

Rural Alberta's Development Fund Presents a Special Recognition Certificate at the Cremona Engagement Site

For immediate release: June 4, 2009 – Officials from Rural Alberta's Development Fund today presented a Special Recognition Certificate to representatives from both the South Central Rural Alliance and the Community Learning Campus at the Cremona Engagement Site.

Rural Alberta's Development Fund has provided \$2.5 million to support the “**Finishing the Dream**” project. This project will result in 12 south central Alberta communities gaining access to Alberta's SuperNet through Community Engagement Sites (CES). The project is being implemented by the South Central Rural Alliance, which is composed of area municipalities and educational institutions. The Rural Alberta's Development Fund contribution includes \$1 million to support the “**Olds Extended Community Engagement Site**” project.

“We are very pleased with the results to date with the “Finishing the Dream” project,” remarked Bob Clarke, Chair of Rural Alberta's Development Fund. “This Cremona Engagement Site is a shining example of a rural community's ability to make maximum use of Alberta's SuperNet.”

To be established over a three year period in the communities of Bowden, Delburne, Elnora, Spruce View, Benalto, Carstairs, Cremona, Red Deer, Didsbury, Innisfail, Sylvan Lake and Sundre, the CES will be linked to a hub in the Bell e-Learning Centre located on the Olds College campus.

“The South Central Rural Alliance is proud to have pulled together a group of like-minded organizations to build rural community capacity through the Finishing the Dream project,” remarked Dot Negropontes, speaking on behalf of the South Central Rural Alliance. “We would like to acknowledge Mountain View County as the lead organization and agent for the project.”

“The Village of Cremona is so pleased and, indeed, fortunate to have this state of the art Engagement Site located in our community,” remarked Larry Steeves, Mayor of the Village of Cremona. “The series of program offerings are being well received by our citizens.”

The Community Engagement Sites are a place where communities can access broadband technology, learning applications and support. Rather than traveling to a major centre to access opportunities, rural residents from students to seniors, business and industry owners and workers, and First Nations members, will be able to connect to services over the SuperNet.

“As of today, we have four fully operational Community Engagement Sites in Bowden, Cremona, Delburne and Sundre,” said Jackie Swainson, a member of the Governance Team of the Community Learning Campus. “We are very appreciative of the investment by Rural Alberta's Development Fund. I am pleased to report that the planning phase is almost complete for the sites in Elnora, Penhold and Spruce View.”

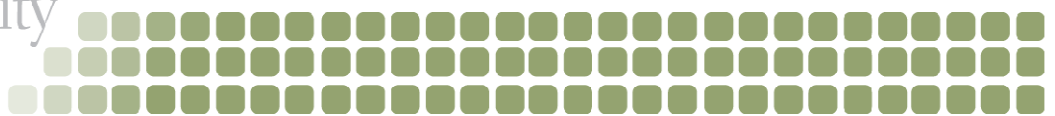
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