



# Creating Futures

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## News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### ***Student reading achievement improving each year SSDEC continues funding of Leadership for Literacy initiative***

Fort Smith, NT – In keeping with the South Slave Divisional Education Council's primary focus on providing *Leadership for Literacy* and improving student reading results, at its Feb. 5-6 regular meeting, Council approved an operating budget for 2010-11 that continues to fund Literacy Coaches in each South Slave school.

"I'm pleased that Council has agreed to continue the Literacy initiative," says chairperson Ann Pischinger. "The literacy coach model provides teachers in each South Slave school with the ongoing training and support they need to improve teaching and learning. Each year since the initiative began, we have seen steady and impressive improvements in student reading achievement."

Besides the Literacy Coaches, key components of the Leadership for Literacy initiative are regular assessments of each student, the establishment of clear, measurable goals, the use of research-based strategies, increased collaboration between teachers and with students and parents, and more systematic and targeted interventions when required. The aim of the initiative is more far-reaching than just reading, as improved instruction and student achievement in reading transfers into improved achievement in other subjects as well.

The Council's budget decision also determined the District Education Authority (DEA) allocations for next school year. The budget was approved as per the Department of Education's funding formula with an adjustment for unfunded and under-funded programs, such as employee salary adjustments and casual staff over-expenditures.

The SSDEC continues to use a highly decentralized budgeting model, which ensures local schools and DEAs have the ability to make funding decisions that best serve their communities. Under this model, says Superintendent Curtis Brown, "The majority of the budget decision-making power flows directly under formula to our DEAs and schools."

The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for April 22 in Fort Resolution.

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