

# First Impressions Community Exchange

Community Visited:

Inglis, Manitoba

Date of Visit:

August 16, 2010 and September 9, 2010

Visit Completed by (community):

Elkhorn, Manitoba



**First Impressions Community Exchange**  
***Final Report***

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# First Impressions Community Exchange

## *Final Report*

Community Visited:

### VISITING TEAM PROFILE

|  |                                   |                |
|--|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Name: Beth Canart                          | Age: 50s                          | Gender: Female |
| Address: Elkhorn                           |                                   |                |
| Phone: 845-2493                            | E-mail: N/A                       |                |
| Name: Jolene Toder                         | Age: 30s                          | Gender: Female |
| Address: Elkhorn                           |                                   |                |
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| Name: Jill Canart                          | Age: 40s                          | Gender: Female |
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| Name: Lynne Bajus                          | Age: 60s                          | Gender: Female |
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| Name: Christina Canart                     | Age: Late 20's                    | Gender: Female |
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Date of visit and time spent:

Visit 1: August 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 9:00am-6:00pm

Visit 2: September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – 9:30 am – 5:30 pm

Weather on date of visit:

Visit 1: Sunny, warm

Visit 2: Sunny, chilly

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### PRIOR TO YOUR VISIT

***What was your impression of the community before the visit? What have you heard about this community? What are you expecting to see? What did you know about this community?***

- Most of us had the perception that Inglis was a small community that was primarily supported by agriculture.
- A few of the members of the group had been there in the past, so they were aware of the presence of the elevators, but had never visited them before.
- From the website: the group felt that it was very powerful to see recognition of the role of the volunteers and that a sense of pride existed in the community. Additionally, the newsletter, list of accommodations, relevant links, promotion of the street hockey tournament, elevators and promotional items left the perception that it was a very active community.
- From the information package sent: the group felt that the Inglis business group has done an excellent job of the brochure. They felt that out of all of the information sent; unfortunately Inglis did not stand out as “the” destination spot to visit. That being said, with all of the promotion within the region, they felt it may be a location they would “drop-by.”

***Ease of getting information by mail and telephone about the community visited:***

- We received a package of information from Marcia. It included two Inglis specific brochures: Inglis, Manitoba “The Friendly Place To Be”, and “Five Prairie Giants. Two brochures of businesses within the RM were included: Shell Valley Inn and Ranch, and The Weather Vane Inn.
- Other brochures included were of Russell, Asessippi Park, Asessippi Ski Hill and Lake of the Prairies.

***Level of satisfaction with the quality of the information received:***

- Good – Inglis is not a large community so we were surprised with the amount of material that was provided. Looking through the package however, we realized that only two brochures were directly focused on Inglis: one of which was established by the Inglis and Area Business Group, the other was the Five Prairie Giants brochure. Two brochures were for businesses within the RM, but the rest were regional brochures.
- The brochure on Inglis businesses was impressive. It most definitely stood out in the minds of the entire group. We were impressed with the efforts of the Inglis Business Group.

***Timeliness of arrival of the requested information (if appropriate):***

- The information that was sent arrived in a timely manner. No further information was required as plenty of information was provided including the website domain.

***Ease of obtaining information on the community through a web search:***

- The Inglis web site does provide a lot of information on Inglis. The web links were helpful as it provided information about the surrounding area. It left our group with the impression that there were things to do not only in Inglis, but in the surrounding area. The group was impressed with the community newsletter as it keeps both residents and visitors informed.

***Quality of the community’s online materials and information:***

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- Good for a community of this size – While the website is informative about Inglis, we felt as though it wasn't as "eye-catching" as it could be. Rural communities in general struggle with their websites. Overall, we thought that Inglis does a good job of providing information about the community. There was no information on housing availability or available land area for development. We thought maybe a copy of the Inglis business group brochure would be a good addition to the website.

### THE "FIVE MINUTE" IMPRESSION

**After taking a five-minute drive through the community without stopping, the following reactions were noted:**

- Lawns and gardens seemed well kept
- Housing for most income levels seemed available
- Looked like a quiet community, no traffic, people parked in middle of street visiting
- Small town atmosphere
- Some houses needed painting/work
- Friendly – people that were out-and-about waved
- South area of elevators needs cleaned up, but it was the only place in town that seemed to require immediate attention
- Mural on the curling rink/skating rink
- Beautiful trees
- Could see the elevators from everywhere
- Overall, good impression

### COMMUNITY ENTRANCES

**The following observations were noted when entering the community from major entrances:**

**Entrance #1, approached from: South on #83, Gravel road, Blight Street**

|       |        |           |          |              |   |   |   |   |           |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| 1     | 2      | 3         | <b>4</b> | 5            | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10        |
| Needs | Urgent | Attention |          | Satisfactory |   |   |   |   | Excellent |

- Inglis entrance sign is great, modern and up-to-date information – location is not great. You don't see the Inglis sign until you've already turned onto the entrance road.
- Overall, signage from the South on #83 is lacking. You could already be turning into Asessippi before you really even knew that Inglis was there.
- Gravel road is a quality road
- We liked that the paved entrance option was displayed from those worried about vehicles on gravel
- We liked the additional Inglis sign after the entrance (to turn into town) because we wondered where we were going to do that
- There was some junk along the entrance (once you turned), as well as a farm (which was relatively tidy)

**Entrance #2, approached from: North on #83, #366**

|       |        |           |   |              |   |          |   |   |           |
|-------|--------|-----------|---|--------------|---|----------|---|---|-----------|
| 1     | 2      | 3         | 4 | 5            | 6 | <b>7</b> | 8 | 9 | 10        |
| Needs | Urgent | Attention |   | Satisfactory |   |          |   |   | Excellent |

- Inglis is signed well from the North. Signs are big, bright and informative.

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- Main entrance (Barley Capital of Manitoba) sign needs attention – was dirty, black and white, and lacked appeal.
- Barley capital of Manitoba – does that still hold true? Is that what Inglis wants to be known as...or is it the Five Prairie Giants (elevators)...or is it a “Friendly Place to Be”. What is Inglis? If it is the elevators, maybe a miniature elevator could be a “sign” for Inglis?
- A stunning view of the elevators as we drove in
- Lots of trees, beautiful land and natural landscapes along a well-kept highway
- Business District sign – positive to direct people to its approximate area
- Well-maintained yards along this entrance
- Overall, good impression

### Entrance #3, approached from: East on #366

1      2      3      **4**      5      6      7      8      9      10  
 Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory                                      Excellent

- Gravel road, good and wide
- No signage, but perhaps more of a local road

### Entrance #4, approached from: North on #592

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
 Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory                                      Excellent

- Inglis sign seems adequate for this type of entrance
- RM grounds are well-kept
- More of a local entrance it would seem

## HOUSING AND RESIDENTIAL AREAS

### Overall quality, affordability and availability of housing in the community:

| Quality (scale of 1 to 10) | Type of Housing           |
|----------------------------|---------------------------|
| 7                          | Existing/Older Homes      |
| 5                          | Senior Citizen Housing    |
| 1                          | New Construction          |
| 1.5                        | Apartments/Rental Housing |

#### Comments:

- The majority of housing in this community is existing/older homes
- Senior housing is available to rent; however, it appears limited for a community of what we would think of as having a higher number of seniors. No assisted living appeared available and the distance of senior housing from downtown could be a challenge for some.
- Residential lots are available for sale; however, it appears as though new construction is limited
- Apartments/rental housing does not appear to be available other than the “senior” rental units from Manitoba Housing.

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### ***Adequacy of housing mix to suit a variety of income levels?***

**Comments:**

- In general, the group believed there was an adequate mix to suit the lower end of the income spectrum; however a lack of homes for professional/higher income individuals and seniors existed. Plenty of houses were for sale and seemed reasonably priced...which made us think that a young person would be able to move to Inglis easily. There were plenty of small houses, some well-kept and others run down a bit. The housing availability led the group to question why people were leaving Inglis...“there must be some reason”.

### ***Most appealing and least appealing features of the housing in this community:***

Most Appealing:

- Overall, a high standard to which the yards were maintained
- Taxes were low – which is a positive for people moving in
- Potential for small houses to be developed into “cabins” for ski hill
- Reasonable prices requested for homes
- Residential lots were available for building

Least Appealing:

- Several houses needed painted
- A lot of older houses and lack of new construction left us with the perception that the town is in decline
- 7 houses for sale made us wonder why
- Taxes were low – which can be a challenge for the tax base and infrastructure development

### ***Quality and availability of residential infrastructure (e.g., roads, sidewalks, lighting, public transportation, green space):***

- Roads were adequate for size of community – no major potholes, gravel roads are well-maintained
- Sidewalks are poorly maintained – dangerous for seniors or those with disabilities
- Angled/parallel parking is confusing for a visitor, but lots of parking available
- Lighting seemed adequate for the size of the community – day time visit so unsure as to lighting in the evening
- Public transportation was non-existent which was expected for a town of this size; however, lack of handi van, taxi service, bus, volunteer driver service or car-pooling may make it difficult for different populations to get around (i.e. seniors, those without cars) – shuttle transportation to and from the ski hill could act as a drawing card to “stay and play” in Inglis
- Green space – beautiful trees, outside of town was beautiful, marsh boardwalk was impressive for a community of this size
- Other infrastructure - playground at community hall but no real park (playground wasn’t csa approved), good play structure at school (across the road was a concern for younger children), skateboard in poor shape, recycling program is a positive.
- Main street could use more attention – the group really didn’t notice where the business district was until we were in it

### ***Overall Appeal of Housing (scale of 1 to 10)***

### ***Group***

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| 5 | Single Young Adults |
| 5 | Young Families      |
| 4 | Middle Income       |
| 3 | Senior Citizens     |

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|   |                      |
|---|----------------------|
| 1 | Upscale/Professional |
|---|----------------------|

### Comments:

- Nothing available for upscale income levels or professionals
- Rental housing was limited

## EDUCATION, HEALTH, SOCIAL AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

### Education (availability & appearance of schools)

#### **Preschool/daycare:**

- Nursery school was at the school
- Daycare was starting at the school – community was going to advertise for someone with the necessary education

#### **Primary/elementary:**

- Was told it was a Grade 1 – 8 school
- Responses from residents varied from 57 kids to 85 kids attending
- First impression was that it was run down, but when we looked inside we saw that renovations were being done, the rooms were big, colourful and clean.
- Were told that the school was 6<sup>th</sup> in Canada for the arts and music programs and that they put on three musicals a year
- Grounds: play structure was excellent, other athletic fields lacked attention
- Concern about the location with it being right on the highway. Kids would have to cross the road. Perhaps a remedy would be increased and larger signage – “Slow down, we love our children” signage may be something to look at
- Combined classes which was expected
- 5 teachers, none of whom live there

#### **High school:**

- N/A
- Were told that students go to Russell, which can be problematic because if you lose your youth for school, you often lose them for social/recreational activities. A remedy may to be offer unique programming for teenagers in Inglis.
- Concern over moving to a community like Inglis as with several children, some would be going to Inglis, some to Russell which would mean a lot of driving

#### **College/university:**

- N/A

### **Residents' (young and old) opinions about the quality and availability of the local school system:**

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- Residents spoke very well of the education offered in Inglis. It was mentioned that there were good quality teachers and people in general seemed proud of their school. They also mentioned that the karate club was offered at the school
- Some comments were that there was nothing much for youth to do there, and that all kids leave for school sports. Comments also included that out of all of the teachers, the secretary was the only employee at the school that lived in Inglis

### Rating of adequacy of schools for a community of this size:

1      2      3      4      5      **6**      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

#### Comments:

- Overall, it seems to be satisfactory for a community of this size.

## Health Care Services

### Availability and Apparent Quality of Health Care Facilities:

#### Hospitals:

- N/A
- Community members have to go to Russell and Roblin

#### Physician and dentist offices and clinics:

- N/A
- Everything is out of town including physicians and dentists

#### Long-term care and nursing home facilities:

- N/A

#### Other health services:

- N/A currently
- Massage therapist coming to Inglis Country Service as well as a Zen garden

### Rating of the adequacy of Health Services for a community of this size:

**1**      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

#### Comments:

- The group felt that it is important to offer these services to a community, even if it is on a once-per-week basis. The lack of health services combined with the lack of public transportation was a concern for our group.

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## Social Services

### **Social services available in community:**

- No senior centre or counselling services were identified during the visit
- Daycare was to be starting when an employee was hired.

### **Availability of not-for-profit organizations and clubs:**

- Inglis Business Group – but could not find an office to contact them for potentially starting a business in Inglis. No contact information was available on brochures or business sign either.
- Elevator Group
- Community Rink Board

## Emergency Services

### **Adequacy of fire, ambulance and policing services from the perspective of residents:**

- Community members told us that there was a large fire volunteer base
- Newer fire hall – appeared to be in good condition
- Ambulance – 15 minutes away
- Police – 15 minutes away

## **LOCAL ECONOMY**

*Downtown, Retail, Industry, Commercial, Professional Services and Tourism*

### **Initial impressions of the health of the local economy:**

- Overall, the group felt as though the local economy was lacking and that the community was on the doorstep of an opportunity with all of the tourism within the region
- There were a couple of buildings that had nothing in them on the main street
- Some of the signage was difficult to read, others lacked signage
- The group didn't realize where the business district started until they were already in it
- The group felt that Inglis Country Service had a huge opportunity. This is the store that the members of the group would go back to in a second, but they didn't feel everything was advertised as well as it could be. "It was a gem in the town of Inglis"

## Downtown Area

### **Ease of locating the downtown:**

- Not easily located
- One Business District sign existed at the entrance, but after that you were lost
- The business signage didn't stick out
- The main street lacks appeal.

### **Overall appearance of the downtown area:**

1      2      **3**      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

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## Final Report

- The general appearance of the downtown lacks “uniqueness”. It looks like every other small town. We thought that there were some simple things that could be done to spruce up the downtown.
- The elevator shapes on the light posts were a unique characteristic
- Neat older buildings
- Downtown is not wheelchair accessible

### ***Variety of shopping in the downtown area:***

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Limited but satisfactory for town of this size
- Base needs can be found within the community
- Everything else is in traveling distance
- Impressed that the grocery store was promoting local (i.e. organic flaxseed from the community, knitting from a local lady). We were impressed to see this type of local support.

### ***Customer service at businesses visited:***

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      **10**  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- We received excellent customer service at all of the places we visited.
- Friendly owners. We received amazing service at the Country Service. They opened up places that were closed so we could take a look at the products.
- Everyone was very willing to share information

### ***Signage in the downtown area:***

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- We really liked the business map in downtown that displayed the community businesses and surrounding area businesses. It wasn't as noticeable as it could be – potentially due to the white coloration. This is a huge asset to your community as we saw businesses listed that we wouldn't have seen otherwise.
- The business sign was really impressive, but some of the signage on the buildings lacked (i.e. some were behind trees, etc).
- Really nice sign of country service and flowers, neatly kept yard – but the sign didn't do her the justice that she deserves for that shop

### ***Window displays in the downtown:***

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Not a lot of displays
- No “sale” signs to take you into the store

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- Could maybe build upon their billboard sign (e.g. Daily specials, this week's specials at the grocery store)

### ***Variety and quality of merchandise in the downtown area:***

1      2      3      **4**      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Basic needs are met
- Typical for a small town
- Little giftware, no hardware, no parts for farmers, no paint, no clothing

### ***Mix of facilities and services in the Downtown:***

- Typical for a centre of this size
- No professional services, no hair shop noticed (but there was one on business directory)
- Two restaurants, grocery, post office, bank, RM office, gas and country service
- Other facilities and services available as detailed in the brochure, but now downtown

### ***Quality and availability of parking:***

1      2      3      4      5      6      **7**      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Street parking appeared to be adequate
- Angle on one side, parallel on the other is potentially confusing for visitors

### ***Quality of safety (lighting, sidewalks and accessibility):***

1      **2**      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Lighting was adequate for a community of this size (we were not in Inglis during evening however)
- Sidewalks were poor and a safety concern
- Wheelchair accessibility was not available overall. While the businesses are built at street level, the only buildings that were truly wheelchair accessible were the RM office, the bank, the community centre, the post office (which was in poor condition) and one of the churches. Even some of the accessible areas were difficult with a power wheelchair.

### ***Role and potential of the downtown in tourism:***

- HUGE potential!
- With the heritage elevator and the ski hill, the potential is great!

### ***Desirability of the downtown as a place to live:***

- N/A

### **General Information about Overall Retail**

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### **Overall mix of retail shopping:**

- Basic services are provided – grocery, bank, post office, etc.

### **Retail goods requiring travel to other communities:**

- Most goods and services would have to be obtained elsewhere: professional services, most gift ware, sporting goods, pharmacy, hardware, lumber, farming supplies, hair, clothing

### **Missing stores or services that we expected to find locally:**

- Laundromat with campground being so close
- Thrift shop may be an option
- Professional services
- Trades people

### **Unusual or unexpected stores or services for a community this size:**

- Country Service: Naturalpath, fair trade and organic
- Housekeeping service

### **High quality/desirable retail stores in the community that would attract shoppers from a distance of more than 40 km:**

- Not really, but the group felt that may be a missed opportunity with the tourism that occurs in the region
- Country Service could attract people to Inglis due to the unique goods available

### **Overall Condition of the Retail Sector:**

1      2      3      **4**      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- OK for a community of this size, but a lot of potential exists

### **Local Industries**

#### **Major industrial sectors in the community:**

- Agriculture
- Tourism

#### **Major employers in the community:**

- Conservation District
- School
- Credit Union
- RM office

#### **Major types of primary industry in the community:**

- Agriculture

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### **Industrial park or serviced land where manufacturers could locate or expand:**

- There didn't seem to be an industrial park of any kind
- Industrial area could be developed outside of the town limits if necessary

### **Apparent dependence on one type of industry?**

- Agriculture
- Tourism

### **Are industrial facilities well maintained?**

- N/A

### **Potential of community as an attractive location for manufacturing development:**

- Not really. There is no active railroad, no direct access to air or a major highway
- Taxes and water system may be attractive
- The business would face shipment obstacles and we were unsure as to what existed for development land

## PROFESSIONAL, COMMERCIAL AND GOVERNMENT SERVICES

### **Professional Services**

#### **Convenience of banks and ATMs (location and hours):**

- Impressed with hours of operation for size of community
- ATMs (24/7) is an asset

#### **Adequacy of financial services:**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      **9**      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Excellent. Only one bank but can't expect more than that. Especially when the hours are good and an ATM is available.

#### **Other available professional services:**

- None that were noticeable. A hair salon was noted from the business directory.

#### **Service gaps:**

- No professional services
- Lack of trades people

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## Commercial Services

### *Types of commercial businesses serving the local community (high-speed internet provider etc.):*

- Assumption that MTS is a provider for the community

### *Commercial service gaps:*

- The commercial services seemed adequate for this size of community

## Governmental Services

### *Location of municipal offices:*

- The municipal office was on Main Street.
- Excellent location
- Attractive building
- Wheelchair accessible

### *Availability and quality of information:*

#### *i) Community brochure/guide*

1      2      3      4      5      6      **7**      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory                                                   Excellent

- Community business brochure was excellent! This brochure exceeded our expectations!
- Community maps needed some work to make them more 'eye-catching'. Great idea though!

#### *ii) Business directory*

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      **9**      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory                                                   Excellent

- Excellent brochure and excellent map!

#### *iii) Community profile*

1      2      3      **4**      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory                                                   Excellent

- On-line information

### *Adequacy of information for investment decisions:*

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- Could not find Business Group contact information. There was no office was available or contact information on the brochures.
- Difficult to find information on how to start a business in Inglis or the land available to be developed

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE AND PLANNING

#### Public Infrastructure

##### **Public Transportation:**

**1**      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory    Excellent

- None available
- No handi-van, taxi, bus, volunteer group to drive, car pooling

##### **Sidewalks:**

**1**      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory    Excellent

- Poor and sometimes non-existent
- Trees needed trimmed along some of the sidewalks

##### **Streets:**

1      2      3      4      5      6      **7**      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory    Excellent

- Overall, well maintained and no big potholes

##### **Landscaping, Trees:**

1      2      3      4      5      6      **7**      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory    Excellent

- Trees seemed to be planted privately, non along main street
- A couple places with newly planted trees
- Overall, grass was well-maintained throughout the town

##### **Public Restrooms:**

**1**      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10

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Needs Urgent Attention

Satisfactory

Excellent

- None

### ***Pay phones, drinking fountains, benches, etc.:***

1 Needs Urgent Attention

2

3

4

**5**

6

7

8

9

10

Satisfactory

Excellent

- Payphone was available at the grocery store
- Drinking fountains N/A
- No benches really, only 1 that we saw downtown
- The Inglis elevators has a nice picnic area

## **Planning**

### ***Conflicting land uses?***

- Not really. There doesn't seem to be designated land use areas or zoning.
- There is a farm on the outskirts of town which could be an issue if the town expands

### ***Appropriateness of land use (commercial, residential, green space, etc.):***

- Mixed land use

### ***Traffic or pedestrian congestion?***

- N/A

### ***Are community facilities and infrastructure generally accessible for people with disabilities?***

- Not really. Locations that were truly accessible included the bank and the RM office. The community hall was accessible however the door threshold was raised a bit. The church would be difficult for someone with a power chair, and the post office would be inaccessible due to poor condition of ramp.

## **TOURISM**

### ***Is there a strong tourism sector?***

- The group felt that the tourism sector was not strong, but that there is A LOT of potential. It appears as though a lot of work has been put into establishing tourism with a focus on the elevators. There is a lot of potential that is available such as attraction of the ski hill population.

### ***Community slogan/brand:***

- Barley Capital of Manitoba
- Friendly place to visit
- Five Prairie Giants
- Which one is it?

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## Final Report

### ***Is there a well-known attraction or event/festival? Are the events/festivals held annually?***

Major attraction:

- Five Prairie Giants
- Outside of Inglis: Asessippi Park, Inglis Beach, Asessippi Ski Hill, Prairie Lake Lodge

Festivals/Events

- None were advertised or noticeable
- From speaking with the residents, there is a July 1<sup>st</sup> celebration, an Ultimate farmer competition, a Ski-doo rally, and an Annual Street Hockey Tournament

### ***Potential tourist attraction (natural or man-made):***

- We thought that making use of the tourist attractions that were already established within the region would be a great opportunity for Inglis. This includes the Inglis elevators, Inglis beach, Asessippi Ski Hill, Asessippi Park, Prairie Lake Lodge, Lake of the Prairies, etc. The whole region has done an exceptional job of marketing. Inglis should take advantage of that.
- Noticed that the recreational activities within the town limits lacked (campground, golf course, etc)

### ***Quality and appearance of existing attractions:***

|       |        |           |   |              |   |   |   |   |           |
|-------|--------|-----------|---|--------------|---|---|---|---|-----------|
| 1     | 2      | 3         | 4 | <b>5</b>     | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10        |
| Needs | Urgent | Attention |   | Satisfactory |   |   |   |   | Excellent |

### ***Comments:***

Inglis Elevators

- Impressive maintenance of historical "Prairie Giants"
- Overall, the grounds were well-maintained. Could use clean-up on the south side of the elevators. If this is where the tourist focus is on, these grounds need to be well maintained, even the nooks and crannies.
- Picnic area is a nice touch
- We liked how the boardwalk is in walking distance
- We were not told that a film was available to watch – only for tours?
- No brochures for Inglis were available at the elevator

Inglis Beach

- Grounds were well maintained, ball diamonds were very well-maintained
- Safety concern for camping with children due to the river proximity, especially with the playground being right next to it.
- Reasonable cost for camping
- Would be an ideal location for a family gathering (except for the safety concern for young children)
- We like that cabins were available. It provides a different option for those that prefer cabins to camping.

Asessippi Provincial Park

- Concession booth but no grocery/general store. We thought maybe this would be an opportunity for Inglis to advertise along the route towards the park.
- Group camping available
- Small sites may be problematic as campers become larger

Prairie Lake Lodge

- It was closed and the hours of operation indicated it should be open which was disappointing
- Beautiful course and reasonable price to golf for everyone
- Seems like an excellent place to learn to golf
- Liked the diversity of the fire pit, golf course, beach volleyball and lake
- Well developed
- It was a nice surprise!

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### ***Underdeveloped attractions?***

Inglis Elevators

- School tours could be brought in
- Tours could be given in costume such as done in many places with historic value (e.g. Tunnels of Moose Jaw). Drama students at the university level are often available for these positions. It may increase the number of visitors.
- Video is a really good idea; however, we weren't informed that there was a video. Potential to use a headset and tape to have a walking "live" tour at any time.
- We did meet a tourist from Ontario that had come specifically to Inglis to see the elevators and he said "He would recommend it to just a select few of his friends. His wife hadn't gone in. It needs something running and working inside. Right now, it looks like it could be on its way out"
- The group thought it could be more interactive. Even if it were once a week throughout the summer. Maybe having drama students give tours, or a big event or something like that (e.g. street fairs, some type of festival, etc).
- The signage for the elevators was really good.
- We thought the summer development at Asessippi was really good for Inglis and the elevators. It could be an opportunity to draw people into Inglis.

### ***Availability and quality of facilities serving the needs of visitors (e.g., tourist information centre):***

(Quality of customer service, facilities, signage, marketing material, maps, visibility)

#### ***Comments:***

- Customer service was excellent everywhere we went
- The business group seems to have done a lot of work on the marketing brochures
- The map was impressive downtown. Would be better if it was more eye-catching.
- Impressed with the large signage at the community entrances

### ***Availability and selection of overnight accommodations in the community:***

- There seems to be quite a few accommodations in the community
- Lots of bed and breakfasts are available
- Thought that with all the houses for sale in Inglis, a good opportunity for ski hill accommodations.

### ***Availability of facilities to accommodate a conference and/or a large number of visitors?***

- The hall would be able to hold several people.
- No real 'conference meeting' location other than the school
- We were told that the Prairie Grill does catering

### ***Quality and accessibility of the public restrooms:***

**1**      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention                      Satisfactory    Excellent

- None

### ***Quality and variety of restaurants:***

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## Final Report

### Quality

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

#### Comments:

- The food and service were excellent
- The first day the Prairie Grill was closed which was disappointing. We were able to see inside as one of the waitresses showed up.

### Variety

1      2      3      4      **5**      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

#### Comments:

- Two restaurants were available. There was not a lot of selection, but two restaurants are satisfactory for a community of this size.

### Recommendations by local residents on where to stay, eat, and visit:

- To eat: Prairie Grill – Burgers
- To stay: The Family Inn
- To shop: Auto place
- To visit: Dam and Campgrounds
- Nobody mentioned the Inglis elevators or Asessippi, Inglis Beach, etc.

### Restaurants, specialty shops or attractions that would bring you back to this community in the near future:

- Country Service if it expanded. Especially if she offers classes like Spice cooking
- Prairie Grill for the group that was unable to dine there on Visit 1 (Monday)

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### What events are popular with residents?

- None mentioned

### Do the residents feel there is a lack of community events?

- We were told there is nothing to do in Inglis
- There used to be potlucks, but they are dying out
- People leave the community to do things

### Does the community have heritage buildings? Are they well maintained?

- Elevators are well maintained. The group thought that there are things that could be done to spruce them up, but recognized the amount of work it takes to maintain these buildings.

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## *Final Report*

- The two churches were beautiful and had well maintained grounds.
- We liked how the surrounding area's heritage buildings were marked on the map downtown

### FAITH/RELIGION

#### ***Number, appearance, and selection of religious buildings in the community:***

- Three churches, but one is being converted to lodging
- Sounds as though there is a good following for one church as it brings people from Russell and Roblin
- No wheelchair access on either of them. The Trinity had wheelchair but someone with a power chair couldn't get in.

#### ***Architectural or design features of religious buildings visited:***

- Windows
- Brick

#### ***Overall impression of religious buildings:***

- Beautiful well kept grounds

### ENTERTAINMENT

#### ***Community entertainment activities:***

- Potlucks
- July 1 event
- Skating Rink for recreational hockey
- Karate Club at the school

#### ***Entertainment opportunities lacking in community (as perceived by residents):***

Comments included:

- "Nothing. There is rec hockey, but no minor hockey, no movie theatre in Russell anymore. There is nothing to do here for teenagers...only go to bush parties"
- When we asked someone about the curling rink, they asked "is there a curling rink in town?"
- "No one uses the skateboard park or tennis courts"

#### ***Is there a vibrant night life?***

- No
- We were told that there was no night life in Inglis. Everyone goes to Russell or Roblin. We thought this was a big opportunity for Inglis with the ski hill being so close and the availability of accommodations in the community.

### RECREATION

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## Final Report

### Recreation Facilities

#### **Availability of and appearance of parks:**

1      2      **3**      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

- Beautiful playground at school, but children would have to cross the highway
- No “community park”. The only place was behind the community hall which didn’t have csa approved playground equipment and wasn’t an attractive meeting place.
- Nice picnic area at the elevators

#### **Availability and appearance of public recreation facilities:**

1      **2**      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

\*\*\*\*Note\*\*\*\* Rating was given on the community of Inglis itself.

- The only thing that really stood out for adequate recreation facilities was the play structure equipment at the school.
- The skateboard park and tennis court looked unusable
- While the murals on the rink are very attractive, the rinks themselves look as though they have been closed and/or have limited use
- The boardwalk is a very unique idea
- Trans Canada Trail
- Outside of the community
  - Asessippi Park is beautiful with the abundance of land area, water and green space.

#### **Availability and appearance of private recreation facilities:**

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      8      9      10  
Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

\*\*\*\*Note\*\*\*\* Rating was given on the community of Inglis itself.

- None within the community
- Outside of the community
  - Inglis Beach is very nice; however, there was a safety concern for young children
  - Prairie Lake Lodge is an asset and is immaculate with an abundance of variation in the recreational activities available; however, it had a closed sign when the hours of operation indicated it would be open. It was an unexpected surprise, a place that we would go back to.
  - Asessippi Ski Hill is a great recreational asset to the community of Inglis
  - There is a lot of recreation within the area. Inglis needs to capitalize on this!!!

#### **What people in this community appear to do for recreation:**

- Visit recreational attractions outside of the community
- Outdoor recreation (i.e. skiing, golfing, camping)

#### **Surprising recreational facility (private or public) in this community:**

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## Final Report

- The boardwalk was a surprise
- Outside of the community: the quality of the Prairie Lake Lodge golf course. It is a jewel out in the country.

### Recreational activity or facility gaps:

- Gym/exercise facility
- Ball diamonds (available outside of community)
- Fairgrounds
- Campgrounds (available outside of community)
- Minor sports
- Paddling pool

### Suitability of recreational facilities for the following populations:

| Overall suitability of recreational facilities<br>(scale of 1 to 10) | Group                   |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1  | Senior Citizens         |
| 1  | Families                |
| 2  | Singles, young adults   |
| 1  | Teens                   |
| 2  | Children (13 and under) |

## INFORMATION FROM COMMUNITY RESIDENTS

### Were community residents knowledgeable about the community?

- Yes, everyone was very helpful and more than willing to share information and answer any questions that we had

### Did they refer you to someone else who would help?

- Yes, always

### Community Pride (were residents positive or negative about their community?):

- Positive overall
- The youth that we spoke with had a somewhat negative perception of the community; however, this is often the case with youth in a small community
- Residents indicated it was a great place to live

### Any major concerns for residents?

- None

### Quality of information from community residents:

1      2      3      4      5      6      7      **8**      9      10  
 Needs Urgent Attention      Satisfactory      Excellent

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## *Final Report*

- Very good overall

### USING YOUR SENSES

#### ***Tastes (any specialty food item, bakery, restaurant, or candy store to remember?):***

- The Quesadilla from the Prairie Grill

#### ***Smells:***

- None that stood out

#### ***Sights:***

- Stunning view of 5 towering elevators. We could see them from everywhere
- Murals on the front of the arenas depicted the history of Inglis

#### ***Sounds:***

- No noise. It was very quiet. So quiet, you could hear the wind blowing in the trees.

#### ***Overall environmental health of the community:***

- Overall, it was very clean.

#### ***Any experiences that affected the way the community felt to us:***

- We met a great lady that really promoted your town
- There were no kids around town, limited people in general
- We were treated very well by everyone we met
- There didn't seem to be much to do.

### WRAP-UP

#### ***Was your perception prior to the visit accurate? In what ways was it different?***

- For the most part. It was bigger than some group members thought it would be. They were really impressed with the Country Store and the knowledge of the business owner. They expected a focus on the elevators.

#### ***Did the information you collected prior to the visit accurately reflect what you experienced?***

- Some participants though the website made it sound very active, however there didn't seem to be anyone around.

#### ***What is the most outstanding feature of this community?***

# First Impressions Community Exchange

## *Final Report*

- Friendly people and the elevators

### ***How would you describe the demographic make-up of the community?***

- Retirement
- Commuter population

### ***Would you consider this community as a suitable location for a young family?***

- Not really. There is no recreation so you would have to travel for everything, high school included. A family would have to be on the road at all times. That being said, the community is safe and quiet so for those desiring the small-town atmosphere, it may be ideal.

### ***Would you consider this a suitable location for a retired person?***

- No. There is no health care or senior centre. The sidewalks are poor which is a safety concern. We did feel as though it was safe and quiet though, which may draw retirees.

### ***Would you consider this a suitable location for a young single adult?***

- Not really due to the lack of other single adults and assumingly, a lack of jobs. You could very easily attract young people due to the ski hill though and due to the availability of rental housing, but long-term attraction would be difficult. For people that love the outdoors, it may be a drawing card.

### ***Would you consider experiencing this community as a tourist?***

- Not Inglis specifically. But there is enough going on in the region that the group felt they might be back at one point in time.

### ***Would you consider locating your retail or service business here?***

- No, due to limited available labour force and location (i.e. distance from #83)
- The group felt that there is opportunity for businesses such as outdoors specialty equipment due to the reliance on recreational activities in the region (i.e. fishing, boating, lodging, snowboarding, biking, etc.)

### ***Would you consider locating a manufacturing business here?***

- No, due to limited labour force and lack of direct access to transport goods (air, water, highway)

### ***Five positive things about this community.***

- Friendly community
- Residents are positive about their community and take pride
- HUGE potential for that area with all of the
- Low taxes and reasonable housing for prospective new residents
- Available infrastructure to support business attraction

### ***Five potential opportunities available to the community:***

# **First Impressions Community Exchange**

## ***Final Report***

1. Beautification of your main street
2. The proximity to the ski hill. Promote Inglis there! There is a HUGE market there of potential customers and visitors! HUGE! “Stay in Inglis and Play at the Ski Hill”. Lodging of ski hill visitors, last minute purchases before heading to the ski hill, supper at the Prairie Grill, have a beer after a long day of skiing at the Inglis Hotel and stay in one of the accommodations available in Inglis. “Package” what you have to offer.
3. Business opportunity for a outdoors sports shop
4. Improve on what you already have. Make the elevator interactive in some capacity
5. Organize a festival to bring people in from the ‘tourism’ region.

### ***Five biggest obstacles/challenges facing this community***

1. Lack of youth and no high school
2. Location – not directly on the highway and proximity to Russell and Roblin
3. Recreational activities for residents within the community are limited
4. Health care and social services for residents within the community are limited
5. No contact information or office for Business Group.

### ***What will you remember most about this community six months from now (positive or negative)?***

- Friendly, small-town atmosphere
- Elevators
- County Service

### ***What things have you observed here that have changed your impression of your own community?***

- It makes you look at your community differently in terms of everything
- It made us appreciate how beautiful our main street is
- Made us think we could do a much better job of promotion (i.e. promotional brochures, highway signage, etc.)
- We could look at establishing a boardwalk somewhere

### ***ONE idea we will borrow for use in our own business/community and how we will start to implement it within the next 72 hours!***

- Improve our website, brochures, signage
- Discuss the items that should be displayed on the website

### ***Other comments:***

- Landfill – we were impressed with the cleanliness/organization of your landfill
- There seem to be several old abandoned buildings that perhaps could be used for something