

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2012

TOURISM NORTH

- Next tourism guide (Nextstop) to be complete by April 1
- Continue to operate website – www.visitnorthernmanitoba.ca. Events, community information, tourism business listings are all free.
- Tourism North is coordinating a Golf Contest this summer. Golf at 3 out of 4 northern MB golf courses and fill out passport and enter to win grand prize.
- \$3500 in special project funding has been approved from Tourism Secretariat for Highway Sign project.
- RV Show is March 8 – 11, Rec'd \$1,000 in special project funding for this from TS. Charlene will travel March 6th to Wpg, set up March 7th and work at show the 8th and 9th. Other TN partners to work show 10th and 11th.
- Charlene is participating in the Travel MB Cutting Edge training – March 12 – 16. Best practices in experiential tourism. Happening in Wpg.
- Charlene is working on Operating Plan for 2012/2013 and final report for current fiscal year.
- Charlene participates in Thompson Tourism Committee.
- March 24th there are snowmobile drag races at Paint Lake.
- This weekend snowmobile drag races in Cross Lake (Winter Festival).
- Discussed idea of hotels offering incentives for snowmobilers.

EDP

- Susan Bater, CFM Coordinator did regular update visit on February 8th and 9th
- Met with CMHA Feb. 8th. CMHA does budgeting workshops. Possible future partnership as we have received requests for personal budgeting workshops. There is a TD Financial Literacy grant available that could fund this project. Something for Phil to do in all communities, to offset his costs or CED costs.
- Next call for Capacity Building Projects will likely be in spring.
- CFNCD still has Accessible Laptop available for use for clients that may have visual, mobility or hearing barriers.
- Danae McCullough is no longer with SMD and will not be participating in CDC. Position is vacant at SMD.
- Angelica got copies of Literacy Partners of MB books – going to the DR, going to the bank, etc., will use with SS clients.
- www.healthincommon.com is a grant database with all kinds of grants.

VISION QUEST

- Poster in meeting package
- Registration is now open, is available online on the website.
- Workshops on employment opportunities, Don Burnstick (youth).
- Keynotes are Waneek Horn-Miller (Olympic Athlete, behind the line at OKA and Sports commentator) and Eric Schweig (award winning actor).

- Takes place May 15 -17, 2012 in Wpg.
- CFNCD has two free registrations for board members.
- Opening ceremony is changing to include trade show, network session and possibly NCI Jam winners.
- Next planning meeting taking place in April.

8th FIRE

- This is a 3-day event happening in Thompson March 14, 15, 16th for youth, coordinated by the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs.
- CFNCD is partnering to be a local resource.
- All \$\$ have been secured.
- Keynotes are Waneek Horn-Miller and possibly Adam Beach.
- **ACTION: Leann to provide information to CFNCD board.**

THOMPSON SKATEPARK

- There is \$7,500 in our CFNCD skatepark account
- Committee has disbanded, signing authority remains Dan Brown, he has been contacted and will sign off on writing cheque to the City and closing the account.
- **ACTION: Leann to contact bank and get Dan Brown signature.**
- **ACTION: Charlene will draft a letter to the City indicating what \$\$ are from and what they are to be used for.**

SETTLEMENT SERVICES

- Angelica has 123 current clients, 80 of which are new this year.
- The province is putting together a website for each SS organization. TNSS will have new website, linked to CFNCD website and province's resources.
- At Lender's Luncheon made contact with Manager of Royal Bank. Royal bank wants to provide support for newcomers. Angelica is partnering with them to put on a banking orientation session (ie opening a bank account, getting a mortgage, etc.). Royal will do advertising and provide a lunch. **ACTION: Angelica will promote to clients and attend, TNSS is co-host.** Taking place on April 14th. Hope is that this will become an annual event.
- March 15th training happening in Wpg. Costs covered in SS budget. **ACTION: Angelica will attend and will attend Pam McConnell's retirement.** There has been a replacement for Pam chosen, however has not been announced as of yet.
- The Employment Standards position has been filled, has been vacant for quite some time. **ACTION: Angelica will make contact with this person.**
- Angelica wants to include in next newsletter a success story on a client.
- Angelica looking at taking time off next November to go to Panama. A process will be in place to cover with clients in her absence.
- Tara is back from maternity leave and will provide support to the SS program (5 hours per week – assisting in planning community events, attending meetings and taking minutes and filling out a monthly spreadsheet).

GROWING COMMUNITIES PROGRAM

- Rec'd application from Thompson Unlimited re: Recruitment Video. Charlene advised (via letter and phone message) it would have to come from City of Thompson.
- Wabowden – have requested that they provide revised final report listing materials totaling \$2,500. Last final report noted materials at a cost of \$1000 and labour at a cost of \$1500, doesn't match the original request. Letter put in mail, **ACTION: Charlene will follow up.**

CHURCHILL NORTHERN STUDIES CENTRE

- CFNCD assisted with Strategic Planning Session. Happened in Churchill and in Wpg connected via videoconference (Feb. 6 & 7), with Michelle leading in Wpg and Charlene assisting in Churchill.
- Pre-planning session surveys completed and used in session
- By the end of March we will have strategic plan laid out for the Centre to use in the next steps – business plan and action plan. CFNCD is committed to assisting throughout process.

ROTARY PARK

- Nothing to update

BAYLINE RAIL SERVICE

- Nothing major reported from VIA on chef removal.
- CFNCD (Charlene) will work on signage project for the train station
- The Thompson Tourism Committee is working on a proposal for train station updates.

LENDER'S LUNCHEON

- Happened in February, was well attended by most lenders in Thompson (banks, CEDF, ACU, Thompson Unlimited, Manisha Pandya and Alain Huberdeau).
- Contact made between SS and Royal bank, event planned.
- Some good comments came from round-table discussion:
 - Roxy Binns, Thompson Unlimited: TU offers business loans of up to \$10,000 for start up, expansion or beautify front entrance. Often makes referrals to CFNCD. To date has extended 9 loans to small businesses in Thompson.
 - Gord Wakeling, CEDF: CEDF is a provincial organization which encourages Community and Economic Development. Has business loan and fisheries loan programs (basically operating line of credit). Has been in place since 1971, have had some major changes to program recently. There are 3 loan programs: 1. Realstate - owner occupancy doesn't need to be the majority. 2. Core Equipment Lending, up to one million and can work seasonal payments. and 3. Working Capital program - where lend on equity business expansion. Rates are ahead of banks but offer flexibility. Have partnered many times with CF and will continue to do so.
 - Brenda Laycock – ACU: Applications are forwarded to Wpg.
 - Cyrus – Scotia: Can loan one dollar to millions of dollars, depend on the business. Smaller businesses and small loans are not the typical customer to Scotia, would refer to CFNCD.
 - Ken Dick – Royal: Royal has focus on commercial banking, up to \$250,000. Royal makes investments in the north, lends to SME's, offers telephone and internet banking. CF provides some of the services typical lender can't, Royal does referrals to CF program.

Alain Huberdeau - Huberdeau Coggin: Has noticed a huge upswing in commercial transactions (up about 25%). Works with CEDF and conventional banks as well as CFNCD. It's positive to see community is re-investing in the north.

Manisha Pandya - Kendall Pandya Accountants: Has seen more activity in the past 18 months. Some hurdles are local banks are limited in what they can approve locally. It would really be helpful if decisions could be made locally. Unless you live in the north you don't understand the dynamics of living in the north. Asked banks to please take comments back to head offices.

TEDWG

- Charlene participating in sub-committees
- Justice press release included in meeting package

CHURCHILL SUMMIT

- CFNCD rec'd letter asking us to participate in Summit March 28th to 30th in Churchill.
- Purpose is to bring together gov't, business and academia to develop an action plan based on Churchill's Sustainable Development Framework.
- CFNCD role would be Hudson Bay Neighbours Roundtable Discussion

TODAY IN AMERICA

- The City of Thompson is having TV Show "Today in America" in Thompson.
- The show features interesting *business stories and first-hand insights from entrepreneurs within various industries*
- Show's host is Terry Bradshaw
- The **Today in America** television show is available nationally and regionally on many popular television networks.
- Charlene participating in Today in America committee.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

- Included in meeting package is information on a new funding opportunity for climate change adaptation projects. Intake is now passed but we have contacted them and there will be a new intake in the fall.
- AANDC will support Aboriginal and northern communities in addressing risks and challenges posed by climate change impacts and help them become more resilient
- Project streams include: vulnerability assessment, adaptation planning, knowledge transfer
- Up to \$200,000 per year per project