



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 11, 2007

Leadership for Literacy Coaches for Each SSDEC School SSDEC Unanimously Approves 2007-2008 Budget

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, Council unanimously approved funding for a Literacy Coach in each South Slave school over the next two years.

"The Leadership for Literacy focus extends the award winning Literacy Project and provides another example of the commitment the SSDEC has made to school improvement," says chairperson Ann Pischinger. "The Literacy Coach model will provide teachers in each South Slave school with the training, support and strategies they need to boost student achievement results."

Every South Slave school will receive 0.5 person year funding for each of the 2007-08 and 2008-09 school years, to be matched by school-allocated 0.5 person years to create full-time Literacy Coach positions over the two years. School administration and Literacy Coaches will also be provided training and resources for success. Council expects to improve student reading achievement results by building the capacity of South Slave schools to collect and analyze achievement data; establish clear, measurable short-term goals; and use meaningful, informed teamwork to obtain quick results. The aim of the project is more far-reaching than just reading, as improved achievement in reading transfers into improved achievement in other subjects as well.

Also at the February 3 meeting, Council unanimously approved the budget and District Education Authority (DEA) allocations for 2007-2008. 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, casual staff over-expenditures and southern placements of students.

Budget highlights include:

- \$17.8 million to DEAs to directly control
- \$1.0 million devoted to Aboriginal Languages/Culture Program

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 funding flows directly under formula to our DEAs and schools."

The next regular meeting of the Council is tentatively scheduled for April 28 in Fort Resolution.

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