

CFNCD Staff Members



TIM JOHNSTON
MANAGER



TAMY BURTON
ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER



TARA PARKER
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DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



CHARLENE KISSICK
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



LEANN BROWN
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



MICHELLE PRUDER
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER



ROBERT SWEENY
NORTHERN OUTREACH
INTERN (CPAWS)

WELCOME!! CFNCD would like to welcome Robbie to the team as our summer student. He is housed at CFNCD while filling the Northern Outreach Intern position with CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter).



Tourism North update

CFNCD recently extended the contract with Tourism North to provide coordination services for 2015/2016 fiscal year. Focus recently has been on the winter tourism development project, a proposal submitted to Tourism Secretariat was approved for destination development work focused in two northern communities. The 2015/2016 regional northern Manitoba visitor guide

is complete and now being distributed. Many thanks to all our advertisers who make this publication possible each year!

CFNCD is proud to coordinate Tourism North efforts and work towards positioning Northern Manitoba as a priority tourist destination.

For more information on Tourism North contact Charlene Kissick at 204-677-1494.

CFNCD assists with Airport consultations

The Thompson Regional Airport Authority, investigating the feasibility and determining fund development for a new terminal building approached CFNCD to assist in conducting public consultations and presentations with a number of stakeholders and well as a survey of the general public. Work was completed on a fee-for-service basis and the project is now complete. Many thanks to CFM for providing access to survey monkey account for this project.

Community Futures North Central Development Committees (2014/2015)

A key goal of Community Futures North Central Development is to foster positive relationships among the three types of communities that CFNCD serves - First Nation, Aboriginal Northern Affairs and Urban Industrial Communities. To accomplish this CFNCD strives to include representation from each of the types of communities on each committee of the organization. We would like to thank all of our dedicated board members who volunteered their time over the past year and those who sat on a committees:

Executive Committee: Frances McIvor (Wabowden), Wayne Anderson (Norway House Cree Nation), Darlene

Beck (Cross Lake), Penny Byer (Thompson) and Glen Flett (Norway House Community Council).

Business Development Committee: Marcel Moody - BDC Chair (Nelson House First Nation), Frances McIvor (Wabowden), Glen Flett (Norway House Community Council), Gord Wakeling (Thompson Unlimited) and Chris Gagnon (Thompson).

Community Development Committee: Darlene Beck (Incorporated Community of Cross Lake), Frances McIvor (Wabowden), Gary Ceppetelli (Thompson) and Brenda Davidson (Society for Manitobans with Disabilities).

www.northcentraldevelopment.ca

Growing communities one idea at a time.



Training delivered in Churchill combines traditional arts and crafts and entrepreneurship skills

A funding commitment in the amount of \$3,000 secured by CFNCD from the Aboriginal Business Service Network through Community Futures Manitoba in the 2014/2015 fiscal year supported a portion of the costs associated with a unique 20-week training program in Churchill. The training focused on traditional Aboriginal arts and crafts and business/entrepreneurship principles. Participants of this program worked on skill building to assist them in gaining employment or becoming self-employed.

Developed and delivered by Penny Rawlings, owner and operator of the Arctic Trading Company in Churchill, the program consisted of 20-weeks of practical, hands-on instruction designed around the products of the Arctic Trading Company. The need for a program of this design was identified based on the fact that Arctic Trading Company artisans are aging and there is a need to keep the Aboriginal arts and crafts alive. The main purpose of the program



The Arctic Trading Company in Churchill has a long history of not only retail and catalogue sales but also training in the traditional art of beading, tufting and sculpting. www.arctictradingco.com

was to train new employees in the running of machinery and learn the skill of Caribou Hair Tufting to keep this art form alive. The students used many types of materials including leather, rabbit and beaver fur. Participants made slippers, mukluks, gauntlets and designed their own products. There were also components of the program that focused on learning how to manage your own business, this portion was developed and deliv-

ered by Community Futures North Central Development and was open to all interested residents of Churchill. Inclusion of this section on entrepreneurship was essential to CFNCD's involvement in this project as CFNCD's anticipated goal was to offer an understanding of the day-to-day dealings of being your own boss and to hopefully inspire participants to carefully consider entrepreneurship as an

Continued on Page 3

IN THIS ISSUE ...

We're so excited to bring you this edition of the North Central News to showcase all the exciting things that happened over the 2014/2015 year! From \$717,763 in

loan dollars advanced in the region to training initiatives and important events, it was another great year at CFNCD!



CFNCD BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHURCHILL: Shane Hutchins, Alternate: Heather Botelho

CROSS LAKE C.C.: Darlene Beck

CROSS LAKE F.N.: Ryan Castel

FOX LAKE F.N.: Sandra Nabess

GILLAM: Jackie Clayton

ILFORD: Jim Chornoby

NISICHAWAYASIIHK C.N.: Marcel Moody

NELSON HOUSE C.C.: Vacant

NORWAY HOUSE C.C.: Glen Flett

NORWAY HOUSE C.N.: Wayne Anderson

SPLIT LAKE C.N.: Norman Flett

PIKWITONEI: Angeline Flett

THICKET PORTAGE: Marcel Brightnose

THOMPSON: Penny Byer

WABOWDEN: Frances McIvor

WAR LAKE F.N.: Vacant

YORK LANDING: Louisa Constant

VOLUNTEERS:

Brenda Davidson, Society for Manitobans with Disabilities

Gary Ceppetelli, City of Thompson

Chris Gagnon

Paul Desjardin, Thompson Unlimited

Heartfelt thanks to our dedicated board, especially those leaving us this year after countless hours of volunteer service

THANK YOU FRANCES!

Frances McIvor is our current Chairperson (2011-present) and our first female Chair! She spends a great deal of her time volunteering with CFNCD projects, activities and events. Frances participates in both the Business Development and Community Development committees of CFNCD as well as acting as CFNCD's rep on the Community Futures Manitoba board of directors. Frances is a northerner by choice having moved as a young adult from Winnipeg to the tiny town of Wabowden to marry her sweetheart Jim. She is mother to two, grandmother to five and a small business owner.

THANK YOU GLEN!

Glen Flett has volunteered his time to CFNCD for the past 15 years representing his community of Norway House. Glen is also our longest standing Chairperson, having guided the organization for eight very productive years (2003-2010). Glen is also a volunteer on CFNCD's Business Development Committee, working diligently to assist businesses throughout the region on their startup and expansion financing plans. Glen is the CFNCD rep for the Thompson Regional Airport Authority and also volunteers with the Northern Association of Community Councils. When Glen isn't at his day job (with Manitoba Government Airports) he enjoys spending time with family, trapping, hunting and fishing.

THANK YOU ANGELINE!

Angeline Flett has been with CFNCD since 2005 representing her community of Pikwitonei. Angeline has spent most of her life in Pikwitonei and is very familiar with the needs of community and remembers it from before

it became an organized Aboriginal Northern Affairs community. Angeline is a mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and wife, having recently celebrated a big wedding anniversary with husband Jack.

THANK YOU JIM!

Jim Chornoby was involved in the initial set up of CFNCD back in 1996 and has been an active member of the board ever since representing his community of Ilford. He has been the Mayor of Ilford for many years and is a die-hard Philadelphia Flyers Fan! Jim is an advocate of Chantelle's Promise, a challenge initiated by his grand-daughter encouraging Aboriginal people to register with the One-Match Stem and Marrow Network to become donors.

THANK YOU NORM!

Norman Flett has also been with the CFNCD board ever since the initial set up in 1996. He represents the community of Tataskweyak Cree Nation (Split Lake) where he served for many years as Chief. He has been married to wife Katie for many years and enjoys life in the north.

THANK YOU RYAN!

Ryan Castel has been with us for many years representing the busy community of Cross Lake First Nation. He grew up and worked all his life in his home community and has been employed as the Assistant Executive Director at the band office for many years. Before his current posting he worked in education.

And a BIG WELCOME to:

Our newest board of directors members: Louisa Constant representing York Landing, Jackie Clayton representing Gillam, Shane Hutchins representing Churchill and Heather Botelho who joins us as an alternate rep for Churchill. Great to have you all on board!

Community Futures North Central Development Loan Program Snapshot 2014/2015

Did you know that if you are looking at starting a new business or expanding an existing business that CFNCD has staff ready and able to work with you? Whether you have questions on where to start, you need assistance writing a business plan or require financing to get your business up and running, CFNCD is here to help you!!

CFNCD offers five loan programs that include: Regular Investment Fund, Entrepreneurs with Disabilities Fund, Young Entrepreneur Fund,

Peer Credit Lending Fund and the Micro Loans program. Depending on the feasibility of your business plan you may be able to access a loan from a minimum of \$500 up to maximum of \$150,000.

In the 2014-2015 fiscal year CFNCD Business Development Committee approved 11 loans for a total of \$717,763. These loans included a wide range of business types - from a Towing Company in Gillam to Home Painting and Automobile Shop in Thompson to

the creation of a new campground at Sasagiu Rapids. Since inception, CFNCD has assisted 277 businesses lending \$7,245,543 in 13 of our 17 communities!

For more information on any of the loan program available through CFNCD, please call our office at 204-677-1490 or toll free at 1-888-303-2232 for more information or visit our website at www.northcentraldevelopment.ca

Community Futures National Conference 2015 held in Charlevoix region, Quebec

Pictured here are the CFNCD staff and board at Le Manoir Richelieu in La Malbaie, Quebec during this year's Community Futures National Event. The event was held in early June and was a full slate with keynote presentations by Marc Dutil and Ovide Mercredi, a wide array of workshops and discussion groups, company tours, entertainment by Andre-Philippe Gagnon and a Cirque show and plenty of time to network with our counterparts from across the country.

L-R: Tim Johnston, Tamy Burton, Chairperson Frances McIvor, Past Chair Glen Flett, Leann Brown and Charlene Kissick.



Businesses supported by CFNCD in 2014/2015

GILLAM:
Double Deuce Towing

NORWAY HOUSE:
Frankie's Lawncare

THOMPSON:
Thompson Autowash

Blue Water Studio's
6588884 Manitoba Ltd.
6154060 Manitoba Ltd.

Greg's Home Painting
Sasagiu Rapids Lodge 2013
AMP Industries
JMH First Aid
Muladhara Healing & Support

Services
Seecan Digital
Best Detailing

CROSS LAKE:
Pimicikamak Gas Bar & C-Store
Michelle Memorial Ambulance

CFNCD hosts 6th Annual Artist, Crafter & Small Business Expo

In November 2014, CFNCD hosted the 6th annual Artists, Crafters & Small Business Expo in Thompson at the Thompson Regional Community Centre (TRCC) in the Bill Comaskey Wellness Centre. This event is for artists, crafters and small businesses who want to market their products to the public free of charge. The event continues to increase with respect to exhibitors and attendance by the public. In total, 40 exhibitors participated and over 1000 shoppers browsed the booths from Mary Kay to local products made from the northern boreal forest to artists with original pieces, jewelry and clothing. A follow-up survey was completed with exhibitors and feedback was very positive, 54% of exhibitors noted they realized an increase in business due to participation at the Expo and 97% said they would participate in the Expo if held in 2015. We also gathered many great suggestions for future events (such as coverage on Shaw Cable with exhibitor interviews) which we will take into consideration while planning the 2015 Expo!

For more information on the



Above: The Wellness Centre at the TRCC was full of exhibitors for CFNCD's 2014 Small Business Expo.



Right: A shopper browses at the Tawipisim booth.

2015 Artist, Crafter and Small Business Expo contact or small business start up

or expansion contact Leann Brown at 204-677-1493 or 1-888-303-2232.

Developers Forum takes place at UCN February 2015

In February 2015, CFNCD participated in a Developers Forum which saw lenders in the field of Economic Development speak with multiple business students at UCN in Thompson and The Pas over video conference. This event was organized by Communities Economic Development Fund (CEDF) and saw many lenders from the North and Winnipeg providing an opportunity to promote our programs and services. The second half of the day included the

lenders presenting the information to various EDO's and councillors from the northern region. CFNCD will continue to promote our programs and services as well as look for upcoming opportunities to partner with other lenders.

For information on any of the programs and services CFNCD offers visit our website at www.northcentraldevelopment.ca, call 1-888-303-2232 and/or follow us on facebook!

CFNCD CLIENT PROFILE:

New towing company opens in Gillam

Double Deuce Towing is a new business venture that opened in late spring of 2014 serving the Gillam and Fox Lake area. Prior to this business becoming operational, any residents or businesses with down vehicles needed to wait for services to come from Thompson. Since opening in the spring of 2014, Double Deuce has expanded their operations with the purchase of an additional trailer to their fleet. This new business venture is providing a valuable service to resi-



dents and businesses in the area and CFNCD was pleased to assist with financing for the expansion. Double Deuce owners Graham Johnstone and Justin Tetrault heard about

CFNCD as an option for small business start-up and expansion financing through a friend who had previously choose to borrow from CFNCD. You can't beat word-of-mouth advertising! CFNCD

would like to congratulate owners Graham and Justin on their business launch and successful first year! Follow Double Deuce Towing on facebook or call 1-431-285-3159 for info.

Traditional art & entrepreneurship continued from page one

option for them. In November, the two-day program developed by CFNCD was delivered in Churchill covering off all things entrepreneurship, financial records, time management, business planning and financing resources & options as well as some fun with the *Dragon's Den* and *How to Make Millions* games.

There was also a new product development session for all the Arctic Trading staff: the use of an embroidery machinery to make new products. Guest instructor Nadine Morrison travelled into the community to deliver this training in March.

The Province of Manitoba

partnered to offer a wage subsidy to participants of the program. This incentive provided the participants the opportunity to realistically consider furthering their education.

If you are interested in seeing a project similar to this one delivered in your community contact CFNCD today to discuss options! 1-888-303-2232.



Pictured Right is Penny Rawlings, owner/operator of the Arctic Trading Company posing with some of the program participants and their work.

Thompsonite Tori Cordell of Canine Cabins wins ABSN business plan competition at Vision Quest 2015

This year Vision Quest Conference's Inc. celebrated its 19th Annual Conference & Trade show in Winnipeg from May 12-14 at the RBC Convention Centre in Winnipeg.

Keynote speakers included Dr. Martin

Brokenleg and Wab Kinew. Both were fantastic and brought great messages to those in attendance. The conference also included 12 workshops for the delegates to attend focused on the following themes: Business, Community



Photo by Molly Gibson-Kirby of the Thompson Citizen

Tori Cordell, Owner of Canine Cabins in Thompson won the Rural Category of the Aboriginal Business Service Network's Dragon's Quest business planning competition.



Thompson's Jasyn Lucas works on a piece of artwork which he donated to the Vision Quest conference as a door prize. Lucas' booth at the conference was sponsored by CFNCD. Congrats to Jasyn and his partner Nikki Brightnose on the recent grand opening of their new gallery and tattoo parlor - The Gift of Art (located at 402-79 Selkirk Avenue in Thompson).

and Personal Development and Youth.

This year was another great success for the Aboriginal Business Service Network's *Dragon's Quest Business Plan Competition* in which semi-finalists selected pitched their business to a panel of judges. The winners in both Rural and Urban are announced at the closing banquet. CFNCD would like to send big congratulations to Tori Cordell of Canine Cabins in Thompson who won the Rural Category and received \$5,000.00 towards her business.

A major attraction during Vision Quest Conference is the Trade Show. This year approx.

80 booths participated in the trade show. Another successful Thompsonite, Jasyn Lucas participated in the trade show and donated a piece of artwork painted on site at Vision Quest as a door prize.

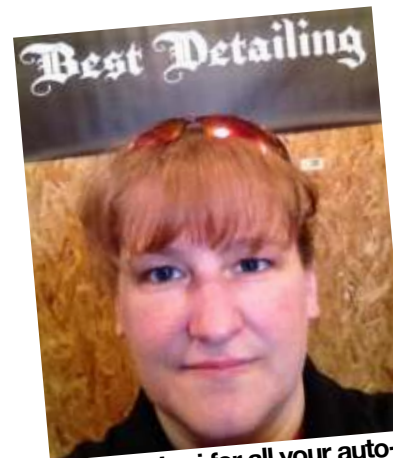
Vision Quest is brought to you by the following CF partner's from across Manitoba: CF North Central Development, CF Cedar Lake, CF Kitiyan, CF Southeast and CF Dakota Ojibway. Planning is underway for next year's grand event - the 20th anniversary of Vision Quest conferences. For more information on Vision Quest contact Leann Brown at 204-677-1493 or toll free: 1-888-303-2232.



CFNCD's Leann Brown with Vision Quest 2015 keynote speaker Wab Kinew.

SELF EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM CLIENT PROFILE: Best Detailing zooms into business!

Lori Best, who recently completed the Self Employment Program offered through Community Futures North Central Development, has filled a much-needed service by opening a car detailing business in Thompson. After doing her research, she decided that a home-based business was the best option, as this would keep expenses low, especially during the start up phase. She has set up shop in her garage and has purchased a dry steam machine as well as environmentally friendly cleaning products. Her



Contact Lori for all your automotive detailing needs! 204-307-1343

services include both interior and exterior cleaning of all types of vehicles, boats, and campers. Since starting the business this spring, Best Detailing has been very busy servicing both residential and commercial customers, as well as customers from the outlying communities. Lori believes that competitive pricing, reliability, and consistent quality work will be the keys to her success. To book an appointment, call 204-307-1343 or email bestdetailing2015@gmail.com.

The Self Employment Program offered through Community Futures North Central Development in partnership with the Province of Manitoba assists Manitobans to create jobs for themselves by starting a business. For more information on the SE program contact Michelle Pruder at 204-677-1490 or via email at mpruder@northcentraldevelopment.ca

Congratulations Lori on your very successful business launch!

Tourism North's new 2015/2016 visitor guide now available!

Tourism North is excited to announce the recent publishing of the 2015/2016 Northern Manitoba regional visitor guide. This year marks the 5th year of the annual publication, Tourism North was pleased to use a cover photo from local photographer Alex de Vries and have several other beautiful new images throughout the guide shared with Tourism North from across the region.

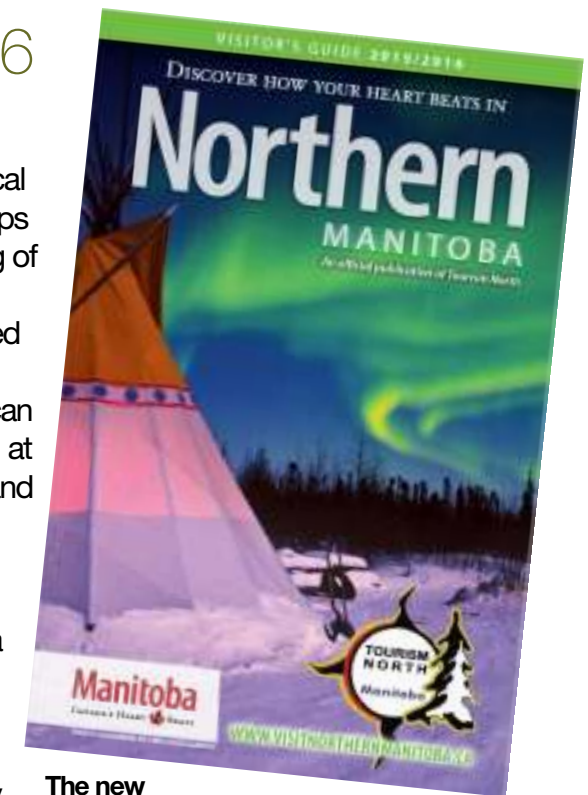
The guide contains information on festivals, parks, art & culture, winter adventures, northern recreation, travel tips, sample itineraries, restaurant and accommodation listings, tour operators and so much more!

Many thanks to our advertisers who support tourism in the north

by purchasing an ad in this local regional guide, ad revenue helps pay for the design and printing of the guide.

The visitor guide is distributed at Travel MB Visitor Centres throughout the province and can be found throughout the north at hotels, transportation outlets and several other places a visitor might frequent. You can also view the guide online at www.visitnorthernmanitoba.ca

CFNCD is proud to coordinate Tourism North efforts and work towards positioning Northern Manitoba as a priority tourist destination. For more information on Tourism North contact Charlene Kissick at 204-677-1494 or 1-888-303-2232.



The new northern MB regional tourism guide, published by Tourism North is available at Travel MB Visitor Centres and throughout the north.

Thompson Citizenship Council capacity building project

The Thompson Citizenship Council operating as the Multicultural Centre received funds from the Province of Manitoba via the *Neighbourhoods Alive!* program to develop an operational plan addressing organizational standards including fiscal practices, accounting structure, legal obligations, risk mitigation practices and board training plans. The funds are provided to hire a consultant (CFNCD) to work with the board of directors to complete. Project timeline is one year which began in November 2014. Work to date has included set up of a Project Management Team which meets regularly to prioritize work, financial reconstruction (many thanks to Kendall Pandya for their expertise in this area), Fundraising strategies and conducting board training and planning sessions. To date, two sessions have taken place one being an overall Organizational Review (February 2015) and a general planning ses-



CFNCD Manager Tim Johnston with the very dedicated board and membership of the Thompson Citizenship Council / Multicultural Centre at the February 2015 Organizational Review session. Follow the TCC/MCC on facebook - Multi-CultureCenter Thompson.

sion (June 2015).

CFNCD took on this project to firstly to assist a valuable long-standing organization in the north, but also to develop a governance template that could be applied to any organization which finds itself challenged operationally. It's been a pleasure working with this dedicated group of individuals and

another great link to the newcomer community in the north. If you are interested in membership with the Thompson Citizenship Council / Multicultural Centre contact Chairperson Dr. Peter Aarinola at 204-778-6434 or Treasurer Solomon Olumola-Davies at jowheels2000@yahoo.com.

ATTENTION INSTAGRAMMERS!

We want to see your images of the north! Show us local cuisine, wildlife, snowy scenes, summer fun, festivals & events, watersports, wildflowers, roadside attractions or anything else truly northern that you think would entice visitors to the north! The Northern Manitoba Instagram Photo Challenge runs January - October 2015 and is brought to you by

Tourism North. We have received 400 entries to date and are hoping for a lot more! Monthly cash (and goodies) prizes are awarded with two grand prizes at contest end. To enter tag @tourismnorth in your Instagram photos and use the hashtag #visitnorthernmb. For full contest details visit www.visitnorthernmanitoba.ca.



CFNCD continues to deliver Newcomer Settlement Services contract with funding provided by Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Community Futures North Central Development signed a two year contribution agreement (April 2014 - March 2016) with Citizenship and Immigration Canada which allowed for the continuation of the Thompson Newcomer Settlement Services (TNSS) program. Service provision changed in 2014 to clients with permanent residency and refugee status in northern Manitoba (now excluding temporary foreign workers) and focus on employment, housing, law, cultural activities, languages, education, childcare and referrals to other organizations. During this fiscal year the TNSS program was busy, seeing 46 new clients and delivering two welcome activities, the citizenship ceremony and one workshop.

WELCOME ACTIVITIES:

A bowling night that took place at NC Crossroad Lanes on March 21 was attended by 34 newcomers from around the world (Jamaica, Nigeria, Mexico, Guatemala, Panama, Peru and Mexico). Event participants had the opportunity to bowl and meet other newcomers as well as long-time residents of Thompson and enjoy some pizza, drinks & prizes.



Thompson Fire and Emergency Services and Newcomer Settlement Services coordinator Angelica Matiasek present information on home fire safety and winter driving at the annual Welcome to Winter event.

The Canada Day celebration on July 1 in partnership with the City of Thompson featured fun, food and Folklorama entertainment.

The citizenship ceremony was celebrated on May 22 at the Thompson Regional Community Centre (TRCC) where upwards of 30 people became dual citizens during the event.

On Saturday November 8 we hosted our annual Welcome to Winter activity at the TRCC with 33 clients attending. Presentations were made by the Northern Regional Health Authority on the family doctor finder program, seasonal flu shots, baby vaccinations

and winter recreation. The Thompson Fire & Emergency Services Dept offered a presentation on home fire safety and winter driving. There was also winter clothes demonstrations, prizes, snacks and displays from the NRHA and Mystery Mountain Winter Park. The TRCC staff also provided a tour of the facility and talked about activities which happen there during the winter such as skating, hockey, volleyball, basketball and the new gym.

For more information on the TNSS program, contact Angelica Matiasek at 204-677-1495 or 1-888-303-2232.

CFNCD begins work on a Northern Development Accord

Following attendance at a Boreal Summit in The Pas in February, CFNCD developed a relationship with Mat Jacobson of the PEW Foundation resulting in a 6-month fee-for-service contract with Ducks Unlimited Canada / PEW whereby CFNCD would

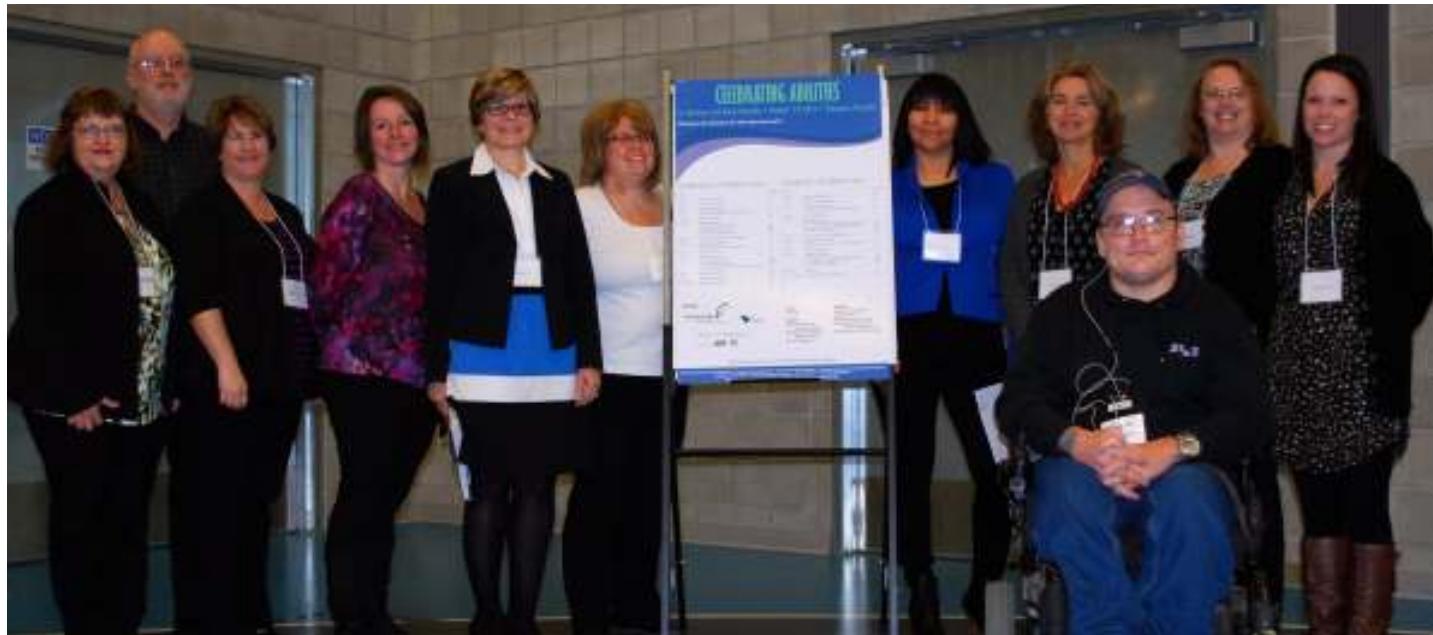
coordinate a Northern Economic Development Accord. Pillars include Aboriginal communities, government, industry, conservation and environment. A project management team has been assembled which meets weekly. Work currently involves deter-

mining initial stakeholder reps, introduction meetings and development of draft project charter. Further to this work CPAWS (Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, Manitoba Chapter) has funded two northern summer student positions to assist with pub-

lic outreach relating to the accord, one of which is housed at CFNCD (meet Robert on page 12!), the other is located in The Pas.

A stakeholder meeting is set to take place in Churchill August 6th.

Celebrating Abilities in Northern and Rural Manitoba event the first ever of it's kind in northern MB



Celebrating Abilities planning committee L-R: Joan Zaretsky, John VanWalleghem, Brenda Davidson, Tamy Burton, Anne Kresta, Rachel Templeton, Deborah Smith, Yutta Fricke, Kris Blake, Susan Bater and Charlene Kissick.

The Celebrating Abilities event, although not without some challenges, in CFNCD's opinion was a huge success on many levels. Goals set early in the planning stages were met in terms of sponsorship, attendance and workshop content. For the first time ever in northern Manitoba, an event of this focus and size was held and attended by 113 participants

(including speakers, planning committee and volunteers) over a very inspiring three days. Held at the Thompson Regional Community Centre in Thompson October 8th & 9th, 2014 (with pre-conference activities happening at the Juniper Centre and School District of Mystery Lake board office October 7th) and services provided by Amanda's Catering

and Afterdark Productions, the event was as inclusive as possible. The planning committee was diligent in their attempts to ensure anyone interested could meaningfully attend. A bursary pool was created to guarantee those for whom registration fees may be a barrier could attend, ASL and note taking was provided at the event,

Continued on page 7

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS!

- Breakout sessions on entrepreneurship as an option, vocational training and assisted employment and other resources and services available. Not to mention informative pre-conference and evening sessions.
- Participants from Thompson, Brandon, Minnedosa, Winnipeg, The Pas, Split Lake, Flin Flon, Norway House, OCN and Oxford House
- Information on the new accessibility legislation and ideas for customer service stan-

dards presented spoke to a shift in thinking on how simple it can be to be inclusive.

- Kristopher Blake from People First Thompson Chapter was our amazing Emcee.
- Two panel sessions with self-advocates were held, you could have heard a pin drop in the room when participants told their life stories and a few tears were shed but all stories ended on a positive note and we are confident that all who participated

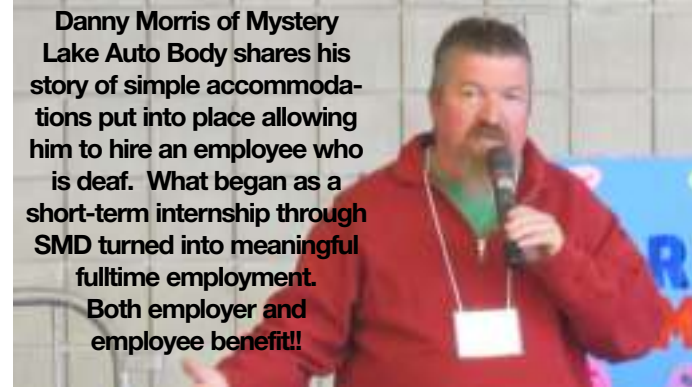
were inspired and motivated!

- A presentation made by Vale on managing risk in the workplace and meaningful employment for employees based on abilities was a welcome addition!
- Greetings from Thompson City Councillor/CFNCD Executive Board Member Penny Byer on Wednesday and Minister Steve Ashton on Thursday were both heartfelt and personal.
- Conversations recognizing the demand for services in the north and the wide range of

Right: Workshop participants at the October Celebrating Abilities event.



Danny Morris of Mystery Lake Auto Body shares his story of simple accommodations put into place allowing him to hire an employee who is deaf. What began as a short-term internship through SMD turned into meaningful fulltime employment. Both employer and employee benefit!!



Celebrating Abilities from page 6
clear print guidelines were used in promotional materials and event signage and the venue was chosen as the primary location due to it's accessibility. To see the event that so many had worked collaboratively on for so long

come to fruition was extremely rewarding. New relationships were formed and existing ones solidified throughout the planning stages and at the event itself. Key benefits coming from this event will inevitably be future joint initiatives between service providers to improve

quality of life in the north, increased awareness of existing services, how to access services not located in the north and continued lobby efforts for gaps in services in the north. Further, the linking

up of northern people to educational, employment and self-employment opportunities will undoubtedly pay dividends long into the future.



SMD Regional Supervisor/CFNCD Volunteer Brenda Davidson co-facilitates a session with self-advocates who spoke on their abilities, challenges they've faced and strategies for a positive life outlook.