



Fall 2013

Celebrating  
**20+**  
Years



# COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, *Sharon Park*

## It's Been a Tough Year!!

Due to budget cuts there have been many changes at CEN this year. Some of our valued staff have been laid off and we have lost some of the programs that were very important to communities.

But despite the cuts, loss of staff and programs, we still continue to offer services to families, individuals and communities. CEN has survived despite these challenges and the Board of Directors have remained optimistic through it all. They continue to make strategic decisions that they feel will secure CEN for some time to come.

Preschools, Healthy Baby Clubs, Family Resource Centres, Adult Basic Education, Power-Up!, Community Youth Network, Skills Link, Housing Support and research are all programs that we continue to provide.

Tough times can offer insight into how an organization can become stronger. Restructuring has been difficult and the process is still unfolding, and will take time. But we believe that this crisis has forced us to take actions that will see CEN emerge as a healthier and sustainable organization.

We are thankful for the extra effort that all of our remaining staff provide on a daily basis. The programs that we have lost may emerge again but, if not, we still have their success to draw from as we plan for the future.

To those valued staff members that have moved on, we thank you for your service to our organization and your communities.

**Good luck to you all!**

**Chair**

Mark Felix,  
Innovation, Business and Rural  
Development

**Vice-Chair**

Brian Foley,  
College of the North  
Atlantic

**Secretary**

Eugene May,  
Western School District

**Treasurer**

John MacPherson

**Sharon Park,**  
Executive Director  
P.O. Box 421  
Stephenville, NL  
A2N 2Z5

Phone: 709 643-4891  
Fax: 709 643-5490  
E-mail: [tcen@nf.aibn.com](mailto:tcen@nf.aibn.com)

Website:  
[communityeducationnetwork.ca](http://communityeducationnetwork.ca)

### POWER-UP! EMPLOYMENT READY *Corinne Tulk, Program Coordinator*



In its fifth year, Power Up! has empowered a total of 37 Social Assistance Recipients (SAR) with the skills and confidence to illuminate their career development pathway and become self-reliant. On June 13, 2013, eight more adults, aged 25 years and upward joined that group with anticipation to change their paths.

Power Up! is a subsidized program that engages participants in a four week pre-employment training followed by a work placement in the Bay St. George area. During this phase participants are encouraged to employ in interactive workshop training including WHMIS, First Aid, Communication and Team Building. In addition to this training, participants volunteer with various community service agencies such as the Relay for Life and the Regional Museum of Arts and History and are introduced to a variety of community resources from Western Health, Labour Standards Agency, Community Education Network and AES, among others.

While building and enhancing their employable skills, concentration on resume building and effective cover letter writing combined with interview skills has enabled four participants to confidently approach employers and have secured employment in the Stephenville area. During the employment phase, participants involve themselves in further employment and social skill building activities.



## Community Education Network and Associate Organizations

### COMMUNITY YOUTH NETWORK (CYN) *Vanessa Lee, Youth Engagement Coordinator, Stephenville*



As CYN youth groups and school based programming came to a close for the year in June, youth group members were celebrated. Congratulations to CYN Junior & Senior Merit

Award winners who were recognized for their outstanding leadership: Frankie Young (Grey River), Scott Porter (Burgeo), Rae-Ann Bennett (St. George's) and Catherine Benoit (Piccadilly).

To continue with the celebration, twenty-six CYN members from Grey River, Burgeo, McKay's, St. George's, Stephenville Crossing, Piccadilly and Stephenville gathered in Stephenville for a youth retreat. A fun-filled day of golfing swimming, lunch and time at the beach ended with ice-cream, from everyone's favourite dairy bar, "The Golden-G".

Having been involved, in some capacity, since Grade Six, graduating CYN youth member, KC Beanland, commented about this enjoyable opportunity for everyone to gather together, *"It was a great way for everybody to come together and make friendships especially for the graduates who are on their way to new things. These friendships last a life time and we know that if we ever needed something that they would be there for us."*

Summer didn't slow down CYN activities as 2013 has been a busy one starting with the employment of nine post-secondary youth to coordinate CYN Bookworms summer reading and activity camp. Located in Lourdes, Burgeo and Stephenville, CYN Bookworms targets children ages 5 to 12 years of age. Vast experiences were provided to the youth working with the Bookworms programs, assisting them in career path exploration and enhancing networking skills.

Summer is also a time for festivals and events and CYN Southwestern attended and supported many of them, including Canada Day, Blueberry Festival, Picnic in the Park, Sand & Sea Festival, and the Adam Piercey Memorial Skate Park opening, among others.

However, the biggest and most exciting event for CYN this past summer would be the celebration of International Youth Day on August 12<sup>th</sup>. With the theme for 2013 being, *"Youth Migration: Moving Development Forward,"* CYN Southwestern partnered with the Rural Secretariat Office of Public Engagement to host two youth engagement forums focused on *careers* and *knowing your community*.

With the number of young Newfoundlanders moving from the province, local focus was placed on empowering and celebrating our youth. Activities commemorating the day took place in Burgeo and Stephenville. Burgeo youth were treated to an afternoon of socializing and tantalizing BBQ. While in Stephenville, a *"Concert on the Street"* highlighted some of the local youth's musical talent. Amazing stories of regional, provincial and national accomplishment and leadership were shared. Both events were held in high traffic areas enabling CYN coordinators and volunteers to engage youth in discussions regarding their future plans and staying in our province. Also at both events information regarding youth services & programs were available and distributed.

Here we are back into Fall, excited to have our seven youth groups up and running, along with the possibility of growth in Lourdes, Cape St. George and a second group in Stephenville. With Fall does bring change and there has been some wonderful changes within CYN. Welcome aboard to our new Youth Engagement Coordinators: Marcy Billard-Burgeo & Area, Vonnita Hepditch-Bay St. George South, Mary Barter-Port au Port, along with myself Vanessa Lee, Stephenville. We have moved into the social media world you can now like on facebook <https://www.facebook.com/CYNsouthwestern> and follow us @CYNSouthwestern.... lets tweet!



### SKILLS LINK - STEPHENVILLE *Janice Perry, Coordinator*



**Skills Link, a career development program, offers youth 15 –30 years of age, the opportunity to develop employability and personal life skills, while enhancing existing skills. Six participants have been given the chance to build these skills through group-based work such as community services, volunteer work, employability skills workshops, personal development and work placement.**

**Participants will develop an action plan that will assist them in their transition to the workforce or back to school. Some of the workshops that are offered include but are not limited to, Workplace Safety, First Aid, Workplace Hazard Materials Information System and Resume Development. Skills Link is funded by Service Canada and is sponsored by The Community Education Network.**

**Community Education Network and Associate Organizations**

**HOUSING STABILITY** *John Finn, Housing Support Worker*

The Housing Support Worker (HSW) position was created in the spring of 2011. Since this time, John Finn has been working in conjunction with the Housing Stability Initiative to create awareness around homelessness and housing instability throughout the Bay St. George region. The role involves assisting individuals and families, who are experiencing homelessness, are at risk of homelessness or are experiencing housing instability, secure safe and affordable housing.

For the fiscal year from March 2012 to April 2013, a total of 67 clients have met with the Housing Support Worker. This equates to a little over 5 individuals a month who require some form of assistance with a housing issue. The HSW works closely with Newfoundland and Labrador Housing Corporation and partners with local landlords to secure house and apartment rentals for clients. A total of 43 individuals, or close to 4 individuals a month have secured housing as a result of assistance from the HSW during the last fiscal year. The HSW also works in partnership with Aunt Jean's Place Emergency Housing Shelter and during the last year, 23 individuals were in need of emergency housing. This number is reflective of approximately one individual who is homeless every second week.

While creating awareness and offering, both a hot meal and fellowship, the Housing Stability Initiative operates a monthly "Community Café." In partnership with the Lion's Club, who provide a venue for the café, HSI receives donations of food from a variety of service groups, businesses and organizations and opens its café to the public free of charge on the second Thursday of each month. This café also often provides live entertainment from local musicians adding to the warm, friendly and engaging atmosphere. To compliment this café, the Zion Pentecostal Church also hosts a café on the fourth Thursday of each month. For more information, please contact Housing Support Worker, John Finn at 649-2533.



*CEN Skills Link Participants. Monthly Volunteers at the Community Café.*

**COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE (CAC)** *Bernice Hancock, Program Director*

Fall is certainly in the air with the cool crisp weather and fallen leaves scattered on the ground. It is time when many families begin a new routine after the warm days of summer come to a close. We encourage families with young children to include regular visits to their local Family Resource Centre as a special part of their fall activities.

The fall schedule has begun and there are many activities under way at the Family Resource Centres, Preschools and Healthy Baby Clubs throughout the southwestern region. The friendly chatter of parents and caregivers, and the laughter of young children at play, are evidence of the fun learning experiences provided at the Family Resource Centres. Programs offered include the Healthy Baby Club prenatal and post-natal follow-up program; Baby and Toddler Time; Drop-in Play; Preschool; Family Literacy Activities; Healthy Eating and Active Living Programs; as well as workshops for parents and caregivers. Special fall activities include Open House; Annual General Meeting and Workshop; National Family Week; National Child Day Celebrations; as well as Halloween and Christmas Socials.

A highlight for us this fall has been the Child Restraint Systems Technician Training for Early Years Staff. Many staff are now certified technicians with the Child Passenger Safety

Association of Canada who can provide information on infant, child and booster seats and help parents correctly install their car seat. We encourage all parents and caregivers to contact us to ensure their infant or child is travelling safely in an appropriate car seat. Another injury prevention and safety program offered is the Canadian Red Cross Child Care First Aid and CPR which focuses on child safety and first aid skills. There are workshops and programs offered on a variety of topics which help to support parents in their very important role of caring for and nurturing young children.



*Installing an Infant Car Seat at the Car Seat Clinic in October.*

During the fall we are looking forward to offering many enjoyable learning experiences for expectant mothers, their newborns and families, and young children and their parents/caregivers. For more information on any of our programs, please visit your local Family Resource Centre or contact us at our main office in Stephenville at 643-5399.

**CEN Values**

**Collaborative Processes**



**Individual and Community Knowledge**



**Creative Responses**



**Safe, Caring and Healthy Environments**



## OUR VISION

*To make a positive difference in peoples lives.*

## OUR MISSION

*To create a culture of lifelong learning which promotes personal enrichment in healthy, sustainable communities.*

## OUR PRINCIPLES

*Self-determination; Self-help;  
Maximum use of resources;  
Leadership development;  
Inclusiveness; Life-long learning;  
Community involvement in schools;  
Integrated service delivery;  
Localization; Community Capacity Building; Citizen engagement;  
Institutional responsiveness;  
Participatory practices*

## OUR NETWORK

**The Networking Group includes representatives from the following agencies:**

*Western School District;  
Advanced Education and Skills;  
Western Health; Bay St. George Status of Women; Service Canada;  
College of the North Atlantic;  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police;  
Public Information and Library Resources Board; Department of Industry, Trade and Rural Development; Rural Secretariat*



## YOUTH OUTREACH WORKER *Kim Kendall*

### So... What's With Weed?



This 4 week program will take place at EA Butler All Grade with the Grade 7 class. The peer led program will be facilitated by 4 senior high students allowing the youth themselves to get involved in clarifying the risks and realities of problematic marijuana use. As they share this information with their younger peers, the process is seen as credible and will be accepted more easily.

So... What's with Weed? It is a peer education program that engages high school students in a discussion about the use of marijuana (commonly called "weed"). This youth driven program provides secondary schools with effective educational tools to address marijuana use with its students. It helps students identify not only risks and potential problems but also positive behaviour change and decision making strategies connected with marijuana use. It also provides supports to reduce, avoid, or prevent the issues.

The program model includes a strategy for:

- recruiting senior students as peer educators
- a training day facilitated by the Youth Outreach Worker for the senior educators
- senior educators deliver a 75 minute workshop to their younger peers (Grade 7)

Engaging youth is a priority! Asking youth to consider their own attitudes and experiences, and putting the responsibility on youth to make their own informed choices is much more successful than demanding certain behaviour.

If you are interested in more information regarding this program, please call the Youth Outreach Worker at 643-2247.

## YOUTH PROGRAMS ASSESSMENT TOWARDS HOUSING STABILITY

**(YOUTH PATHS)** *Patrick Park-Tighe, Program Coordinator*

In the latest phase of the Youth PATHS project, the primary collection of data and research has been completed. Program staff have been key to providing insights into their services and the impacts and outcomes for their consumers while participants have contributed through the completion of surveys, focus groups and interviews.

The data is now being evaluated to arrive at an understanding of the effectiveness of CEN's efforts in engaging youth and preventing or reducing homelessness. The final report will speak to the unique nature of CEN's programming, its successes and limitations, its compatibility with both local needs and the national strategy, as well as future opportunities for targeted or expanded interventions.

During the Spring and Summer, challenges arose due to changes in government funding and directives which resulted in the unfortunate loss of longstanding programs and key personnel. While these losses have made securing valuable data difficult, they have also helped illustrate the social and economic costs of eliminating community-based solutions.

In the coming weeks, a project overview will be available on the CEN website with the final report and supplementary media being available for viewing online in the Spring of 2014.