

Community Pledge Challenge - Entry
Elbow, Saskatchewan

Physical activity has always been important to the residents of Elbow, Saskatchewan. In the summer months we provide Red Cross Swimming Lessons at Lake Diefenbaker and in the winter months we have a group of volunteers that make sure our local rink has ice for the children and youth in our community to take advantage of! This helps to give our kids some “structured” physical activity, while helping them to see that keeping active can also be enjoyable.

Elbow has decided that an excellent way to increase physical activity for children and youth in our community is by organizing and developing the Elbow Community Park Project. This project is aimed at providing a safe place for children and youth in our community to keep active. By building a safe and modern playground and providing adult fitness equipment and walking paths, we are encouraging our community members to keep fit, while having FUN!

Recently our dream of creating a “gathering place” for people in our community to come together and keep active has captured the attention of Let Them Be Kids; a non-profit organization that helps communities build playgrounds and fitness parks in areas of need, while also building community capacity amongst citizens, and laying a strong foundation for a brighter tomorrow! Elbow has been selected from hundreds of applicants across Canada, and is one of just 30 communities to win the national Helping Hands Award. Elbow is also the very first community to ever win the award in Saskatchewan!

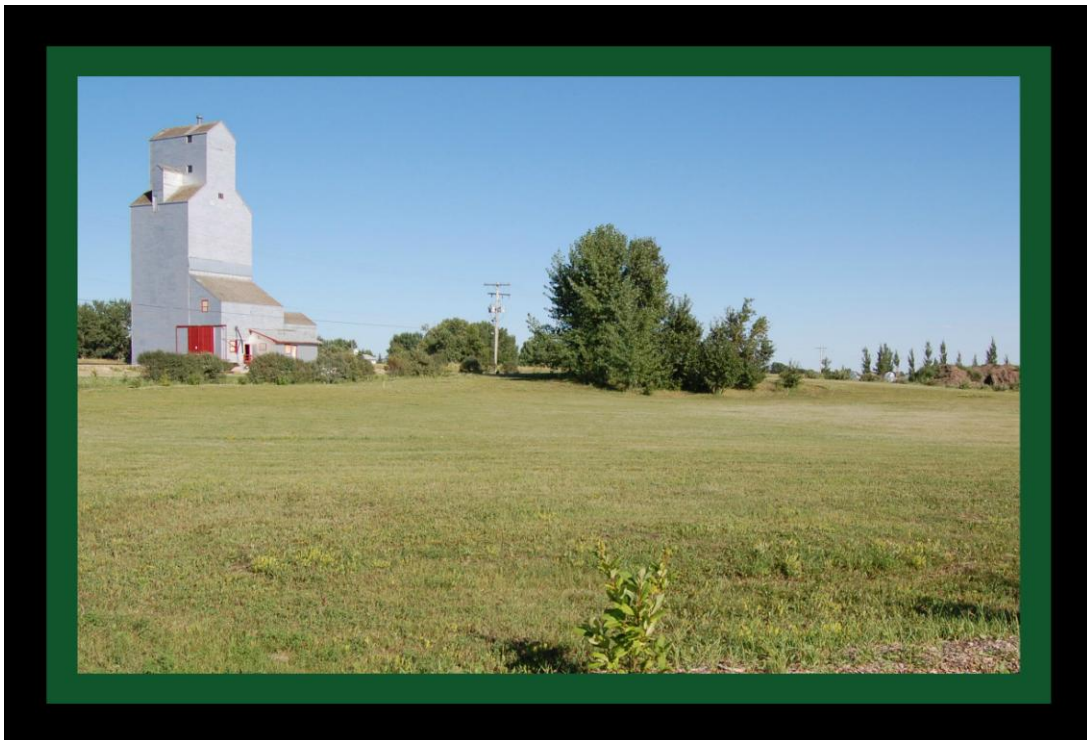
The Helping Hands Award gives our town a 50/50 match opportunity for playground and fitness equipment; for every dollar we are able to raise, Let Them Be Kids will match the donation!

Our project will take place on May 12, 2012. In just one day we will build a place for the children and families of our area to connect. We will bring everyone in our community together to achieve a common goal – building a playground for our kids. The project will help to develop a more united community empowered to create positive change! It will involve the whole community in the continued development of our park and will instil a sense of pride amongst citizens, while demonstrating the importance of volunteerism and physical activity. Currently we have over 90 volunteers officially registered for build day! Together we will create a space for all citizens to keep active, all year long and for years to come!



(Drawn By a Local Grade 5 Student)

Our new community playground and park will provide an opportunity for citizens to come together; it will be a welcoming space for children, parents, grandparents and visitors! We will create an active gathering place where generations can unite and where families can connect. We are preparing a space that will provide the children and youth in our community a clean, green and safe environment to enjoy! The playground, adult fitness equipment and walking paths will be accessible year round, a place where memories will be made while getting outdoors and keeping active! An active community is a healthy community and by providing a welcoming, safe environment we are opening the door to a healthier tomorrow!



(Above is a picture of the future playground site...)

Elbow would use the \$10,000 to increase physical activity for children and youth in our community, by providing a safe and modern playground for them to enjoy. We will also provide adult fitness equipment for adults to use while at the park. If parents are active, then their kids will be too! The exciting part about Elbow winning the Community Pledge Challenge is that Let Them Be Kids would match the prize money, actually giving the community \$20,000 to put towards our playground and fitness equipment! Wow! Winning the challenge will help to make physical activity the easy choice for our kids because we will be able to provide a place for them to go to keep active. A place they can call their own!

To get the children and youth involved in our project, we held a “Dotmocracy” at the local school, where children were able to view the components of the playground and were able to vote on their favourite pieces! With the children’s help we were able to create an initial design of what the playground might look like if we are able to raise the funds that are needed.



(Our future playground!)

Together, we hope to raise \$75,000 for the Community Park Project, with \$30,000 going directly to playground and fitness equipment. The rest of the money raised will go towards establishing walking paths throughout the park as well as other park amenities such as memorial gardens, picnic tables, benches and a performance shelter. All this will help to give Elbow and its visitors the PERFECT place to gather! By winning the Community Pledge Challenge, we will be THAT much closer to purchasing the playground equipment that our children need.

Why should Elbow win the \$10,000? It's simple. Elbow is READY to make a difference in our community and we are committed to providing a healthy future for our children! We currently do not have a safe playground for our kids ☹! Our project is already in the planning stages, and we know exactly what we would do with the money! And better yet, Elbow would be able to thank Saskatchewan In Motion for not only the \$10,000...but actually \$20,000! What an awesome opportunity!



(Drawn By a Local Grade 5 Student)

We can already see how our involvement with the Community Pledge Challenge and with Saskatchewan In Motion has made families in our community more aware and accountable for the amount of physical activity that their children receive on a daily basis. One of the Elbow Community Park Project goals is to lead by example and demonstrate to our children, our families and all community members, that by working together anything is possible and dreams really can become reality! We want to thank the Community Pledge Challenge and Saskatchewan In Motion for allowing our entry in the contest to be an amazing catalyst for getting our community to not only rally together pledges for Elbow, but to also remind our citizens that – TOGETHER we really can get our kids moving more! TOGETHER WE WILL SUCCEED!



(Drawn By a Local Grade 3 Student)

Thanks again for considering Elbow as a finalist in the Community Pledge Challenge!