

# Manitoba RRN Connection

(Rural, Remote, Northern)

Winter 2007

## Service Canada brings service directly to Canadians

Service Canada is taking Government of Canada programs and services on the road and into your community through its Outreach and Mobile Services.



Services for you, in the heart of the country

Service Canada brings together services from several federal departments to create a one-stop, seamless service delivery network. Today, this network consists of more than 320 Service Canada Centres and 96 outreach and mobile sites in communities across Canada. These services touch all aspects of the lives of Canadians: from parental and pension benefits, applying for a passport to obtaining a Social Insurance Number. Service Canada offers Canadians a choice of how to get their information on federal programs and services: in-person, by phone at **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232), or by Internet at [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca).

*“One of the primary ways we are improving how Canadians receive information is through mobile and outreach services,”* said George Skinner, Regional Executive Head for Service Canada, Manitoba Region. *“Knowledgeable Service Canada representatives travel to small, remote and rural communities to address the special needs of individuals, employers, and organizations. These services enable us to provide a more personalized means of helping clients,”* he added.

(See “Service Canada” on page 4)

## Planting the seeds for the next generation of agriculture

‘We reap what we sow’ is a recognized cliché that reminds us of just how important today’s decisions affect the future. Keeping that in mind, members of the federal, provincial and territorial governments are committed to working together to develop the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy.

And, they want to hear from you! Whether you’re a stakeholder in the industry or a Canadian citizen, political leaders are seeking input from you regarding the future of Manitoba’s agricultural landscape.

The Agricultural Policy Framework (APF) is a five-year federal-provincial-territorial agreement on agriculture that was created as a national approach to agriculture. The initial objective? To position Canada as the world leader in food safety and quality, innovation and environmentally-responsible agriculture production.

Today, Canada’s agriculture and agri-food sector faces a new set of challenges and opportunities. With most of the APF agreements set to expire in the spring of 2008, discussions are underway to build a new generation of agriculture and agri-food policy. This new framework will build an enduring foundation that will benefit future generations.

In order to ensure that the many facets of the agriculture industry are included in all stages of policy development, three rounds of consultations will take place. This multi-phased, national consultation process began in December 2006 and will carry on into 2007, with a new policy framework to be implemented in early 2008.

**Round One** featured a series of working sessions that involved agriculture industry experts. As experts, they were invited to participate in detailed discussions and analysis of proposed policy options. They also had a hand in defining potential problems that could arise during public consultations and further, they helped formulate questions for the broader public consultations.

(See “Round Two & Round Three” on page 4)



**KidsFest** is a non-profit organization dedicated to equipping elementary-aged children who live below the poverty line, enabling them to become valuable contributors within their respective communities and Canada. We provide children with the educational tools necessary to break the cycle of generational poverty and achieve life-long success. KidsFest develops strong, lasting partnerships with businesses, schools and community groups to create a “Pathway of Hope” offering comprehensive programs focused on improving academic achievement, physical fitness and social interaction.

**For further information** about KidsFest and our Pathway of Hope programs, please visit our website at [www.kidsfestcanada.com](http://www.kidsfestcanada.com)

## in this issue

New Passport Requirements.....**2**

Life Skills program empowers graduates and communities.....**3**

Community Information Database.....**4**

Rural and Small Town Bulletin.....**4**



## Educating for a Sustainable Future

by Lee Gregg

*“Environmental education develops skills, knowledge and values that promote behaviour in support of a sustainable environment,”* says Jean Dizengremel, owner of Notre Dame Used Oil & Filter Depot, in Notre Dame de Lourdes, Manitoba.

The depot is one of 53 EcoCentres located across the province that encourages Manitobans to recycle used oil products. *“Many people are unaware of the legal requirement to recycle and of the service I provide,”* said Dizengremel. *“These materials must be disposed of properly so they can be recycled into useful products instead of threatening our environment. Educating others is a big part of my business.”*

Dizengremel immigrated from France to Canada in 1995 and runs Jean Farms Ltd. in Notre-Dame-de-Lourdes. In May 2005, he purchased the local EcoCentre/scrap yard, and refocused the business solely on the collection of used oil products.



*“The fact is that nobody can ignore the urgency of a sustainable eco-system,”* noted Dizengremel. *“Some countries are more advanced like those in northern Europe, but this is a must for everyone, especially in a place like Manitoba where the watershed is so large.”*

Dizengremel worked with the Economic Development Council for Bilingual Municipalities (CDEM), a member of Western Economic Diversification Canada’s business service network, to fine-tune his business and financial plans. *“CDEM helped me to be sure I was making a sound business decision.”*

A sound business decision has made it easier for others to make sound environmental decisions. **For information** on the services offered by Notre Dame Used Oil & Filter Depot, **call (204) 248-2110.**

# New Passport Requirements

As of **January 23, 2007**, a valid Canadian passport is required when travelling to and from the United States by AIR (for now, this deadline does not apply to road and sea travellers).

For more information, **visit [www.passportcanada.gc.ca](http://www.passportcanada.gc.ca)** or call **1 800 567-6868.**



### Where can completed applications be submitted?

#### In person at:

- |                                                                                           |                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| • Service Canada Center<br>Suite 100, 1039 Princess Ave.<br>Brandon, MB                   | • Service Canada Centre<br>111 Main Street<br>Flin Flon, MB                                |
| • Service Canada Center<br>Suite 118, North Centre Mall<br>3 Station Road<br>Thompson, MB | • Passport Canada<br>Suite 400, 433 Main Street<br>Winnipeg, MB<br>(Mon-Fri: 8:00 - 16:00) |

#### By mail to:

Passport Canada  
Foreign Affairs Canada  
Gatineau, QC K1A 0G3

#### By courier to:

Passport Canada  
70 Crémazie Street  
Gatineau, QC J8Y 3P2

### How much does it cost?

The fees for a 24-page passport (in Canadian dollars) are as follows:

- \$87 for an adult (16 or over),
- \$37 for children ages 3 to 15, and
- \$22 for children under 3.

### How long does it take to process an application (excluding mailing time)?

- Mail or courier – 20 working days;
- In person at a Passport Canada office – 10 working days;
- In person at a Canada Post Receiving Agent location – 15 working days (additional \$15 fee);
- In person at a Service Canada Receiving Agent location – 20 working days.

To avoid delays, refer to the fact sheet on the web site ([newsroom/fact sheets](#))

The new videoconferencing units allow host sites to broadcast seminars from Winnipeg and allow for real time interaction between rural participants and seminar leaders who are experts in a wide range of business fields.

The central hub of the network is housed in Winnipeg’s Canada/Manitoba Business Service Centre and other sites are being set up in the Women’s Enterprise Centre and the francophone economic development agency, CDEM. All three organizations are partners with Community Futures under Western Economic Diversification Canada’s Business Service Network.

The C/MBSC delivers 137 seminars through its Winnipeg location and periodically outside the city—60 more are expected to be added over the next year. It also has 32 satellite sites, 24 of which are administered by Community Futures organizations, located across the province. These sites consist of a business resource library and computer with Internet access to the C/MBSC and other web-based resources.

Funding for the project has been provided by Western Economic Diversification Canada. A list of videoconferencing sites can be obtained by contacting your local Community Futures organization or calling **1 800 665-2019** or visit [www.cfpm.mb.ca](http://www.cfpm.mb.ca) and click on the What’s New heading.

## New business link for rural entrepreneurs



Rural and northern Manitobans will have greater access to business training thanks to an innovative videoconferencing network being introduced by Community Futures Manitoba (CFM).

As the association for Manitoba’s 16 Community Futures organizations, CFM is well aware of the barriers facing entrepreneurs who seek access to workshops and seminars, which are most commonly held in Winnipeg.

To counter the challenges of geography, convenience, accessibility and financial costs related to travel, CFM spearheaded the project, which includes 12 videoconferencing sites in rural and northern Manitoba and three Winnipeg sites. The videoconferencing units are in Community Futures offices or partner offices in regional hubs across the province.

## Get Involved with the Changing Needs of Rural, Northern and Remote Women in Manitoba

by the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba

On October 19, 2006 more than 50 women from around Manitoba gathered at the Juniper Centre in Thompson for a one-day symposium on the changing needs of women in rural, northern and remote communities in this province.

The Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba was proud to play a key role in organizing the event that featured facilitated discussion groups on the key issues of Childcare; Family Issues: Safety, Security & Health; Employment, Income & Entrepreneurship; and Education & Training. The keynote luncheon presentation on "Rural and Northern Decision Making Capacity" was delivered by Crystal Laborero, Chair of the Manitoba Women's Advisory Council.

According to Mary Jane Loustel, CEO of the Women's Enterprise Centre and co-chair of the Rural Team Manitoba's Standing Committee on Women's Issues "In order to have meaningful and effective discussion about the varied issues facing women in Manitoba, those women must be at the table to participate and contribute their thoughts, ideas and concerns."

This event was made possible as a result of work of the Rural Team's Standing Committee on Women's Issues which was formed in 2004 to identify opportunities and mechanisms for Rural Team Manitoba to work together to increase the awareness of women's issues related to the social and economic well-being of rural, remote and northern Manitoba women.

One of the Team's first initiatives was a research project to gain information about the needs of rural and northern Manitoba women. The result was a 2005 report entitled "**The Changing Needs of Rural and Northern Women**" by Betty Kelly and Osayanmo Idehen, Masters Interns in Rural Development at Brandon University.

The Standing Committee realized that the development of the report could not be the final step in this initiative. With that in mind, they organized the Thompson Symposium to facilitate further discussion around the findings and ensure that a wide cross section of Manitoba women were provided with a venue in which to share their experiences and knowledge. The Thompson Symposium had three very specific goals: inform participants about the report; provide an opportunity for facilitated discussion about the issues identified in the report; and encourage communities to engage in identifying what could be done to address the issues.

The result was a lively day of sharing and brainstorming that would not have been possible without the honest and insightful contributions made by women from the Thompson area who took time away from work and family to spend a full day looking at ways their community can begin addressing key economic issues. Both organizers and participants acknowledged that they could have spent many more hours exploring the issues. Following the symposium, a summary report was prepared by the Rural Secretariat ([www.rural.gc.ca/dialogue/reports\\_e.phtml](http://www.rural.gc.ca/dialogue/reports_e.phtml)) and many of the participants are hard at work within their communities to build on the ideas that were germinated in Thompson.

Two more sessions are planned for this year, one on January 25 in The Pas, and one in Dauphin on March 7. Visit the Women's Enterprise Centre of Manitoba website [www.wecm.ca](http://www.wecm.ca) to access the registration form or call 1 800 203-2343 for more information.



## Directory of Rural Programs and Services

To obtain a free copy, visit [www.rural.gc.ca](http://www.rural.gc.ca) or call toll-free at **1888 781-2222**.

## Life Skills program empowers graduates and communities

by Stephanie Clifford

Skownan means 'turning point' and for the most recent graduates of the Life Skills program there has never been a more literal translation of the word.

This particular group of 15 embarked on their path of self discovery late September and graduated on November 28, 2006.

"This is a journey towards personal empowerment," said Ken Catchway, co-ordinator of Vision Seeker Adult Education program. "It's a short program but Life Skills is a major stepping stone."



Describing the Life Skills program as experiential, Catchway said the participants learn how to identify and talk about their feelings and emotions, to set goals and how to use team-building exercises.

---

*"This is a journey towards personal empowerment,"... "It's a short program but Life Skills is a major stepping stone."*

---

"You have to remember that many of the students have never been part of a group," he said.

This graduating class was made up of people ranging in age from 17 to 55, all from different backgrounds and life experiences. Despite the differences, the students were able to learn from each other's mistakes and achievements.

"They were able to share their stories within the group; that is a key feature of the Life Skills program."

To date, nearly 30 per cent of the Skownan First Nations have completed the program. As Catchway explained, Life Skills is a prerequisite for those wanting to go on to adult education in Skownan. The completion of this eight-week course also earns students a recognized Manitoba education credit towards their Grade 12 diploma, and as such is recognized as much as any academic credit in Canada. Unique to this course is that a social service agency has collaborated with an academic institution to deliver a credit course in Manitoba.

According to Catchway, this is the type of Aboriginal community development that is making a difference.

The results? An increase in high school graduation rates, a better sense of Aboriginal identity along with improved teamwork, communication, parenting, employability and problem-solving skills. A key component of this success is the cultural component of the course where the students' aboriginal identity is reinforced and celebrated.

"There are a couple of people I like to use as role models," Catchway said, citing two past grads, both in their mid-40s, who completed the course and went on to obtain their Grade 12.



"They were hired by a local school where they continued with their education, eventually receiving their Education Assistant diploma. From there, they chose to become involved in the community by joining committees, such as the Child Welfare Committee," Catchway said, pointing out that students' expertise was kept in the community.

Aboriginal communities play an important role in building a strong rural Canada. However, in early 1999, parents in the Skownan First Nation community were faced with serious concerns. Primary issues were the transitions their children faced with off-reserve schooling, a lack of cultural sensitivity and relevant curriculum in off-reserve schools and out-of-school, unemployed youth, to name a few.

The Skownan Vision Seekers Task Force was formed in April 2000 and working with the West Region Child and Family Services, the Skownan Model brought community members together to provide community-based, culturally appropriate education and training to address social and economic challenges.

Further discussions resulted in the Skownan Model being replicated in five additional First Nation communities.

# Community Information Database

**The Community Information Database (CID) is a Web-based resource developed by the Rural Secretariat which provides communities and governments with consistent, reliable and accessible community-based information on economic and demographic factors at the community level.**

The Database serves as a complementary data set to what is already provided by individual provinces and territories. One of its key features is the ability to present information in a variety of forms - charts, tables, and by geographic maps, the latter of which allows for analysis at a number of levels.

The Database provides a common set of data, based primarily on Statistics Canada Census data, and presents it in a range of geographic ways - national, province/territory, Census Division, economic region, Census Sub-Division (or community) level.

This innovative tool is especially useful to community groups, private or non-profit community organizations, government policy makers, businesses, researchers and research organizations and universities.

The range of information available on the Database includes:

- population
- age
- average personal and family income
- employment rate
- education
- employment by sector
- language
- resource reliance
- economic diversification

The Community Information Database is available at [www.cid-bdc.ca](http://www.cid-bdc.ca). For more information or to organize a learning session on the database, please call toll free: 1 888 781-2222.

*The Rural Secretariat is a focal point for the Government of Canada to work in partnership with Canadians in rural and remote areas to build strong, dynamic communities.*



## Service Canada *(continued from page 1)*

In addition to the 20 Service Canada Centres in the province, Service Canada's presence in rural Manitoba has been increased with the addition of 25 outreach points of service, thus serving even more Manitobans. Service Canada Outreach Sites are located in:

- |                 |                 |                 |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| • Arborg        | • Hadashville   | • Snow Lake     |
| • Ashern        | • Killarney     | • Sprague       |
| • Beausejour    | • Lac du Bonnet | • Stonewall     |
| • Carberry      | • McCreary      | • Russell       |
| • Carman        | • Minnedosa     | • Virden        |
| • Deloraine     | • Morris        | • Wasagaming*   |
| • Fisher Branch | • Neepawa       | • Winnipegosis  |
| • Gillam        | • Pine Falls    |                 |
| • Gimli         | • Shoal Lake    | * Seasonal Site |

Service Canada makes it easier for Canadians to get the government services and information they need with just a click, call or visit. To find the nearest Service Canada Centre or outreach site, hours of operation, and available services, visit [servicecanada.gc.ca](http://servicecanada.gc.ca) and click on "Find a Service Canada Centre Near You", or call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232) TTY: 1 800 926-9105.



**The Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin**, is an occasional publication documenting structure and trends in rural Canada. The objective is to provide basic socio-economic information and analysis for use by researchers, policy makers and for others interested in rural issues.

Rural and Small Town Canada Analysis Bulletin is a joint project between Statistics Canada and the Rural Secretariat on behalf of the Canadian Rural Partnership. Many Bulletins are supported by a detailed working paper.

The Bulletins are available at: [www.rural.gc.ca/research/rst\\_e.phtml](http://www.rural.gc.ca/research/rst_e.phtml) or on the Statistics Canada site at: [www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=21-006-XIE](http://www.statcan.ca:8096/bsolc/english/bsolc?catno=21-006-XIE)

## Round Two & Round Three *(continued from page 1)*

**Round Two**, set to run January-February 2007, will be made up of public consultations that will be hosted across the country. These will focus on collecting information from the public in a way that allows for an open exchange of ideas; it's all about encouraging public debate regarding the future of agriculture and agri-food in Canada. Discussions will also continue to take place on the business risk management (BRM) plan.

March 2007 will see the beginning of **Round Three**. This final phase will involve the analysis of data from Rounds One and Two. These findings will provide consolidated input to the federal, provincial and territorial governments prior to negotiations.

The consultation process and final summations are designed to stimulate discussions amongst all stakeholders about how federal, provincial and territorial governments can work together to ensure a competitive and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector. Being able to provide safe, innovative and high-quality products and services that can benefit all Canadians is also high on the priority list.

We encourage you to add your voice to this discussion! All levels of government are looking forward to hearing from Canadian individuals and organizations. We are working together to develop a solid policy framework that supports a prosperous agriculture and agri-food sector. You will be able to participate via the web site [www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen](http://www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen). **The deadline for submission is February 28, 2007.**

For copies of the consultation documents and for information on how Canadians can participate in building the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy, contact your provincial/territorial agriculture office, call: 1 800 O-CANADA (1 800 622-6232), TTY 1 800 926-9105, or visit the web site [www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen](http://www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen)

## Mark Your Calendar



- **Rural Forum 2007 - April 26, 27, 2007**

Keystone Center Brandon

**For more information**, please visit [www.ruralforum.mb.ca](http://www.ruralforum.mb.ca) or call toll free at 1 800 933-9863

Lauraine Watson, Rural Secretariat

Phone: (204) 983-8376

Fax: (204) 983-8357

Email: [watsonla@agr.gc.ca](mailto:watsonla@agr.gc.ca)

[www.rural.gc.ca](http://www.rural.gc.ca)

AAFC Publication No.10215B

ISSN No. 1705-6640

Également disponible en français

1 800 O-Canada  
(1 800 622-6232)  
[www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)



# Canada