

Saskatchewan RRN Connection

(Rural, Remote, Northern)

Winter 2007

The Next Generation of Agriculture and Agri-food Policy

Working Together for a More Prosperous Future

Governments working together to ensure a competitive and profitable Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector for years to come.

In 2002, federal, provincial and territorial governments developed the Agricultural and Agri-food Policy Framework (APF) to increase the profitability of the entire agri-food sector in the 21st Century. Most elements of the APF expire in March 2008.

Developing the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy

Work is currently underway to build a new policy framework that is responsive to change and addresses short-term and long-term issues impacting the sector. Federal, provincial and territorial governments are committed to working together to address immediate needs and to establish a strong policy foundation that will ensure the long-term competitiveness and prosperity of the Canadian agriculture and agri-food sector.

Consultations

Consultations will stimulate discussion among stakeholders and the Canadian public to ensure the next generation of agricultural policy is a product of partnership between governments, stakeholders and Canadians. The multi-phased and national consultation process began in late 2006 and will carry on into early 2007, with the new policy framework to be announced in 2008.

The broad public forum consultation sessions will be conducted across Canada in January and February 2007 and will be open to all interested stakeholders and the public. These public forum sessions will be an opportunity to collect input and exchange ideas, and will encourage public debate on the future of agriculture and agri-food in Canada.

For more information on how you can participate in building the next generation of agriculture and agri-food policy, contact your provincial or territorial agriculture (or related) office, call **1 800 O-Canada**, or visit the website at www.agr.gc.ca/nextgen

Co-operatives and other social enterprises

The Rural Secretariat's 2006 Learning Series seminar entitled, "Community Revitalization: Co-ops and Other Social Enterprises" was held in Saskatoon on November 20, 2006. This was the third in a series of learning events that have taken place in the last few years in western Canada. A total of 47 people attended this seminar, listening to expert speakers and taking part in discussions around the topic.

Dr. Brett Fairbairn opened the seminar by discussing the basic concepts of co-operatives and social enterprises. Presenters Keith Jorgenson, Core Neighborhood Youth Co-operative; Ian MacLennan of Habitat for Humanity and Beryl Bauer, President of Lake Lenore Grocery Co-op provided working examples of social enterprise organizations. Each gave an inspiring account of the development and ongoing work of the enterprises they are involved with. Other seminar presenters included Brendan Reimer of CCEDNet; Alain Roy, Co-operatives Secretariat; Warren Crossman of the Saskatchewan Co-operatives Association; Chipso Kangayi, graduate student; Simon Weseen, Saskatchewan Institute for Public Policy; David Lepage, Enterprising Non-Profits; Keith Jorgenson, Core Neighborhood Youth Co-operative and Saskatoon Credit Union's Martin Chicilo.



Community self-help was an important aspect of the presentations. Co-operatives are associations of people who have identified needs that can be met by a business structure. Many of the speakers pointed out that organizations with the trust of the people can meet needs or supply services more effectively than the market economy or government.

For more information or to obtain a copy of the CD containing the presentations and a final report, please call Lauraine Watson at (204) 983-8376 or email at watsonla@agr.gc.ca



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

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Service Canada

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** or call **1 800 567-6868**.



Where can completed applications be submitted?

In person at:

- Service Canada Center
214 Smith Street East
Yorkton, SK
- Service Canada Center
9800 Territorial Drive
North Battleford, SK
- Passport Canada
Suite 405, Federal Building
101-22nd Street East
Saskatoon, SK
- Passport Canada
Suite 500, 1870 Albert Street
Regina, SK

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](#))

Reaching Out to Rural Canadians

Service Canada brings federal services together for you. Think of us as your gateway to the Government of Canada. No matter what you are looking for, we can help.

Improving Service

We have made a number of improvements. For example, you can now apply and receive a Social Insurance Number in one visit (with proper identification) to a Service Canada Centre - a process that used to take several weeks. Boat owners and dealers can now apply for a Pleasure Craft License at Service Canada Centres. And in select Service Canada Centres (Yorkton and North Battleford in Saskatchewan) you can now apply for a passport - a service previously only available at Passport Canada offices.



Services for you, in the heart of the country

Reaching More Canadians

Providing Canadians with one-stop service is our goal – all Canadians. Clients living in rural and remote communities have had limited access to the Government of Canada in the past, but this is changing. Over the past year we have established service centres in nine new Saskatchewan communities, bringing the provincial total to 20 points of service, and we're not done! We will continue to work with Saskatchewan communities to identify gaps and determine where in-person service is most needed.

Service Canada is a new way of doing business for the Government of Canada.

For more information:

Click: servicecanada.gc.ca
Call: 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)
TTY 1 800 926-9105
Visit: Any of our 20 Saskatchewan locations (call or visit our website for locations)

Programs, Services

Healthy Parenting

The Healthy Parenting Home Study Program is intended for parents, parents-to-be and caregivers of children from birth to age five. The home study is FREE and ideal for parents who live in rural or remote Saskatchewan communities who do not have access to group parenting education programs or families who prefer to learn on their own. The home study is divided into six sections or modules by age. It covers basic information in each section and is intended to be an introduction to some of the issues of parenting children in these age groups. At the end of each module, there is an exercise to be completed and at the end of the program there is a certificate provided for the participant.

The program is available in two formats, one as an innovative on-line program (available in French and English) which can be accessed at www.healthyparenting.ca or in a manual version (English only).

For more information or to register for the manual version, please contact the Saskatchewan Prevention Institute:
By phone: (306) 655-2512, Fax: (306) 655-2511 Email: healthyparenting@preventioninstitute.sk.ca



Saskatchewan's First Junior Forest Rangers

Saskatchewan's very first Junior Forest Rangers graduated from their six-week program in August 2006 at Sturgeon Lake First Nation's beautiful lakeside Camp Amisk. The program provided 12 Aboriginal youth from Sturgeon Lake First Nation and James Smith Cree Nation with unique work, educational and life experiences. Throughout the course, a variety of experts introduced the students to the science and principles of wildfire and forest management.

"Being here helped me realize there are many more important things in life than just hanging around with my friends. The people I met here are awesome and being here made me a better person," said Kelsie Bighead.

"I think this program should be offered in more First Nations. This was a once in a lifetime experience," said Chantal Sanderson.

"I feel very fortunate to have been chosen to supervise the camp. There are opportunities here for our youth. This program furthers their understanding of sustainable forest management. It's in my heart for our First Nations people to create a better place for our youth. We need this program to continue every year," said Camp Supervisor, Audrey Kingfisher. *"The Junior Forest Ranger program has proven to be a successful way to introduce youth to the forest industry in other provinces for years."*

The program will run again in 2007 at two sites provided sufficient support and funding can be obtained.

For more information visit, www.pamodelforest.sk.ca or contact, Mike Newman, Canadian Forest Service at (306) 953-8546.



2006 Junior Forest Rangers graduates

Communities Helping Communities in Southwest Saskatchewan

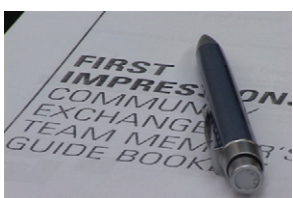
Action Southwest, a regional economic development organization, has engaged ten rural communities and 50 volunteers from across the Southwest to work together to conduct a survey on each other's communities, to assist in the creation of strategies for rural growth.

The First Impressions Community Exchange Project will offer communities a chance to see themselves through the eyes of a first-time visitor. Each community has been paired up with another community and each will pay the other an unannounced visit and a survey will be conducted.

"After you've lived in one place for awhile, you sometimes take for granted the things that attract people to your community", says Edith Gibbings First Impressions Project Coordinator. *"Or you may be unaware of aspects of your community that may be unappealing in the eyes of outsiders. The exchange gives a community an objective assessment of its strengths and weaknesses, and gives participants a chance to gather ideas from other communities dealing with similar development issues."*

Once again, an Action Southwest project is being considered a pilot project in the province with the potential to be delivered in other areas of Saskatchewan. The project is role modeled after an initiative developed by the University of Wisconsin.

The results of the First Impressions Community Exchange will be presented at a public meeting scheduled for **Saturday, March 10, 2007** in Swift Current. Everyone in the region will be invited to attend, so please mark your calendars. To learn more visit www.actionsouthwest.com or call Action Southwest at (306) 778-6445.



(Funding for this project provided in part by the Rural Secretariat's Canadian Rural Partnership initiative)

LAKE LENORE The little community that could

by Lauraine Watson and the Canadian CED network

Lake Lenore is a small community of just over 100 households where Co-ops are at the heart of the business community. It is a typical small town in some ways, but when times get tough, this mighty little community gets tougher.

"The Co-op model has been a lifeline in our community so it is no small wonder that when a problem arises in our community, we look for a "co-operative" solution," said Beryl Bauer, President of the Lake Lenore Grocery and Greenhouse Co-op.

Such was the case in the fall of 1996 when the community learned that the only grocery store was scheduled to close on November 1.

It was evident that the community still needed a grocery/hardware store since people had to drive to Humboldt to get their groceries. With a large number of older residents, the prospect of driving 33 km for groceries in the winter, led to a growing concern.

Residents soon met and decided to buy the store. The deal was subject to financing and the formation of an entity to own the store. Establishing a Co-op was the route to go, but would it work? A group of ten volunteers hit the pavement to find out how much capital could be raised from local residents. The end result? \$78,000 was raised from 178 contributors, an average of \$438.00 per household.

Seeing the tremendous community support for the store purchase, Village Council approved a \$20,000 loan if a Co-op could be successfully formed. The local Lions Club threw in \$15,000 and the local Auditorium Co-op turned over an \$8,000 surplus they had from a previous fundraising event. A loan for the balance of the store purchase was arranged with the local Credit Union with favorable interest rates and repayment terms. Within weeks, close to 175 memberships were sold at \$10 each. Almost every household in the community and surrounding district could claim co-op membership.

But now the real work was about to begin. The store was in desperate need of upgrades and renovations. *"This is where the volunteer spirit of the community shone,"* said Mr. Bauer. *"Over 60 volunteers helped refurbish the store in some way in preparation for opening day."*

"This is where the volunteer spirit of the community shone,"... "Over 60 volunteers helped refurbish the store in some way in preparation for opening day."

On March 15, 1997, the Lake Lenore Grocery Co-op opened its doors. The store provides a typical wide variety of groceries, but also has a liquor franchise, a movie rental section, and a lottery centre. In order to make the grocery store more profitable, Beryl felt the Co-op had to look for something else that would add revenue.

In 2002, a local lady who had a greenhouse on her farm agreed to operate a greenhouse next to the grocery store. The Co-op built two 24' X 96' greenhouses as well as some office space, a garden and a gift centre. The Co-op got the greenhouse up and running and this idea has proven to be a great one.

The Co-op sells bedding plants to many co-ops and other businesses including a Canadian Tire store in Saskatoon and a garden centre in Regina. Since the Lake Lenore Grocery and Greenhouse Co-op could not keep up with all the orders, another 24' X 96' greenhouse was added to the existing facility. The Co-op had already expanded further in 2005 by purchasing two garden centres from the Saskatoon Co-op which were dismantled and set up in Lake Lenore. As well, in 2005, the Co-op acquired a greenhouse in the neighbouring community of Anaheim.

The Grocery/greenhouse Co-op has stopped the decline of the community. Instead of empty lots and abandoned businesses, Lake Lenore has a very pleasant looking street where people come from miles around to patronize the local businesses.

For more information, contact Beryl Bauer (306) 368-2429 / email: bbauer@sasktel.net or Jennifer Crone, Greenhouse Operator at (306) 368-2288.



photos courtesy of Canadian CED Network

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. 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.



Recognizing Saskatchewan's co-operatives

The 2006 list of the "Top 50 Canadian Co-operatives" showing the success of co-operatives in Canada is now released. The number one ranked co-operative is, Federated Co-operatives Limited of Saskatchewan. Federated Co-operatives has ranked number one on the list for the fifth straight year with revenues of almost \$4.8 billion and has provided jobs for 3,000 employees.

Other Saskatchewan co-operatives ranked within the top 50 include:

Federated Co-operatives Limited Total revenue (M) - \$ 4,799.3 Ranked #1	Pioneer Co-op Assn. Ltd Total revenue (M) - \$130.7 Ranked #21
Interprovincial Co-operatives Limited Total revenue (M) - \$255.4 Ranked #9	Prince Albert Co-op Assn. Ltd Total revenue (M) - \$121.1 Ranked #22
Saskatoon Co-op Association Limited Total revenue (M) - \$160.5 Ranked #19	Sherwood Co-op Assn. Ltd Total revenue (M) - \$79.8 Ranked #38

For the complete list of Top 50 Canadian Co-operatives, visit the "newsroom" at www.agr.gc.ca (December 7, 2006 release) or telephone (204) 983-8376.

Mark Your Calendar

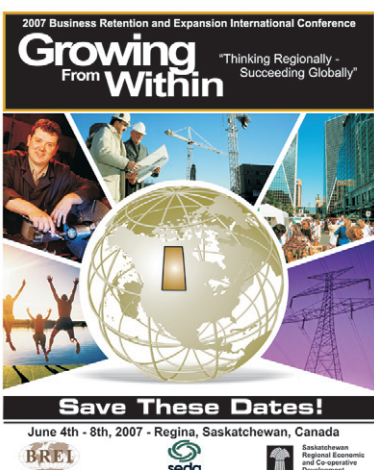


- **102nd SARM Annual Convention coming up March 12-15, 2007**

Location: TCU Place, Saskatoon. **For more information** regarding the convention or the Trade Show, please visit www.sarm.ca or contact Kristina Sauer at 1 (800) 667-3604 (local 761-3730) or email ksauer@sarm.ca

- **2007 Business Retention and Expansion International Conference - June 4-8, 2007 in Regina**

Growing From Within "Thinking Regionally - Succeeding Globally"



Focuses on the five fundamental pillars in building community capacity, business development and a prosperous regional economy:

1. Developing an Economy of Regions
2. Building on Competitive Advantages
3. Fostering a culture of Entrepreneurship and Innovation
4. Investing in Economic Infrastructure
5. Engaging leadership and Effective Governance.

(Funding for this project provided in part by the Rural Secretariat's Canadian Rural Partnership initiative)

Wanted! More Women Leaders and Decision Makers In Rural Saskatchewan

In a series of workshops held across Saskatchewan, rural women have repeatedly commented on how few women hold political office or are in leadership and decision making positions in rural communities. Over the past two years, the Rural Women's Issues Committee of Saskatchewan (RWICS) supported by Status of Women, Canada and Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence (PWHCE) has held workshops with rural women across the province to develop local actions to respond to the recommendations in the report on Rural, Remote and Northern Women's Health prepared by the Women's Health Centres of Excellence.

Actions to increase the number of women leaders in rural communities focused on the importance of mentoring, looking out for younger women with new ideas to encourage and the need for leadership training in their rural communities. One woman encouraged another to stand for a board position by doing the legwork to collect the signatures on her nomination papers. At the Muenster workshop, women created the following list of "Things to Remember":

- Don't be afraid to be on a board with men
- Do your homework, be prepared for meetings
- Don't sit by yourself, pick someone and ask if you can sit with them
- Be prepared to learn as you go
- Ask questions because it clarifies things for everyone
- Common sense goes a long way
- Listen
- Be willing to talk on the radio

Most importantly women must be out front to encourage other women.

Reports from each of the workshops are available on the Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence website at www.pwhce.ca or by calling (306) 966-8658 (Saskatoon) or (306) 585-5727 (Regina)

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AAFC Publication No.10214B

ISSN No. 1712-9303

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