



2022 ANNUAL



Letter from the Directors

2022 was a transition year for Pembina Fibreshed, moving from the paralyzing uncertainty of the pandemic years towards the dynamic organization we strive to become.

We were able to involve new people in our two key undertakings, the One Year One Outfit challenge and the Flax to Linen project. Both these projects highlight the great potential for our local textile development and the depth of creative talent we have in our community. They also attracted public and media attention to the Pembina Fibreshed and our goals.

Our membership support grew throughout the year. We feel grounded and ready to make great progress in 2023. Thank you for being a part of our success.

- Margaret Brook & Anna Hunter



*Our goal is to support local farmers, dyers, tanners
and designers to produce more local textiles,
AND to get that in the hands of local makers.
We want to see a thriving Manitoba Fibre Economy*



PRODUCER NETWORK

The goal of our Producer Network is to promote the products and work of anyone in our region producing local fibre, local dye plants, local designs, or other tools and materials for the development of textiles within our region. All our members benefit as the Fibreshed profile becomes increasingly recognized and understood in the community.

We also work to build capacity within our producer network by organizing workshops and other opportunities to share knowledge and experience.

Producers members pay an annual fee that provides them a profile on our website, (www.pembinafibreshed.com/projects) access to vending at any Fibreshed events and on going promotion through the Fibreshed newsletter, social media and other events.

We updated the product tags this year for our producer members. A limited number of tags are included in a yearly membership. We encourage members to place them on their qualified products and to display the 'table sign' during any public markets to add visibility to fibreshed products and encourage discussion about the fibreshed concepts.

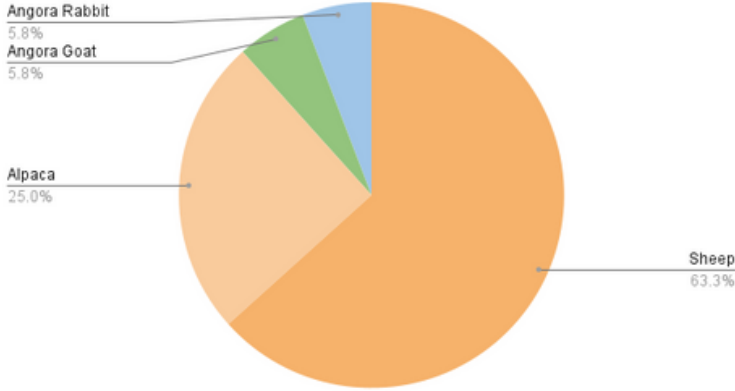


Here is a summary of 2022 and our Producer Member Network:

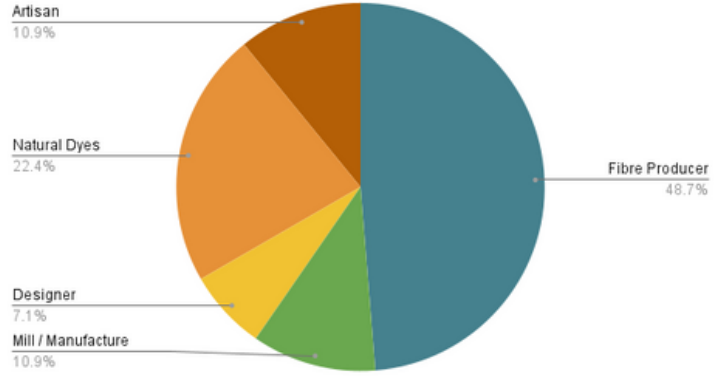
- 17 Producer members throughout the region
- 3 New producer members in 2022
- Hosted 2 virtual producer meet ups including a strategic planning session with producers in to create targets and goals for our producer network and the needs of members
- Designed and distributed 4 Producer Profiles in our monthly newsletter
- Facilitated shearing day support for producer members

Learn more about our producer network:
www.pembinafibreshed.com/what-we-do

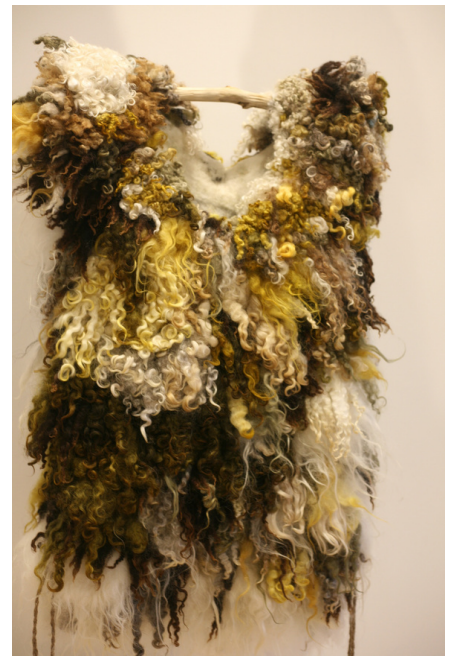
Fibre Animals in our Fibreshed



Producer Members



TEXTILE SYSTEMS



*One Year
One Outfit*

C2 Gallery
Winnipeg, MB



One Year One Outfit

Written by Maureen Winnicki-Lyons

One Year, One Outfit: the Fibreshed movement is so nice, we did it twice in 2022.

The inaugural year-long effort to create and celebrate clothing utilizing exclusively local resources— the Pembina Fibreshed One Year One Outfit Challenge— celebrated its conclusion in with a display in early 2022. Within just a few weeks of it coming to a close, we began anew.

The 2021 One Year One Outfit (OYOO) pop-up exhibition of clothing and accessories created from exclusively locally-sourced materials, featured works by: ash alberg, Katrina Woelk Balzer, Bethany Gowryluk Booy, Michelle Campeau, Paul Campeau, Katherine Delorme, Karen Enns, Tara Epp, Mandy Furney, Tala Gammon, Rose Gerbasi, Anna Hunter, Hillary King, Anna Goertzen Loepky, Maureen Winnicki Lyons, Helen Mawdsley, Barb Mulock, Marni Potter, Nathalie Rivard, Nicole Vechina, and Heather Zueff. Margaret Brook and Anna Hunter served as project organizers.

The exhibit at C2 Gallery featured dozens of beautiful handmade items: woven, knitted, crocheted, felted, tanned and sewn, and it garnered positive response as it ran from February 18 to 26, 2022. Thanks to Manitoba Craft Council and Manitoba Crafts Museum and Library for the support and exhibition space.

On the heels of this success, a second iteration was borne, with new project organizers coming forth to coordinate the effort. The intake for 2022 closed April 14 with the first meeting of that 2022 group held online April 24. Regular monthly online check-ins began with in-person make-together offered in public settings both indoors and outdoors at regular intervals.

At present, more than 30 members of the Pembina Fibreshed community (including groups) are preparing their outfits for a 'one year' that ends April 13, 2023. Organizers are working on sourcing exhibition space for a Spring showing.

You can find more information on the day-to-day activity of OYOO participants via Circle or by visiting www.pembinafibreshed.com or by contacting project co-organizers Bethany Gowryluk Booy, Hillary King, Maureen Winnicki Lyons or Nicole Vechina.



FLAX TO LINEN

*2022 year in review of the Pembina Fibreshed community project
by Randy Dyck*

Our second season of growing flax for linen concluded in the fall of 2022 with a wonderful showing at the Manitoba Fibre Festival and later again at the St Norbert Farmers Market. What began as seed in the Spring culminated in a series of processing demonstrations that garnered a lot of attention by festival attendees and market goers, allowing us to highlight Manitoba grown flax for the purpose of linen production.

The project shifted into high gear in March with a meeting to establish the goals of the project for 2022. We also needed to answer some important questions about seed varieties, planting locations and ways to educate and inspire our community around this idea of local textile agriculture.

It was decided that two principal plots would be established; one at Hundredfold Farm with four different plots, and the other at Lower Fort Garry with one large plot. Both locations offered full sun and good soil that was average to sandy and well-drained. Soil moisture levels were also ideal this year due to the large amounts of winter snow and summer rains not seen in the previous year. The result was an average stem growth of over 3 feet. In some areas lodging (laying down) was observed which may have been due to rain during the flowering stage and random denser plantings. These plants had to be removed to prevent the spread of disease and mold but plenty of good plants remained which were then harvested (pulled) around 100 days and dried indoors. These plants were then rippled to remove the seed heads from the stems for next year's crop.

The retting process began later in the fall than ideal but still proved effective. Due to a delay in acquiring seed, planting had to be pushed back several weeks which ultimately led to a later harvest and cooler days for retting and drying. With cooler days in the forecast the solution was dew retting versus water retting (submersion) since the water would likely not get very warm and therefore extend the retting period significantly. Overall, the results were satisfactory with only a few bundles of flax found to be under-retted.



Each subsequent step of processing; the breaking, scutching and hackling, were performed as demonstrations at various events. The first was the Home Grown Fibre Market put on by Hundredfold Farm. Second, was the Manitoba Fibre Festival and third was St Norbert Farmers' Market which also included a spinning demonstration of the linen as it was being processed. Each event was a great opportunity to educate the community at large about this wonderful fibre and engage in some meaningful discussions about linen production in Canada.

Project observations from the 2022 season:

- *Timeline.* Due to the weather in seed producing areas, flax seed was difficult to acquire which delayed spring planting by several weeks. This, coupled with a wet spring also made it difficult to get seed in the ground. These delays at planting resulted in a late harvest and less than ideal retting conditions.
- *Seed & Planting.* Four different varieties of flax seed were planted at Hundredfold Farm. These were Linore, Nathalie and unnamed varieties from Richters and Taproot; with the best results in germination and plant growth observed in the Nathalie and Taproot. Seed was broadcasted and sown in rows making it easier to weed without impacting the beds. Throughout, branching was minimal and only observed in thinly sown areas, however, overly dense planting was also evident and may have contributed to weaker stemmed plants and subsequent lodging. At the Lower Fort Garry site, Linore was planted with good results despite slightly different soil conditions.
- *Tools.* Simple improvements to the flax break and the addition of a proper scutching board and knife made the processing easier on the hands and more efficient overall.

As an annual project of the Pembina Fibreshed, it is our goal to improve on the lessons learned and make strides towards maximizing production of good quality fibres. It's our hope that the knowledge we gained from our past experiences and having the right tools will continue to move us forwards from flax to linen.

The Pembina Fibreshed is thankful to Peavey Mart for the Community Agricultural Grant which paid for tools, seeds and educational materials for the Flax to Linen project and will allow it to continue in 2023.





COMMUNITY CONNECTION

Pembina Fibreshed has fostered important partnerships with other organizations within the region to promote our shared goals of local, regenerative textile systems.

In 2022 we collaborated with Lower Fort Garry National Historic Site and the volunteer group Friends of Lower Fort Garry to plant a natural dye garden and a flax plot at this beautiful site north of Winnipeg. Co-director Margaret Brook led a workshop on natural dye plant harvesting and dyeing with park staff.

We partnered with St. Norbert Farmers' Market (SNFM) twice in 2022 to provide demonstrations during the Saturday market. The first was a natural dye plant sale in cooperation with producer member Hearts and Roots. During this market we also hosted a community indigo vat and encouraged folks to bring items to dip in the vat while we discussed the opportunities for natural dyes in our region. The second event at St Norbert was a Flax to Linen demonstration in November, 2022. Using locally grown flax, we demonstrated the processes of transforming flax to linen.

Pembina Fibreshed had a large booth at the 2022 Manitoba Fibre Festival on September 9-10 at the Red River Ex in Winnipeg. The booth was staffed by fibreshed volunteers and we had some items from the One Year One Outfit 2021 cohort on display. Randy from Hundredfold Farm led a flax processing demonstration that was very well attended.

Pembina Fibreshed launched an online community to continue with information sharing and discussion in a dedicated online space. The Circle host site was chosen as it is very user friendly and provides options for different topics and groups. There are open forums to discuss other aspects of the fibreshed region. To join the circle community <https://pembina-fibreshed.circle.so/home>.

Co-director Anna Hunter initiated a cross-Canada network of fibreshed affiliate organizations to promote communication, share information and projects and advocacy campaigns with other affiliates across the country. Through the network the Pembina Fibreshed hosted quarterly meetings with other affiliates and one webinar. In fall of 2022 the Pembina Fibreshed was awarded a micro-grant from the umbrella Fibreshed organization to continue on with the development of the Cross-Canada Network. There is now a website for the network that can be seen at www.canadianfibreshed.org



Flax to Linen Signage at Lower Fort Garry

INSTAGRAM

1785

FOLLOWERS

926

SUBSCRIBERS
14 NEWSLETTERS SENT

FACEBOOK

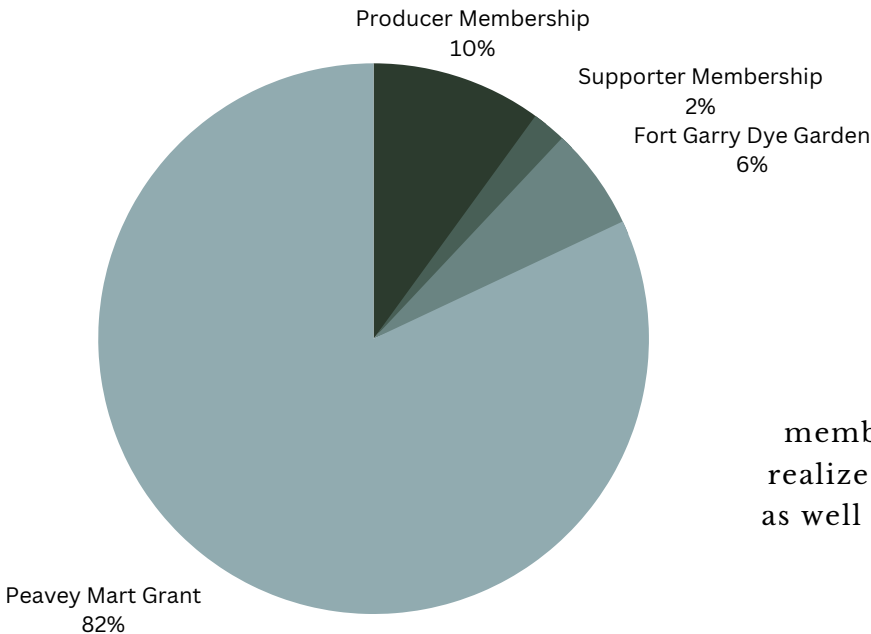
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POSTS

Winnipeg Free Press Article: "Be Aware of What You Wear" by Janine LeGal, December 27, 2022
<https://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/2022/12/27/be-aware-of-what-you-wear>

BUDGET

The Pembina Fibreshed is a volunteer run organization. The co-directors do not receive any payment and there are no staff. Honorariums are offered when funds are available and priority is given to paying workshop instructors a full rate of pay.



2.2K

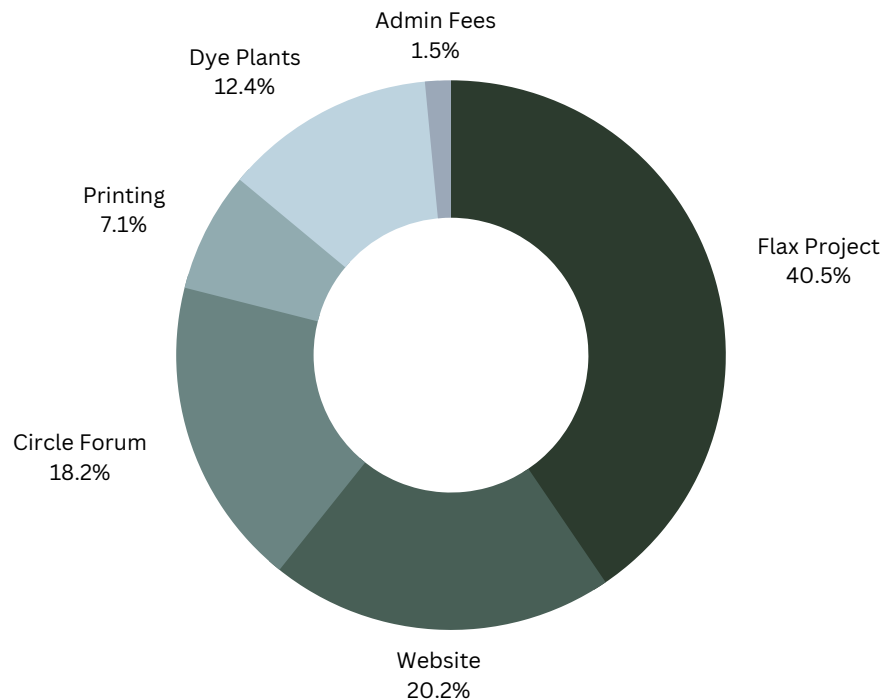
TOTAL REVENUE

. We plan to continue to grow our membership base as a revenue stream and to realize more regular income from workshops, as well as acquiring more grant funding where possible.

52%

SPENDING ON PROJECTS

We are planning to expand our project spending and capacity building opportunities in the coming year.



Thank you for your on-going support of the Pembina Fibreshed