

Manitoba RRN Connection

(Rural, Remote, Northern)

Winter 2004

Get involved:

How youth can create community based initiatives

Parkland Community Futures Development Corporation (PCFDC) and Dauphin Youth Service Canada have worked together to create a youth community economic development guide to help young people get involved and make a difference in their communities. The idea for the guide came from suggestions made by youth of the Parkland Region. As a result, the guide was developed for youth, by youth to provide information in a user-friendly format.



These young people recognize that in order for a community to sustain itself and to develop, youth need to be encouraged to get involved. This guide encourages youth to volunteer and gives them the tools to start their own projects. Not only will this bring new projects and ideas to the community, it will also give youth the chance to network by getting to know other community organizations and people with similar interests.

The guide contains six sections:

- Your Community
- Taking Action

VISION: The answer to community development

The Economic Development Council for Manitoba Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM) has long been looking for the tool that would ensure the development and growth of bilingual municipalities. Five years ago, the answer was the development of a concept called *Vision*.

Vision is a planning method that looks for ways of developing high-growth sectors while finding ways of filling gaps within a community. It involves all aspects that can contribute to the progress of a community thus allowing it to reach long and short-term objectives.

Projects which before would have raised a doubt have been supported by all communities. For example, the St. Leon residents supported their "Centre d'interprétation de la salamandre" project because it was part of an elaborate and complete community

development strategy. The Maison-Chapelle, in St Malo, and the Camp Bel-Air, in La Broquerie, are other projects that were carried through *Vision* plans. There are 16 bilingual Manitoba communities which are about to demonstrate an impressive list of projects, both completed and those currently under construction.

The *Vision* approach gave the Franco-Manitoban communities a sense of direction. This CDEM initiative works so well that it has been adopted in other Canadian provinces. Moreover, federal government departments like Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada and Canadian Heritage, through the Interdepartmental Partnership With Official Language Communities program, wished to encourage the implementation of this new community planning approach by developing programs to assist communities in adopting this model.

- Designing your Project
- Implementing your Project
- Evaluating your Project
- Where do you go from here?

Although the guide was designed for youth, it can be used by anyone. The guide is available for download at www.getinvolved.ca

To order free copies of the CD, please contact PCFDC at (204) 546-5100 or by e-mail at carissa@pcfdc.mb.ca.

For more information contact:
Carissa Caruk
Community Development Asst.
Parkland Community Futures
carissa@pcfdc.mb.ca or

Nicole Yunker
Project Leader
Dauphin Youth Service Canada
nicoleyunker@hotmail.com

Sponsored by: Community Futures
Partners of Manitoba and the
Government of Canada



Vision gives results, and that is the reason why it has become the foundation of community development in many other Canadian jurisdictions.

For more information, contact:
Louis Tétrault, Coordinator
Rural Development / CDEM
Phone: (204) 941-3249
www.cdem.com

in this issue

Young Manitoba leaders

2

Aboriginal community

driven

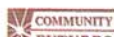
3

Oceans Day

5

Rural Team Manitoba

7



Youth Programs, Services...

Is your project a safe and welcoming place for girls?

The *National Crime Prevention Strategy* aims to reduce crime and victimization by tackling crime before it happens. The *National Strategy* supports community action to prevent crime and victimization from a social development approach. This approach explores how social conditions, societal values, family, school and community dynamics are tied to crime and victimization.

In October 2003, the Government of Canada announced funding for 38 projects in Manitoba. One group, **Lake Manitoba First Nation Health Centre** received \$50,000 for its Weechi Ikkwe Assonidien project. The main objective of this project is to address the issue of family violence in Lake Manitoba. The women's support group will set the agenda for a three-day workshop to be held for women in the community. Following this, a conference will be held to address and educate people on family violence and crime prevention. The conference will look at the root causes of family violence and provide an opportunity for participants to develop a plan on how to recognize and stop the violence from happening. For more information about this project, please phone (204) 984-4376.

In order to build and sustain safer and healthier communities, the Government of Canada promotes joint action among a range of partners and focuses on eight specific priority groups. These populations are more vulnerable to victimization, more likely to be impacted by fear of crime and/or are more likely to be criminalized or come into conflict with the law. They are: Children, Youth, Women, Aboriginal peoples, People with Disabilities, Gays and Lesbians, Visible Minorities and Ethno-cultural Minorities, and Seniors. The next intake date is **April 19, 2004** for funding requests under the Community Mobilization Program.

We've also learned from youth projects funded to date that we have to do things a bit differently to get girls involved in youth activities. If you want some great tips on how to involve girls we can send you the information.

For more information about how to apply for funding or how to engage girls in your project, contact Lisa Tremblay, Manitoba Community Coordinator at (204) 984-4376 or visit www.prevention.gc.ca.

 Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada  Sécurité publique du Canada

Canada

Children of the Earth's girls drumming group performed at the National Crime Prevention Strategy funding announcement held in Winnipeg on Friday, October 17, 2003.



Young Manitoba leaders

The newly established **MB4Youth Advisory Council**, which reports to the Minister of Education, Citizenship and Youth, includes 15 members between the ages of 15 and 24. All youth have excellent leadership skills and are actively involved in communities throughout Manitoba.

The main duties of the Council are to provide feedback on provincial youth programs, participate in youth conferences, and undertake projects that focus on, for example, leadership development and civic engagement. At its first meeting in October 2003, the Council met the Minister responsible for Youth, developed Terms of Reference, and discussed future projects. One event the Council will be involved in is Rural Forum 2004. Youth initiatives are also part of Rural Team Manitoba discussions—a committee of representatives from various government departments and agencies (federal and provincial)—committed to building strong rural, remote and northern communities.

"I like being a part of the Council because I get to have a voice and make a change for youth."

Seven youth are from Winnipeg and eight are from rural and northern Manitoba: Brandon, Dauphin, Lac Du Bonnet, MacGregor, St. Eustache, The Pas, Thompson, and Winkler. Members will get together two to four times per year as well as hold regular teleconference meetings.

The youth are very excited to belong to the Council. Nathan Allen says, *"I like being a part of the Council because I get to have a voice and make a change for youth."*

If you would like more information on the members and Council, please visit www.mb4youth.ca (search words: "youth advisory council") or contact Larry MacDonald, Program Administrator, MB4Youth Division, lamacdonal@gov.mb.ca, (204) 945-0512 or 1-800-282-8069, ext. 0512.

Check out mb4youth.ca

The mb4youth.ca Web site is a portal that links to hundreds of services and programs offered by the Government of Manitoba for youth up to age 29. With this site, youth can access a wide range of information and services—from education to health, from jobs to recreation—without having to surf individual departmental Web sites.

The site is interactive: for example, youth can voice their concerns or e-mail questions to the Premier's office. Youth can also apply for some provincial programs on-line. A new function of the site is "Youth Updates" in which youth can register their e-mail addresses in order to receive periodic e-mails regarding provincial events and programs. Check out the online MB4Youth newsletters that highlight upcoming events.

Visit www.mb4youth.ca today! If you would like more information about the Web site, contact Tammy Rochon, Systems Analyst, MB4Youth Division, trochon@gov.mb.ca, (204) 945-0964 or 1-800-282-8069, ext. 0964.

...and Success Stories

Aboriginal community driven technology & innovation strategies

Keewatin Tribal Council (KTC), located in Thompson, Manitoba, is an excellent example of grassroots Aboriginal innovation.



For Canada's Aboriginal communities, a digital revolution is upon them, and in Manitoba, KTC is leading the way —mapping the innovation highway.

A little over a year ago, KTC became the Regional Management Organization (RMO) for Industry Canada's First Nations SchoolNet program, which includes developing skills and knowledge for Aboriginal youth living in rural and remote communities. As the RMO for Manitoba, KTC provides information and communication technology goods and services to 63 schools in 52 First Nations communities.

"The progress we have made in these areas is a significant milestone..."

Since then, KTC has signed an agreement with Industry Canada's Community Access Program (CAP) to undertake the management and delivery of sustainability funding to Aboriginal CAP sites in the Manitoba region. The Council also co-founded Broadband

Communications North, a not-for-profit organization that was recently awarded implementation funding from the Government of Canada's Broadband for Rural and Northern Development* program, to build a broadband network for 36 northern and Aboriginal communities in Manitoba.

The combination of these three programs will allow KTC to take a more streamlined approach to IT service delivery and allow KTC to work collaboratively with other organizations while reaching out to the Aboriginal community at large. *"The progress we have made in these areas is a significant milestone toward assisting Aboriginal communities access information and communication technologies, the Internet and its available resources,"* says Keewatin Tribal Council Grand Chief Arnold Ouskan. *"The Government of Canada's commitment to working collaboratively with the Keewatin Tribal Council enables grassroots delivery and facilitates a meaningful approach to building sustainable Aboriginal communities."*

For more information, contact:
Crystal Chercoe
Phone: (204) 949-4015
Toll free: 1-866-397-5446
E-mail: cchercoe@shaw.ca

*(*a program that assists in deploying broadband Internet to rural and northern communities)*

A community development project in the making

Andrew Plett has been working over the last year to implement a youth Web site strategy within his home community of Oak Lake: a strategy that reflects the community's vision of providing youth employment opportunities. Andrew wants to see young people involved in community development by enabling them to be part of real community decision-making. It's an aggressive plan he hopes will be in place by spring 2004.

Andrew became more actively involved in his community upon returning from the 2002 National Rural Conference held in Charlottetown, PEI. After the conference Rural Team Manitoba (RTM) - representatives from various government departments and agencies (federal and provincial) that work together to support rural and northern communities - invited Andrew to participate as a youth representative. While working with RTM Andrew conceived this project in preparation for his participation at the Rural Youth Conference in April 2003 at Orillia, Ontario. This involvement with RTM enabled Andrew to seek advice to further develop and implement this project.

"Support for the project has been excellent, and I think the positive community leadership that exists in our community will allow for the project to be implemented smoothly"

By the summer of 2003 Andrew helped hire two local youth through the Oak Lake Community Access Program (CAP) site to administer the ongoing development of the CAP site. Both youth, aged 16, have been planning, contacting community organizations, gathering information and getting involved in many activities related to the development of the site. *"My role has been to train these young people to take a look at the community from a bigger picture, and to impress upon them their role as catalysts in the community,"* said Andrew. *"I encouraged them to build their communication skills through writing, interviewing, and making phone calls."*

"Support for the project has been excellent, and I think the positive community leadership that exists in our community will allow for the project to be implemented smoothly," added Andrew. Project partners include the Oak Lake Economic Development Board, the Town of Oak Lake, the RM of Sifton, the Oak Lake CAP site, Community Connections and Manitoba Community Access Program Youth Initiative.

By the end of the project, the Web site will allow organizations to easily update relevant information such as current and upcoming events, contact information and minutes of meetings. In addition, well-trained youth will be on hand to provide training to other community youth.

Currently, the Oak Lake CAP Site has taken over the role of implementing the project to alleviate the pressures of school demands. *"Communication is vital in implementing projects such as this, to ensure everyone knows from the start where the money will be allocated and how the project will be administered. This past summer has definitely been a learning experience for me, and I look forward to seeing the project completed, and the youth of Oak Lake more involved in their community,"* Andrew said.

For more information, contact:
Andrew Plett
Phone: (204) 851-1067
E-mail: bravedive@hotmail.com



More about youth

Responding to the needs of youth, employers and the job market

The Youth Employment Strategy is the Government of Canada's commitment to help young people between the ages of 15 and 30 (inclusive), particularly those facing barriers to employment, gain the skills and work experience, and access the information they need to make a successful transition to the workplace. Rural and northern youth often face more challenging barriers to employment than urban youth, therefore these initiatives are particularly important for them.

The Youth Employment Strategy is a key element of the Government of Canada's Innovation and Learning Strategy which aims to ensure that Canada has a highly qualified and skilled labour force to meet the job market needs of today and tomorrow.

Fourteen Government of Canada departments and agencies work in partnership with all levels of government, the private sector and community organizations to help youth prepare for and participate in the world of work.

To be more responsive to the changing needs of youth, employers and the Canadian job market, the Government of Canada has made changes to the Youth Employment Strategy.

As of April 2003, the Youth Employment Strategy:

- provides a broader and more flexible range of programs and services tailored to meet the needs of youth facing barriers to employment;
- provides post-secondary graduates with career-related work and learning opportunities to help them succeed in the job market and become leaders in their field; and
- provides youth with information, skills, practical work experience and continuous learning opportunities they need to find and keep a job.

The Youth Employment Strategy includes three programs: Skills Link, Career Focus and Summer Work Experience.

For more information on these programs and other Government of Canada initiatives, call 1-800-935-5555 or visit www.youth.gc.ca

National Rural Youth Network brings together youth from across Canada

Youth from rural and remote areas across the country are coming together through the National Rural Youth Network to help build a brighter future for their communities. With their enthusiasm and innovative ideas, they are working together to meet this goal by building partnerships and getting other youth involved.

Since the launch of the National Rural Youth Network at the National Rural Conference in April 2002, a group of dedicated steering committee members has been busy putting together terms of reference, producing the Rural Youth Organizations Guide and contacting organizations to partner with.

The new National Rural Youth Network Council will continue where the steering committee left off. The Council's 13 members, representing all provinces and territories, were selected during the first National Rural Youth Conference held in 2003.

The National Rural Youth Network Council



The Council has identified several key activities for 2003-04. It is working to strengthen the Network by increasing its membership and establishing subcommittees on important youth issues. They will market and promote the Network, and will encourage communication and information exchange through a Network Web site. The Council is working on building partnerships with youth from the Americas and the Caribbean.

The National Rural Youth Network is a 165-member organization of youth between the ages of 18 and 29 who represent rural, remote and northern communities across the country. It is an important forum for members across the country to connect with peers, learn from one another, and share information. The Rural Youth On-line Discussion Group (www.rural.gc.ca/dialogue/youth/listserv_e.phtml) helps young people from across the country stay in touch and keep up-to-date on the Network activities.

For more information on the Network, please call 1-888-781-2222.

Where the river meets the ocean: Oceans Day 2003

Last July, students Ainsley Kullman and Jennifer Dyck ran into Hudson Bay. It was summer but the water was cold. After a very quick dip, they ran back out, screaming and laughing and the armed polar bear patroller praised their bravery by saying, "I bow to you guys."

"It was something different," says Kullman, a Grade 11 student at Springfield Collegiate in Oakbank, Manitoba. "Something we hadn't done before."

The dip was Kullman's final date with the northern ocean after three days of activities celebrating International Oceans Day. Kullman and 80 other students from Winnipeg, Arviat, Norway House, Cranberry Portage, Grand Rapids, Snow Lake, Gillam, York Factory and Churchill attended Oceans Day 2003 in Churchill, Manitoba.

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans sponsors an annual Oceans Day event that alternates between coastal communities in the Central and Arctic Region. International Oceans Day is June 8—too early to see the ocean in Canada's frozen arctic. So, here, the celebrations are moved to July. Students from the region attend the three-day event to learn about northern marine wildlife, ecology and conservation.

In 2003, Oceans Day was July 4-6 at the Churchill Northern Studies Centre in Churchill. The theme, which explored the connections between fresh and salt water, was "Where the River Meets the Ocean."

Before they arrived in Churchill, students had already studied ocean science and researched one northern issue. They made posters on topics such as polar bears, northern lights, water pollution and beluga whales.

Richard Zuk has been teaching a marine science course at Springfield Collegiate for 15 years. When Oceans Day is in Manitoba, some of his students attend the event.

"When the students observe beluga whales, it's a unique experience for them," says Zuk. "It certainly makes what we did in theory in class alive to them. It drives it home [their studies of] marine mammals and conservation."

This summer, Kullman and the other students **did** see beluga whales.

"There were a lot of calves," says Kullman. "The calves are cream colour when they are born, then for five or six years, they are grey." Kullman emulates their swimming motion with her hand, rippling it in a wave. "They seemed so calm, so relaxed, so smooth. Everyone enjoyed the beluga whale watching."



Students also toured the old Hudson's Bay Company Prince of Wales Fort, hiked the coast of Hudson Bay, saw polar bears and polar bear paw prints. Southern students also learned about northern culture. Students from Aboriginal communities brought posters describing traditional toys and hunting methods.

In the evenings, students enjoyed National Film Board of Canada films on oceans and life in the north, as well as three guest speakers. Dave Barber of the University of Manitoba spoke on climate change and Hudson's Bay, Jennifer Duggan of Manitoba's Climate Change Connection spoke on climate change in Manitoba and Cathy Kinsman of the Whale Stewardship Project in Nova Scotia spoke about her work in Atlantic beluga whale research and conservation.

"The experience is something that they will never forget," says Zuk. "As adults, they'll have an appreciation for the north and for the culture that's up there, as well as marine ecology and terrestrial ecology."

Kullman agrees. "It was the experience of a lifetime."



Talking to you

Mark 
Your Calendar



APRIL 22-24
KEYSTONE CENTRE, BRANDON, MANITOBA

RURAL FORUM 2004

CHALLENGES FUELLING OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN US FOR:

SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22 AND FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Special Guest Appearance by **Chief Michael Smith**, **Chief of Chiefs League of First Nations**, Friday, April 23

YOUTH FORUM
THURSDAY, APRIL 22 AND FRIDAY, APRIL 23

FOOD COURT AND EXHIBITS
FRIDAY, APRIL 23 AND SATURDAY, APRIL 24

- Hands-on demonstrations, business and resource displays
- Taste treats from Manitoba suppliers, restaurants and cafes
- Food demonstrations
- Cultural and artist
- Daily Entertainment
- Fair price sales

MANITOBA HYDRO CELEBRATION BANQUET
FRIDAY, APRIL 23

Featuring Manitoba cuisine and the 2001 Manitoba Western Awards

CALL TODAY TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS EXCITING EVENT!
Phone: 1-800-923-3883 or 204-726-6242 • Fax: 204-726-6283
E-mail: manitobaforum@compuserve.com • For a complete schedule go to: www.rrnconnection.ca



Manitobans gather to share their successes

In October 2003, Manitobans were invited to share rural success stories at events sponsored by the Agriculture Renewal Alliance. Over 150 rural citizens came out to the three-hour events held in St. Pierre-Jolys, Pilot Mound, Dauphin and Riverton. Dr. Fred Kirschenmann, director of the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, and Stuart Laidlaw, author and editorial board member for the *Toronto Star*, were guest speakers at the events.

"The dinners allowed rural citizens the opportunity to get together in a casual atmosphere to discuss issues most important to them," said Dr. Rene van Acker.

"We hope to continue having discussions like this as communicating with citizens at the grassroots level is very important in community development."

After the presentations, participants were given the opportunity to take part in a group exercise where they were asked to identify what they wanted most or needed in their community. *"Clean water and having locally grown agricultural products appeared to be the most popular choices for citizens,"* said Dr. van Acker. A full report and compilation of participant comments will be available early in the new year. *"We hope to continue having discussions like this as communicating with citizens at the grassroots level is very important in community development,"* he said.

This project was funded in part by the Government of Canada's \$9.3 million Canadian Agricultural Rural Community Initiative (CARCI). CARCI recognized citizen engagement as is an essential component of building strong rural communities. The Government of Canada recognizes that sustainable rural community development includes a bottom-up process and that rural Canadians themselves are in the best position to identify solutions to the issues facing their communities.

For more information, contact:
Dr. Rene van Acker, Chair
Agriculture Renewal Alliance (ARA)
Phone: (204) 474-6080
E-mail: rene_van_acker@umanitoba.ca

Roundtable discussions on rural issues

The Government of Canada continues its ongoing dialogue with rural Canadians. A series of meetings with community leaders across the country has taken place over the past few months. These meetings are opportunities to discuss how communities can adjust and develop solutions to the changing rural reality.

Discussions focused on the need to develop the ability to take advantage of opportunities, the role youth play in both the present and future, the importance of infrastructure and the important role of small business and entrepreneurship in developing healthy communities.

The meetings were part of the rural dialogue process that began in 1998, which has engaged more than 16,000 Canadians so far. The Rural Dialogue features Canadians from rural, remote and Northern regions in a discussion with their government about their opportunities, challenges and priorities.

FOR INFORMATION ON GOVERNMENT OF CANADA PROGRAMS AND SERVICES:

1 800 0-CANADA (1-800-622-6232)
TTY/TDD: 1 800 465-7735

www.canada.gc.ca

Service Canada Access Centres/Centres d'accès Service Canada



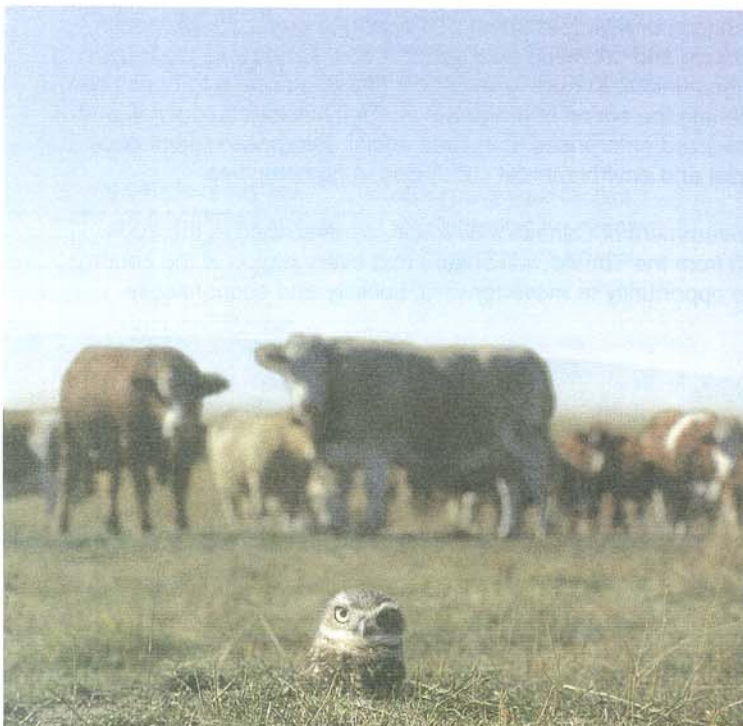
Canada

The new *Species At Risk Act*: Tapping into information and support

Farmers, ranchers and other land stewards in rural areas have noted and documented the disappearance of certain plants and animals for some time. After extensive consultations, the new *Species at Risk Act* will come into full effect in June 2004. The Act provides a framework for actions across Canada to ensure the survival of wildlife species and the protection of our natural heritage. It sets out how to decide which species are a priority for action and what to do to protect a species. The aim is to protect critical habitat as much as possible through voluntary actions and stewardship measures. The Habitat Stewardship Program provides over \$2 million each year to Prairie conservation groups to fund projects that help landowners protect species at risk and their habitats. This program provides support to several Manitoba groups, including the Manitoba Habitat Heritage Corporation which provides incentives for producers to retain and manage native prairies.

The *Species at Risk Act* complements the work being done through provincial governments. The Government of Canada is working to provide landowners with information, resources and an opportunity to be involved in the stewardship programs to protect species at risk and their habitat.

For more information about the Act, species at risk, funding programs, and how you can be involved, please call 1-800-263-0595 or visit www.speciesatrisk.gc.ca.



Who we are:

Rural Team Manitoba is an active team of government and non-government organizations that works to build partnerships and identify priorities and potential solutions for the benefit of rural, remote and northern communities of Manitoba.

Now in its sixth year of operation, the Team continues to talk with residents, community leaders, youth and special interest groups at the grassroots level to better understand local and regional concerns.

What we do:

✓ **CCP**—the Team continues to support the Community Collaboration Project. Since 1998, four round tables representing 26 rural and northern communities have been initiated by the CCP: Northern Visions, Southwest, Bayline and Hudson Bay Neighbours where community leaders identify projects of mutual interest. For example, the Southwest regional round table has undertaken a research project to determine how to more fully involve youth in its region.

✓ **"Communities In Motion"**—a very successful youth conference where over 200 youth and community leaders from over 70 rural and northern communities came to network and review over 14 project ideas brought forward by youth. "This was my first conference and I was very impressed," said one youth who participated in the conference.

✓ **Youth Web site**—initiated by a project associated with the Communities In Motion youth conference. Rural Team Manitoba supported the development of this dialogue tool that will include surveys, message boards, conference feedback and contact information within Manitoba. Rural Team Manitoba continues to support the Web site.

✓ **Special Events**—"Supporting Local Opportunities" learning seminar took place in the spring, where rural and northern citizens gathered to learn more about community capacity building. "Seizing new initiatives will require new and different partnerships between communities," said Mark Drabentstott, guest speaker, vice-president, Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City and director of the Center for the Study of Rural America.

Manitoba Learning Seminar - 2003



For more information about Rural Team Manitoba activities, visit www.rural.gc.ca or contact:
Pat Lachance
Regional Advisor, Rural Secretariat
Phone: (204) 983-6574
E-mail: Pat_Lachance@hc-sc.gc.ca



Rural and Remote Canada On-line

The information superhighway has proven itself to be a great resource tool. Just pop a word or two into a search engine these days, and up come thousands of potential sources of information on any subject. Rural Canada is no exception, it now boasts a special dedicated Web site designed to transfer information to individuals and communities interested in rural development.

Rural and Remote Canada On-line (www.rural-canada.ca) is a single window to knowledge, information, programs and services for and about rural and remote Canada. The Web site, part of the Government On-line initiative, offers one-stop access for an array of information specific to rural and remote communities.

There are tips for submitting successful funding proposals for government programs. Pathfinders are available with information on everything from pointing rural entrepreneurs in the right direction, to accessing microcredit, to assisting rural and remote communities in recruiting doctors and nurses. The site also hosts an on-line discussion on issues related to rural and remote Canada.

The Rural and Remote Canada On-line site can also be found as a link off of the main Canadian Rural Partnership Web site at www.rural.gc.ca.

Building rural communities for success in the 21st century

The Government of Canada's commitment to communities—large and small—is clear from the 2004 Speech from the Throne. Rural communities play an important role in the national social and economic fabric, and Canada cannot thrive as a country without strong rural communities. That's why the government finds it so important that it help to provide communities and families with tools to find local solutions to address local problems.

Canadians, including participants at the 2002 National Rural Conference in Charlottetown, PEI, have made it clear that they expect their governments to work together for the common good. The Speech from the Throne articulates the Government of Canada's determination to work with provincial and territorial governments, which is consistent with ongoing rural development efforts.

Some of the initiatives outlined in the Throne Speech, which are of particular interest to rural, remote and northern communities are:

- Developing a Northern strategy, ensuring that economic development related to energy and mining is brought on stream in partnership with Northern Canadians and based on stewardship of our most fragile ecosystems.
- Safeguarding access to international markets and ensuring that farmers are not left to bear alone the consequences of circumstances beyond their control.
- Working closely with other levels of government to assist communities of all sizes by putting more money into the hands of municipalities.
- Leading in the establishment of a strong and responsive health care system and providing new opportunities to address the health challenges unique to rural areas and improving access to health care.
- Widening the scope of programs currently available to small and medium-sized enterprises to include social enterprises to enhance the social and environmental conditions in communities.

The Government of Canada's direction, as described in the 2004 Speech from the Throne, will ensure that every region of the country has the opportunity to move forward, socially and economically.

Managing Editor
Lauraine Watson
Phone: (204) 983-8376
Fax: (204) 983-8357
E-mail: watsonla@agr.gc.ca

Room 500, 303 Main Street
Winnipeg, Manitoba
R3C 3G7

ISSN No. 1705-6640
Her Majesty the Queen in Right of Canada, 2004
This document is also available electronically at
www.rural.gc.ca

Également disponible en français

**Canada**