do not provide an opportunity to build healthy interracial relations; rather reflect common consequences of poverty.

6.1   Mixed Income Policies

Mixed income community design is increasingly becoming a model for academics, policy makers, developers, and some urban centers to create adequate housing options for all sectors of the population. Mixed income

neighborhoods have become a focus in the efforts to alleviate some social issues such as higher incidences of crime and unemployment in high poverty communities, as well as an effective way to address the shortage of affordable housing across Canada. In theory, mixed neighborhoods encourage residents to build networks, relationships and gain influence from people with a variety of social positions, providing equitable access to public resources. Relatively little research exists as to the overall positive effects on community development, however there is evidence to support the importance of living in a healthy, mixed income community in an effort to break the cycle of poverty (Dasgupta, 2000). A mixed income approach can be an important step in providing more affordable, quality housing and the desegregation of society.

Mixed income housing provides poor residents, particularly children, with working-class role models. In addition, children may also adopt mainstream values and understand the value of work and education. Furthermore, an increase in affordable housing options provides the opportunity to realize an ultimate goal of homeownership. Society has a history of isolating and concentrating the poor outside the social mainstream. Mixed income housing provides an opportunity to embrace and support the poor, bringing them into the social mainstream. Creating balanced communities simply leads to higher life chances to a greater number of people. Mixed income housing addresses the concerns of most families: security, providing the best possible education for their children, and obtaining a safe place to live. Mixed income neighborhoods, with the sharing of public resources, is a progressive and responsible policy of the future.

CMHC (2001) published reports regarding the housing options for provinces by reviewing nationwide reports on housing options and provincial mandates. CMHC developed strong recommendations towards balancing affordability across neighborhoods by implementing mixed income policies. The objective of these mandates were not only to increase the production of affordable housing in light of decreased federal funding, particularly within suburban neighborhoods, but also to establish obligations and quantified targets for municipalities to reach in order to support lower-income people. Developers would reserve 10-25% of units for lower income households. Concessions available would include density bonuses, expedited approval procedures, reduced development standards, and waivers to various application fees and development charges. At the date of the publication, Ontario and British Columbia both had established municipal planning obligations. The city of Vancouver, in particular, is required to provide 20% of base density of new housing developments to be made available for non-market housing

(CMHC, 1992). Saskatoon has been previously reported to have the lowest incidence of low income residents within high income neighborhoods in Canada at 9% (FCM, 2003). A definite mixed income policy would create a progressive direction for the city of Saskatoon in an attempt to balance affordability within new developments, as well as existing and mature communities.

A variety of mixed income neighborhoods are possible within these policies, including developments with largely market value housing with a mix of moderate income households, developments that include low income households, to developments which provide a 50/50 split of market value and low income housing. When municipalities establish mixed income policies, scattered sites of affordable and low income housing will exist; in turn, balancing affordability across neighborhoods. However, mixed income developers face a common problem with financing these developments. Mixed income housing can succeed on a larger scale, but it needs a local, provincial, federal commitment. Bankers and financial institutions also need to be encouraged to take risks on new approaches and initiatives.

6.2   Public Responses

In order to gain a clearer understanding of race relations and residential patterns in Saskatoon, the discussion must venture outside our highly diverse inner-city neighborhoods and into the communities with largely European or non-Aboriginal denomination. In the effort to understand and document the sentiments of those residents of "east side" neighborhoods, a survey was conducted on randomly selected households to evaluate the quality, diversity, and affordability of the neighborhood. Questions were further pressed regarding the acceptance of the development of Aboriginal affordable housing within the community, and how race relations in Saskatoon were perceived in general by respondents. The objective of the survey was to evaluate the acceptance of mixed neighborhoods in general, as well as to identify the barriers residents felt that deterred progressive racial relations.

In general, the east side residents who were surveyed generally had positive perspectives of their neighborhoods and communities. Most residents (74%) were homeowners, and viewed the affordability of their homes as relatively reasonable. Some respondents suggested that their housing costs were too expensive but were willing to pay the rate for the services that they received and for the perceived increase in security.

One resident, who was a renter, indicated that it was becoming increasingly difficult to find affordable and quality housing in Saskatoon. Another respondent estimated that 80% of the household income was spent on housing expenses but it was worth the cost for the neighborhood that the home was located. As far as desirable qualities for a neighbor, general responses included friendly, cooperative, respectful, and quiet neighbors and some (33%) expressed an interest in establishing a friendship with neighbors.

In reference to the question "Would you support the development of Aboriginal affordable housing in your neighborhood?" the results were predictably split. Of those residents surveyed, there was a respectable rate of 68% of respondents whom supported or held little objection to the question. Most of such respondents included the acknowledgement of unequal relations or discrimination directed towards Aboriginal people. Others suggested the need to balance poverty and to create more housing options for Aboriginal people. One responded questioned "why not?", and another acknowledged that it was a "matter of respect". Others supported the idea, but needed a defined term of "affordable", and suggested that such a development be a "buy thing" in order to prevent the development of a future "slum". On the contrary, 32% of east side residents expressed a general resistance to such a development. These comments were largely related to the assumed decreases of property value and the increase in crime rates. Others suggested that such developments should not be directed specifically toward Aboriginal people, referring to an argument of "equality". One distraught respondent suggested that "they" (presumably Aboriginals) should "go back from where they came from".

The final survey question asked residents how race relations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people could be effectively improved in Saskatoon. Increasing the level of education and awareness certainly came out as a predominate response. Suggestions to diversify neighborhoods and create less separation were also common responses. Again, an argument of equal rights, referring to the equality in taxes and benefits, emerged. Others suggested that Aboriginal people need to participate economically in society, and one respondent suggested that "they" stay within their own communities. Most respondents saw race relations in Saskatoon as poor, and in need of improvement.

While conducting this survey, a subtle racism was consistently observed. Many respondents viewed themselves as racially and culturally neutral, yet did not recognize their racial and cultural privilege, or acknowledge what it means to be part of the dominate group. Peggy McIntoch (1998)

clarifies this dominant perspective when she points out that "Whites are taught to think of their lives a morally neutral, normative, and average, and also ideal, so that when we work to benefit others, this is seen as work which will allow 'them' to be more like 'us' ". Discussions of relations among races need to include the understandings of various types of advantages which reinforce our present hierarchies. Without the awareness that opportunities are not unconnected to race, misconceptions will permeate the dominant perspective. The distraction on issues of equalities evident within the survey is a telling example. Evidence presented within this analysis demonstrates that positions within society between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people are not equal. There is almost nothing more obvious in discussing affordable Aboriginal housing with Saskatoon residents than the necessity to increase the level of public awareness, conversation, and engagement on issues of race and equity.

7.0   Conclusions

Saskatoon is experiencing real growth within its population. The Aboriginal community in particular is becoming a significant segment of the community. The growing Aboriginal population, encouraged by persistent migration, is creating challenges for all aspects of the urban center. Many of these new residents are young, unemployed, and in need of housing.

For Aboriginal residents, residential options seem to be mainly within specific west side neighborhoods. In particular, southwest neighborhoods show the largest percentages of Aboriginal residents. These neighborhoods also indicate the lowest income levels in Saskatoon. Saskatoon has been identified as maintaining the largest rate of economic segregation in Canada.

Evidence has been discussed to demonstrate the negative consequences of economic segregation. Low educational attainments, high crime rates, poor public services, and exclusion from mainstream values and opportunities are all widespread and encouraged in these social conditions. The effects of segregation of poverty contribute largely to poor life chance and misperceptions of Aboriginal people as a whole in Saskatoon.

Community rejuvenation of these established Aboriginal communities is essential for growth and development. Examples of initiatives to promote investment in the community have been presented. Efforts need to be encouraged, particularly regarding the enforcement of housing health and safety standards in an effort to meet the demand and the right to quality affordable housing.

Differentiations in demographics, income, quality of life, and housing options are discussed to signify the differences among neighborhoods. The growth of wealthy communities in east side neighborhoods in relation to concentration of poverty in west side neighborhoods contribute to community disparities and social, economic and political tensions. Current residential trends in Saskatoon can be expected to continue this progression.

A suggested method for encouraging integration and the sharing of public resources, decreasing the effects of segregation patterns, is

through mixed income policies. Encouraging new developments to include space for lower end market housing distributes space and resources, and allows developers opportunities to create an increase in affordable housing options.

Survey results indicated that east side residents are relatively satisfied with quality of housing and condition of community. Furthermore, there was a willingness of the sample majority to accept a progression toward mixed neighborhoods, supporting the development of Aboriginal affordable housing within their neighborhoods. However, a level of resistance was also encountered. Social change is often met with resistance; however the willingness to change apparent in the majority of responses creates the foundation for change. More education and understanding of Aboriginal people and history is necessary. With change in community structure, this awareness may come through increased social interactions.

Space and community evolve to represent the social structures and values of the society which produces it. Race is important and sustained feature of cities. This feature also predicts how the city is experienced differently by different people. However, racial difference also creates special difference. Racisms become normalized in and through spatial configuration, just as social space is made to seem natural and defined in racial terms (Razack, 2002). Residential separation of Saskatoon's diverse population continues to perpetuate the inequalities of history.

The current global structure suggests that little can be done to relieve poverty without corresponding economic development. However, policy and responsible leadership can reduce the effects of concentration of such poverty. Alleviating the stress and poor social conditions of impoverished neighborhoods is important for progressive development of society and a necessary effort to reduce racial tensions.

Creating partnerships and multidimensional collaborations among stakeholders in Saskatoon and its Aboriginal communities is essential. Nilson (2004) identifies partnerships as sharing support and information to achieve goals and mutual benefits. This process must have clearly defined objectives, responsibilities and expectations. The purpose of this horizontal, rather than hierarchical process is to build capacity. The need and necessity for Aboriginal affordable housing in Saskatoon creates an opportunity for Aboriginal leaders, bands, and individuals to work with community developers, policy makers, and agencies to meet the growing needs of the community.

Addressing racial tensions and inequalities is a complex task with no simple solution. However, continued dialogue and renewed commitments are essential.

APPENDIX 1.0

List of several nonbinding declarations, resolutions and recommendations of the United Nations and its specialized agencies related to housing as a human right, all in which Canada is a signatory.

• Declaration on Social Progress and Development (1969), part II, art. 10

• Declaration on the Right of Disabled Persons (1975), art. 9

• Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (1976), section III, art. 8

• International Labour Organization (ILO) Recommendation No. 115(1961)

• ILO Recommendation No. 62 Concerning Older Workers (1980), art. 5(g)

• Declaration on the Right to Development (1986), art. 8(1)

• United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities resolution 1994/8 on "Children and the Right to Adequate Housing" (1994)

• United Nations Commission on Human Rights resolution 1993/77 on "Forced Evictions," (1993)

• United Nations Commission on Human Settlements resolution 14/6 on "The Human Right to Adequate Housing," (1993)

• United Nations General Assembly resolution 42/146 on the "Realization of the Right to Adequate Housing," (1987)

• Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

• Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women

• Convention on the Rights of the Child

• International Convention on the Suppression and Punishment of the Crime of Apartheid

• International Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees.

Source: UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Fact Sheet No. 21, (1996).
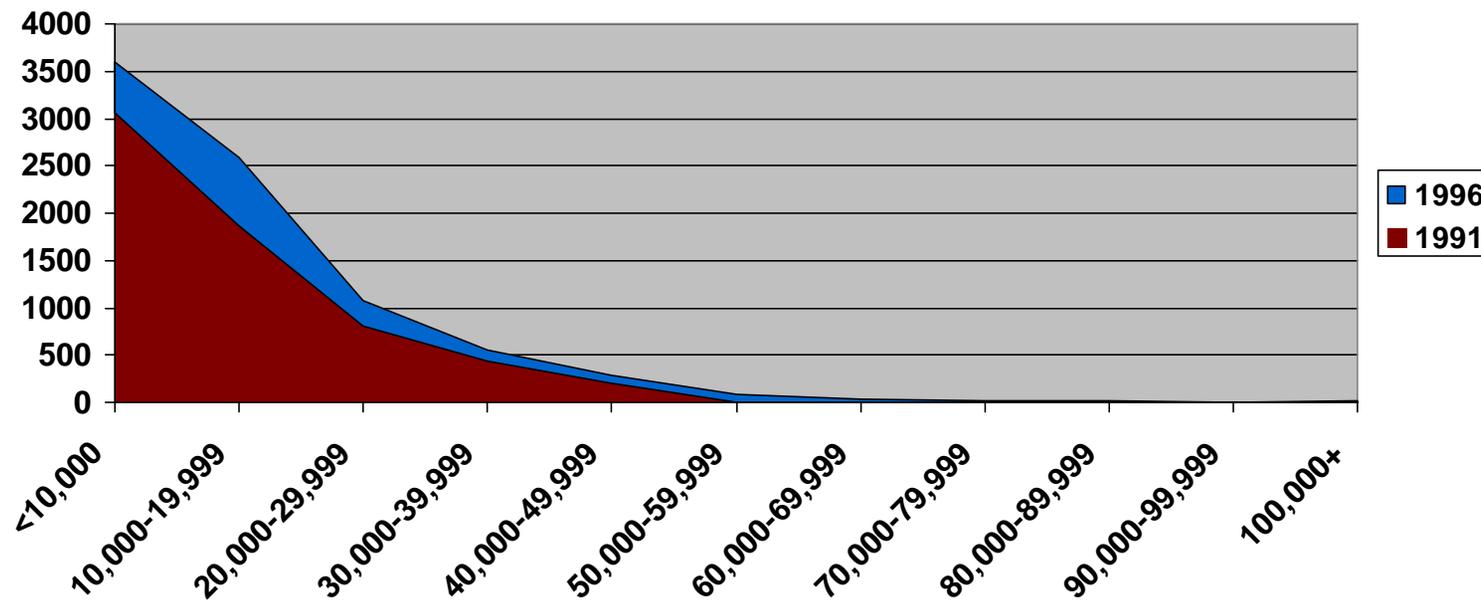
Figure 1.1
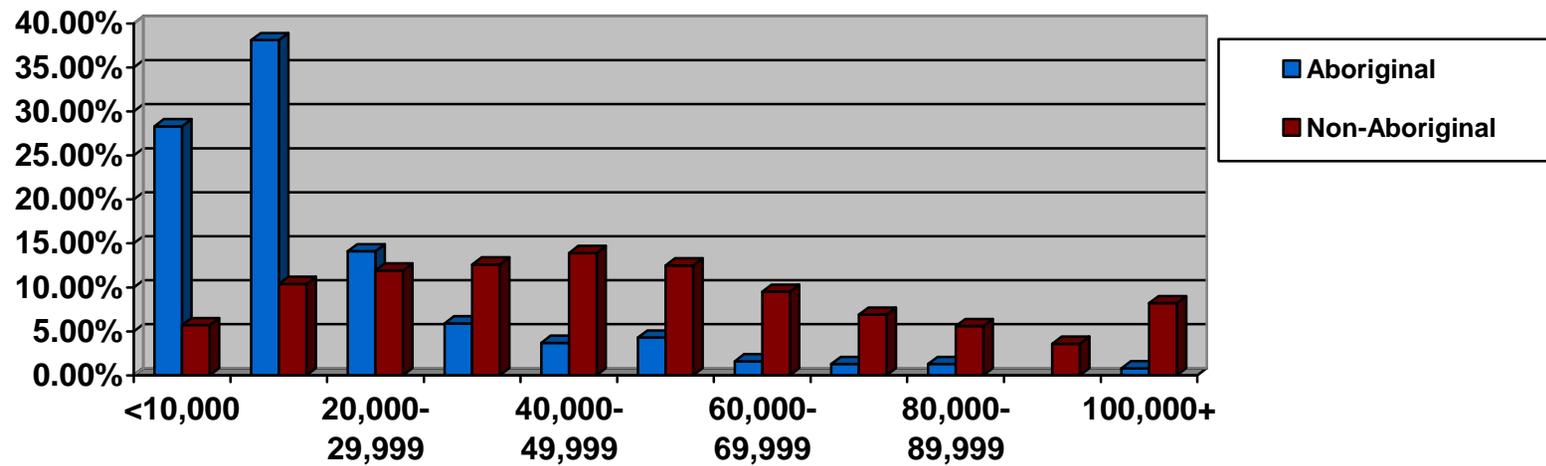
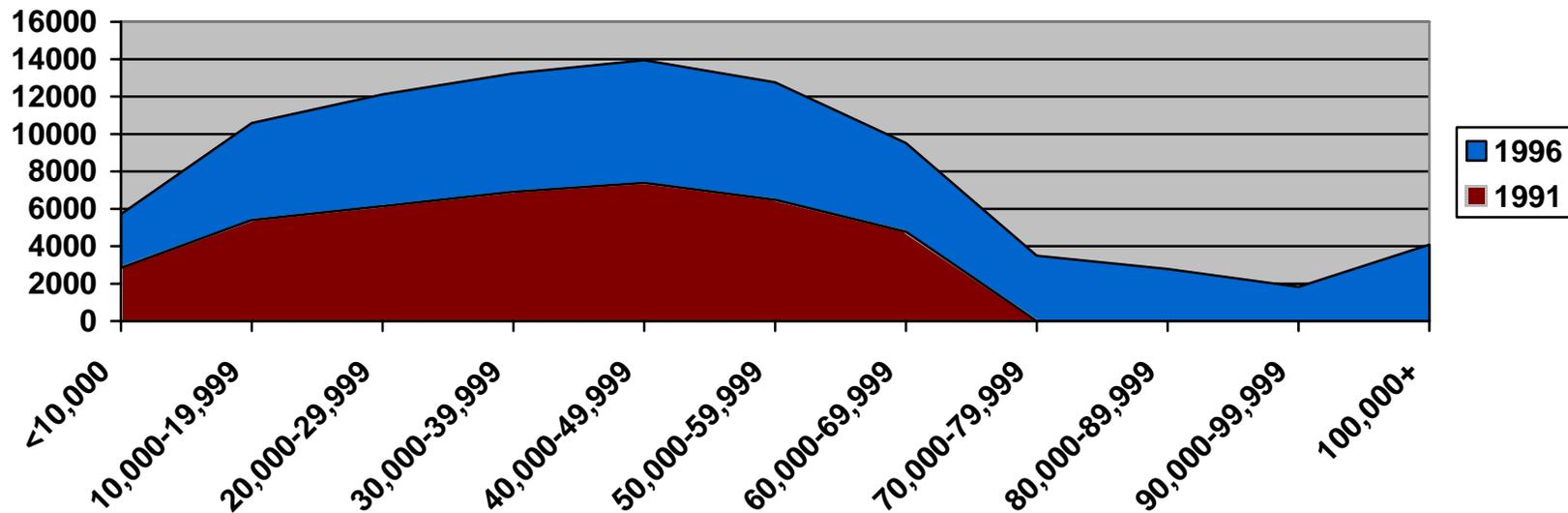**ANNUAL FAMILY INCOME – SASKATOON, 1999**

Figure 1.2

ABORIGINAL FAMILY INCOME GROWTH 1991-1996

Source: City of Saskatoon Neighborhood Profiles of the Aboriginal Population, 2nd ed. Planning and Building Department, Community Planning Branch.
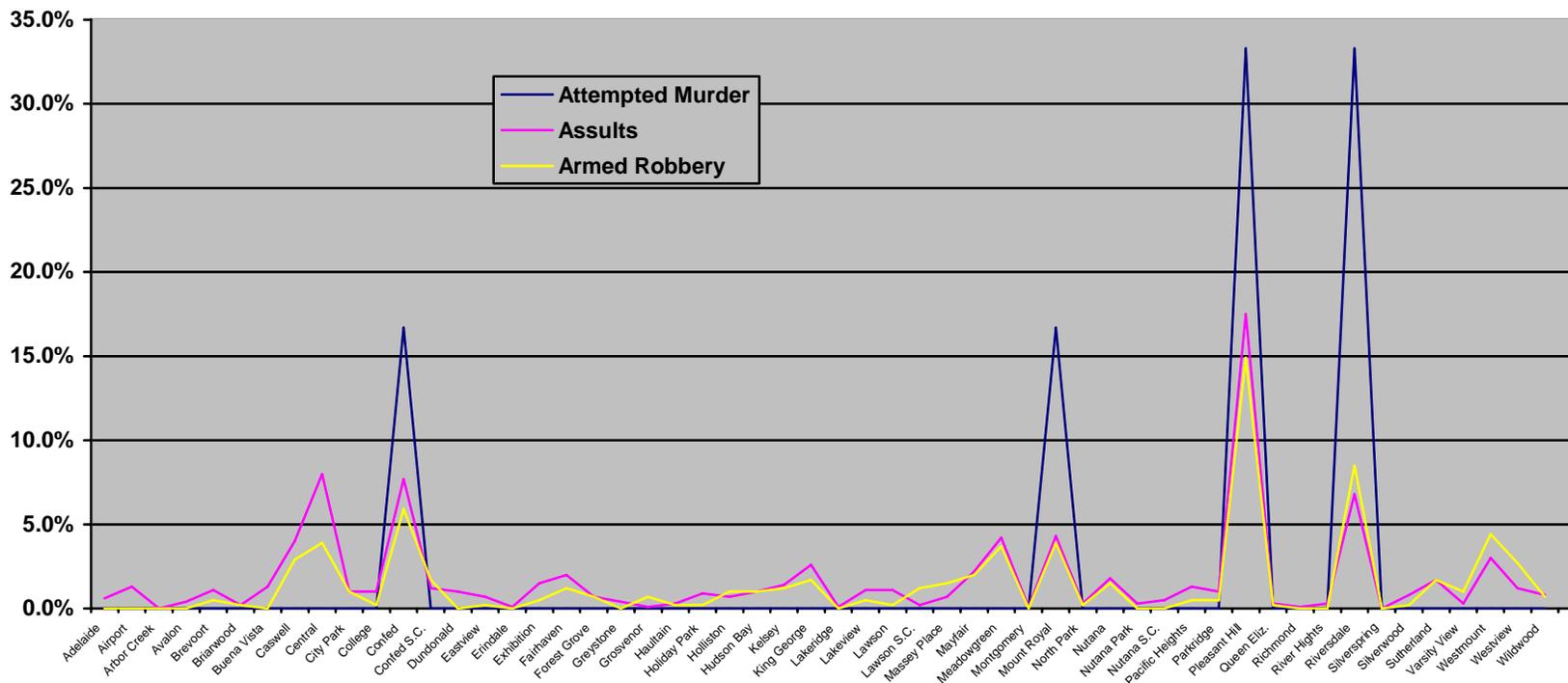
February 1999.

Figure 1.3

NON-ABORIGINAL FAMILY INCOME GROWTH 1991-1996

Source: City of Saskatoon Neighborhood Profiles, 6th ed. Planning and Building Department, Community Planning Branch. February 1999.

Figure 2.1

VIOLENT CRIME RATES BY NEIGHBORHOOD - 2003

Source: Saskatoon Police Service, <u>Number of Reported Incidents by Neighborhood</u>, Planning Unit, 2003.

Figure 2.2

PROPERTY RELATED CRIME RATES BY NEIGHBORHOOD - 2003

Source: Saskatoon Police Service, <u>Number of Reported Incidents by Neighborhood</u>, Planning Unit, 2003.
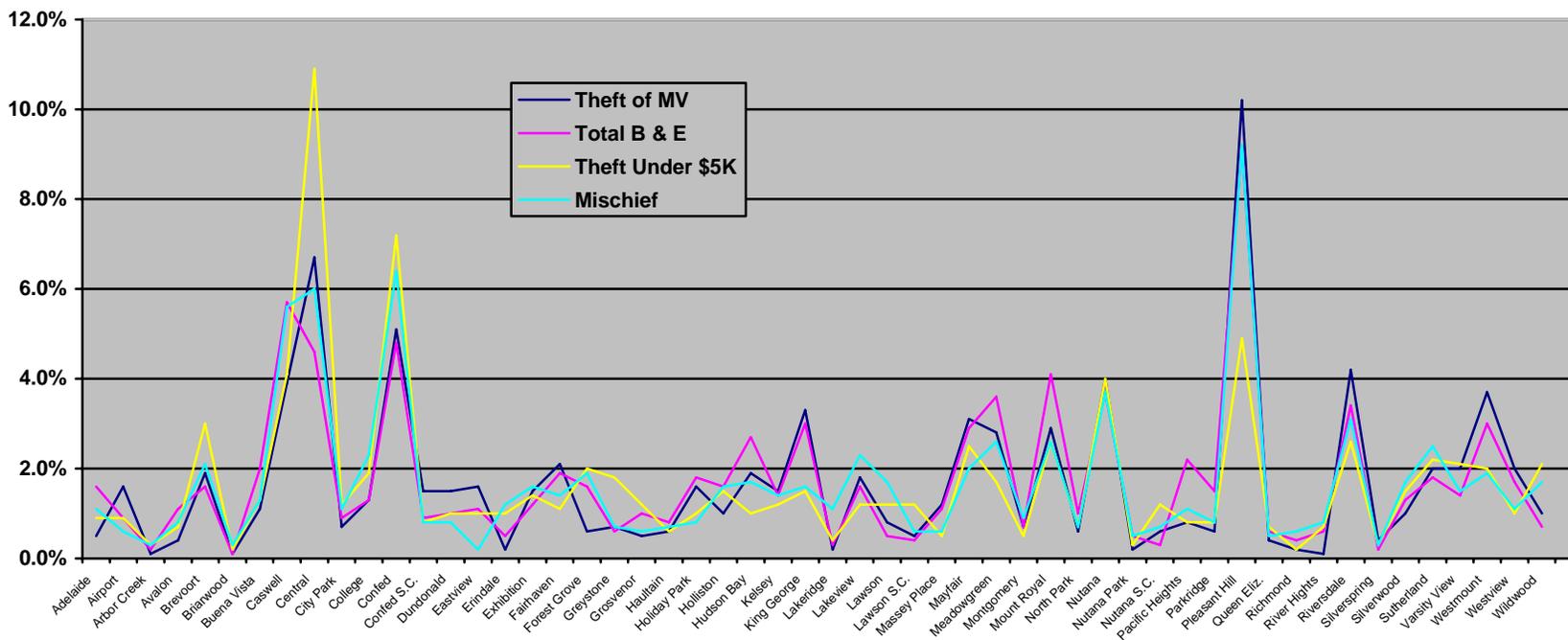
Figure 2.3

"VICTIMLESS" CRIME RATES BY NEIGHBORHOOD - 2003

Source: Saskatoon Police Service, Number of Reported Incidents by Neighborhood, Planning Unit, 2003.

Figure 2.3
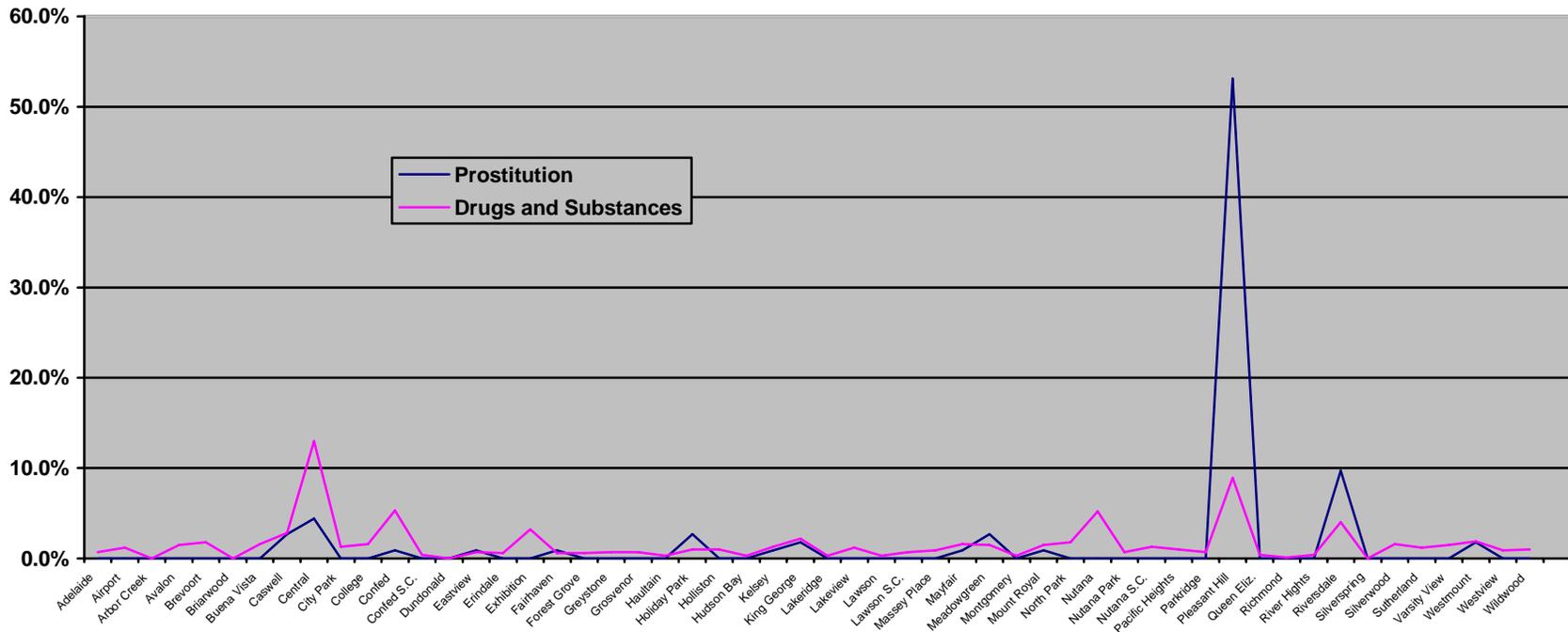
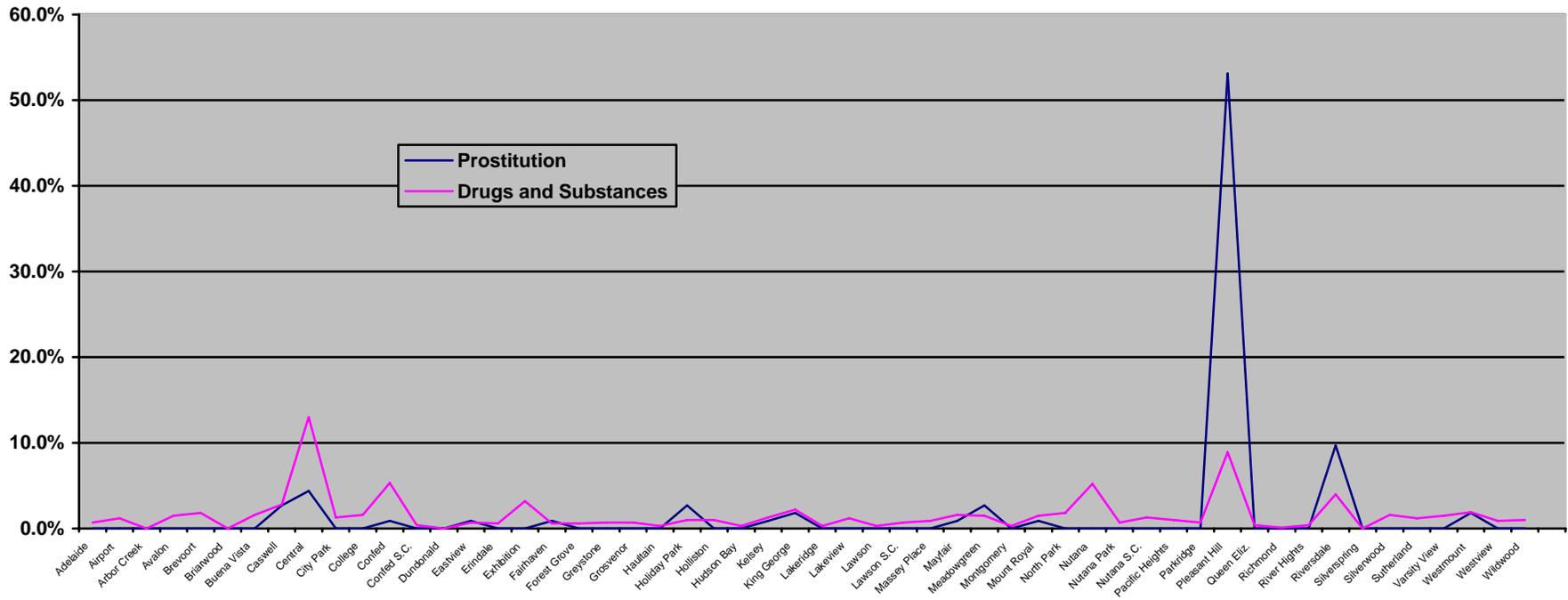## "VICTIMLESS" CRIME RATES BY NEIGHBORHOOD - 2003

Source: Saskatoon Police Service, Number of Reported Incidents by Neighborhood, Planning Unit, 2003.

Attachment 1.1

Letter of Introduction & Explanation of Research Project

Addressing Race Relations in Saskatoon Communities:
Concerns and Perceptions

Your household has been randomly selected to participate in a community/ university research study. This study is funded by the Bridges and Foundations Project and is supported by various community organizations, including the City of Saskatoon, University of Saskatchewan, SFIN, STC, SaskNative, Sunridge, Affordable New Home Development, Saskatoon Home Builders, SIIT, Quint Development, and SHIP. Dr. Alan Anderson from the Department of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan is the Research Director for Bridges and Foundations, and also is supervising this particular study. The key researcher for this research is Cara Spence, a B.A. Honors student, entering the masters program at the University of Saskatchewan. She specializes in the field of Race Relations. For further information regarding this study, please refer to the contact numbers at the bottom of this letter.

The purpose of this particular study is to consult with Saskatoon residents in order to evaluate the quality, diversity and affordability of housing in selected neighborhoods. Along with other research, this study will contribute to the development of affordable housing and community design. Participating in this research will provide an opportunity to express support, or concerns regarding Aboriginal housing developments in your community. This research will provide recommendations for future community planning and development. This report will be submitted to the Planning and Community Development Department for the City of Saskatoon and will also be accessible on the Bridges and Foundations website at www.bridgesandfoundations@ usask.ca.

The interview will take a maximum of 15 minutes of your time. To encourage an open dialogue, your identity and responses will remain completely anonymous and you may withdraw from the process at anytime. Any member of your household over 18 years of age may participate. If you wish to participate, please read and sign the attached consent form. If you wish to secure your participation in this survey, please call myself, Cara Spence, at 249-5414. Your contribution is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Cara Spence

Contact: Alan B. Anderson, Research Director, Bridges and Foundations, 966-6927
        Office of Research Services, University of Saskatchewan, 966-2084
        Cara Spence, Researcher, University of Saskatchewan, 249-5415 or cara.spence @ usask.ca

Attachment 1.2

Bridges and Foundations
Letter of Consent
Contact Dr. Alan Anderson @ 966-6927 for further information

You are invited to participate in a study entitled "Addressing Race Relations in Saskatoon Communities: Concerns and Perceptions". Please read this form carefully, and feel free to ask any questions you might have.

Your interviewer will be Cara Spence, a Masters student of Sociology at the University of Saskatchewan. This research is being conducted for the Bridges and Foundations Project on urban Aboriginal housing. The purpose of this research is to consult with Saskatoon residents in order to evaluate the quality, diversity and affordability of housing in selected neighborhoods. The interview consists of five basic questions, and will take a maximum of fifteen minutes of your time.

Any possible social risk as a result of expressing any sensitive personal or political tendencies will be reduced by ensuring the confidentiality of your identity. No identifying information will be recorded. You may keep a copy of the introduction letter with names and numbers which may be contacted with any further inquiries. Your contribution may potentially assist in future development and design of your community.

The findings of this research will be included in a final report, which will be submitted to the Bridges and Foundations Project, as well as other partners involved in the Project, including the City of Saskatoon Planning Department. The report will be published on the Bridges and Foundations website, and will be presented at their conference in November. Although the data from this study will be published and presented, I wish to assure you that this interview will be kept strictly confidential, and that neither you, nor home will be identified in any way.

You are under no obligation to reply to any particular question which you feel may make you uncomfortable. This interview is entirely voluntary, and you may withdraw at any time. If you choose to withdraw from the process, your responses will be destroyed, if desired. After the interview, you will have the opportunity to review your responses, and to add, alter, or delete information as you see fit. The responses of the interview will be stored at the University of Saskatchewan in the office Dr. Anderson for the required period of five years.

I have read and understood the description provided above; I have been provided with an opportunity to ask questions and my questions have been answered satisfactorily. I consent to participate in the study described above, and I understand that I may withdraw this consent at any time. I have received a copy of this consent form for my records.

X   X

(Signature of Participant)   (Postal Code)

This research was reviewed and approved on ethical grounds by the U of S Behavioral Research Ethics Board on August 30, 2004. Contact the Office at 966-2084 with any questions regarding participant rights.

Attachment 1.3

Interview Questions

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1. Do you rent or own your home?

2. How do you feel about the affordability of your home and the quality of your neighborhood?
(prompt: What % of your household budget is spent on housing?
: Is your housing fairly priced for the location and services you receive?)

3. What do you think are the qualities of a good neighbor?

4. Would you support the development of Aboriginal affordable housing in your neighborhood? Why or why not?

5. In your opinion, how could the racial relations between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal people be effectively improved in Saskatoon?

I have consented to the terms of this interview process. I have reviewed the transcript of my interview, and have been provided with the opportunity to add, alter, and delete information, as appropriate. I acknowledge that the transcript accurately reflects what I said in my personal interview. I hereby authorize the release of this transcript to Bridges and Foundations, ensuring my complete anonymity.

_____   _____
Participant   *Date*

_____   _____
Researcher   *Date*

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