

Community Development Society  
of Saskatchewan, Inc.



## CDSS Communiqué

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### **We're Energized: A Report from Your President By: Kathie Cram**

This year we have a very small, but highly active and committed Board of Directors. Since our last newsletter, we have been focusing on follow-up from the Membership Diversity Project, sent a member to the international Community Development conference in New York, made some progress on our Policy Manual, planned the upcoming conference in November, started to develop a membership data base, are almost finished the development of the CDSS website, and are conducting another professional development workshop in LaRonge for October.

I am especially excited about the upcoming conference entitled "Building a New Saskatchewan: Community by Community" (details on page 3...). I am excited about it for many reasons. First, we are working in partnership with Agrivision and the Saskatchewan Council on Community Development to offer our membership and other professionals a high quality conference. As complicated as partnership work can be, I am again reminded in this circumstance of how very rewarding it is. It is rewarding because we have brought into the dialogue an eclectic group of practitioners who share some common interests with us. I am sure the conference will be richer in depth and reflection because of this exchange with our partners. Secondly, as a practitioner I am very interested in stories and reflections on "what works", in terms of process, outcomes and institutional support. I look forward to hearing success stories from our communities across Saskatchewan. Thirdly, we are going to be launching our new website at the conference. It will be a tangible reflection of some of our work over the past year. While we work collectively to get much of our work done, it is Cheryl Loadman who has done much of the "grunt work"!

I am also very energized by an emerging development. Our Board of Directors is considering the possibility of hosting an international conference in 2006. We have made some preliminary inquiries to the Community Development Society, and they are very interested. Hopefully, by the next newsletter I will have something more tangible to report!

So...it is back full circle to the beginning of my little report. Our small Board of Directors, a grand total of seven (7) people, is working very hard to move our association forward and provide some tangible services to our members. Wasn't in Bob Dylan who said, "Everybody serves someone"? We serve you our membership and it is a real pleasure!

### **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 as Place - Community Development Society Conference and Annual General Meeting

- Reg Beardsworth

Community as Place was the theme of this year's Community Development Society Conference and Annual General Meeting. The conference was held on the campus of Cornell University in Ithica, New York, USA, July 20 to 24, 2003.

The itinerary included pre-conference professional development workshops on Defining Community Health, Principles for Strategic Leadership and Innovation, and Working With Differences in Communities. As well, a number of pre and post-conference tours were offered within the Ithica area and in New York City.

Plenary sessions, displays, concurrent sessions, posters, and mobile workshops provided information and inspiration to the 380 Community Developers who registered.

Reverend Calvin O Butts III provided an impassioned presentation at the introductory plenary. He focused on the need for spirituality in Community while outlining his congregation's activities in addressing issues of homelessness, health, youth empowerment, senior citizens' needs, and poverty.

Concurrent sessions focused on topic areas such as Community Health, Community Economic Development, Environment, Extension, Practice, Research and Graduate Studies, Social Issues, Urban Development, International, and Spirituality. With over 70 topics offered in the 7 Concurrent Session time slots, the choice, at times, was overwhelming. Every session I attended provided worthwhile information, yet I heard from fellow attendees of great sessions I had missed. I had the opportunity to become more familiar with participatory research, capacity building, sustainable change, community economic development, developing sustainable community through information technology, empowering at risk populations, community volunteerism, and cross-cultural outreach. One session on building new neighbourhoods and homeowner self-governance in Beijing, China opened a whole new area of awareness for me. I heard of the struggles to change the mindset of the population from having an apartment under the communist system to having to purchase their previous dwelling as a condo in the new capitalist society.

Posters were displayed in the main convention hall throughout the conference. During breaks between sessions, poster presenters were given the opportunity to make formal presentations on the topics portrayed. Topics covered in the 21 posters covered similar topic areas to those of the concurrent sessions.

Twelve mobile workshops were held focusing on CD activities in Ithica and neighbouring communities. Topics included economic development, community revitalization, historic preservation, youth services, recycling, environment, art in the community, and black history. Again there were lots of choices to make!

The Strategic Planning plenary session and Business meeting session both focused on how the Community Development Society could better serve the needs of its membership. The Society will facilitate the development of "Communities of Interest" amongst the membership. Members would then be better able to share thoughts, ideas and have discussions with people with the same interests.

The majority of participants were from the USA, but over 60 were from other countries. I met over a dozen Canadians. Other countries represented included Australia, Cameroon, China, Egypt, England, Germany, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Jamaica, Kenya, Korea, Liberia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Pakistan, Scotland, Sri Lanka and Vietnam.

People who have attended past CDS conferences told me it would be well worthwhile. I heartily agree with them! I had the opportunity to gain much knowledge, meet new colleagues, and talk with a whole lot of people with common interests.

Next year, the CDS conference will be closer, in Cleveland Ohio, USA. The conference topic is Chance or Choice, Creating Urban and Rural Futures.

I note that during the final plenary, I stated that CDSS was prepared to host the 2006 conference in Saskatoon. I received a very positive response from many people in attendance.

### **Asset building & community development Green, G. P. and A. Haines (2002) Thousand Oaks, Calif., Sage Publications.**

One of the most exciting advancements in community development thinking today is the growing focus on asset building. Asset building recognizes the value of the community, and employs the wealth of assets as integral to effecting progressive and successful community development.

Green and Haines provide an interesting and engaging overview of community development and asset building. Beginning with an exploration of the evolution of community development, the book lays out a thorough discussion on using an asset-based approach that involves human, physical, social, financial, and environmental capital. This book provides an interesting read and a full introduction to asset based community development. While not providing much new information, this a book that will renew your interest in CD work.

### Upcoming Conference Building A New Saskatchewan — Community by Community November 20 and 21, 2003 Saskatoon Inn

The Community Development Society of Saskatchewan (CDSS) the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development (SCCD) and Saskatchewan AgriVision Corporation (SAC) wish to announce a joint conference to be held on November 20 and 21, 2003 at the Saskatoon Inn in Saskatoon. The conference's theme is Building a New Saskatchewan — Community by Community and promises to be an engaging and educational event for community development professionals and volunteers from throughout Saskatchewan.

The conference will showcase the best of Saskatchewan's community development initiatives and will engage community developers in an examination of their role and the role of the community development process in creating more such success stories in our province. The conference will focus on such questions as:

- 👤 What are Saskatchewan's community development success stories and what can we learn from them?
- 👤 What is the potential for similar successes in more communities throughout our province?
- 👤 What is the role of community development in helping to realize the potential of our communities?
- 👤 What is our role, as community development practitioners, in helping to realize the potential of our communities?

The conference will run the evening of November 20 and all day November 21. Program details will be announced in early autumn. This conference will be held in conjunction with the Annual General Meetings of both the Community Development Society of Saskatchewan (CDSS) and the Saskatchewan Council for Community Development (SCCD).

For information on the conference, please contact Peter Krebs at (306) 654-2075 or [krebsp@sasktel.net](mailto:krebsp@sasktel.net).

#### Notes for the Practitioner: Participatory Action Research

Participatory Action Research (PAR) is not a new phenomenon in research. It is, however, research that has found its "raison d'etre" in the present day.

Simply put, PAR is a means of putting research capabilities in the hands of deprived and disenfranchised people. In doing so, they can identify themselves as knowing actors, define their reality, shape their new identity, name their history, and transform their lives for themselves. It is a means of preventing an elite group from exclusively determining the interests of others. In effect it prevents the transfer of power to those groups engaged in the production of popular knowledge.

PAR methodology balances quantitative and qualitative measures. It challenges practices that separate the researcher from the researched and promotes the forging of a partnership between researchers and the people under study. Both researcher and participant are actors in the investigative process, influencing the flow, interpreting the content, and sharing options for action. Ideally, this collaborative process is empowering because it:

- (1) brings isolated people together around common problems and needs;
- (2) validates their experiences as the foundation for understanding and critical reflection;
- (3) presents the knowledge and experiences of the researchers as additional information upon which to critically reflect;
- (4) contextualizes what have previously felt like "personal," individual problems or weakness; and
- (5) links such personal experiences to political realities.

#### COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT METHODS

**CD METHODS** have long been used as a way to enhance the economic viability of communities. More recently it has been recognized that community development methods can also be used to improve the health status of entire populations. Here are websites that discuss aspects of community development and health.

**Community Tool Box** <http://ctb.ku.edu> A very large website with about 6,000 pages of information relating to community health and development. Developed by the University of Kansas.

**Community Development and Health Network for Northern Ireland** <http://www.cdhn.org> A nonprofit network that promotes contacts between people working on a range of community health projects.

**Community Development and Health: Ideas Annual '97** <http://www.shaf.ac.uk/~cl/cdhannual.html> A book with seven chapters discussing various dimensions of community development and health. From the United Kingdom.

## SASKATOON Core Neighbourhood Development Council

The Core Neighbourhood Development Council (CNDC) has facilitated a community-wide strategic visioning and planning process for the core neighbourhoods of Saskatoon. CNDC received Phase 2 approval in December 2002 to build the local conditions for success that involves developing a community plan, strengthening and expanding local partnerships, and mobilizing the resources required for a multi-year poverty reduction initiative.

An interim coordinator has been hired to lead the Phase 2 work and the community plan should be ready by September. Highlights so far include:

- The CNDC has created a common place for various stakeholders in the community to meet and plan for community development in the Core Neighbourhoods, relationships have been strengthened, and opportunities for networking and overlap have been developed.
- There has been an intensive four-stage community consultation process, involving input from close to three hundred community members and stakeholders.

- There has been an articulation of a 20-year vision for the Core neighbourhoods, broken down into four main areas – Our Neighbourhood Life and Culture, Housing and Supporting Our Citizens, Our Economic Life in the Core Neighbourhoods, and Our Natural Environment.
- There has been a set of strategies developed as a five-year strategic plan to meet this vision. The plan identifies 13 Goal statements, and 62 strategies to address specific concerns in the Core.
- Four Community Newsletters have been produced and distributed to approximately 8000 households in the core, describing each stage of the process and the outcomes.
- In moving into an “action” stage, the Council has begun to identify specific projects to begin to move ahead with, and is in the process of developing a formalized organizational structure to ensure viability and relevance over the long term.

*Continued on Page 5....*

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*Continued from Page 3....PAR Research*

The result of this kind of activity is living knowledge that may get translated into action. Participatory research reflects goal-oriented, experiential learning, and transformative pedagogy.

Reprint from: Dick, B. (2002) *Action research: action and research*. This document is available at: [www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arp/aandr.html](http://www.scu.edu.au/schools/gcm/ar/arp/aandr.html)

## Canadian Children's Exposure to Violence: What it Means for Parents

*Canadian Children's Exposure to Violence: What it Means for Parents* is the latest report to be released by the Canadian Council on Social Development in conjunction with Family Services Canada. The report reveals the dizzying array of violent images and behaviors children are exposed to on a daily basis and parents' perceptions of the dangers associated with this exposure. The full and summary reports are available on the CCSD website at [www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/violence/](http://www.ccsd.ca/pubs/2003/violence/)

## Canadian CED Network Directory

Directory of provincial and territorial government programs supporting CED. Find it at: [www.ccednet-rcdec.ca](http://www.ccednet-rcdec.ca)

## VIBRANT COMMUNITIES: FUNDRAISING FOR SOCIAL CHANGE

Six sessions on fundraising emphasize the importance of raising friends while raising funds. Some great material online from these audio sessions includes PowerPoint presentations. Check them out on [Fundraising for Social Change](http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca/) page at [www.vibrantcommunities.ca/](http://www.vibrantcommunities.ca/)

*Continued from Page 4... Core Neighbourhood Development Council*

### **The Emergence of a Community Defined Strategic Plan – Six Priorities to Work on**

After almost a year of intensive consultation with the community through focus groups, surveys, and community planning meetings, CNDC now has a prioritized list of goals and strategies that the community has defined to help focus the work of the Council. These priorities were voted on at the Community Congress in October of 2002 when over 70 people, including community members, representatives from community organizations, government representatives, and stakeholders came together to collectively define a focused set of goals for the Council to move ahead on. The Priorities were outlined as follows:

- Priority 1 – Quality Rental Housing
- Priority 2 – Affordable Home Ownership
- Priority 3 – Food Security
- Priority 4 – Job Training and Career Support
- Priority 5 – Safety
- Priority 6 – Young People

### **Resources available on CNDC:**

The Core Neighbourhood Development Council in Saskatoon - Growing Partnerships for Community Economic Development in the Core Neighbourhoods (June 2003)

Creating Local Conditions for Successful Poverty Reduction" - Phase II Vibrant Communities - CNDC Highlights of Work to Date (May 2003)

**Contact:** Charlie Clark Interim Coordinator, Core Neighbourhood Development Council  
230 Avenue R South Saskatoon, SK S7M 0Z9  
Tel: 306-978-4041 x. 18 Fax: 306-683-1957  
Email: [planning\\_quint@sasktel.net](mailto:planning_quint@sasktel.net)

### **Mark your calendars!**

John McKnight, a respected community developer from the United States, will be coming to Saskatoon in January 2004. CDSS is hoping to bring him in to do a one-day workshop on January 13. His focus is on asset based community development. We will be sending out information about the workshop when we have more details .

## **Upcoming Events**

Kespuwick Community Congress, an international Community Economic Development conference **September 21-25, 2003**. Cornwallis, Nova Scotia. <http://www.kcc.abcc.ca> or 1 866-447-8626

Alberta Community Economic Development Conference 2003 - October 2 and 3, 2003. Innovation: Easy as AB CED. Coast Plaza Hotel and Conference Centre 1316 33 Street NE Calgary AB Sandy at 403-265-1068 or [sandy@cartermcrae.com](mailto:sandy@cartermcrae.com) Web site: [www.albertaced.ca](http://www.albertaced.ca)

The Canadian Housing and Renewal Association (CHRA) announces its upcoming National Symposium on Health and Housing: A Call to Action **October 3-4 2003** at The Palliser Hotel in Calgary, Alberta. please contact CHRA at (613) 594-3007 or Lisa Barber: [lbarber@chra-achru.ca](mailto:lbarber@chra-achru.ca)

Nova Scotia Healthy Communities Conference 2003 **October 6-8, 2003** AgriTech Park, Truro, NS Natalie Gallaway Fax: (902) 563-3491 Phone: (902)- 563-3708 or [http://www.heart-health.ns.ca/hpc/hcn/nshc\\_conf2003.htm](http://www.heart-health.ns.ca/hpc/hcn/nshc_conf2003.htm)

Canadian Co-operative Association Sustainable Co-operation. **October 8 & 9, 2003**, Aylmer, QC

NCCED's 33rd Annual Conference. "Investing In Communities" **October 8 - 11, 2003** Detroit Marriot Renaissance Centre, Detroit, Michigan  
<http://www.ncced.org/conferences/detroit/index.html>

Future of Rural Peoples: Rural Economy, Healthy People, Environment, Rural Communities **Oct 19 –20**. Saskatoon Sk. <http://iareh.usask.ca>

The Ontario Rural Council (TORC) Conference@ **October 20 2003** *Emily Brockie at [events@torc.on.ca](mailto:events@torc.on.ca)*

National Supported Employment Conference. **October 22 - 24, 2003**. Delta Hotel, Winnipeg, Manitoba  
<http://www.nsec.ca>

Canadian Coalition of Community Based Trainers Community Based Training Leadership Conference  
<http://www.aspect.bc.ca/leadinglights.htm>

Westin Bayshore Resort, Vancouver, BC. **February 19 & 20, 2004**

Community Development

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

Box 722  
Saskatoon Saskatchewan  
S7K 3L7

**Editor:** Cheryl Loadman 477-1060  
Email: cloadman@sasktel.net  
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**Get active and get involved:**

A civic and provincial election is expected soon. Now more than ever before, community development workers must begin the task of educating candidates on our issues and ensuring they identify and discuss their positions on community development in Saskatchewan.

Have an event or website you would like to promote. Book review. Article. Idea. Event. Pass it to me for our next newsletter. Email your comments to: cloadman@sasktel.net

**Websites to Check Out**

The **Canadian Council on Social Development and Human Resources Development Canada** hosted a research conference on social inclusion in Ottawa on March 27-28, 2003. Papers from the conference are available at:  
[www.ccsd.ca/events/inclusion/index.htm](http://www.ccsd.ca/events/inclusion/index.htm)

**Riverdale Community Development Corporation** consists of a number of projects and businesses that help create a healthy Riverdale community in Toronto. <http://www.riverdale.org/RCDC/>

**COMM-ORG** a link to action research and popular education resources and projects involving communities, sometimes in partnership with universities, to change the social and economic conditions inside and outside of their communities. <http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/>

This newsletter is provided to you in an effort to keep local community development practitioners and supporters up to date and informed. We ask that you consider taking a membership out in CDSS to support our efforts and to assist with our costs.

**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