

Report to the Human Services Integration Forum
Northeast Regional Intersectoral Committee
February 2011

1. Highlights and Areas of Focused Attention

Northeast RIC Annual Forum

- Planning is underway for a forum to be held on April 18, 2011 in Melfort. Our forum will focus on the social determinants of health, the consequences of ignoring prevention and the importance of building community capacity to support strong, healthy children and families.

Presentation to the Human Services Deputy Ministers

- The Northeast RIC co-chairs Julie Cleaveley and Ron Richardson along with the RIC coordinator, presented to the Human Services Integration Forum on February 7, 2011 in Regina. The presentation highlighted the Northeast Housing Research Project findings, recommendations and community response.

Early Years

- Using the data disc prepared by the Early Childhood Development Unit of the Ministry of Education, the RIC coordinator made introductory early years data presentation at the Northeast RIC meeting January 31st. Following that presentation the RIC proposed hosting a regional early years data sharing forum. Although the date for this forum is yet to be determined the RIC is considering late spring or fall 2011.

Food Security

- The Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan announced a \$1 million donation to Saskatchewan Food Banks. Tisdale Food Bank will receive \$3,011, Nipawin Food Bank will receive \$4946 in funding and Melfort Food Bank will receive \$20,043 in funding from this donation. Although food banks do not address the root causes of food insecurity, they do provide much in demand emergency relief. The donation by the Potash Corporation is greatly appreciated.

Grants

- A representative from the North East School Division and the 4 out of 5 Community Based Organizations receiving Child Nutrition Development Program funds attended a stakeholders meeting in Saskatoon, February 9th. Approximately \$120, 000 is distributed through the Ministry of Education throughout the northeast to promote good nutrition practices for children, develop independence skills for families and provide opportunities for communities to address food security. The RIC coordinator is the point of contact for the applicants--- reviewing the reports and applications.

2. Challenges and Opportunities

☐ Affordable safe/ suitable housing

- The lack of affordable safe housing remains an issue in the northeast. Families, adult students and single adults with mental or physical challenges experience barriers in accessing affordable housing. Cumberland Regional College and some community based organizations are investigating to feasibility of initiating capital projects (student housing and group homes) to address the needs.
- The Northeast RIC has submitted an application for special projects funding to build community capacity to respond with action to the housing issue in the northeast. The Ministry of Education / Human Services Integration Forum will respond to our RIC's request before March 31st. the accountable partner in this project will be the Northeast Outreach and Support Services.

☐ Sustainable funding

- Currently there are a number of community based organizations, cooperatives and community initiatives that are challenged each year to find funding to continue the work of supporting strong, healthy children youth and families and safe inclusive communities. This ongoing struggle for funding requires considerable energy for the staff and boards involved in programming and management. Survival of the organization and continuation of the programming and services provided are often totally dependent on grant funding received in a yearly cycle of application. This situation causes great stress to the organization and the community served. Perhaps granting organizations and government might consider multi- year grant funding to help address this issue.

Respectfully submitted by:

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