



# The Marquis Project Newsletter

November 2016

## Board Members

**Michelle Lemoine**

President

**Bryn Rees**

Secretary

**David Gamey**

Treasurer

**Mireille Saurette**

Chair, Fair Trade Committee

**Zack Gross**

**Mohamud Kediye**

**Patricia Malcolm**

**Malcolm Oldcorn**

**Ben Zubrycki**

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## The Marquis Project's Engaging 2016 Annual General Meeting

The 2016 Marquis AGM was held in The Elephant Room at B.U. on Thursday, June 9, 2016. There were approximately 35 members in attendance, including Linda Connor from Manitoba Education. Mireille Saurette and Lindsay Hargreaves made a presentation on Fair Trade; afterwards, Samantha Dellezay presented on the education program. President Naomi Leadbeater discussed plans for the fall including continuing the education program. David Gamey gave the financial report with the caution that we need our membership and donor numbers to grow to keep Marquis sustainable financially. The membership re-elected two board members and elected four new members resulting in greater diversity on the board. (See board members list on left.) Naomi thanked out-going board members Brandy Robertson, Kim Burgess, and Al Friesen for their service.

Naomi also highlighted Beny Mwenda's visit to Manitoba and the fact that Marquis fundraising broke even for it! She also talked about hopes for more Marquis recognition in the community and the feeling that the strength of our school program and Beny's recent visit may help in that regard.



Photo Credit: Dinah Cephis

Marquis Board members (at time of photo March 2016) Al Friesen, Naomi Leadbeater, and Brandy Robertson with Beny Mwenda of the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education & Extension, and Samantha Dellezay, Marquis Education Program Facilitator, in the Marquis office.

(Note: Naomi Leadbeater resigned from the Board in September to focus on her studies as a Masters of Music student at Brandon University.)

## HELP! Marquis Campaign to Meet Core Costs

In September the Marquis Board launched a campaign to meet our very modest core operational expenses through regular, reliable automatic donations via our existing pre-authorized debit system (CAFT – Customer Automated Funds Transfer).

Because Marquis does not have staff to handle various administrative tasks such as deposits and writing receipts, donating through this system is particularly helpful as it is predictable. Board members currently do most of the administrative duties on a volunteer basis and would rather focus their energies and limited time on Marquis programming.

The CAFT system has been in use for many years by dedicated members and supporters. **Our current objective is to increase the monthly donations via this system by \$350.** Reaching this goal will allow Marquis sustained capacity to meet our basic operational costs even if Manitoba Education funding is significantly reduced or even eliminated.

**Over the past few years the Marquis donor base has gradually declined, and for the first time since our loan was paid off three years ago, we are now dipping into a line of credit to meet our expenses. With your help we can avoid this.**

*As little as \$5/month will help Marquis remain viable in our community.*

### What are Marquis Core Operational Costs? They include the following:

Office/Meeting Space Rent (\$375 per month)	Communication (Telephone, Internet & Website)
Basic Accounting Services	Accounts Review (Annual Review Engagement Report)
Newsletter & Mail out of Charitable Receipts	Liability Insurance
Fair Trade and MCIC memberships	Bank Service Charges

We already have a good start on our objective having signed up donors for \$65 of the targeted \$350 per month. **Please consider joining this campaign.** Signing up is easy!

Download and print off the “Payor’s PAD Agreement” donation form found on the Marquis website Donate Tab, or request a form via our e-mail address or from a Board Member.

Complete and sign the form and attach a voided cheque or provide your account transfer information.

Send in the hard copy to Marquis, give it to a board member, or scan it and send it in by email.

Current supporting members are signed up for amounts from \$10 to \$50 per month but even \$5 per month will contribute to our objective. You are not making a long term commitment by signing up. You can terminate your donation at any time by giving us a week’s notice. Donations are debited from the account you designate on the 1st business day of each month.

## City of Brandon Fair Trade Town 2016 Update!

The City of Brandon became Manitoba's Second Fair Trade Town in May, 2014. Since then, Brandon has won the Canadian Fair Trade Town of the Year award two years in a row (we tied with Hudson, Quebec in 2015). To be designated a Fair Trade Town, a city must meet and sustain five requirements annually. The following table is a very brief summary of the City of Brandon's achievements for 2016.

Requirements	Details	Target	Actual
Steering committee	Membership	6	<b>8</b>
	Meet 2x/year	8	<b>9</b>
	Annual renewal application	July 1/16	<b>July 1/16</b>
Product Availability	Retail & Grocery	13	<b>24.5</b>
	Restaurants & Cafés	6.5	<b>11.5</b>
Public Awareness	Media	12	<b>19</b>
	Community events	12	<b>50</b>
	Online resources	5	<b>6</b>
Community Support	Community groups, workplaces, schools, etc.	20	<b>25</b>

Additionally, we have maintained political support. We continue to have an active steering committee member appointed by the city. Our status as a Fair Trade Town is published on the municipal website and the [Brandon Environment Committee website](#). Finally, we are also very happy to report that the purchasing policy has finally been amended to reflect Fair Trade coffee and sugar in all city department offices.

Other exciting news - Fair Trade Workplaces and Fair Trade Faith Groups in Brandon:

The Marquis Project

Grace Mennonite Church

CAA Manitoba (Brandon Division)

Riverbank Discovery Centre

See [Fair Trade programs](#) for more information on how to become a Fair Trade workplace, faith group, school, or campus or how to designate an event a Fair Trade event.

Locally purchased fair trade products, Brandon's fair trade awards, and resources for more information about fair trade proudly displayed on the Fair Trade table at the June 2016 Marquis AGM.

Photo Credit:  
Dinah Cepelis



Rick Piche, Barb Olmstead, Bryn Rees, and Mireille Saurette

### SAVE THE DATE: March 5, 2017

The Fair Trade Town committee and The Marquis Project board are proud to host a Fair Trade Feast dinner event at The Dock on Princess on March 5, 2017 from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm. Raised funds will support local fair trade committee initiatives as well as contribute to continued partnerships with TSAEE. The dinner event will include a silent auction and 50/50 draw.

Tickets go on sale soon! Visit the Marquis website Fair Trade tab to check for details <http://www.marquisproject.com/fairtrade>

*Sixty young women participate in economic and leadership training.*

## Single Adolescent Mothers Gain Economic and Leadership Skills in Tanzania

The Marquis Project's Tanzanian partner, the Tanzania Society of Agricultural Education and Extension (TSAEE), is half-way through the implementation of our current project in the Lake Zone of Tanzania. Tanzania reports a high number of births to women aged 15-19 years. While the number has decreased from 155 births per 1,000 women aged 15-19 in 1980 to 123 in 2015, the livelihood of the young mothers and their children remains a major concern. In rural areas, the young mothers are marginalized economically as they may not have completed secondary school nor do they have skills to financially support themselves and their child. As a result, TSAEE developed a program to assist young women to gain skills in income generation and leadership.



Beny Mwenda (third from left) leads a planning session for participants of the joint TSAEE – Marquis project in Tanzania (Photo Credit: TSAEE) .

To date, sixty rural adolescent women in three villages have participated in a series of training seminars on entrepreneurship, leadership and life skills, HIV and AIDs awareness, and gender equality.

After training on basics of entrepreneurship, participants identified tangible goals they wish to achieve and then choose an income generating project to implement. Projects undertaken by group members include making and selling local wine, tailoring, growing horticultural crops, operating a tea room; managing a kiosk that sells small items like matches, cooking oil, phone cards; making and selling soap, and being a food vendor.

Groups in one village initiated a micro credit lending facility with each member contributing 2000 Tanzania shillings [about \$1.25 Canadian] to raise the capital.

One group called Great Queens is progressing very well. Borrowing and paying back is done properly and the size of the capital is increasing. They started with 20,000 shillings (\$12.50) in May 2016 and by September the capital grew to 85,000 shillings (\$53). Each group member has initiated an income generating project and each has set one tangible goal.

Marquis thanks the Manitoba Council for International Cooperation through its Manitoba Government Matching Grants Program who provided funding for this project from the Theme Fund. Marquis Board members Patricia Malcolm and Bryn Rees have agreed to be the liaison people with TSAEE.



Young mothers and babies – TSAEE project participants in Tanzania (Photo Credit: Beny Mwenda)

All articles on pages 4 & 5 have been submitted by Dinah Ceplis and Beny Mwenda.

## Support for Sports in Tanzania

When Rural Development Coordinator Beny Mwenda returned from Brandon to Tanzania in March 2016, he arrived home with support from Brandon youth and Marquis' members for several rural development projects. Students from Vincent Massey High School in Brandon wanted to enable their peers in Tanzania to participate in sports.

Beny reports that this project had three steps: dialogue, purchases and/or financial donations, and sports activities on the ground. Beny met with three groups of youth: post-secondary

students at the agricultural training college at Ukiriguru [MATIU], BATEZ (a cultural group of youth), and Bomani Secondary School.

Female students at MATIU requested and were given a basketball, netball plus 10 uniforms (see photo). Male students at MATIU requested and were given a basketball. BATEZ requested and were given one football, one basketball, and one netball. Bomani Secondary School requested all three types of balls but only one basket ball was available for them. More funds were needed to fulfill their request.



Students with new uniforms and netball at Ministry of Agriculture Training Institute (MATIU) at Ukiriguru, Tanzania .  
(Photo Credit: Beny Mwenda)

## Porridge Program for Pre-school Youth in Tanzania

Young Tanzanian children aged 5 and 6 years are encouraged to attend pre-school classes at their local schools. TSAEE has reported that the rural kids often walk long distances to attend classes and come to school without adequate food. Some schools have initiated porridge programs after receiving a kick-start with funding support from friends in Manitoba. The funding assists the local school and parent committee to purchase a cooking pot, cups, firewood for cooking, and corn flour and sugar as ingredients for the porridge. Once the program is initiated, the parents contribute the ingredients to keep the porridge program operational. Many thanks to several members of The Marquis Project who informally donated funds directly to TSAEE to help several primary schools in the local area.



Pre-school children in a queue waiting for their cup of porridge at a school in Tanzania. (Photo Credit: Beny Mwenda)



*Linking Manitobans with  
the Developing World*

### Stay Connected

Visit our website or join us on Twitter or Facebook for more details on the work of Marquis and updates on the Fair Trade initiatives. Join us for the March Fair Trade dinner event. If you are receiving this newsletter via Canada Post, please consider sending us your email coordinates so we can simplify the process of staying connected. Thank you!

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## New School Year for The Marquis Project Education Program

The Marquis Project is once again looking forward to another successful school year. Last year, Marquis was able to exceed the targeted student outcome of 1200 by reaching 3450 students and educators! A huge part of the outstanding achievement was due to our guest speaker, Beny Mwenda, who travelled from Tanzania to teach Manitoba students about gender equality, micro finance, and agriculture. The Marquis Project looks forward to the 2016-2017 school year to continue these initiatives throughout Southwest Manitoba. Marquis Education Facilitator, Samantha Dellezay, is excited about continuing to assist teachers deliver social studies curriculum outcomes throughout southwest Manitoba. This year Samantha is focusing on working closely with classrooms and developing long-term relationships with teachers and students.

A huge thank you to Manitoba Education for again investing in The Marquis Project's education program to support the 2016-2017 school year. Manitoba Education's continued support enables Marquis to continue "Linking Manitobans with the Developing World" with programming linked to Manitoba Education's Social Studies Curriculum.

To book a presentation session, contact the Marquis Education Facilitator, Samantha Dellezay, by email <[marquiseducator@gmail.com](mailto:marquiseducator@gmail.com)> or via telephone at 204-727-5675.

## A Holiday Season Gift-Giving Idea - A Bottle of Fair Trade Wine!

The Province of Manitoba continues to be a leader in growth of fair trade product availability as well as educational and promotional programming. Manitoba Liquor & Lotteries (MBLL) are now carrying about 30 Fairtrade Certified products, including wines from South Africa, Chile and Argentina as well as "Fair" Vodka, a "Fair" Café Liqueur and a rice and a wheat beer from Mongozo. No other province offers this amount or variety of Fairtrade products. As well, MBLL casinos serve Fairtrade Certified coffee and market their own signature brand of FTC wines. Kathy Boulton, a former Brandon resident who worked at the Liquor Mart at 10th & Victoria, is now the Product Ambassador for MBLL organic and fair trade items. MBLL has supported Marquis and Fair Trade Manitoba in holding fair trade product tasting events in the past and was the Presenting Sponsor for the Winnipeg-based National Fair Trade Conference last February. So look for the Fairtrade logo when purchasing your holiday drinks – whether it be coffee or wine!

