

First Community Engagement Site Council Formed in Cremona

June 5, 2008: A diverse group of residents from the Cremona area have stepped up to form a Council which will lead the development of that area's Community Engagement Site.

Cremona is the first of 12 Community Engagement Sites that will be formed throughout Central Alberta in communities served by the Community Learning Campus. The Community Engagement Sites (CES) will provide a close-to-home location for people of all ages to access learning and business tools. Some people may use the CES to take a class for pleasure, while others might build their professional skills through post-secondary courses for credit. Many people will use the SuperNet to support business applications. The role of the CES Council will be to create a local priority of programming and an approach to services, so that residents can best benefit from the array of learning and business opportunities provided through each CES.

"The entire Council is enthusiastic about the CES and the endless places we can go with this in our community," said Tammi Henke, a resident of Water Valley. "It feels like a very progressive group that is prepared to hit the ground running, because we all believe the CES will make a huge impact in this community."

The eight-member Cremona CES Council includes representatives from the local school, local health agencies, the library, community groups, the business community, and Village Council. Henke provides yoga instruction, is a small business owner and has children in the local school. She feels each aspect of the community will be enhanced through the CES.

"This area is becoming a sort of bedroom business community, where many local residents work here but are affiliated with a larger business in the city. It costs my husband \$38 to drive to Calgary each time he needs to meet with his business colleagues, for instance. What if he could meet here at the CES and work on a quote through SMART technology, saving the company money while accomplishing the same thing.

"And with my yoga classes, I am even thinking that I could service a larger community by providing instruction through the CES. The people who don't want to travel in the winter, or seniors who find it difficult to leave their homes, could still access my classes and not compromise their health routine. With the price of gas, many people will be looking to the CES for many different services."

As they work to establish the CES, the Council is also looking to hire a part time Cremona CES Program Coordinator in August. For a full listing of the Cremona CES Council, or for details on future Community Engagement Sites, visit www.communitylearningcampus.com. This project is funded through Rural Alberta's Development Fund.

"Everyone is very excited with this first Council being formed," said Allan Tarnoczi, Community Engagement Site Project Manager. "One of the amazing things with this group is the wide range of people and interests represented. I think the area of Cremona will be well-served by this Council and that this CES site will benefit all residents of the community."

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