

Northern Sharing



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Through meaningful partnerships with communities affected by the economic and social conditions in Saskatchewan's North, we are working together to create knowledge that can be mobilized into actions leading to positive change.

An update on the “Building Northern Capacity through Entrepreneurship” project

Since our last newsletter we have been very busy working with Northern Saskatchewan Communities to jointly learn more about their capacity to continually improve social and economic conditions for their populations. Our work is being conducted **by and for** northerners in the continuing effort to help communities build better futures for their residents. We are particularly grateful to our friends in Pinehouse, Fond du Lac, Buffalo Narrows, and Ile a la Crosse who welcomed us so warmly as we visited your communities.

As always, Pinehouse welcomed us with open arms where we met with high school students and community members there this fall. The videos that the students made and the photos that community members took formed the basis for a presentation we delivered in Ottawa in June. That production will be expanded with new videos and photos from other communities this fall and winter in preparation for the traveling exhibition we have planned for mid-2016. At that time we intend to travel to several of your communities to share what we learned during our northern community visits.

Thank you also to our friends in Fond du Lac who welcomed us so warmly on such a cold day when we met with students from that community in preparation for our return visit there this fall. Some of our research team also went to Buffalo Narrows and Ile a la Crosse to meet members of your communities. We look forward to seeing you in the fall and winter as we visit your schools and communities.

This summer we are working on making the arrangements to visit a total of nine communities this fall and winter. We'll see you soon!

Our research team wishes to acknowledge the wild fire challenges facing the people and communities in our north that we so deeply care about. Our thoughts are with our friends and neighbours as you work toward protecting and regaining your livelihoods in your home regions.



What we are learning

We are looking forward to sharing with each of the ten communities we are working with – and with other interested communities in the north – what we have heard from northern youth regarding their aspirations for the future. We will have video presentations from each community to share with you after our visits along with a more comprehensive video summarizing what we learn from all 10 communities. So far we have heard from the youth that they value traditional ways of life, perhaps to a greater degree than adults in their community think. We are also learning about the nature of entrepreneurship in the north in general and in the communities we are working with in particular. We expect by next summer that we can report some interesting and perhaps surprising patterns and characteristics of entrepreneurship in the north that can, in turn, help northerners make stronger cases for support and perhaps even for legislative changes that can help all communities.



Our Ottawa Presentation

On June 5th members of our project team attended the annual conference of the Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences. We presented information on our project and highlighted what we learned Pinehouse. In particular we shared the video that JD Bell, one of our team members, put together from the videos recorded by the high school students in Pinehouse and from the pictures taken by community members. Those in attendance told us that they now have a better understanding of the goals, desires, challenges, and opportunities in the north.

Do you know

... that the online *Northern Saskatchewan Business Directory* is a wonderful resource you can use to find businesses in your community and throughout Saskatchewan's north. Use this website to access the directory: <http://www.northernbusinessdirectory.ca/>.

Our Project Team

In our last newsletter we listed the members of our project team that work at and through the University of Saskatchewan. We will profile some of these team members in future newsletters, but for this publication we wanted to stress that our larger team is really made up of a growing number of you from our northern communities who want to work with us to discover new and important information about social and economic development in the north. By this winter we will have visited 10 communities to learn what kinds of futures community members, including the youth, want for their home regions – and what capacities the communities have to achieve these goals. To learn more about how this project can help your community, please contact us.

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