



October 13, 2009

## Slave Lake hosts annual consultations for North Zone

### ***Region provides input for Child and Family Services Authority Business Plan***

*Slave Lake...* Almost a dozen representatives of organizations from Athabasca, Slave Lake, Rochester, Wabasca and points in between met at the Holiday Inn Express in Slave Lake on Wednesday October 7<sup>th</sup> to provide valuable insight in the area for the North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) 2010-2013 Business Plan.

Those in attendance included MLA Pearl Calahasen and representatives from: Athabasca FCSS, Athabasca Parent Link, Morrison Youth Care, Bigstone Youth Department, M.D. of Opportunity, County of Athabasca, Alberta Health Services - Addiction Services, the Town of Slave Lake, Mistassiniy School, Slave Lake Friendship Centre, and several others.



*Pictured above: Working groups partake in a brainstorming session*

Conversation included topics such as addictions, transportation, housing, childcare, integration of services, violence, socio-economic issues, parenting skills and the change in family dynamics and culture. Participants first identified issues within their communities and worked together to provide possible solutions.



“I was very pleased with the feedback provided by our community partners,” says North Central Alberta CFSA Aboriginal Co-Chair, Audrey Franklin. “Each person present brought with them unique experiences and diverse skill sets. There was a lot of positive discussion about what is working and what can be done when dealing with the most vulnerable children, youth and families in our communities.”

The consultation was the second of a series of four that are held in the Region every year. Once the information has been gathered from community partners, the feedback will be used to help develop the 2010-2013 Business Plan.

The North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority is one of 10 such Authorities in the province. It delivers a wide range of services and programs to keep children and youth safe and strengthen families. The Authority serves a rural, culturally diverse region with nearly 140 communities, literally stretching from border to border (Saskatchewan to British Columbia). There are 14 school divisions, 38 Family and Community Support Services (FCSS) districts, 4 Métis Settlements, and 5 Delegated First Nations Agencies within its boundaries.

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**Media inquiries may be directed to:**

Charity Wallace, Communications  
North Central Alberta  
Child and Family Services Authority  
780-305-2439

To call toll-free within Alberta dial 310-0000.