

Community Education Network and Associate Organizations



TRACY SNOW

Tracy is the Program Director for Communities In Schools (CIS). She began work with the Community Education Network in 1996 fresh out of university. For the past 15 years, she has helped grow the CIS identity from its infancy stages at one school site to the current network of school sites throughout the Western School District. In her current role she provides training and support to a CIS team of Regional Coordinators, Site Coordinators and Summer BookWorm Coordinators. She also provides support to CIS expansion site activity in other parts of the Western Region. She holds a Bachelor of Science with a major in Psychology from Dalhousie University as well as a number of other professional certifications. Over the years, she has been a part of many local and provincial committees and advisory boards. She has also been invited to speak locally, provincially and nationally about CIS and the organizations work with youth in Western Newfoundland. She loves meeting new people and particularly enjoys spending time with her husband, son, family and friends.

COMMUNITIES IN SCHOOLS (CIS) / Tracy Snow, Program Director

Communities In Schools (CIS) – Helping Kids to Help Themselves

Despite a late start this year, Communities In Schools (CIS) is up and running again. In November, CIS was successful in obtaining funds through HRLE's Job Creation Partnership program. These funds allowed us to re-hire our two CIS Regional Coordinators operating out of Bay St. George and Port aux Basques. In addition we received funds to hire 17 CIS Site Coordinators to work from schools in Southwestern Newfoundland. Specifically, we received funds to place staff at Lourdes Elementary, Piccadilly High, St. Thomas Aquinas Elementary, Stephenville High, Stephenville Middle, Stephenville Elementary, Stephenville Primary, St. Michael's Elementary, Our Lady of Mercy Elementary, Appalachia High, E.A. Butler All Grade, Burgeo Academy, Belanger Memorial, St. James Elementary, St. James Regional High, LeGallais Memorial and Grandy's River Collegiate.

CIS Corner Brook Branch which operates through the Humber Community YMCA received funds again this year as well. This year,

CIS Corner Brook received funds for their CIS Team Leader and 11 CIS Site Coordinators who are working from Corner Brook Regional High, G.C. Rowe Junior High, Presentation Junior High, J.J. Curling Elementary, St. Peter's Academy, St. James All Grade, Pasadena Elementary, Elwood Elementary, Xavier Elementary and Elwood High.

CIS staff are busy at all schools recruiting, training and supporting volunteers for a variety of school activities. Many CIS staff have been actively involved with Violence Prevention Month, Teacher/Staff Appreciation Week, Kids Eat Smart Programs, After School Programming, Seasonal Activities, Youth Groups, and many more.

We continue to operate on the philosophy of relationship building. We believe all children need and deserve to have a personal relationship with a caring adult in their lives. We truly believe that "To the world you may be one person, but to one person you may be the world." We all have the potential to make a difference in the life of a child!!

For more information, please contact: Tracy Snow, Program Director, 643-3919 ext. 35 or at cistracysnow@gmail.com

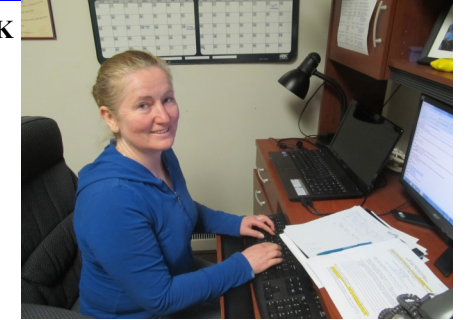


**A group of children involved in
CIS programming**

Program Highlights include: After School Programs, Teen Help Corps, Breakfast/Snack Programs, Recycling, Peer Mentorship, Peer Tutors, Take Our Kids to Work/ Job Shadowing, Career Related Activities, Respect Days, Literacy Activities, Community Service Projects, Seasonal Activities, Issue Days/Events, Book Fairs, Accelerated Reader, Volunteer Appreciation, Enrichment Clusters and more...

Community Education Network and Associate Organizations

BERNICE HANCOCK



Bernice has 25 years work and volunteer experience in the field of community development and human services working with the Community College, John Howard Society, and Bay St. George Coalition to End Violence, Women's Centre, Department of Justice Victim Services and Community Corrections. For the past 15 years she has worked as the Program Director for the Community Action Committee for Southwestern Newfoundland Family Resource Program. Her formal education is in the field of community studies and business administration. She would describe herself as a community worker, activist and feminist and was involved in the establishing and development of the Bay St. George Status of Women Council, Coalition to End Violence, and Family Resource Program. Bernice grew up in Corner Brook in a large family of nine children and moved to Stephenville in 1984 to attend college. She met her husband, Fergus, while they were both completing the Community Studies program at the community college, and for the past 26 years they have lived, worked, volunteered and raised their two sons, Marcus and Mason.

COMMUNITY ACTION COMMITTEE / Bernice Hancock, Program Director

Yet another year has come and gone and spring will soon be here once again. This winter may have been slightly delayed in coming but it sure has made its presence known. We do hope you have kept active this winter and enjoyed both outdoor and indoor activities with your family and friends as much as possible. Many children and their parents/caregivers have visited our Family Resource Centres over the winter months and have enjoyed drop-in play; story time; healthy baby club; baby and toddler time; preschool; gym time; as well as workshops and programs for parents and caregivers.

The Community Action Committee continues to offer a variety of programs for expectant and new mothers and their families as well as young children from birth to six years and their parents/caregivers at twelve Family Resource Centres and four Healthy Baby Clubs throughout Southwestern Newfoundland. We are very pleased to announce the addition of our fourth Healthy Baby Club serving Port aux Basques, Codroy Valley and the Coastal Communities. The new Healthy Baby Club site is facilitated in partnership with Western Health with funding provided through the Provincial Poverty Reduction Strategy. If you are an expecting or new mom and would like more information, please contact Jodie Mercer, Resource Mother for the Port aux Basques Region, at 695-2616 or by e-mail at jlcmercerc@gmail.com

As the winter slowly gives way to the warmer spring weather we are busy planning our spring schedules which will include lots of indoor and outdoor fun activities for young children and their families. We also would like to encourage parents and caregivers to let us know if there is any topic relating to parenting young children that they would like more information on, and we encourage parents, grandparents, and childcare providers to participate in the workshops and programs offered.



Baby Time at the Stephenville Family Resource Centre
For more information about programs and activities please contact our main office in Stephenville at 643-5399 or drop by your local Family Resource Centre.

Community Education Network and Associate Organizations



PATSY GAUDON

Patsy is originally from Port au Port East and currently holds the position as Director of Financial Services for CEN and its Associated organizations. She has 11 years of service with CEN in the financial field. She attended St. Mary's University in Halifax and studied Business. Since then she has completed several courses in the Finance Field. She resided in Halifax for 17 years and held numerous employment positions in the Business Sector from Manager of an Athletic Club to Office Manager of a Drilling Company. Patsy has also been a Professional Figure Skating Coach with Skate Canada for Thirty years, currently registered with the Stephenville Skating Club. She has one daughter Nikki, 21 years of age who presently resides in Fort McMurray and is a current graduate from the Licensed Practical Nursing Program.

RURAL YOUTH DRUG STRATEGY (RYDS)

Patrick Park-Tighe

Over the last several months, the Rural Youth Drug Strategy (RYDS) has continued to make progress in connecting with both youth and community partners in examining issues of drug prevention. We have been very fortunate to have valuable insights and contributions from CYN youth groups, Pathfinder students, school councils and administrators.

These discussions have assisted us in gathering information in support of our community profiling, needs assessment and community mapping research. As of December 2010, the SHAPES Survey—an examination of student mental wellbeing-- was completed in four local schools and results compiled in cooperation with Western Health. These findings will give us further direction in focusing our education and promotion efforts with area youth.

The RYDS project also hosted a Community Round-table discussion with partners including Mental Health and Addictions, Communities In School and the Women's Center among others. The group looked at the necessity of a continuum of services in the community and the challenges of navigating this often complex system of agencies.

Moving into the Spring, the RYDS project will begin working closely with a new partnership between CEN and Western Health. Kim Kendell—formerly a coordinator with Community Youth Network-- has accepted a position as Youth Early Intervention and Outreach Worker for the Stephenville area. In this role, she will be providing education, prevention and intervention support for area youth around issues of substance abuse and mental health.

OTHER PROGRAMS AND SERVICES

Adult Basic Education Level I

The Community Education Network is currently the sponsor of four ABE Level I programs. Two programs in Stephenville and one at Cape St. George on the Port au Port Peninsula are classroom based. The fourth is a Level I ABE computer based e-learning pilot located on the Northern Peninsula.

Skills Link

In partnership with Service Canada, the Community Education Network has been facilitating Skills Link programs for a number of years. Over the past few years, the program has been running at multiple sites within the Bay St. George region.

Families and Schools Together (FAST)

CEN has been facilitating the Families and Schools Together (FAST) program since 2004. The organization sponsored the first Elementary FAST program in the province at Lourdes Elementary and , in December 2010, its fourth cycle of the 8 week program at Stephenville Primary.

Strengthening Families

In partnership with Western Health, the Community Education Network is currently facilitating a Strengthening Families pilot project for families in the Bay St. George region. Strengthening Families is a 14 week family based program being facilitated with the support of Stephenville Primary.

Car Seat Safety

Under the direction of the Community Action Committee, a number of staff have been trained as Car Seat Safety Technicians. Regular car seat clinics are booked as well as individual installations and information sessions.

Southwestern Coalition to End Violence

The Southwestern Coalition to End Violence is committed to facilitating a collaborative partnership between community groups, government agencies and interested individuals to promote safe, peaceful and healthy communities throughout the Southwestern Region of Newfoundland.

Community Education Network and Associate Organizations

LEN MUISE



Len, originally from St. George's, is a social activist involved in a number of cultural and social economic projects. He began his career in the medical field as a Licensed Practical Nurse, worked as financial planner and insurance broker, and was a payroll clerk with a construction company. Len has worked in a number of fields in the mining industry, is a certified prospector and has taught mineral technology and other academic courses at CNA. His other experiences include developing an Aboriginal social sciences curriculum for NL social studies k-12 and working as a Natural Resources Researcher with the Long Range Regional Economic Development Board. Until the end of February Len was the Regional Manager for Employment Services with the Community Education Network and is currently the CEO of two mining exploration companies. Len and his wife Betty have 3 children, 7 grandchildren and plan to retire to Gambo within the next year or so.

COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT READINESS CENTRE / Len Muise

This will be my last submission to the CEN newsletter as I will soon be starting another phase in my diversified career. Please allow me to wear my social activist hat in writing this article. I feel that my 40+ years as a volunteer community worker gives me the necessary insight to scribe this article.

I have been involved in adult education for many years and often point the finger at some obvious shortcomings within the provincial social, economic, judicial and education systems. I often rant about the need for a practical type secondary school diploma program for students not adapting to our current academic system. Often you will hear me complain about policy and lack of suitable employability/social skills programs for adults who have not completed high school.

But all of these important issues are secondary to the need to vastly improve pre-school programming for our young children. This early years period is the singular most important step in developing skill-sets needed by our school children and young adults. Skills learned through early years programming set the foundation for an individual to fully maximize her/his potential and become a valued addition to society.

Every CEN family team member has a responsibility to fulfill CAC's mandate as related to early years programming. I challenge each and every one of you to become more proactive with helping develop an awareness of and programs for those important early years. Our young children deserve your help.

CEN WELCOMES NEW EMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICES MANAGER

We welcome Corey Lomond as the new Employment Assistance Services Regional Manager. Corey has worked with CEN as Lead Counselor for five EAS offices on the Northern Peninsula. Corey has a B.A. in Community Studies from the University of Cape Breton and is originally from Port aux Basques.



Corey Lomond, EAS Manager

OFFICE LOCATIONS

St. Anthony	→	454-3027
Flowers Cove	→	456-3325
Roddicton	→	457-2525
Port Saunders	→	861-3277
Rocky Harbour	→	458-2380
Stephenville	→	643-9805
Port aux Basques	→	695-7755
EAS Manager	→	643-2070

CEN also sponsors the Service Canada, Community Service Site in Port Saunders.

"Despair shows the limit of our imagination. Imagination shared creates collaboration, collaboration creates community, and community inspires community change." Terry Tempest



SHARON PARK

With a BA BEd from Memorial university Sharon began her career teaching at the kindergarten/grade 1 level. She taught in Ramea and Gallants before going back to university to complete Addictions Studies. She then worked as an addictions counsellor, youth intervention worker and a probation officer before coming to CEN in 1996. Here Sharon has worked coordinating programs for children and youth before becoming the Executive Director in 2007. She has been volunteering in the community at many levels and was on the board of Big Brothers Big Sisters for ten years. She is an avid reader and is an advocate of lifelong learning. Sharon loves to travel with her family when time permits.

MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR / Sharon Park

This is a year of celebration. CEN is celebrating great success after 20 years of operation. Although non-profit and located in rural communities, the spirit of our associates and staff, and their commitment to program delivery and social development fills us with a large sense of gratitude and pride.

We are grateful to organizations, partners, staff, volunteers and program participants who have been part of our journey. We have learned so much from our networking opportunities.

Making a meaningful difference in the communities where we live and work is at the very core of who we are at CEN. The facilitation of strategic conversations that occurred prior to the formalizing of CEN allowed people to realize the value of collaboration and the importance of local ownership in social and economic development.

There have been a lot of challenges along this journey of contributing to the holistic development of communities. One main reason CEN has been so successful is because we follow these beliefs: Education is a life long process, Everyone in the community – individuals, businesses, public and private agencies – share responsibility for the mission of educating members of the community.

Citizens have a right and a responsibility to be involved in determining resources and linking those needs and resources to improve their community.

Another reason we have been successful is because our programs are representative of life long learning and include prenatal programs, preschool, parent, parent/child, youth, family centered programs, career development, economic development, participatory communications, literacy and programs to engage seniors.

As we move into the next decade, we will need to be cognizant of the ever changing needs of our communities. Creating networking opportunities and roundtable discussions will continue to allow us to be in touch with and continue to address the needs of individuals. As the journey continues, we must never forget the corner stones of our development nor the principles that kept us grounded and focused in our work.

I want to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has contributed to our success over the past 20 years. From funders, community partners, staff, volunteers and program participants, you all deserve to share in the pride of 20 successful years. We hope that many of you will continue the journey with us and we welcome the individuals that will join us along the way.



*“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”
Margaret J. Wheatley*

MARY BUNGAY-GAULTOIS



As a veteran with CEN, Mary has been connected to many of the growth stages the organization has experienced. In 1990 she was hired to take a lead role in the establishment and management of the province’s first alternative school run by a school board. The Pathfinder Learning Centre (PLC) opened for students in the spring of 1991 under the direct management of the Cormack Trail (now Western) School Board. It, like Mary, has just celebrated its 20th anniversary. In 2000, Mary moved internally to help set up Community Youth Network as a CEN Associate Organization where she remains Program Director. Yes, there was a life before CEN... Recruiter and Trainer with a Calgary based oil company, Employment Counsellor in private sector and several years as an independent consultant. From MUN, she earned a B.A. (Co-op) in Community Development and a M.Ed. in Educational Leadership (Fellow of the School of Graduate Studies). Originally from Lourdes, and now living in Stephenville, Mary has three adult children who grew up with the CEN experience. Just recently, her daughter commented that she had never heard Mary complain about her job. Guess that’s an indication it’s been a good run.

COMMUNITY YOUTH NETWORK (CYN)

Mary Bungay Gaultois, Program Director

In our tenth anniversary year, it’s encouraging to find programs that were introduced early on are still relevant and ongoing in 2011. On November 19, CYN helped Burgeo Academy bring Lifelong Connections to the Grades 7 - 12 students. Also participating in the jam-paced day were Senior High students from Ramea and Grey River. Twenty presenters delivered more than 60 workshop hours focusing on career education, skills development and health and wellness. Learning about courses offerings at MUN and CNA, occupational choices with Career Cruising, Fly Tying from a community volunteer, and the benefits of the Healing Arts, are just a sampling of the 15 sessions that ran throughout the day. This event continues to be a school highlight.

A few skill development offerings for CYN youth may appear out of the ordinary; but, a strong uptake whenever this cost-shared course is offered in Burgeo assures us that CYN youth have determined it is practical and needed. Recently ten members took the two-day Firearms Safety Course delivered by CNA and were proud of their accomplishment.

Some of our smallest and most isolated communities on the south coast have a school-based CYN group. The eight-member group in Grey River have been very active with community building and service events which include school Spirit Days, donating to community Christmas Memory Tree with funds raised from ticket sales, spreading good wishes through Valentine candy grams, and participating in violence prevention initiatives.

After eight years of supporting CYN programming, staff and youth group members bid a fond farewell to Kim Kendell, Regional Coordinator for the Bay St. George area. Starting in 2002 as coordinator the Linkages program, Kim progressed to the Regional Coordinator’s role in 2003 where her enthusiasm for engaging youth in their CYN group, school and community was obvious to all who knew her. From her Piccadilly office, Kim connected with schools from the Port au Port Peninsula to Bay St George South delivering programs, providing information and mobilizing youth all in an effort to create more opportunities for them. In February, Kim left CYN to pursue other career interests. We will miss her hearty laugh, endless energy, and tireless support of the youth in her area. With the knowledge that CYN will always be close to her heart we offer her our best wishes for her continued success.

YOUTH OUTREACH

Hi, my name is Kim Kendell and for 8 years I worked alongside many fantastic youth members as CYN Regional Coordinator for the Bay St. George area. I am excited to say in recent weeks, I accepted a position with Western Health, in collaboration with the Community Education Network, as Youth Early Intervention and Outreach Worker for the Stephenville area. This position is responsible for the provision of early intervention and outreach services to youth.

I will have the opportunity to meet and converse with youth in community settings, educating them on specific health risks, as well as linking youth with services that address basic needs (shelter, food, clothing, health care).

The Youth Outreach Worker (YOW) will also establish and maintain partnerships with youth-serving agencies and community groups. I am currently supporting the Rural Youth Drug Strategy and Strengthening Families Program with the Community Education Network.

To say that I am thrilled is an understatement. I look forward to the challenges of this new position and I'm so pleased to continue working with youth in the area

To contact Kim or to find out more about the Youth Outreach Worker, please call 643-2247.



Kim Kendell, From CYN to Youth Outreach

SOUTHWESTERN NEWFOUNDLAND HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS INITIATIVE

In 2009 the issue of Housing and Homelessness was highlighted by the Community Education Network as an issue that was affecting more and more individuals in Southwestern Newfoundland. CEN hosted a learning event to highlight the issue and has since partnered with community and government stakeholders to form the Southwestern Newfoundland Housing and Homelessness Committee.

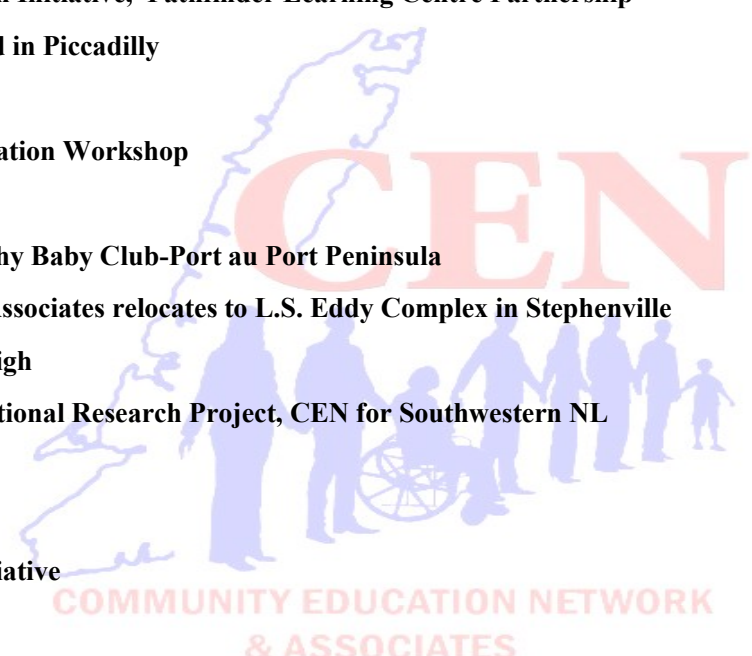
The committee has become part of a provincial network attempting to address the issue and has also facilitated research to garner feedback from individuals and service providers to determine what populations were at risk of being or becoming homeless. Although many individuals and families were struggling with acquiring and keeping homes, those among the most at-risk were individuals with complex needs, displaced youth, seniors, women in less than ideal living situations, and men leaving the correctional facility located in Stephenville. CEN and its partners are currently exploring options to address this very complex problem including raising awareness of local issues in Southwestern Newfoundland. Part of this awareness was the hosting of the CBC Pancake Breakfast, in which funds raised were donated to the Bay St. George Women's Shelter and the local Food Bank.



Various CEN staff take a break at the CBC Pancake Breakfast for Homelessness sponsored in partnership with the Stephenville Lion's and Lionesses to raise awareness of Homelessness in Southwestern NL.

MAJOR MILESTONES

- 1991 Port au Port Community Education Initiative, Pathfinder Learning Centre Partnership
- 1992 1st Family Resource Centre opened in Piccadilly
- 1993 Community Action Committee
- 1994 Sharing our Futures, Work Orientation Workshop
- 1995 Communication for Survival
- 1996 Communities In Schools, 1ST Healthy Baby Club-Port au Port Peninsula
- 1997 Youth Service Canada, CEN and Associates relocates to L.S. Eddy Complex in Stephenville
- 1998 Infant Care Centre-Stephenville High
- 1999 Understanding the Early Years National Research Project, CEN for Southwestern NL
- 2000 Community Youth Network
- 2001 CIRC Port aux Basques
- 2002 Early Childhood Development Initiative
- 2003 Enlarging the Circle
- 2004 1St F&ST at Lourdes Elementary, CERC Stephenville, ABE Level I—Stephenville
- 2005 Engaging Communities, Rural Perspectives on Childcare, Northern Peninsula CERC's opened, 1st Edition of Resource Guide
- 2006 ABE Level I-Cape St. George, Dolly Parton Imagination Library, Southwestern Coalition to End Violence
- 2007 Community Education Network for Western NL
- 2008 Celebrating our Success & Addressing our Challenges Roundtable Port aux Basques
- 2009 Targeted Initiative for Older Workers, WALK Program, Healthy Baby Club-Stephenville
- 2010 Rural Youth Drug Strategy, Housing & Homelessness Initiative
- 2011 Strengthening Families, Happy Tots Preschool, Healthy Baby Club-Port aux Basques



**Spring 2011
Special Edition**

Celebrating
20
Years



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Sharon Park,
Executive Director
P.O. Box 5600
Stephenville, NL
A2N 3P5

Phone: 709 643-4891
Fax: 709 643-5490
E-mail: tcen@nf.aibn.com
Website: communityeducationnetwork.ca

CEN REFLECTIONS

BY MARK FELIX, CHAIRPERSON



It is hard to believe that 20 years of community education work has already passed for our region. It seems like yesterday, when as a new development coordinator with the Port au Port Economic Development Association, I was discussing youth employment opportunities with Peter Doyle from the school board and Gerald Smith, Lourdes Elementary Principal and chair of the development association. Of major concern at the time were the unacceptably low school retention rates - 50-60% of students who started school did not finish their high school education. Early discussions identified the need to introduce new programs that would assist families, youth and schools to improve retention rates and to better prepare children to start school. It became clear that the spectrum for life long learning had to be adopted by schools. This would allow them to deal with the many barriers and challenges of ensuring youth had a good experience in school and that the transition from school to post secondary or workplace was successfully accomplished. In my reflections I will explore the partnerships, the economic benefits and the challenges that still remain as we continue to expand our programs and services.

The Community Education Network's early approach was to identify government departments and/or agencies with a mandate to assist youth and build a network of these agencies. The network would meet on a regular basis to share experiences, information and identify partnerships that could result in direct support and programming to youth and adult populations. Long before partnerships became a way of doing business CEN was leading the province in building and maintaining key partnerships at both the local, provincial and national levels. The initial managers had front line decision making power, which contributed to effective response to service delivery and flexibility in supporting new programming opportunities. After a year or so it became apparent that CEN required the services of a full time employee to plan and implement CEN services and programs. Ms. Beverly Kirby became the first employee of CEN in an executive director capacity and in collaboration with the board of directors began building the partnerships and networks that made CEN what it is today.

Throughout my 20-year involvement with the CEN Executive, many individuals questioned why someone in economic development would be so involved in social development. My response was that CEN grew from one employee to a multi-million dollar business employing, at peak times, in excess of 300 individuals and has sustained itself for 20 years. A majority of this funding has come from government programs that would normally not have found its way to our rural communities. This has had a significant economic impact on our local economy.

The future will provide many challenges to CEN: maintaining strong interagency partnerships as people retire and change positions; securing the necessary financial resources to adequately implement programs in an efficient manner as we move more towards a centralized decision making model in the province and federally; and despite our have-not-status as a province ensuring funds are aimed at providing the best programming possible to eliminate the barriers facing our youth in this new era of high technology and communications will always be a major challenge.

In summary, I would like to sincerely thank all the provincial and federal government departments and agencies who have contributed financially to our organization during the past twenty years; the individuals who volunteered to hold CEN executive positions during the past twenty years; to Sharon, her leadership team and all CEN staff for their vision and commitment to our organization. Finally, to all the individuals and families who have participated in a CEN program and had the courage and conviction to change their situation and make a better life for them, their families and our communities.

Congratulations on a Job Well Done !!