

Community Education Network and Associate Organizations

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS) NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR*Tracy Snow, Program Director***Summer BookWorms Program—Combines Fun With Learning!****CIS Bookworms Staff**

CIS had another wonderful summer with children from the region. Over 200 children from 6 communities in Southwestern Newfoundland were involved in a variety of activity camps which focused on having fun, but at the same time encouraging children to use their literacy skills. We had a great team of CIS Summer BookWorms staff who brought energy and passion to our program this summer. Our camps included themes such as; Explore the Great Outdoors, Paws & Claws, Camp Scallywag - a Newfoundland & Labrador Cultural Camp, Ocean Adventure, Dinosaur Adventure, Creative Hands and many more. As with all CIS programming, we could not do it alone. As an organization, CIS strives to involve the community as much as possible in all

that we do. As in years past, we encouraged all our summer staff to actively recruit community members to get involved in our program over the summer. We had Esther Oosterbaan, a local artist come in and demonstrate her talent to the kids during our Creative Hands camp, Lindsay Morey from the Canadian Red Cross came to visit during Ocean Adventure Camp to talk to the children about Personal Floatation Devices and Water Safety, RCMP student officers came in to take the childrens fingerprints for Camp Clue as well as talk to them about Bicycle Safety, the Fire Department came in during Fantastic Friday and allowed all the children to tour their truck and talked to them about fire safety, we also had Ticker Tom visit each site to talk to the children about nutrition and being healthy. In addition, many parents and community members volunteered their time to assist with a variety of activities taking place at all

**Ticker Tom**

the camps in the region. Communities In Schools (CIS) is all about creating environments where children have the opportunity to develop meaningful relationships with caring adults. By surrounding children with a network of caring adults, there is the potential for them to connect, in a meaningful way, to someone who may make a difference in their lives.

A very special thank you to all those who volunteered in our program this summer. If you would like more information about the CIS Summer BookWorms program, please feel free to contact Tracy Snow, CIS Program Director at 643-3919 ext. 35 or cistracysnow@gmail.com

**Lindsay Morey from the Red Cross****RURAL YOUTH DRUG STRATEGY (RYDS) Patrick Park-Tighe**

In late April, Community Education Network-- in partnership with Health Canada-- launched the Rural Youth Drug Strategy (RYDS). With a focus on preventing and minimizing substance abuse among youth 13-18 years old, the program has a broad mandate for looking at, what has proven to be, a challenging and complex issue.

Over the next two years, RYDS will explore the available programs and services in the area which support youth and their families and identify opportunities for expanding or creating new initiatives. The strategy also hopes to enhance relationships and partnerships with youth, families, schools and community groups. Through surveys, focus groups and roundtable discussions, the goal is to create a common understanding of the problems associated with substance abuse and create solutions that reflect the unique needs of our rural communities.

Early on, three central themes emerged as a foundation for both discussion and direction setting. First, youth substance abuse is and will continue to be a matter of personal choice. This simple fact makes it essential that we know how to best support our young people in making positive, healthy choices. To this end, RYDS explores the decision making process, effective communications and the dynamic role of developmental protective and risk factors and their influence on teens' choices.

Secondly, engaging youth and other stakeholders in the process is essential in nurturing a sense of empowerment and ownership in any proposed plans. By encouraging community involvement and commitment, the project hopes to ensure long term sustainability.

Lastly, no program or support can make a significant change in the lives of youth if it can't be accessed. Many of our young people face barriers to program access that include transportation or participation fees. Service providers face their own difficulties due to thinly spread or nonexistent financial and human resources. To address this disconnect, RYDS will also be investigating funding opportunities and alternatives as well as the viability of community or social enterprise.

In the coming months, RYDS will be publicizing its research findings, developing a community action plan, creating a resource toolkit and hosting a prevention conference. Ongoing events, workshops, meetings and milestones will be posted online at the new CEN website, communityeducationnetwork.ca.

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COMMUNITY YOUTH NETWORK*Mary Bungay-Gaultois, Program Director*

This sampling of our program speaks to the value of having a long-standing presence in the community. In March, six youth members from Bay St. George and Burgeo regions attended the TYPS national conference in Ottawa with CYN staff. In addition to the relevant workshops, we enjoyed the visit to Parliament Hill and some sat in on Question Period--witnessing government in action.

This was followed in May by our participation in the 1st annual CYN provincial conference in Gander. Youth and staff from each of the 23 CYN provincial sites were invited to the *Enhance, Excel, and Exceed* networking event. Our youth delegates engaged in age-appropriate workshops while staff took part in equally relevant workshops supporting their work with youth. All declared themselves winners of the Supernova Survivor challenge based on the fun they had.

Marking the close of the school year, a Year End Gathering was held in Stephenville on June 26th. Thirty-two youth plus staff came together to mix and mingle, say goodbye to our high school graduates and encourage youth members to stay connected. While touring the landmarks on the Port au Port Peninsula, it was evident that natural beauty abounds, cultural preservation is important to us, and fun can be had anywhere where people gather. At this event, we announced our Regional Award winners Brandon Hynes (Port

au Port) and Kayla Barter (Grey River) and honoured them for their significant contribution to their youth groups and community.

We successfully launched the third Power Up! program in May for adults (25+) who are pursuing their life goals. Supported by HRLE funding, participants are currently engaged in work placements in the Bay St. George area.

SWASP summer programming was concentrated in the Burgeo area, and for the first time we held children's programming in Grey River. In addition, CYN provided students for the regular CIS Bookworms and the Sandbanks Park programs.

We remain committed to CNA's Community Studies program by hosting a work-term student. In her support of CYN activities, Ashley Blanchard left us with a clearer understanding of the skills needed to work in a youth-focused organization.

**Burgeo CYN Members at TYPS conference****COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE Bernice Hancock, Program Director**

It is hard to believe that yet another summer has come and gone and the familiar crispness of fall is upon us once again. Time to get out the sweaters and jackets following shortly by the hats, mittens and boots. As the cooler weather sets in outside, children and families are joining us once again at their local Family Resource Centre. Our Early Years programming continues to provide opportunities for positive early learning experiences and healthy child development in the many communities throughout the Southwestern region.

Programs for young children and their parents and caregivers are offered at the thirteen Family Resource Centres with a focus on promoting learning through play, healthy eating and active living, childhood injury prevention, and mental health and wellness. The many programs and activities include; Drop-in Play; Healthy Baby Club; Baby and Toddler Time; Literacy Programs; Recreation Activities; Little Chefs; Preschool; as well as workshops for parents and caregivers.

In partnership with the Western Injury Prevention Coalition, the Community Action Committee assisted with the facilitation of the Child Restraint Systems Technician (CRST) Training which took place in Corner Brook from Sept 13th to 18th. Four Community Action Committee staff participated in the training. Two CRST Instructors were recertified and two new technicians were trained to assist parents and caregivers in the proper installation of infant and child restraints and booster seats. A Car Seat Safety Clinic is planned for Tuesday, October 19th from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Stephenville Fire Station. Parents and Caregivers are encouraged to make an appointment to have their Car Seat inspected to ensure it is installed correctly and their infant or child is properly secured in the event of a motor vehicle collision.

During the next school year we are looking forward to offering many fun activities for children and families and more programs and workshops for parents and caregivers. For more information on any of our programs, please visit your local Family Resource Centre or contact us at 643-5399.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS IN SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND

Having to choose between eating and paying rent, or living in inadequate, sometimes deplorable, conditions, or not having a fixed address and sleeping on someone's couch, is a reality that many of us do not have to face. But there are many who do!

Because we don't see, or at least don't often see, people sleeping on the sidewalks, there is a misconception that there isn't an issue with housing and homelessness in our areas. But for service providers who work on a daily basis with individuals, and indeed for those individuals themselves, they know that finding adequate and affordable housing can be very difficult.

Currently, throughout Southwestern Newfoundland, there aren't any supportive housing units and very limited low-cost housing options. And as well, more individual and family supports are required than any one service provider can offer.

Community Education Network and its partners are trying to highlight some of these issues and are currently conducting research with the goal of developing an action plan that will help address some of the most vital needs of individuals and families in our area.

If you would like more information on the Housing and Homelessness initiative, or would like to become involved, please contact Mary Barter, CEN Senior Program Support, and member of the Southwestern Newfoundland Housing and Homelessness Committee at 643-5400.

**Child Restraint Systems Technician (CRST) Training, Corner Brook -September 2010**

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OUR VISION

Community Education is a process whereby learning is used for individual and community betterment. It is characterized by the involvement of people of all ages, the use of community learning, resources and research to bring about community change and recognition that people can learn through, with and for each other to create a better world.

OUR MISSION

Guided by Community Education principles, the mission of the Community Education Network is to create a learning culture through a lifelong learning process which promotes personal enrichment and healthy, sustainable communities.

COMMUNITY EDUCATION 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*

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT READINESS CENTRE *Len Muisse* CERC/CIRC EMPLOYEES TAKE PART IN TRAINING SESSION

All CERC/CIRC employees recently attended a mental health day in Rocky Harbour where the focus was on employee wellness through stress reduction, planned personal development and using laughter as a medicine. Most people realize the importance of stress reducers like exercise, relaxation, quiet personal time and healthy eating. Many also recognize the value in planning for personal development by taking responsibility for your life activities, visualizing your end goals and the importance of sticking to a plan. However, we all forget the intrinsic benefits of laughter and the positive effects having a great laugh has on a person's mental health. With this in mind I want to give you a shot of medicine by relaying this story.



My family was living in Daniels Harbour at the time; my son Jason was involved in a "who can catch the most rabbits competition" with other young people in his grade three class. Each day, for four days straight, he returned from his rabbit line with only one rabbit. I was feeling bad for him because some people in his class were having better success. When I mentioned to him about things improving he said to me "don't worry dad, in 30 days I will have 30 rabbits". It's all about expectations and long-term goals! Have a great day.

WORKING TOGETHER COMMUNITY EDUCATION NETWORK

The Networking Group includes representatives from the following agencies.

- Western School District
- Human Resources, Labour and Employment
- Western Health
- Long Range Regional Economic Development Board
- 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

An Executive Body formed from the larger group currently includes:

- Chair**—Mark Felix (Industry, Trade and Rural Development)
- Vice-Chair**—Brian Foley (College of the North Atlantic)
- Secretary**—Wilhelmena Hardy (Western School District)
- Treasurer**—John MacPherson (Long Range Regional Economic Development Board)



MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR *Sharon Park*

Once again another season is ending and a new one emerging. This season we will be celebrating at CEN. Our associate organization – CYN will be recognized for 10 years of programming for youth in Southwestern Newfoundland.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all those who have made contributions to CYN. Staff, youth, parents, community partners and volunteers have created many memories that will last a lifetime and have made significant contributions in opportunities for youth development.

CYN – Southwestern operates on an educational partnership model under CEN sponsorship. CYN has three components:

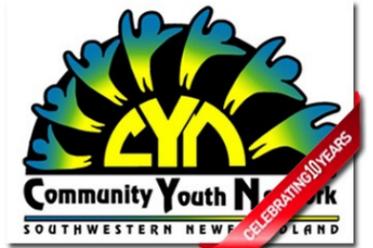
- Whole School Programming
- Intervention Programming
- Transitional Programming

Within its three components, CYN has four focus areas that include learning, employment, community building and support services.

While CYN has undergone some changes over the past year, we look forward to continuing to provide youth with opportunities to interact, plan and make decisions that positively impacts them and their local communities.

CYN—CELEBRATING 10 YEARS

When taking stock of CYN in 2010, it's sometimes difficult to remember what we looked like back in the fall of 2000 when we were "turning the sod". Regardless of what the organization looked like, we do know that a current 15-year-old youth group member was just entering kindergarten and a then 15-year-old high-school student is now likely working and possibly parenting a young child. A lot changes in 10 years.



After a six-month developmental phase in 2000, it was full steam ahead in April of 2001 for the staff who had been hired to manage and grow the organization from a hub office in Stephenville. With a vision of maintaining existing youth programs, and establishing school-based youth groups in the Port aux Basques, Burgeo and Bay St. George areas, over time, CYN grew in presence and structure.

Youth members were very active in the early years helping to create CYN's identity and to ensure the CYN concept would take hold in the Southwestern region. Well it certainly did! By 2005 there were 11 youth groups with 180 members, various career development programs ongoing, staff supports to schools, and a range of volunteers offering help and guidance where needed. In December 2009, the Port aux Basques region was removed from our service area providing us with the opportunity to further redefine ourselves.

One of our earliest youth-driven initiatives continues to today. Also in its 10th year, the Janeway Pull Tab Campaign relies on a community of volunteers to collect and transport the over-one-million tabs annually. From this effort, we have donated over \$6,000 to the Janeway Foundation from the near 10,000 pounds collected.

CYN Southwestern is part of a provincial network and is currently funded by the Department of Human Resources, Labour and Employment. To date, Community Education Network, CYN's sponsor, has received 2.5 million dollars from the province to deliver programs and services which help youth develop leadership skills and reach their full potential.

Currently we are involved in our second provincial evaluation. In 2004, it was noted "the Southwestern centre should continue its current approach of working through schools." We eagerly anticipate the results of 2010 evaluation which relied heavily on the inputs of our youth, their families, and our community partners. It is this combination which defines who we are.

We have no doubt that change, through growth, is in store. As in the past, we will include CYN youth members' voices in the decision making to help shape the way in which youth supports are made available. As we look to the future, we leave you with a quote from a former long-standing youth group member from Burgeo "Without CYN I wouldn't have the training and abilities I have today. CYN is a very good network that young people should get involved in" (Coady, 2007).

For further information please contact us at 643-2666.

CEN: BEHIND THE SCENES

Community Education Network is well known for its work in community, its programs and partnerships. As a program broker, at peak times, it can have upwards of 300 employees on the payroll. So how does it all stay together? That's where the CEN Financial Services comes in. These four dynamic women not only keep payroll on track, there are time sheets, leave requests, overtime requests, bank reconciliations, project proposals, monitoring of budgets, budget negotiations, accounts payable, invoice tracking, and heaps of reports. These behind the scenes individuals keeps us all on track. Thanks for all your hard work!



Community Education Network Financial Services. L-R Gina Doucette, Patsy Gaudon, Director, Dawn Hinks, and Sarah Brake