

Growing communities one idea at a time.



Thompson's Carlos Hall wins provincial business plan competition



Carlos Hall and his team.

Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) continues to offer business plan development and business launch assistance to potential entrepreneurs with Self Employment Assistance program funding by The Government of Manitoba & The Government of Canada Employment Insurance Account.

One of our newest entrepreneurs is Carlos Hall. Carlos launched an enterprise named "C & R Wilderness Adventures" that is specifically targeted to teach today's youth outdoor / wilderness skills. Carlos has been active in his new business through school programming in Thompson and surrounding area, engaging school-aged youth in activities such as mushing, dog-handling, learning about trapping, and birding. Carlos business plan won the Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) provincial business plan contest. He attended Vision Quest in Winnipeg (May 13-15) to accept the award and while there, provided a youth workshop on trapping and traditional living. We wish Carlos success as he continues providing wilderness training for youth and expands his business to include adult custom-built adventure tours. To contact C & R Adventure Tours, please call 677-2449.

For further information on the SEA program, please call CF NCD at 677-1490 or toll-free at 1-888-847-7878.

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Thompson Skate Park Committee anticipates construction to start in August



Members of the Thompson Skate Park Committee draw the winning entry for their Skate at the Forks draw. Pictured L-R are Scott Pynn, Desmond Pearce, Finleigh Tucker-Titanich, Andie Hendren and Janaye Tucker-Titanich. CFNCD provides administrative, facilitative and general project management support to the Thompson Skate Park Committee. This is an ad-hoc community group of oodles of youth and adults who are working towards having a permanent skate park constructed in Thompson this summer. The Committee has been very proactive in fundraising at many levels. At this point, construction drawings are being prepared by a professional landscape architect, fundraising efforts are ongoing, and construction is expected to begin this summer.



Soon skateboarders in Thompson will have a designated spot.

Wabowden to create Community Strategic Action Plan

Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) is working with Wabowden Community Council as a pilot to develop a Community Strategic Action Plan. A proposed timeline includes meeting with Wabowden Community Council in June, background infor-

mation gathering through the summer, and community input gained in September and October. The Strategic Action Plan is proposed to be completed by early November, with follow-up on outcomes (the most exciting part!) to be completed by April 1, 2009.

Make Education Work Project lets students lead the class



Pictured here are some of Northern Manitoba's Make Education Work students

Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) received funding from the Aboriginal Business Service Network and the Thompson Neighbourhood Renewal Corporation to offer a unique opportunity to high school students in Northern Manitoba. Students involved in the Make Education Work (MEW) classroom in the communities of Thompson, Cross Lake and Norway House participated in a training session on presentation skills and how to deliver Junior Achievement (JA) programming. Once the training was complete the students put their presentation skills to

work presenting the JA 'Our Business World' program to middle school students.

The 'Our Business World' program introduces grade 4, 5 and 6 students to entrepreneurship and the management of a business. The students work in groups to complete a mini business plan, screen job applications, perform job interviews and experience first hand how on-the-job training, incentives and staff turnover affect the productivity and profitability of a company.

In total, 37 MEW students delivered programming to 214 students in the north. The MEW students received credit towards

their elective for participating. Dana Mader, Thompson's MEW teacher noted that the JA project allowed students to gain great insight on what it takes to run a business or be that of a teacher.

The Make Education Work classroom is a province-wide 4-year pilot project created to research why it is that the Aboriginal student is failing to matriculate at the same percentage level as that of the non-Aboriginal student. Three on-reserve schools are involved (in communities of Cross Lake, Norway House and Peguis) and three off-reserve communities are involved (Thompson, Swan

River and Selkirk). The class focuses on academic/career development, individual growth, cultural awareness (7 sacred teachings) and community involvement (reciprocity). The class is an elective course where the students spend one period a day with the MEW teacher throughout their high school career.

Junior Achievement workshops are offered free to schools and can be delivered by the teacher or by a community volunteer. For more information on JA or this program contact CFNCD at 677-1490 or 1-888-847-7878.

CFNCD researchs Settlement Services for newcomers

Over the last ten years Thompson has become a very diverse city with large immigration coming in not only from our northern communities but also from eastern Canada, India and Asia. Although Thompson has one of the highest disposable income rates in the country and a variety of services to offer its residents, it is often still challenged to keep people who have immigrated into the city from moving on to other parts of the country. It has become apparent that the ability to have a strong settlement program providing support to newcomers is key in keeping new immigrants in Thompson for the long term.

In December 2007 Community Futures North Central Development (CFNCD) was approached by a small group who was looking at the need for a Settlement Services

Coordinator in the City of Thompson. CFNCD met with the group to discuss project options and to create a draft action plan. It was decided that the project should be divided into two phases - the first for development and research and the second phase providing a Settlement Services Coordinator for the City of Thompson. CFNCD committed to coordinating Phase One of the project and submitted an application for funding to the Manitoba Immigrant Integration Program (MIIP) in January 2008 to form a settlement services advisory committee, conduct a community wide assessment of service organizations and their settlement related activities, conduct a survey of new residents, create a job description for a settlement service coordinator, locate a host organization and to create a

funding options plan.

The research gathered as part of the service organization assessment and newcomer survey proved the need for a Settlement Service Coordinator in the City of Thompson to provide direct settlement services to newcomers based on need (ie initial settlement, language training, employment assistance and long-term integration) and to refer newcomers to existing resources.

As a result of Phase One of this project a strong, dedicated advisory committee exists that is committed to providing direct services for newcomers.

CFNCD is currently exploring housing the settlement services coordinator. For more information on this project please contact CFNCD at 1-888-847-7878 or via email at ncd@northcentraldevelopment.ca.

Thompson big winner of Aboriginal Business Plan Competition

The Aboriginal Business Service Network (ABSN) hosted the 4th Annual Aboriginal Business Plan Competition with cash prizes in both the Youth and Adult categories totaling \$12,500. Of the five categories awarded, Thompson is the proud home to two of the winners.

Carlos Hall won the adult-rural category for his business plan for "C & R Wilderness Adventures" (see story on page one). Carlos received \$5,000 to go towards start-up or operational costs of his business.

Leah Mitchell's class at R.D. Parker Collegiate won the youth business start category for "Foods-R-U's".

This award was presented to a team of students who have successfully completed the Junior Achievement Company Program. Through the Company Program, students prepare a business plan, operate the business and then liquidate it. A prize of \$1000 was awarded to the school.

ABSN in Manitoba offers free business information and assistance to new and existing Aboriginal entrepreneurs.

For information on the Aboriginal Business Service Network contact Lindsay Dandeneau via email at lindsay.dandeneau@canadabusiness.ca

**HAVE YOU EVER
WANTED TO BE YOUR
OWN BOSS?**

Community Futures North Central Development has loans available for business start up and expansion. Contact our loans officer today for more information - 677-1490 or 1-888-847-7878

Spirit Way receives Manitoba Tourism award

Thompson's Spirit Way Inc. was presented a Manitoba Tourism award in the Product Development category at this year's Travel MB "Experience the Power of Partnership Conference". The Manitoba Tourism Awards is an annual program recognizing excellence in the promotion and delivery of tourism experiences in Manitoba.

Thompson's Spirit Way project has become a major tourism initiative by creating new physical attractions and highlighting existing cultural and heritage points of interest. The goals of the project were to create memorable experiences, highlight northern art and artists, provide scenic vistas and showcase several superlative features found no where else in Manitoba or Canada.

Spirit Way has recently partnered with Churchill's attractions of whales and polar bears; enhancing assets in both communities makes "the sum of all parts greater than the whole". A major tourism campaign with Travel Manitoba will promote "Wolves to Whales" to link Thompson and Churchill. A grand prize trip of the same will be offered on CJOB and GROOVE FM Radio.

Spirit Way's fourteen completed Points of Interest with two more to be completed by June, 2008 allow for 3 hour guided tours which have never existed in Thompson previously. Spirit Way's very visible 10 story mural and rockface sculpture attract attention from any casual visitor and allow Thompson

to promote the walkway and to link with other tours in the area - Pisew Falls, Vale Inco mine tour, etc.

The wolf theme which incorporates Manitoba's tallest mural, the only mural of a Robert Bateman painting, 32 painted wolf statues, the wolf rockface sculpture, as well as live wolves at the Thompson Zoo collectively attracts eco-tourists, naturalists, art lovers, and those people infatuated with wolves and northern wildlife.

Community Futures North Central Development has provided admin support to the Spirit Way project over the last four years. For more information on Spirit Way visit www.thompsonspiritway.ca or contact Volker Beckmann at (204) 778-7434.

Students create their own 'Wolves Along the Way'

Audrey McLellan and Sheri Horning's grade six classes at Burntwood School created their very own Wolves Along the Way. As part of an art project students designed wolves using the common theme - life in the north. The project was based on the Spirit Way 'Wolves Along the Way' Project. The Burntwood School wolves are 7 ft tall but are made of paper instead of concrete. The wolves are on display in the library.



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Adam Beach keynote speaker
at Vision Quest 2008

Vision Quest Conference Inc. held its annual conference May 13-15, 2008 in Winnipeg. Now in its 12th year, the event brought together delegates from across Canada to discuss and promote Aboriginal Business, Community and Economic Development.

This year's kick off event was a Casino Night promoting Aboriginal Tourism. Attendees could purchase funny money to play at various tables. When tables closed attendees were able to bid on auction items donated. There were also two larger prizes that were drawn which was a 42" HDTV and return airfare for two to New York City. For the youth, a dance party featuring ReddNation with D.J. Hooligan was organized.

Acclaimed actor Adam Beach was the opening keynote speaker. Adam brought many words of encouragement, insight and laughter to the over 1,000 people that filled the room during his presentation.

The primary objective of this year's Vision Quest was to promote Business and Economic Development in aboriginal communities. There were two full days of workshops with a variety of speakers. This year there were four workshops each day entirely focused on the youth in attendance.

The Gala evening which closed the conference was an evening of recognition and entertainment. The board presented gifts to the Elders, Guest Speakers and Sponsors. A comedian named DerRick Starlight had everyone laughing through his entire act.

Vision Quest Conferences Inc. is a community based organization formed through partnerships with the following Community Futures Corporations: Dakota Ojibway, Kitayan, Northwest, Southeast, North Central Development and Cedar Lake.

Thanks to all those who attended this year and we look forward to seeing you again next year.

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