



# NORTHEAST REGIONAL INTERSECTORAL COMMITTEE

107 Crawford Ave. E, Box 6500, Melfort, SK S0E 1A0

## Annual Report April 1, 2009-March 31, 2010

### Northeast Region

The Northeast RIC is one of 10 Regional Intersectoral Committees in Saskatchewan. The RIC is a forum for critical analysis of issues, integrated decision making and resource allocation. Members are mobilized to address existing and emerging needs of communities in the northeast. The Northeast RIC region covers approximately 40,000 square kilometers with a population of about 38,000. Melfort, Nipawin, Tisdale and Hudson Bay are considered the major trading centers. Red Earth First Nation, Shoal Lake Cree Nation, James Smith Cree Nation and Kinistin Saulteaux Nation are four First Nations communities within the region. Rolling pasture, cultivated farmland and forests characterize the region's geography. Industry is resource –based and primarily agricultural with some forestry. Emerging economic activities include mining, oil and gas exploration and the future development of a second hydroelectric project on the Saskatchewan River.

### Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee Vision

The vision of the Northeast RIC is to “enhance the well being of children, youth and families in the northeast region through cooperation and collaboration.”

Three primary goals support our vision.

- 1) We strive to ensure **strong, healthy children and families** through focused attention to early childhood development, youth engagement and family support.
- 2) We aim to support **safe, inclusive and healthy communities** by building community capacity, promoting community safety and supporting community development
- 3) The Northeast RIC maintains **high standards of accountability** for the work of human services integration through reporting, communication, partnerships and integrated structures.

## Membership

### **Executive**

- Lyle Bittman - Cumberland College - Northeast RIC Co-chair
- Julie Cleaveley - Kelsey Trail Health Region - Northeast RIC Co-chair
- Brenda Ives - Northeast RIC Coordinator

### **Members**

- Darren Harrison, Darren Wouters - RCMP
- Helene Johnson - Métis Nation of Saskatchewan - Eastern Region II
- Ron Richardson - North East School Division
- Mona Graham - Service Canada
- Fraser Denton - Corrections, Public Safety and Policing
- Jarrett Parker, Diane Switzer, Delphine Grandguillot - Social Services
- Lyle Campbell - Lakeland District for Sport Culture and Recreation
- Sherril Carlson - Saskatchewan Housing
- Patricia Kovacs - Ministry of Education
- Laura Smith - Advanced Education, Employment and Labour
- Larry Henry - Ministry of Justice Attorney General
- Victoria Gubbels - First Nations and Métis Relation

The 2009- 2010 Northeast RIC Executive consisting of the co-chairs and coordinator held nine executive meetings during the year. The executive worked together to ensure a high standard of public accountability reporting to the HSIF and the RIC. The executive prepared meeting agendas, budgets and contracts and completed the coordinator performance review.

Between April 1, 2009 and March 31, 2010 four Northeast RIC meetings were held. A regional forum was held April 2, 2009 and March 30, 2010. RIC members participated in sub-committees of the RIC namely the Grant Review Committee and a RIC Forum Planning Committee.

The Grant Review Committee adjudicated Community Initiatives Fund applications to facilitate the distribution of \$145,170 for annual and summer projects throughout the region. A total of \$37,000 through the Student Employment Experience program was distributed to employers providing summer student employment opportunities. In 2009, the Child Nutrition and Development Program was transferred from the Ministry of Social Services to the Ministry of Education and

the RIC coordinator was tasked with the responsibility of providing administrative support and to act as a liaison to the North East School Division and community based organizations receiving funds. A total of \$118,820 of Child Nutrition and Development Program funds was distributed throughout the region.

### Message from the RIC Co-chairs

#### **Lyle Bittman**

Over the past two years I've enjoyed working with the Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee and am proud of the progress we've been able to make beginning with the successful transition in RIC Coordinators when I first started as co-chair, to the most recently completed Northeast Housing Research Project and all of the many activities and initiatives in between.

#### **Julie Cleaveley**

I find that being a RIC Co-chair fits well with my work in the health region with communities. The Northeast RIC is a very progressive organization with a valuable and visible role in the province. I have enjoyed working with the committee over my past term and look forward to making progress on our goals and objectives for the next year.

### Message from the RIC Coordinator

#### **Brenda Ives**

March 31, 2010 marked the completion of my first full year as coordinator of the Northeast RIC. It has been a great honor, pleasure and enjoyable challenge to contribute to and coordinate the various integrative service teams in the Northeast. In my opinion the Northeast region has had a long history of successful collaboration built through strong relationships of trust. Our region has a great commitment to enhancing the wellbeing of children and families. As coordinator of the Northeast RIC, I look forward to working together with the committee, supporting community development and collaborating with integrated services and communities in 2010- 2011.

### Highlights for 2009-2010

There have been many positive developments for the Northeast RIC in 2009-2010. A few achievements have been highlighted in this year end report.

First, significant progress was achieved in RIC development and communication. The RIC coordinator completed RIC member

interviews to build relationships and increase knowledge of agencies, individual roles and the RIC. The coordinator created and distributed an orientation binder for the RIC members and developed the Northeast RIC information brochure. The Northeast RIC website, [www.northeastric.ca](http://www.northeastric.ca) was launched in March 2010.

A second highlight is the successful conclusion of the North East Community Literacy Network Workplace and Family Literacy Plan. With \$55,000 in funding obtained through SaskSmart Innovations, the network strengthened partnerships, increased awareness and built community capacity through family literacy training and workplace essential skills training. In addition the project funding provided Family Literacy resources for programs in Red Earth, Shoal Lake, Kinistin, James Smith, Tisdale and Porcupine Plain.

A third highlight for the RIC is the completion of the Northeast Housing Research Project. The final document outlined strengths and gaps in housing quality and quantity in Melfort, Tisdale and Nipawin. The process of collecting stakeholder perspectives has increased community awareness and heightened concern over housing issues. Suggested recommendations in the report will guide future community action.

Finally, "Working Together for Communities", our annual integrated services forum was held March 30, 2010 in Porcupine Plain with forty-five people in attendance. Agenda items included: Porcupine Plain community presentation on partnership initiatives, recognition of the work of community-based organizations, a Northeast RIC communications update with website launch and a motivational presentation by Norm Jakubowski of the Canadian Red Cross. Participants also provided feedback on community strengths and challenges and how the RIC may better support community work.

### Areas of Focus for 2010-2011

A Northeast RIC strategic planning session will be held at the fall meeting in September 2010. In addition to the ongoing work of the RIC, it is expected that housing and early childhood development will be identified as priority areas of focus for our year.

#### 1) Housing

- The RIC will coordinate data dissemination and support the development of community and regional strategies to address housing issues with municipal governments,

integrated service committees and community-based organizations.

## 2) Early Childhood Development

- The Northeast RIC will work with the Ministry of Education, Kids First Community Developer, Kids First Targeted and the North East School Division to develop a system of data review and dissemination.
- The RIC will continue to support community – based strategies to enhance the well being of our youngest citizens.
- We will continue to support the work of the regional early childhood coalition -- the 0-3 Years Early Childhood Task Force.

## Provincial Context

### Human Services Integration Forum

The Human Services Integration Forum (HSIF) is a table Human Services Ministries of the Government of Saskatchewan and includes Assistant Deputy Ministers or ministry designates and the Executive Director. The HSIF works together to plan and coordinate programs and activities around the needs of individuals, families and communities. They establish and maintain mechanisms to promote and facilitate inter ministerial collaboration and integrated services planning and service delivery. They provide funding and policy support for the Regional Intersectoral Committees.

The 10 Regional Intersectoral Committee (RIC) coordinators including the Northeast RIC coordinator, HSIF Executive Director and Policy Analyst work as a team to facilitate communication between the HSIF table and the Regional Intersectoral Committees. The RIC coordinator's team provides leadership and support for community development, interagency collaboration and the coordination of intersectoral actions around key provincial priorities and community priorities.