

# Access Manitoba

## MANITOBA COMMUNITY FUTURES DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION WINS A NATIONAL AWARD

The **Winnipeg River Brokenhead Community Futures Development Corporation (CFDC)** recently won a national award for the best community initiative from Manitoba at the Pan-Canadian CFDC Conference in Mont Tremblant, Quebec last May. At this conference, CFDC's across Canada met to discuss projects and issues, as well as share best practices. During the conference's banquet, the CFDC received the award for its role in establishing and developing the La Vérendrye tourism trail in Manitoba's northeastern region.

"We were absolutely thrilled at being chosen the winner in Manitoba for this national contest," said Mary Greber, Executive Director of the Winnipeg River Brokenhead CFDC. "We are very proud of the La Vérendrye Trail initiative as a regional approach to community economic development. What started as a CFDC project seven and a half years ago has grown into an ongoing tourism marketing program that has sustained itself."

The La Vérendrye Trail, named after the early French explorer, is a heritage route that links communities along the Winnipeg River system to form a tourism corridor that promotes economic development within the region. The La Vérendrye Trail project brought together over 200 businesses and communities in a unique partnership to market the region as a tourist destination. It has increased awareness and interest in the region's tourism opportunities and has contributed to a substantial increase in tourism-related business activities.

Supported by Western Economic Diversification Canada, Winnipeg River Brokenhead (CFDC) is a community-based organization providing business development and community economic development services to the northeast region of Manitoba.



# HOME IS WHERE

Winnipeg will be home to more than 3,500 world renowned Cardiologists, Cardiovascular surgeons, and scientists when they converge on July 6th to 11th, 2001 for the International Society for Heart Research (ISHR), XVIIth, World Congress.

The XVIIth congress, the largest of its kind ever in Canada, will be held at the Winnipeg Convention Centre and will provide delegates with the opportunity to discuss solutions to cardiovascular problems with world-renowned experts. They will be able to share state-of-the-art knowledge and to define future directions for reducing cardiovascular mortality, as well as improving the quality of life for patients with heart disease.

"While great progress had been made in diagnosis, treatment and prevention, heart disease is still the leading cause of death on a global scale," said Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Congress Chairman.

Through this Congress delegates will gain from each other's knowledge and experience in the fields of physiology, pharmacology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pathology, clinical cardiology, cardiovascular surgery and allied health professions. The conference will blend basic, clinical and epidemiological aspects of cardiovascular diseases.





# E THE HEART IS



Left to right: Dr. Naranjan Dhalla, Congress Chairman, St. Boniface Hospital Research Centre, Dr. Ron Duhamel, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification and, Hubert Gauthier, President of St. Boniface General Hospital.

During the Congress International companies will also be displaying their pharmaceutical developments, surgical interventions and scientific equipment. A special highlight of the 2001 WORLD CONGRESS will be the "Heart Health" Public Forum on STRESS, DIET and EXERCISE.

The XVIIth Congress is being planned by teams including outstanding professionals from around the world as well as representatives from the University of Manitoba, St. Boniface General Hospital and Health Sciences Centre.

The Honourable Ron J. Duhamel, Secretary of State for Western Economic Diversification, announced \$200,000 in funding for the St. Boniface General Hospital Research Centre towards the costs of promoting the International Congress.

"This world-class congress will provide an opportunity for sharing of information at the leading edge of cardiovascular research and will mean new opportunities for Manitoba businesses and benefits to the health industry across Canada," said Mr. Duhamel. "All Canadians will benefit from the symposia and conferences held here next summer."



# LABORATORY CLOSURE CREATES NEW OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS



From left to right:  
Industry, Trade and Mines  
Minister MaryAnn Mihychuk;  
Dennis Chen, president of  
Channel Technology; Marsha  
Sheppard, president of  
ECOMatters and Provencher MP  
David Iftody.

The closure of Atomic Energy Canada Ltd.'s (AECL) facilities in Pinawa has opened the door to new business opportunities for two Whiteshell area companies. **ECOMatters Inc.** and **Channel Technology Inc.** are using research and technology developed by AECL to help establish their businesses as world leaders in the fields of environmental consulting and international nuclear safeguards. The companies will create up to 18 full-time jobs over the next two years thanks to new business and commercial opportunities that have developed.

**ECOMatters** is a Pinawa-based company that provides nuclear and non-nuclear environmental consulting and contaminant research services to private sector agencies and government. "We're able to bring environmental analysis and risk management skills developed for the nuclear industry to the marketplace," said Marsha Sheppard, president of ECOMatters. "The company is still growing and we have several solid opportunities to expand our Canadian and international business."

**Channel Technology Inc.** is a new research company specializing in the development of detection devices for use in international nuclear safety inspections. These inspections ensure

that spent nuclear fuel rods remain in storage and are not used in unauthorized research or weapons development. The company was recently awarded a contract from Canada's Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) to develop a new digital viewing device to measure the radiation levels of spent nuclear fuel rods.

"We want to secure the worldwide marketing and the production of this technology to eventually replace the older viewing devices now being used worldwide," said Dennis Chen, president of Channel Technology. "Thanks to the digital device we're developing, it will be easier and quicker for international inspectors to measure the radioactive levels of nuclear fuel assemblies."

Last June, both companies received a total of \$220,000 in repayable loans through the Whiteshell Economic Development Assistance (WEDA) program, a program equally funded by the governments of Canada and Manitoba. The assistance is helping both companies purchase additional equipment to expand their consulting, research and development capabilities.