



Creating
Futures



South Slave Healthy Communities' Partnership

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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South Slave Launches On-line Community Assets Database

Project Promotes Increased Communication & Partnerships

Fort Smith & Hay River, NT – An exciting new project launched by the *South Slave Healthy Communities Partnership* (SSHCP) is providing a networking resource for community organizations, government agencies and individuals and free marketing to local businesses, says Curtis Brown, Superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council.

The South Slave Community Assets database recently went on-line, offering local businesses and organizations a way to make their information available on the internet, whether or not they have a website. The on-line database – www.sshcp.nt.ca – will also allow potential customers, clients, industry, employees and others to search information about South Slave communities quickly and easily. Once in the database, users can search by community, asset type or by key words to identify the information or service being sought.

Community Assets mapping is a process which identifies what is available in a community – its assets – and makes that information available publicly, explains Brown. A community asset might be a community group, a business, an independent or home based business, a government organization or agency, a physical structure or place, a sports organization, religious group or church, a musical group or choir, a person with particular skills, an historical site, a social club – anything or anyone that is present in the community which might be of interest or use to someone else.

Uses of this information are numerous. Some might be: to search for a product or service; increase awareness of government services available; improve access to local services; encourage networking and partnership between businesses, organizations or individuals with common interests; target particular areas for development; identify gaps or duplications in services; allow potential employees or students to research a community prior to relocating; advertise products or services; increase public awareness of a group's activities; publicize community events and activities; find new ways to bring groups together; or to provide information for local residents seeking educational, employment or volunteer opportunities.

Those who wish to list their information on the searchable database can contact Heidi Selzler via email at hselzler@ssdec.nt.ca (phone 867-872-5701 Fort Smith,) Sheryl Olvera via email at solvera@ssdec.nt.ca (phone 867-872-5701 Fort Smith) or Sheila Ryan-Hachey at shachey@ssdec.nt.ca (phone 867-874-5817 Hay River) for more information.

The South Slave Healthy Communities Partnership was created to develop and implement joint initiatives of benefit to the health and welfare of residents in South Slave communities. Partner agencies include the South Slave Divisional Education Council, Fort Smith Health & Social Services Authority, Hay River Health & Social Services Authority, South Slave (ECE) Career Development Centres and Aurora College.

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