



CDSS Communiqué

Volume 5, Issue 1

February 2003

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President's Message

By Kathie Cram

This is my first opportunity as President of CDSS to write a short article on the workings of our Board, and some of our vision for this next year. At the present time we are a fairly small group of people, with two (2) members from the Prince Albert region, one (1) from the Lanigan area, and three (3) from Saskatoon.

Most of our work in this year will be tied to follow-up on the Membership Diversity project. One of most significant accomplishments in 2002 was the initiation and completion of this project. It was aimed at assessing how to increase membership by focusing on certain groups (e.g.; Aboriginal people, individuals on fixed incomes, New Canadians and immigrants), and funded through a short-term grant from the international Community Development Society. The major learning from the project were:

- the annual membership fee of \$35.00 was a barrier to people living in fixed incomes
- members are interested in ongoing professional development on such topics as multi-sectoral collaboration, leadership development, capacity building, and poverty and children
- members want communication of all types including workshops, newsletters, website etc.

We have already followed up with some of these ideas. At our Annual General Meeting, we agreed to develop a membership fee that was more flexible. The membership is \$35.00 per year and \$5.00 per year for people living on fixed incomes. In terms of member services, we are co-hosting a workshop with the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers on community development models and practice (see add for more details), and will be hosting a learning event in June and during our November conference. We are currently in the initial stages of developing a more comprehensive membership data- base and user-friendly renewal process, investigating the development of a web site, and have committed to publishing four newsletters this year.

CDSS 2003 Board of Directors

President:

Kathie Cram

Past President:

Barb Robinson

Secretary:

Emdee Korsberg

Treasurer:

Martin Chicilo

Members At Large

Cheryl Loadman

Reg Beardsworth

"Strengthening Community Led Innovation" A Success

Over 400 participants were hosted by SEED Winnipeg, the Government of Manitoba, and other local CED organizations at the 2002 National CED conference, organized jointly by CCEDNet and CEDTAP in Winnipeg from September 23rd to 27th.

The conference, on the theme of "Strengthening Community Led Innovation", featured over 60 workshops on CED practice, policy and emerging issues. Keynote addresses included Silver Donald Cameron, the Hon. Jane Stewart Minister of HRDC, Sherman Kreiner of the Crocus Fund, Sheri Torjman of the Caledon Institute, Eugene Kostyra of the Manitoba government, and a host of others.

CEDTAP held in its annual forum, and CCEDNet held its annual general meeting, during the conference. The Peter F. Drucker Awards for Canadian Nonprofit Innovation were presented at the event, and a Government Dialogue on CED was held the day before, jointly sponsored by Manitoba, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and Nunavut. HRDC held a half-day consultation on its Skills and Learning Agenda, with a focus on strengthening "Learning Communities".

Thanks to sponsorship from a number of foundations, government and other supporters, many participants from small community based organizations were able to receive support for their travel costs, making the event the largest and most diverse national CED conference so far. Participant evaluation has been overwhelmingly positive, but we are always working to make our events better. Participants asked that next time there be better descriptions of presenters and their workshops so people can make informed choices, and that the CEDTAP and CCEDNet annual meetings be staged as plenaries not competing with other sessions. Reports on evaluation and the proceedings of the conference will be available soon on our website.

Planning for the next national CED conference will begin shortly, continuing as a joint event between CEDTAP and CCEDNet. It will likely be held in the Spring of 2004, while in 2003 CCEDNet focuses on supporting regional events to strengthen outreach with members in different parts of the country. Any members interested in hosting the conference in 2004 (or regional events in 2003) should express interest as soon as possible to:

Rupert Downing, Executive Director,
rdowning@canadiancednetwork.org,
telephone 250-595-8470

Vibrant Communities

By: Kathie Cram

A wonderful new initiative is unfolding across Canada. The Caledon Institute on Social Policy, the Tamarck: An Institute for Community Engagement and the J. W. McConnell Family Foundation have joined forces to assist communities strengthen their multi-sectoral poverty reduction work. The goal is to build vibrant communities where we:

- Provide support that meets the basic needs of all members
- Promote inclusion to enable all members to participate actively in social, economic, cultural and political life
- Promotes opportunities for life-long learning for all members

The national partners are linking with local communities to work towards the common vision. They are providing organizations with learnings (e.g.: engaging people who are marginalized in decision making, making linkages with the business sector, and fundraising), technical assistance and resources

At our regional level, QUINT Development Corporation and the Core Neighbourhood Development Council (Saskatoon) are linking with Vibrant Communities to move forward the twenty year strategic plan recently developed in the core neighbourhoods.

For more information on Vibrant Communities see their web site: www.vibrantcommunities.ca

Note: The Vibrant Communities latest newsletter is online in PDF at the above web address.

Profile of your President

Kathie Cram

Hello folks! I am the newly elected President of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan. I thought you might be interested in knowing a little bit about me.

First, and most importantly in my life, I am a mother. I have a beautiful 11-year-old daughter, who is making sure I am familiar with the issues of the "tweenies"! This means I know just about all the Avril Lavigne songs, understand the real meaning of "sweet", and spend the majority of my spare time driving her to snowboarding lessons, theatre classes, music lessons and track. I told her recently that our job descriptions as mother and daughter have now changed. My job is to embarrass her every chance I get, and her job is to argue with me about everything! I wanted to let folks know about all this because one of my real commitments in community development is the balance between work and family.

In the other part of the balance wheel, I am currently

employed with the Saskatoon Health Region in the Community Development Team, and occasionally teach with the universities. In the community development work, we try to balance the demands of community engagement with working inside an institution to move forward the principles and practices of community development. I have recently become the Co-ordinator of the Community Development Team, so the other balance I struggle with is between working with grassroots anti-poverty groups, and getting some of the administrative work done.

I have been doing community development for just about my entire adult life, which I can sheepishly, say is now about thirty (30) years! In other contexts I have worked with the not for profit sector where I've focused on reproductive health, women in conflict with the law, membership development, aboriginal people's issues and international development. During the late 1980's I spent four years working in Bolivia with the not for profit sector.

As President of the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan I am most interested in professional development and member services.

Community Development Society 2003 Conference

Join community development practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and citizen leaders from the U.S. and the around the world.

The Community Development Society's 2003 meeting will provide a valuable opportunity to sharpen professional skills, discuss critical issues, learn from and interact with your community development colleagues.

Meet on the scenic and historic campus of Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, USA, July 20-23, 2003.

THEME: The theme of the conference is **Community as Place**. Conference participants will collectively explore the relationship between community development and community sustainability. With a focus on "place" we will explore different perspectives on the intersection of natural, built and cultural environments. Participants will discuss and learn about resources and approaches that foster community development.

HIGHLIGHTS: The Conference features multiple tracks covering areas such as Community Vitality, Economic Development, Extension, Environment, Practice, Research and Graduate Studies, Social and International Issues, Urban Issues, Telecommunications, and Faith-based Community Development. Mobile workshops will go into the local community for first-hand experiences in community development.

For more information: <http://www.cds2003.org/>

Upcoming Events

Respectful Research Workshop

Feb 27, 2003 Saskatoon 1-4pm Room 146 Kirk Hall, U of S

Learn approaches and guidelines for conducting research with and about Aboriginal people in this valuable workshop for academics, community based researchers, graduate students and others.

To register: 966-5539 \$45 Registration Fee

A Board Basics Workshop

Donna Bruce: This one-day workshop is for anyone who is a board member, works with a board of directors, or is considering becoming a board member. Workshop topics include: Legal duties and liabilities of board members (presented by Sam McCullough, Barrister and Solicitor); roles and responsibilities of board members and management; how to increase the effectiveness of your board (presented by Donna Bruce, DB Learning Consultants), and more. You will receive a Board Basics manual to keep for future reference." **March 5th in Regina.** For more information, e-mail:

leadership@sccd.sk.ca <<mailto:leadership@sccd.sk.ca>>.

What Do We Know and Where Do We Go? Building a Social Inclusion Research Agenda March 27-28, 2003, Ottawa

The Canadian Council on Social Development and Human Resources Development Canada will host a research conference on social inclusion in Ottawa in March. The conference will focus on the latest policy research being done on the social inclusion front and will provide participants with an opportunity to identify the gaps in a national social inclusion research agenda. To receive further conference information, contact: Sarah Zraggen, The Willow Group, Tel: (613) 722-8796; Fax: (613) 729-6206; e-mail: szraggen@thewillowgroup.com.

Community-University Institute for Social Research May 8 – 10, 2003 Saskatoon

Conference goals include: Building the capacity of colleges, universities, community, government and business organizations to start and maintain productive partnerships; fostering community applications of research; and contributing to the program and policy agendas for governments, granting agencies, community organizations, business, and universities. Info @ <http://www.usask.ca/cuisr/cuexpo/>

International Conference on Human Services in Rural Communities May 29 - 30, 2003. Nova Scotia School of Social Work, Dalhousie University, Halifax, Nova Scotia. For more information, contact: Rosemary Clews, E-mail: clews@stthomasu.ca

Introduction to Community Development

Cosponsored by Saskatoon Branch, SASW and the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan

Tuesday, March 4 10 am - 3pm
Registration fee includes lunch.
Queen's House, 601 Taylor St. W.,
Saskatoon, SK.

Speakers:

Kathie Cram, Co-ordinator, Community Development Team, Saskatoon Health Region and President, Community Development Society of Saskatchewan (CDSS)

Reg Beardsworth, Director of Community Programs, Prince Albert Cooperative Health Centre and Member at Large of the CDSS

Martin Chicilo, Manager, Community Development Unit, Saskatoon Credit Union and Treasurer, CDSS

Registration

Deadline Feb 27, 2003

Member\$40/Nonmember\$45/
Students and underemployed\$25

Please mail cheque and registration to: Ruth Mireau, Mental Health Services, 4th Floor, 715 Queen St., Saskatoon, S7K 4X4.

Make cheques payable to Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, Saskatoon

Census Shows Increasing Diversity of Canadian Society

The January 21, 2003 release of data from the 2001 Census shows Canada to be an increasingly diverse country, particularly in its urban areas.

Aboriginal Population: Canada's Aboriginal population is now 4.4% of the whole, up from 3.8% in 1996 – this is the second highest percentage of Aboriginal citizens in the world, behind New Zealand. Almost half, or 49%, of this population now live in urban areas, up from 47% in 1996.

Foreign-born Canadians: The proportion of foreign-born Canadians is at its highest in 70 years. At 18%, Canada's proportion of foreign-born citizens is the second highest in the world, topped only by Australia's 22%. In Toronto, which has received almost half of Canada's newest immigrants, about 44% of the population was born outside Canada.

Social Policy Implications: One third of the Aboriginal population is under the age of fifteen, and a relatively high percentage of these children are living in either single-parent families or adoptive households. There is a need to address social and economic challenges arising from these realities.

The CCSD's recent Progress of Canada's Children report <http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2002/pcc02/index.htm> shows that these difficult early life circumstances do indeed have consequences for Aboriginal children.

Aboriginal issues must be recognized as urban as much as rural, now that 49% of this population reports a city address. This increasing move to the cities may account for the continuing loss of native languages: only 25% are now able to carry on a conversation in their native tongue, down from 29% in 1996.

With the number of foreign-born Canadians increasing, there is a need to ensure that immigrants are successfully integrated into Canadian society, and able to share their wealth of knowledge and experience. The proportion of recent immigrants with university degrees is actually much higher than in the Canadian population as a whole (21% compared to 12%), yet new immigrants increasingly struggle at low-paid jobs. The CCSD's 2002 study, "Does A Rising Tide Lift All Boats?" by Senior Researcher Ekuwa Smith reported that the relative earnings of recent immigrants fell sharply between the mid 1980s and the mid 1990s, even among immigrants who had a university education.

Smith argues that, with new immigrants increasingly being members of visible minorities, racism may play a role in this economic marginalization. "Unequal Access," a report completed by the CCSD for the Canadian Race Relations Foundation in 2000, and a more recent report from the Canadian Labour Congress, both concluded that racism is a continuing problem in the workplace. Strategies to counter racism need to be considered.

Another key factor in the struggle of new immigrants is the non-recognition or undervaluing of foreign skills and credentials, which leave immigrants working in low-wage jobs, unable to use their hard-earned skills. This problem seems anachronistic at a time of global integration, and increasing attention is rightly being paid to it at various levels of government. There is a clear need for timely and appropriate recognition of foreign credentials, and for apprenticeship or mentoring programs to help newcomers find their way into their chosen professions.

Other initiatives to consider are interventions in the schooling and social service systems targeted to the particular needs of immigrants.

Reprinted from: [CCSD Analysis: Census Shows Increasing Diversity of Canadian Society](#) [January 23, 2003]

**Community Development Society
of Saskatchewan, Inc.**

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Email: cloadman@sasktel.net

Do you have --
Questions? Comments? Events?
Articles you wish to publish in the
Newsletter?

Websites to Check Out

Excellence in Leadership

Developing a Community of Leaders Online is an interactive leadership development program: <http://www.leadershipexcellence.ca/index.php>

Building Caring Communities

Saskatchewan Health is offering a new guide to promoting better health in our communities. "Building Caring Communities" You can download a copy of the document at: http://www.health.gov.sk.ca/info_center_hlth_promo_guide.html

MBA in Community Economic Development

Lakeland College is brokering a New MBA program from the University College of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia. Lakeland College will launch the program at its locations in Lloydminster and Sherwood Park in January 2003. Lee Swanson, Dean of Lakeland College's School of Business at 1-800-661-6490, press 1, ext. 508 or e-mail him at lee.swanson@lakelandc.ab.ca.

Membership Application (Please Print)

Regular Membership: _____ New _____ Renewal

Name: _____
First Name Initial Last Name

Mailing Address: _____
Street/rural Rte/Box City/Town Postal Code

Tel: _____ Fax: _____ e-mail Address: _____

Organization Affiliation (in any) _____

A cheque/money order for \$35 is enclosed. Low income: \$5.

Signature: _____

Please make cheque payable to CDSS and Mail to:
Box 722
Saskatoon Saskatchewan
S7K 3L7