



CDSS Communiqué

Volume 5, Issue 2

June 2003

Community Development
Academy

- Page 2

Community Development
Society

- Page 3

The Prince Albert
Community Networking
Coalition

- Page 4

Book Review: The Art of
Focused Conversation

- Page 5

Websites to Checkout &
More Events

- Page 6

Report from Your President By: Kathie Cram

Community Development 101

On March 2, 2003 CDSS and the Saskatchewan Association of Social Workers (SASW Saskatoon Branch) co-hosted and introductory workshop on community development. The workshop was intended for people who are new to community development and wanted to learn some theory and skills. We did a good job of "reading the room" in the sense that we realized the incredible thirst for knowledge people have about community development. There were 40 participants, and we had to turn away some people.

The partnership with SASW was wonderful, both for them and for CDSS. We learned that our values about organizing are very similar, and the division of labour helped both of us provide a positive learning event. SASW was responsible for the logistics in organizing, provided fully subsidized spaces both for social work students and low-income community members, and raffled off a free one-year membership to our association. CDSS Board members conducted the workshop and provided participants with a package of reference material (if we want a copy of this material please e-mail kathiecram@saskatoonhealthregion.ca). And it was cost effective!

The morning was spent trying to understand some of the theory of community development, such as definitions, principles, and models. Since many of our members have expressed a desire to hear about "good news" stories and best practices, we also presented a case study of some community economic efforts that are currently having great success in the core neighbourhoods in Saskatoon.

Sometimes it is difficult for people to understand the real meaning of community development, without having experienced it in contrast to other ways of "doing things"...so we spent some time contrasting community development with a traditional program development model.

The afternoon was decided to a particular reflective practice that some of us had been exposed to at the Prairie Region Health Promotion Research Centre's

Continued on Page 2

CDSS 2003 Board of Directors

President:

Kathie Cram

Past President:

Barb Robinson

Secretary:

Edmee Korsberg

Treasurer:

Martin Chicilo

Members At Large

Cheryl Loadman

Reg Beardsworth

Harold Baker

**Community Development Academy
Professional Community Development
Training and Education from the
University of Missouri-Columbia.**

The University of Missouri Community Development Extension Program offers a series of three courses called the Community Development Academy. Each of the three courses is an intensive, experiential, five-day course that explores ideas and develops practical skills.

Course 1: *Building Communities from the Grassroots*
Sept 28 - Oct 3, 2003.
St. Louis Missouri
March 21 - 26, 2004
St. Louis Missouri

Course 2: *Empowering Communities for the Future*
March 21 - 26, 2004
St. Louis Missouri

Course 3: *Creating Capacity for Dynamic Communities*
Sept 28 - Oct 3, 2003.
St. Louis Missouri

For registration information:

MU Conference Office
Phone 573-882-8320
Fax 573-822-1953
Email: MUConf3@Missouri.edu
Website:
<http://muconf.missouri.edu/CommDevelopmentAcademy>

Vibrant Communities

The first edition of their newsletter is now available on line in PDF. Just go to the Vibrant Communities web site at:
www.vibrantcommunities.ca/

Notes for the Practitioner

**The World Café
Participatory Learning**

The World Café is a living network of conversations around questions that matter. It is an easy to use method for fostering collaborative dialogue, particularly in large groups. It is simultaneously, a provocative metaphor enabling us to notice the often-invisible webs of conversation and social learning that lie at the heart of our capacity to share knowledge and shape the future together.

Using the World Café as a *method* empowers leaders and other professionals to intentionally create focused networks of conversation around an organization or community's real work and critical questions. Café conversations are designed on the assumption that people already have within the wisdom and creativity to confront even the most difficult challenges. They are based on the natural processes by which authentic conversations enable people to think together, create shared meaning, and focus. Café dialogues allow participants to access their mutual intelligence in service of desired outcomes.

For more information on this learning methodology go to: www.theworldcafe.com/

Continued from Page 1: Community Development 101

Summer School. We introduced participants to the Story Dialogue method, which is a disciplined way of building understanding and theory of community development based on practice.

Participants were generally pleased with the workshop, although more experienced community developers were looking for more in depth material. We are very pleased to have such a success and are looking forward to working with SASW on similar learning events in the future.

**Census Shows Growing Polarization of Income
in Canada**

The CCSD has posted its analysis and highlights of the 2001 Census results on family income released May 13, 2003. For more information go to:
www.ccsd.ca/pr/2003/censusincome.htm

Community Development Society

Community Development Society (CDS) is a dynamic professional association offering a global perspective on community development. For Over 25 Years practitioners and scholars from around the world have chosen CDS as their professional society. Members represent a variety of fields, including: academic institutions, citizen groups, finance, healthcare, local and regional governments, public agencies, and utilities.

THE VISION . . .The Community Development Society believes community is a basic building block of society. Community development is a profession that integrates knowledge from many disciplines with theory, research, teaching, and practice as important and interdependent functions that are vital in the public and private sectors.

THE OPPORTUNITY . . .The Community Development Society provides leadership to professionals and citizens across the spectrum of community development. Members have multiple opportunities to learn what's new in the profession, to exchange ideas, to obtain the most current research and reference information available and to share professional expertise.

ANNUAL CONFERENCE A valuable opportunity for Community Development Society members to sharpen professional skills, discuss critical issues, attend workshops, present papers, research and case studies and interact with colleagues. Special on-site opportunities to interact with local community development projects often are available. The annual event is held at a different location every summer.

AWARDS Each year the Community Development Society presents awards to members and non-members in recognition of outstanding contributions to and achievements in the field of community development. The awards are presented at the annual conference to draw the public's attention to the field of community development.

ENRICHING PROGRAMS "The annual conference tends to be the high point of the CDS year for me. I always come away feeling recharged and having learned a lot. CDS is my support system. CDS members are open, flexible, and inclusive. They reach out and stimulate creative thinking." CDS member

JOURNAL OF THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY A semi-annual professional journal featuring current topics and insightful analysis on a variety of topics relevant to community developers. Community Development Society members are encouraged to submit articles.

VANGUARD This quarterly communication profiles current activities, job listings, topical issues, and ideas affecting Community Development Society members. Updates on chapter, section, committee, and individual member activities prove informative and helpful for community developers.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE SERIES This newest Community Development Society publication is a series of brief (8 pages) descriptions of techniques that community development practitioners can use in various community development settings.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

17 S. High St., Suite. 200 Columbus, OH 43215 or email: peggy@assnoffices.com
Phone number (614) 221-1900 x217 and fax (614) 221-1989

The Prince Albert Community Networking Coalition

Community Agencies in Prince Albert have a unique support base that is not as readily available in other communities -- the Community Networking Coalition.

The Community Networking Coalition began in the mid 90's in response to the needs expressed by a number of community members. These needs often related to lack of information about other agencies and services, roles of government departments and a strong need to work together to share resources and information so that Prince Albert residents would share in a better quality of life.

After several planning meetings, it was decided that all the community agencies would be asked to participate in a planning day to chart the course of the Coalition. Over 3 years and 3 or 4 community gatherings, the Coalition agreed to meet monthly to share information and network. Saskatchewan Rivers school division provides the administrative support for the collation to assist in organizing meetings, agendas and improve communication between members.

In the fall of 2000, the following "VISION" for the Coalition was adopted:

- Prince Albert is a safe, healthy and beautiful community where people live in harmony and celebrate diversity by accepting, respecting and understanding one another.
- Education, Housing, Health, and other human services are readily available and accessible for all people.
- The people of Prince Albert are its most valued resource. We work together in a spirit of cooperation to solve our problems and build a stronger community.

The Community Networking Coalition meets monthly, the 4th Tuesday of the month at the Youth Activity Centre. As well, it usually holds an annual training/educational event for member agencies.

For more information or to contact the Coalition, phone Marilyn Stearns at 306-922-3555.

Upcoming Conferences

International Community Development Society Conference CDS 2003: Community as Place, 35th CDS Annual Conference -- Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, USA, July 20-23, 2003. Program information and registration <http://www.comm-dev.org/>

The Canadian Social Welfare Conference The Canadian Social Welfare Policy Conference will take place this June 15 to 17 in Ottawa. Program and registration information is now available on the conference website <http://www.ccsd.ca/cswp/2003/register/index.htm>

Conference Papers Available

2003 Social Inclusion Research Conference - The conference focused on the latest policy research being done on the social inclusion. Papers are available at www.ccsd.ca/events/inclusion/papers/

Book Review: The Art of Focused Conversation: 1000 Ways to Access Group Wisdom in the Workplace (2002).

Brian Stanfield (ed). Gabriola Island. New Publishers. 222 pages. \$31.95

Reviewed by: Kathie Cram

There have been a few experiences in my life lately that have led me to reading a book about the art of conversation. Recently I attended a workshop on meaningful listening by Dr. Joseph Schaeffer. One simple exercise opened up a whole new way of thinking about conversations. He had us pair off, and each of us had a total of seven (7) minutes to talk while the other just listened. He told us to "empty your minds of your own thoughts and only concentrate on what the other person was saying". He encouraged us to be curious about the other person's life. It was a liberating experience, because I could let go of my own self-talk and just concentrate on what the other person was saying.

A while ago I read an article in the Utne Reader by Margaret Wheatley. The article was about the power of talk, and outlined seven (7) principles to follow for people who are interested in helping ferret out the best of our thinking. Wheatley also argued "all social change begins with conversation". She has helped me connect the macro level of community organizing with our oral traditions, and what seemingly is the micro level of conversations. It was Wheatley who led me down this path of trying to discover how to bring out the very best in our interpersonal and group conversations. By re-igniting my curiosity about why people think the way they do, she has lead me to this piece of work on the art of focused conversation.

The book is a publication of the Institute of Cultural Affairs Canada; an organization dedicated to skill development and enhancement amongst people who want a more human world (visit www.ica@cacan.ca).

It begins by offering us a thoughtful framework on the need to revisit the incredible importance of focused conversations. Stanfield articulates for us what many of us experience in our daily lives: lots of clutter, heavy workloads, more information from computers and increased gigabyte capacities, but no real depth of wisdom, or even a sense we are making the meaningful

contributions to our society that we want to make. The author suggests that we have become "garbage collectors." We're good at the clutter, and chatting, but the art of serious conversation seems to be fading away, and we have no time for real reflection. He encourages us to let go of the "tyranny of or" (I must be right), to the "genius of and" (truth can be uncovered through hearing many voices).

The initial philosophical framework of the book is well balanced with some good tools. The author outlines a focused conversational method using the ORID approach. The facilitator asks questions that try to uncover four layers of thought and experience:

- Objective (O) Description. This deals with questions aimed at getting at the facts and the directly observable information (i.e.: After hearing a presentation, you might ask, what are some of the key phrases you remember?)
- Reflective (R) Response. This deals with elements of surprise, or high points and a person's thoughts about the experience (i.e.: What was the high point of the presentation for you?)
- Interpretative (I) Understandings. This deals with a person's judgments about the event or experience (i.e.: what does this bring up for you, or what are the deeper questions you are left with?)
- Decisional (D) Ideas. This focus on action, implications and potential new directions (i.e.: What can we do about these issues?)

This ORID Method is really the "guts" of the book. It provides us with a variety of contexts where it can be used (e.g.: reviewing the year, discussing a presentation, resolving a long-term misunderstanding), suggestions on dealing with difficulties, and ways to mentor and coach. It is an excellent resource for people who want to build a more humane world.

FYI: The Canadian Institute for Cultural Affairs offers training, consulting, and research to enhance the capacity of people to "create a more human world". They offer a series of workshops on teamwork, participatory planning, organizational change, individual and group capacity, and participatory community development. For more information visit their website: www.icacan.ca

Community Development

Community Development

Community Development Society of Saskatchewan, Inc.

Box 722
Saskatoon Saskatchewan
S7K 3L7

Editor:

Cheryl Loadman 477-1060
Email: cloadman@sasktel.net

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

Websites to Check Out

Institute in Management and Community Development at the Centre for Continuing Education at Concordia University. For information go to: <http://instdev.concordia.ca/index.html>

More Upcoming Events

Saskatchewan Council for Community Development Annual General Meeting June 13, 2003. For more information contact: 975-6856.

Institute in Management and Community Development. June 16 – 20. Concordia University, Montreal P.Q. instdev@alcor.concordia.ca

Alberta's 4th Provincial Community Economic Development (CED) Conference - Easy as AB CED. Calgary on October 2 & 3, 2003. Coast Plaza Hotel Calgary, AB www.albertaced.ca

Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers 2003 NATIONAL CONFERENCE Whitehorse, Yukon September 16 - 19, 2003 www.edo.ca/conference/index.htm

Future of Rural Peoples: Rural Economy, Healthy People, Environment, Rural Communities Oct 19 –20. Saskatoon Sk. For more information <http://iareh.usask.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) _____

Signature: _____

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