



September 30, 2009

St. Paul hosts annual consultations for East Zone

Region provides input for Child and Family Services Authority Business Plan

St. Paul... More than 25 organizations from Lac La Biche, St. Paul, Bonnyville, Cold Lake and points in between met at the Mannawanis Native Friendship Centre in St. Paul on Thursday September 24th to provide valuable insight in the area for the North Central Alberta Child and Family Services Authority (CFSA) 2010-2013 Business Plan.

Partners that attended included representatives from: Lac La Biche County, Town of Bonnyville, Alberta Health Services, St. Paul Education, Bonnyville Friendship Centre, Cold Lake First Nations, Elizabeth Métis Settlement, Catholic Social Services, Portage College, Bonnyville Victims Services, Native Counselling Services, County of St. Paul FCSS, and several other.



Pictured above: one of four working groups partake in a brainstorming session

Conversation included topics such as integration of services, violence, child care, addictions, socio-economic issues, 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 first 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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