

# FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022

---

## THE PAS & AREA ANIMAL SHELTER RECEIVES \$10,000.00 FROM WESTOBA INSPIRE

**The Pas, MB**– The Pas & Area Animal Shelter (TPAAS) is thrilled to receive \$10,000.00 from the Westoba Credit Union Inspire Program to begin development of an area to shelter dogs at their current location.

Currently, the animal shelter can only safely house cats with the current state of the facility due to a lack of suitable space for dogs. This donation will be used to renovate undeveloped space in the building.

TPAAS Treasurer, Debbie Patenaude says providing shelter for stray dogs has become a real problem for the facility and will benefit the entire community as stray dogs can be dangerous for everyone, especially children.

“TPAAS has had 69 dogs come into our care this year,” said Patenaude. “During the same period in 2021 the number was 35. Although it is better for the dogs to be placed into foster homes asap, this often does not happen, and we end up housing the dogs in kennels in our unsuitable lobby.” Patenaude says some dogs may spend up to a week in the lobby area until an available foster home or transportation to an alternate rescue can be arranged.

Through the hard work of volunteers, the group has slowly been developing the building to provide care for stray animals. The cat space which currently houses over 30 cats who would otherwise be left to survive on their own in the community. The completion of the dog area will make it easier for volunteers to provide a higher level of care for dogs in the future.

“All of the animals that come into the care of TPAAS are dewormed and vaccinated before they go to foster homes. Spays and neuters are included in the adoption fee,” said Patenaude. “Even when we are unable to physically take in an animal, whenever possible the members of our organization assist the public in getting care for their animals by rehoming those that require it or arranging for transport to rescues outside of the community. “

The Pas Branch Manager, Asia Melnick credits TPAAS for improving the safety of the community. “Westoba is proud to support this project that impacts the entire region.” Said Melnick. “Facilities like TPAAS serve as an important safety resource for our community; Westoba is committed to investing in community infrastructure and supporting the dedicated volunteers that make it happen.”

Completion of this portion of the TPAAS dog area project is aimed at spring of 2023.

For more information:

Debbie Patenaude

The Pas & Area Animal Shelter, Treasurer

Phone: 204-620-3178

Email: [debbiepaten@netscape.net](mailto:debbiepaten@netscape.net)



### **ABOUT INSPIRE AND WESTOBA CREDIT UNION**

Westoba is a full-service financial institution employing approximately 200 people across Manitoba. Created in 2017, Westoba Inspire is Westoba's community investment program in partnership with the Brandon Area Community Foundation and the Westoba Fund. Priority is giving to projects that support community infrastructure, have a clear local impact; are inclusive and bring people together; are long-term or multi-functional; and promote staying, participating, and engaging in an enriched community.

Karen Burton

Community Engagement Lead

Westoba Credit Union

Phone: 1-877-WESTOBA

Email: [karen.burton@westoba.com](mailto:karen.burton@westoba.com)



### **Photo submission:**

L-R: Naseer Malik, Manager, Retail Service Delivery; Asia Melnick, Westoba The Pas Branch Manager; Debbie Patenaude, TPAAS; Henry Neufeld, Director, Member Experience