

# **Regina PhotoVoice Project**

## **2007**

### **Public Showing**

**CATALOGUE, DECEMBER 3, 2008**  
**Part 1 of 5**

All pictures copyright © by the individual photographers of  
PhotoVoice Regina 2007. All rights reserved.

Contact Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence, Regina, Saskatchewan  
[pwhce@uregina.ca](mailto:pwhce@uregina.ca), (306) 585-5727, or 535-9570 regarding use of photos.

## Notes to Display

**All photos were taken in Regina.**

**People in the photos signed a consent form.**

**For some photos the person being photographed posed  
for the photo to illustrate the situation.**

# THE PHOTOS

# Introduction



## **Prisoner of Poverty**

© 2007 by SG of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

The chains of poverty hold me captive – no matter how hard I struggle it just seems to tighten its grasp. I was led to believe that hard work and endurance would set you free but that does not seem to be the case. The “choice” of poverty has never been mine; it was given to me as a burden to carry to ensure the prosperity of others. The reality is that utilities in arrears are deferred and if employment is ever found the pay cannot realistically maintain both the monthly bills and the arrears. The arrears are no longer on hold and I must pay the total amount or live in the cold and the dark. How can I ever be free?



## **Does the Parent Even Care?**

© 2007 by RC of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

The government is responsible for us like a parent is to a child. They set the standards, the rules and the attitudes and they keep us well (or unwell) spiritually, emotionally, financially and physically.

In elementary school they taught us that unity, respect and world peace were the healthy ideals. But they want war and money so evil abounds. And even more sad, they are a role model. Canada has one of the best governments there is. They can do it. And like a small child I helplessly wonder why they won't.

## I'LL SPEAK

I'll speak for the tongues that have been silenced

I'll speak for you my friend

I'll speak for change and fairness

I'll speak for acceptance and tolerance

I'll tell you about the shades of life

I'll let you see through my eyes

I'll show you the invisible fences

between your class and mine

Drop your sheltered vision, unprison your mind

Expand your horizons for a moment

- even if it is only for "pretend" -

Let your compassion melt your judgment

Hear me out

Feel my pain

See my struggle

Understand my message

And join me in a journey

For justice and change

Let's make Freedom from Poverty everyone's Reality !

# Housing



## Who Does the Hot Housing Market Really Benefit?

© 2007 by LY of PhotoVoice Regina.  
All rights reserved.

For sale, for sale, houses for sale! Low-income houses for sale end up being bought by landlords that then rent the homes to low income tenants. How can even moderately low income people even begin to contemplate actually buying these houses, making a home when the prices head North while their incomes are standing still or heading South, relatively speaking?

Sooner or later those new homes are boarded bones, abandoned. Why are landlords allowed this, at the same time as the low-income tenants have no rights or a decent home?



## Come In, Welcome, Stay Out!

Typical appearance of a garage door in the core. Welcoming nothing and no one, distracting and disgusting to all. Where is the landlord, but putting on airs of respectability miles away, with the rent monies. Meanwhile the low-income earner works diligently for little in the factories, farms and for "Free Trade".

But the rising rents really are reinvested...into what...?

Inside, outside, but never in one place, a personal space, a safe place, always a threatened space is your place.

Chain-link fence or picket fence anyone? This is a cheap form of fence, put up in poor neighbourhoods by landlords because they don't want to spend the money and the time for a normal wooden fence. Or is it that the fence allows the tenants to see the street while providing a barrier to the evil on the street?

The fences are symbolic of the key differences between "that" area of town, the area that everyone inside and outside "that" area fears to tread, and the life on the outside.

While a prison sentence confines you for a specific period of time, and even provides three squares per day, a life of poverty represents an endless sentence behind bars living in fear with NO release date, and only the endless squares in the chain-link fence to face every day.

Who would call this justice?



## Out in the Cold

In Saskatchewan there are grants available to make your home more energy efficient. There are severe flaws in this program as in order to get the grant you have to get the cash up front, while never knowing if you actually qualify and for what percentage of the cost. Also Sask Energy can order the work to be done by you regardless of whether you can afford this or not. Leaving you in financial limbo.

by "Grant Coldspell"

© 2007 by PG of PhotoVoice Regina.  
All rights reserved.



### 'Comes With Fridge and Stove'

Many people assume that a rented place comes with appliances that work. I first realized this when my doctor assumed I had a fridge that had all it's shelves, could be washed and kept mould free and would keep cool things cool and frozen things safe, ready for when they were needed. You need this so that you can buy wisely and feed your family.

But poverty is relative. When I showed my photos to someone who's spent time as a street kid, they said: "Empty fridge. Reminds me of the times I had no food."



### **It's a Landlord's World**

© 2007 by JU of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

I witnessed this eviction. These mattresses are some of the larger belongings that the victims could not take with them as they sought shelter at a friend's place. How many more people find themselves in this position? What would you do if this happens to you and your family? Should people be punished for being poor?



## A Safe Haven

© 2007 by SG of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

A friend of mine once ran the gauntlet in order to ensure that this lot or another like it did not become her living room. Even after going to the Office of the Rentalsman and then on to the Court of Queen's Bench, where she won her decision, she was still harassed by the Regina Housing Authority. A lack of communication, because people find it hard to listen to the stories of people who are poor, almost left a 62-year-old woman on the street looking for a safe haven to rest her weary head.



## Poverty of Spirit

© 2007 by JA of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

Abandoned furniture left out in the rain.

Did someone leave it behind? Were they forced to? Or did they just walk away? Could someone else use it? Could someone experience the warmth of passing something on to the person who needs it?

Poverty is cold.



### Disrespectfully Abandoned

© 2007 by SG of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

As a person born and bred by poverty, I feel like these items; discarded, thrown away, and abandoned. Treated like garbage and not allowed to be used to my full potential. There could be use placed in these items and I could be just as useful but I am never given the chance, disrespectfully abandoned and discarded.

Food



## To Have Food or Shelter?

What would you do if you were faced with a situation to choose between paying your rent and buying food to fill your fridge for the month? How would you respond if your three-year-old child asked you why your fridge is always empty? These are the realities for people living on the margins of life. People must not have to choose between basic needs. There is an urgent need to improve services and subsidies for households with low income. You and I can push for these changes. The time to act is now.



## Mid-month Blues

A fake portrait hangs where the real bananas originally would. During the mid-month blues in between my assistance cheque.

© 2007 by KS of PhotoVoice Regina.  
All rights reserved.

**Poverty Living -  
Groceries Are  
Getting Too  
Expensive.**

*My friend said, “Go ahead and take the picture. People should know what it is like to have to do this because we don’t get enough money!”*



This person is going through the garbage because the cost of food is going up and he is still hungry and at the end of the month he has very little food to eat.

People also have to go through garbage bins to find recycle things for money.

Every time food goes up, taxes go up, the cost of running a restaurant goes up, the price goes up for the customers. People on Social Assistance/Disability don't have their income go up, so they can't go out to eat very often.



## **Community Gardens**

© 2007 by LYof PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

Fresh vegetables from your own garden, ready for you anytime ... if you have your own backyard. How about having to travel blocks away to obtain your fresh vegetables?

Community gardens should be made more plentiful so that more people may benefit from their bounty.

**“Give us this day our daily bread”**



© 2007 by MT of PhotoVoice Regina. All rights reserved.

## **"Give us this day our daily bread"**

### **Church Hallway on Sunday Morning**

- What do you see?
- \* a generous bakery business
- \* day old bread "can't sell it ... will do for the needy"
- \* food from the floor "it's still good!"
- \* a noble act of giving
- \* walls and floor cornered!
- Food for thought!



## Food Bank Collage

**"Give us this day our daily bread"**



Free for all!

Would you take this?

© 2007 by MT of PhotoVoice Regina.  
All rights reserved.

## **“Give us this day our daily bread”**

**Alley**

**A bag of bottles/cans = a loaf of bread**

What are your first thoughts?

- \* food or garbage
- \* bums picking through your garbage invading your privacy
- \* environmentalists saving the Earth and themselves from starving
- \* junkies, boozers, bums
- \* unwanted elements in your neighbourhood
- \* creative problem solving out of necessity
- \*
- \*

