



NEWS RELEASE

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United Way of Winnipeg Upholds Decision to Redirect After-School Program Funding

United Way of Winnipeg has been working with community organizations to re-establish an after-school drop-in program for Lord Selkirk Park neighborhood kids, after its board of trustees upheld a decision to stop funding a drop-in program offered by the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg.

For over a decade, United Way has worked with the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre to address ongoing issues related to governance, management and service delivery capacity. However, it was unable to achieve the desired result and gave notice in July 2006 that funding would not be renewed for 2007. The Friendship Centre appealed the decision, and the appeal, heard January 4, 2007 was denied.

United Way will be working with community groups to ensure funds are redirected to support an alternative program for Lord Selkirk Park. A decision will be made in mid-February, which will be followed by a consultation to ensure the program will respond appropriately to the community.

“Our responsibility to be accountable for contributions means organizations funded by United Way must operate in ways that meet accepted standards of quality in governance, management and service delivery,” said Gail Asper, Chair of the Board of Trustees of United Way of Winnipeg.

All groups funded by United Way must demonstrate program effectiveness and sound governance in order to continue to receive ongoing funding and support. A written Funding Agreement outlines these requirements with each funded group. Because of a commitment to a stable network of services, decisions to terminate funding are an infrequent occurrence. United Way makes every effort to help funded organizations improve. There were efforts made to help build governance, management and service delivery capacity conducted over an extended period with the Indian & Métis Friendship Centre of Winnipeg.

United Way of Winnipeg provides core funding that builds sustainability into agencies, programs and service to ensure a stable network of care, as well as providing one time funding for innovative special projects.

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