



CDSS Communiqué

President's Report: Broadening our Links

Kathie Cram

During the past few months the theme of linkages has been very present in our work, both in terms of building relationships and in our attempts to deal with the technology of cyberspace. The Board has been considering the type of linkages we want to make to the international Community Development Society (CDS), planning the upcoming Annual Conference and AGM, and upgrading our website.

We want to strengthen the links to CDS in part because we are interested in building a solid foundation for the international community development conference we will be hosting in 2008. Some of our Board members will be participating on the committees of CDS. These include communications, programming and international linkages. We hope to strengthen linkages in a couple of years by asking one of our Board members to sit on the international CDS Board. Ideally we would like to send a Board member to the upcoming CDS conference in Cleveland, but have decided to postpone this and send representatives closer to 2008. Our local planning for the international conference will begin in the fall of 2004 when we will be meeting with potential partners.

We have also begun planning our provincial conference. It will be held on November 25, 26 2004. The details are being worked on, but the overall theme will be 'strength based community development in Saskatchewan'. This is a follow-up to the John McKnight event in January 2004. We will be working with partners again, which we hope will include the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers, the Saskatchewan Council on Community Development and Saskatchewan Agrivision.

Our website is now being managed by one of our new Board members, Linda Bell. She is doing a wonderful job and we are proud of the site. We have added some linkages with other associations, and have finally got pictures and profiles of our Board members!

CDSS Conference and Annual General Meeting

The CDSS Conference and Annual General Meeting is scheduled for November 18th and 19th in Prince Albert. Watch for information in the fall newsletter or check out the CDSS Website at: www.cdssociety.sk.ca.

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A partner and member organization
of the Community Development
Society (CDS)
<http://comm-dev.org/>

CDSS 2004 Board of Directors

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Reg Beardsworth

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COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS

By Judy McNaughton & Reg Beardsworth

COMMON

Belonging equally to or shared equally by two or more; joint: *common interests*.

Of or relating to the community as a whole; public: *for the common good*.

WEAL,

1. Prosperity; happiness: *in weal and woe*.
2. The welfare of the community; the general good: *the public weal*.

Middle English wele, from Old English wela.

Common Weal Community Arts was formed in 1992. It believes that the common welfare of the community can be enhanced through art. This Saskatchewan based arts organization links artists with communities to promote social change. Program development is based on community need, providing access to those who may experience economic, social or cultural barriers. Common Weal uses art as a tool for social development, supporting grassroots processes, encouraging individuals to be heard, advocacy and building bridges across communities. They facilitate people coming together creatively, emotionally and spiritually to create art and community.

Prince Albert's Riverside Community School has hosted Common Weal member Judy McNaughton as Midtown Artist in Residence for the past two years. Judy has been promoting intergenerational and intercultural opportunities for residents to participate in collaborative community art programs. Common Weal uses strength-based focus, celebrating positive assets, but leaving room to speak about the less positive. Common Weal feels the work they do with youth by focussing on strength, builds self-esteem and community. Judy identifies the first line barriers with youth as self-esteem and self-confidence. She sees obvious growth in participants! She says it is hard to evaluate reasons behind societal attitudes, but Common Weal is working on making changes in these attitudes.

Judy has facilitated the work on collaborative ceramic mosaics for both Riverside Community School and Prince Charles Elementary School.

One early project Common Weal sponsored with Judy's support was a COLLABORATIVE COMMUNITY ARTS PERFORMANCE event. It brought 5 visual and performing artists to PA to work with schools and community for two weeks. While working with students, Mike Jozsa, Joseph Naytowhow, Erroll Kinistino, Michelle Sereda and Reona...

Continued on page 5....

EDITORIAL: Our Community: People Not Buildings By Cheryl Loadman

Two recent events are proving to be defining moments in our community: the recent federal election and the end of the Gathercole Building. While they may not seem to be related, they are.

The Gathercole building stood as a call to action for many members of our community. These individuals organized and fought hard, together in a heartfelt effort to put their mark, and definition on the future of their community. These people, the spirit of their efforts, regardless of their success, demonstrated that we can be heard when our voices come together as one. While they did not achieve their goals, they will have a lasting influence on the future of that project. They did make a statement.

This federal election, regardless of its outcome, leaves many citizens with a sense of despair -it is an isolating and dividing process. With the to-do over we can learn from our Gathercole friends. Let us unite under one voice, one call for change. We need to speak loudly to our new politicians and government. We must make them hear our concerns, so forcefully they will know our cause. Remind them that people's heartfelt concern for their community will outlast any of the buildings and monuments they build. We must make a statement.

Begin this effort by taking time to send the letter on page 9 to your MP and the Prime Minister.

Note: Please share your stories with us. We would be interested in printing information on your organization or some project you are involved in.

Linking "COMMUNITY AND THE ARTS"
(maybe you could think of a sexier name?)

The CDSS Board is trying to encourage a stronger link between community development and the arts. This connect is already going on in many of our communities in Saskatchewan. In Saskatoon the Saskatchewan Native Theatre is truly a gift to the larger community. Their recent production of "Indian Time" by renowned playwright Drew Hayden Taylor was not only a visual treat, but shared with us some profound lessons of how to see youth in holistic ways and ways that focus on their gifts, not their deficits. The Broadway Theatre is another gift to Saskatoon. "The Corporation" that was an expose of the unethical behaviour of many large corporations and an examination of how corporate America has injected itself into the souls of our communities, lives and homes.

If any of our readers are interested in contributing to this section of the newsletter, please forward your articles to Cheryl Loadman, our editor.

CHANGE OR CHOICE? THE RURAL URBAN FUTURES.

The COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY will hold its 36th Annual Conference, Change or Choice? The Rural Urban Futures, July 18 – 21 2004 in Cleveland Ohio USA.

The conference theme is concerned with the interplay between the city and the countryside, how to bring about the benefits of economic progress and quality of life amenities to the broadest segments of the population. The program will include papers, workshops and presentations that offer concepts, models and theories of community development that study historical and contemporary connections and experiences of urban and rural communities in both the domestic and international context.

CDS has sought to bring together Scholars, practitioners, neighbourhood groups, financial organizations, foundations, governments and the international community to learn of new research and practices in Community Development.

CDS is committed to address CD issues as convenor, catalyst, facilitator and resource to its membership. This conference's focus will be an ideal venue to reach out to, and involve urban, rural, global and national community based organizations, institutes, scholars and practitioners.

The conference will offer presentations on such topics as Community Development Strategies, Civil Society and Social Capital, Economic Development, Government and Policy, Public Scholarship and Community Development, Urban Issues, Technology, Knowledge Management and Community Development, Research and Theory and Environment. In addition the conference offers plenary sessions, workshops, and Mobile Learning Opportunities, exhibitors, posters, and networking opportunities. As well, there will be a post conference tour of Holmes County with the largest Amish population in the world. There will be a chance to tour farms and shops, meet families and learn about Amish culture and belief.

The Conference cost early bird rate is US\$275 for members and US\$360 for non-members. There are special rates for students. Accommodation is available at the conference site, Sheraton City Centre Hotel for US\$109 per night. Other hotel accommodation is available as well. The conference has arranged for

dormitory accommodation at the Cleveland State University for as little as US\$35 per night.

For further information, and the schedule go on the conference website, www.cds2004.org. Please contact Peggy Blankenship at the CDS business office at <mailto:Peggy@assnoffices.com> Peggy@assnoffices.com or at 614.221.1900, ext. 217.

Nominations for CDSS Practitioner Award

The Community Development Society of Saskatchewan Inc. (CDSS) seeks nominations for the **CDSS Community Development Practitioner Award**. The Award will be given each year to one or more practitioners who have made outstanding and exceptional contributions to the improvement of their community or organization through a community development process, in their community, district, province or beyond.

Nominations will be accepted from January 1st to September 30th. The Award will be presented at the CDSS Annual Conference and Meeting held in November. Contact Kathie Cram

CED Training Introduction to Economic Development for Western Canadian Communities - 2000

The Saskatchewan Economic Developers Association (SEDA) has developed an course for new economic development practitioners and volunteers on economic development boards and committees. This course is accredited by the Economic Developers Association of Canada (EDAC) that means the course credits will be recognized not only across Canada, but in the United States and Europe. These course credits are useful in obtaining professional certification in the field of economic development (an EcD). SEDA.sk.ca

CED Training: Community Economic & Social Development Training

A Community Economic & Social Development (CESD) spring institute is happening at Algoma University in Sault Ste Marie. For further information or to register now please contact Algoma University, attn. Spring Institute Alice Corbiere Community Economic & Social Development Algoma University College, Sault Ste Marie, ON P6A 2G4 Phone (705) 949-2301, ext. 298 or Ext 4812 email info@auc.ca. Visit www.auc.on.ca

Reports and Documents

2004 National CED Conference Presentations

Over 60 workshop and plenary presentations were offered at the 2004 National CED Conference. To view the presentations, go to the <http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca/en/pages/conference.asp> webpage. For others, please contact the presenters directly via the [Participant List](#). (PDF)

Poverty by Postal Code

A United Way Report that talks about the rapid increase in the number of poor Toronto neighbourhoods. The Report shows that in the past two decades, Toronto has changed dramatically and not all for the good. The income gap is widening and neighbourhood poverty has intensified.

http://action.web.ca/home/actew/alerts.shtml?sh_itm=53c0a8eb8811d2df997bfb76eab032fc

Report Calls For Welfare Reform to Protect Abused Women

A report released on April 5 calls on the Ontario government to make substantial changes to Ontario's welfare system to better protect abused women. The report makes 34 recommendations.

http://action.web.ca/home/actew/alerts.shtml?sh_itm=7fb1bb9fa73034404663ed0b9990bae2

Quality of Life Report

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has released a report finding that the quality of life in Canada's urban centres is at risk. This year's report, the third in a series, takes a detailed look at six indicators of quality of life in 20 Canadian municipalities that account for 40 per cent of Canada's population.

http://action.web.ca/home/actew/alerts.shtml?sh_itm=becfe287c4cef98b6dac92f8_bbacfb5e

Aboriginal Peoples Survey community profiles for children and youth

Data from the 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey community profiles for the children's population are now available online. The 2001 Aboriginal Peoples Survey (APS) is a post-censal survey of adults and children who reported Aboriginal ancestry, Aboriginal identity, registered Indian status and/or Band membership on the 2001 Census

<http://www12.statcan.ca/english/profil01aps/home.cfm>

Low wages condemn families to poverty

Child poverty remains firmly entrenched in Canada. Despite political vows and public concern, Canada cannot shake its high rate of child poverty. For the past three decades, child poverty levels have hovered at one child in six. "We face a structural crisis in our attempts to address child poverty", says Pathways to Progress: Structural Solutions to Address Child Poverty, a study commissioned by the anti-poverty organization, Campaign 2000 and released today in Ottawa. Laurel Rothman, Campaign 2000, 416-595-9230/244 ; or Cell: 416-575-9230 In Winnipeg, Sid Frankel, Winnipeg Social Planning Council and University of Manitoba, 204-474-9706 In Vancouver, Michael Goldberg, Social Planning and Research Council of BC, 604-718-7738.

http://action.web.ca/home/c2000/alerts.shtml?sh_itm=5dfd8c4668725a4d6ca7157857afa5a0

Saskatchewan Child Poverty Report, November 2003.

Social Policy Research Unit (SPR), University of Regina, Saskatchewan.

<http://www.uregina.ca/spr/pdfs/childpovertyreport2003.pdf>

Naspici Miyomahcihowin (Continuous Good Health)

The Prairie Women's Health Centre of Excellence has recently launched a new report, A Community-Based Research Project Examining the Health Needs of Aboriginal Women in Saskatoon.

<http://www.pwhce.ca/continuousGoodHealth.htm>

Commission on first nations and métis peoples and justice reform to release final report. The final report has been released and is available at <http://www.justicereformcomm.sk.ca/volume2.gov>

COMMON WEAL COMMUNITY ARTS (Continued from page 2...)

...Brass focused on themes of youth, cultural diversity, family, land, ownership and community on the North Saskatchewan Riverbank. The project highlight was a community supper followed by a show put on by the students who had worked with the visiting artists. The performance was held at the new E. A. Rawlinson Centre for the Visual and Performing Arts. Community School Coordinators in PA wanted their students and families to feel a sense of comfort in and ownership of the new Art Centre while eliminating any barriers this community might feel about such a facility. Many participants who would otherwise feel uncomfortable going to the Centre were given a sense of belonging.

Another Prince Albert Based event, sponsored in part by Common Weal was ART & ARTISTS ANIMATING COMMUNITIES. Judy McNaughton facilitated the discussion. Participants were Jim Stonechild Ruth Gillingham, Michel Boutin and Brenda Barry Byrne.

Stonechild works with youth to paint murals on buildings. Mentoring youth and having them build self-esteem and confidence is what the project is about. Public spaces seem neutral but they aren't. They send a message to those who live there, a message about authority. They funnel people. If you change the space, you change people's feeling about their environment. The space becomes more personable and accepting.

Gillingham is a supervisor at the Youth Activity Centre and a professional photographer. YAC provides a safe place for at risk youth to come and participate in healthy activities, an obviously Ruth uses art to encourage identity, self-concept, self-esteem and cultural identity while teaching youth to value themselves and each other.

Boutin facilitates an art studio, which is open to aboriginal people. He feels that many people who do not excel in other areas in school excel in art. The studio gives them a place to develop skills and strengths, self esteem and stimulate mental abilities. The studio gives participants a chance to get positive feedback for being exceptional. Boutin recently facilitated an exhibition of participants' art at the Prince Albert Art Centre

Barry Byrne is the curator at the Art Gallery of Prince Albert. She spoke on the Small Cities Art Museums. SCAM is an association of curators from art museums in smaller cities. It has been active in supporting, encouraging and promoting art and artists outside the larger urban centres in Canada. Common Weal artists work with galleries and emerging artists with no formal training. These are artists who don't understand how the 'art establishment' works. Common Weal members can provide mentoring and give direction on the necessary requirements to apply for the opportunity to show work in a gallery. Galleries can send emerging artists to mentors who can help them develop to the point where they can put together a show that can be displayed in a gallery. Mentors also mediate with new artists and galleries.

In addition to Prince Albert, Common Weal has operated other fascinating Community Development projects in Balgonie, Cupar, Gerald, James Smith Reserve, Peepeekisis Reserve, Regina, Saskatoon and White Bear First Nation. More information is available on the web at <http://www.commonweal-arts.com/>.

The office is at 2431 – 8th Ave, Regina, Saskatchewan, S4R 5J7. Phone 306 780 9442 Fax 306 780 9487.

E-mail info@commonweal-arts.com.

Margaret J. Wheatley: The Simple and Complex

By: Kathie Cram

Margaret Wheatley is an author and community activist who has touched the hearts of communities for more than thirty years. Two of her award winning books have touched my heart and helped bring renewed hope to the work I have been doing as a community development practitioner. I highly recommend "Turning to One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future" (2002) and a more complicated book entitled "Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World" (1999).

"Turning to One Another" is a fairly straightforward, yet poetic exploration of how seemingly isolated and private conversations can be the foundation of very profound social change. She reminds us of the importance of interpersonal conversation, truly listening to one another, and the yearning we all have for meaning in our lives. While her book is in many ways, a philosophical argument about the power of conversation, she also outlines some basic simple principles that can act as tools to helping to facilitate good, meaningful conversations. In some ways these principles are very closely linked to good community development: we acknowledge each other as equals, we stay curious about each...

Continued on page 7...

Upcoming Events

- **June 28-July 2 (Week 1); July 5-9 (Week 2); July 12-16 (Week 3) Peacebuilding and Development Summer Institute 2004**, American University, Washington, D.C.; Contact: www.american.edu/sis/peacebuilding
- **Sixth International Conference of The International Society for Third-Sector Research (ISTR), "Contesting Citizenship and Civil Society in a Divided World," July 11-14** Ryerson University and York University, Toronto, Canada; Contact: ISTR at 410-516-4870; website: www.istr.org.
- **Association of Leadership Educators 2004 Conference, "The Soul of Leadership," July 14-17** Peabody Hotel, Memphis, Tenn.; Contact: Association of Leadership Educators at www.leadershipeducators.org
- **Alliance for Nonprofit Management Annual Conference, August 12-15** "Empowering the Nonprofit Sector," Capital Hilton, Washington, D.C.; Contact: www.allianceonline.org.
- **Manitoba Summer Institute On population Health Promotion August 24, 2004 to August 27, 2004** Contact: Fifth Annual Manitoba Summer Institute on Population Health Promotion Ready, Set, Go: Skills for Population Health Promotion Tuesday, August 24 to August 27, 2004 Brandon University, Brandon, Manitoba. You can find more information about the Institute on the website below. www.umanitoba.ca/faculties/social_work/summer_institute/2004/index_04.htm
- **The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University Alumni Symposium, August 26-28** Indianapolis, Ind.; Contact: The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University at 317-274-4200 or at www.philanthropy.iupui.edu/.
- **10th Researching the Voluntary Sector Conference, SEPTEMBER 1-2** Sheffield Hallam University, Sheffield, UK; Contact: Jayne Blackborow, with the National Council for Voluntary Organisations, at jayne.blackborow@ncvo-vol.org.uk.
- **Irish Academy of Management Annual Conference, SEPTEMBER 3-4** School of Business Studies, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland; Contact: www.iamireland.com.
- **Innovation in Alternative Financing For Affordable Housing** - CHRA Regional Workshop September 23 and 24th Contact: www.shipweb.org
- **2004 EDA Alberta AGM & Professional Development Conference** – Hinton (September 26, 27, 28). Visit the website: www.alberta-canada.com/veda2004
- **Youth and Justice Forum** September 29, 2004 The Western Development Museum Saskatoon Communities for Children 956-6147
- **Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers 2004 National Conference & Annual General Meeting. October 5 to 8, 2004** Fredericton, New Brunswick
- **Seminar C – U of W Sydney, NS "Labour Market Education & Skills Development: Best Practices" October 14 – 16, 2004** Contact: Sharon Jones at 519-885-1211 ext. 2437 s4jones@fes.uwaterloo.ca
- **Anti Poverty Week. October. Watch for events planned for the Week.**
- **EDAC's 36th Professional Development Conference October 16 – 19, 2004 Embracing Change... In Changing Times** Sydney, NS Host Hotel: Delta Sydney Contact: Penny Gardiner 905-689-8771 admin@edac.ca / gardiner@edac.ca
- **2004 International Conference on Volunteer Administration, "Journey of Discovery: Charting Your Course," OCTOBER 20-23** Portland, Ore.; Contact: Association for Volunteer Administration at 804-672-3353; website: www.avaintl.org.
- **Kids Not In School (KNIS) Forum** October 27, 2004 The Western Development Museum Bonnie Braden: 373-0529
- **Water: Drought Proofing the Economy** - November 4, 2004 AgriVision Regina, SK www.droughtproofing.com
- **Independent Sector 2004 Annual Conference, "Making Participation Count," NOVEMBER 7-9** The Fairmont Chicago, Chicago, Ill.; Contact: Independent Sector at www.independentsector.org.
- **"Child Care For A Change! Shaping the 21st Century."** Winnipeg Convention Centre, in Winnipeg, November 12th to 14th, 2004. Contact Golden Planners Inc. (GPI) Telephone: 613-241-9333 Email: info@goldenplanners.com <http://www.ccsd.ca/subsites/childcare/>
- **CDSS Conference and Annual General Meeting** November 18th and 19th in Prince Albert. For information watch www.cdssociety.sk.ca.
- **Child Friendly Saskatoon / Saskatoon Communities for Children** November 20, 2004 Bev Digout: 955-5437 Sue Delaney: 956-6147
- **Quality of Life Policy Forum Community-University Institute for Social Research – CUISR** December 2004 Watch for announcements Peter Krebs: 956-2120 krebs@usask.ca

Please forward your event information and we will place it on the calendar in the next newsletter.

Margaret J. Wheatley: The Simple and Complex (Continued from page 5....)

other, we recognize that we need each other's help to become better listeners, we slow down so we have time to reflect and think, we remember that conversation is the natural way humans think together, we expect it to be messy at times.

Her earlier book "Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World" really speaks to the messiness of community and organizational development. This "read" is more academic in some ways, but her experience in dealing with chaos makes it clear that her analysis is based on the realities of organizational development and social change. She challenges us non-scientific types to consider how new scientific philosophy that is emerging in biology, quantum physics and chaos theory can assist us in developing new ways of improving our collective quality of life. From these theories emerge universal truths: relationships, not isolated individuals are the basic organizing unit of life, chaos & change can be the paths to meaningful transformation, participation and cooperation are fundamental to our survival in such an interdependent world, order is not natural but really not successful if it is rooted in traditional methods of control.

I am inspired when I read Wheatley's work because she captures the essence of working in community, with all its messiness, chaos, beauty and growth. At the heart of her work is hope, and in our times I find that message very invigorating. Happy reading!

Leadership and the New Science: Discovering Order in a Chaotic World (1999). San Francisco. Berrett-Koehler Publishers. 197 pages. \$29.95

Turning To One Another: Simple Conversations to Restore Hope to the Future (2002). San Francisco. Berrett-Koehler Publishers. 155 pages. \$24.50

 **CED Training: Coady International Institute**

The Coady International Institute provides leaders, managers and staff of non-profit or development organizations with an opportunity to build their capacity to bring about more just, sustainable and equitable outcomes at the community level. Coady offers a range of educational programs for practitioners at the Certificate, Diploma and Master's level.

Some spaces are still available in our upcoming Certificate Programs, September 13 – October 1, 2004.

- ? [Certificate in Community-Based Microfinance](#)
- ? [Certificate in Community-Based Resource Management](#)
- ? [Certificate in Advocacy and Networking](#)
- ? [Certificate in Management of Development Organizations](#)
- ? [Certificate in Community-Based Conflict Transformation and Peacebuilding](#)

Certificate Programs are an intensive, participatory experience that allows you to share ideas and to exchange experiences with participants from around the world while learning about best practices and new innovations in community-based development. A variety of presentation methods, experiential and participatory educational methods are used. Partial bursaries for tuition are available through the Institute and are awarded on the basis of need.

For more information, please see our website or contact: www.stfx.ca/institutes/coady

Coady International Institute PO Box 5000 Antigonish, NS B2G 2W5
Email: coadyreg@stfx.ca Nancy Peters Program Associate, Recruitment

Community Development

Community Development

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The CDSS Communiqué is published four times per year. Archived issues are available at the Saskatchewan Archives.

 **Check out our new web site!!**

Check out the new CDSS web page. The address is: www.cdssociety.sk.ca. You will find information on CDSS, our board members, events, information and resources.

Meet Our Board Members

Martin Chicilo – B.A., B.ED., M.A., P..D., BREI



Martin is the Manager of Community Development for the Saskatoon Credit Union.

He has worked on various types of community development projects in the non-profit and for profit sectors in Saskatchewan, Manitoba, Alberta, and British Columbia. Martin has been involved in the development of businesses, non-profit corporations, and co-operatives for 10 years while working at the Saskatoon Credit Union (2002), University of Saskatchewan, and the Government of Saskatchewan.

He has been involved in the development of new generation co-operatives and co-operatives in the areas of retail, non-profit, housing, agricultural, health, and fishing. Martin manages the Micro Loan Program, Affordable Housing Program, President of Saskatoon Housing Initiatives Partnership, and is Treasurer of Community First Development Fund. Martin is a Board Member of the Centennial Auditorium and Convention Centre and Vice President of the Northern Saskatchewan International Children's Festival.

CDSS understands that you value your privacy. Any information you provide to us through our newsletter or Web site or your membership is used for the CDSS purposes only - to serve you better. Information will only be collected on a voluntary basis and no information collected will be disclosed to other public bodies or individuals except as authorized by law.

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) _____

Signature: _____

- I want to subscribe to the CDSS Newsletter Communiqué
- I authorize including my name & contact information in the CDSS Member Directory

A cheque/money order for \$35 is enclosed. Low income: \$5. Please make cheque payable to CDSS and Mail to: Box 722 Saskatoon Saskatchewan S7K 3L7

Member of Parliament
House of Commons
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada
K1A 0A6

*Remember: No postage is
required when you mail to
Member of Parliament or the
House of Commons*

RE: STRENGTHENING CANADA'S COMMUNITIES

Dear Member of Parliament,

Congratulations on your recent election. We wish to raise with you as a member of Parliament elected in the recent federal election, the pressing issue of support to communities with their social and economic development needs.

We are a locally based community development organization that is part of community-based organizations across Canada who believes Canada needs a new policy and approach to supporting communities. We are collectively calling on your government to honor your promises made during the campaign. These promises included increasing support to community development as a means to address declining social, economic and environmental conditions in many of our communities.

During the election your party talked about the needs of our communities and helping those in need in our communities. In fact, prior to the election the Prime Minister Martin announced support to community development and the social economy. The election is now past. It is time for action. Communities' across our country (urban, rural, coastal, northern, Aboriginal) need the tools, authority and resources to manage and create change, to enhance their social and economic conditions in dynamic and innovative ways. New approaches are needed. New ideas. Action.

We believe that as a newly elected government you should begin the process of allocating resources, authority and tools for community economic development and the building of a "social economy". Your government must understand that social and economic benefits are created by enterprises, assets and organizations collectively owned by the community. Your agenda should foster a dynamic agenda of empowering civil society organizations in local communities to reduce poverty, inequality, and dependency. You must work to strengthen social entrepreneurship and self-sufficiency.

Across our country there are several thousand "social solutions" created by community development organizations generating social and economic returns to their communities. These organizations are challenged by an inability to access the financing or tools needed to grow. We need policy that unleashes the full potential of citizens to create the opportunity, the financial investment, the human capital, and the community economic development tools needed to change the face of our future. Your government needs to be leaders, working with communities and community organization for change, for a different future.

We thank you for your time in addressing these issues.

Signed

Upcoming Forums

- **Youth and Justice Forum** September 29, 2004 The Western Development Museum
Saskatoon Communities for Children 956-6147

Recently much attention has focused on the rising incidents of "Gang" activity in the city of Saskatoon. According to a FSIN report "youth in the prairie provinces join gangs for money, power and excitement. They are characterized by feelings of disenfranchisement from the community and their families with no attachment to school". This one day event will build on the work that Saskatoon is already doing to address this very important social issue.

- **Kids Not In School (KNIS) Forum** October 27, 2004 The Western Development Museum Bonnie Braden: 373-0529

The Kids Not in School Forum event will report back to the community about the work the group has engaged in to try and help struggling youth find learning opportunities. The day is meant to inform the community and create a dialogue about the issue of kids who aren't in school.

- **Child Friendly Saskatoon / Saskatoon Communities for Children** November 20, 2004 Bev Digout: 955-5437 Sue Delanoy: 956-6147

This forum will report to the community based on information generated by children, youth and those who care for them. The event is meant to create a dialogue of how we can build on strengths and create positive change.

- **Quality of Life Policy Forum** Community-University Institute for Social Research – CUISR December 2004 Watch for announcements Peter Krebs: 956-2120
krebs@usask.ca

The Policy Forum will be an opportunity to learn about the final results of the Quality of Life Survey. Further, the forum will connect with the earlier Quality of Life Action Forum, by engaging participants in examining the impact of the previous implemented strategies for new comprehensive Quality of Life actions.

A number of different sectors will be involved, including local community-based organizations, citizens, researchers and local /provincial governments. The goal will be to identify priority policy and program areas where governments and CBO's might act to make Quality of Life more equitable for all citizens in Saskatoon.