



**STRATEGIC
SOCIAL PLAN**
NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

SSP Connections

a bulletin about the Strategic Social Plan

Central SSP region initiatives bring people together

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“The SSP is all about bringing people together to develop local solutions to common issues,” said regional planner Heather Hillier. “The big message from this event is that we have to work together.”

While the *Joining Forces* Project is an important focus this year, the committee also has several other initiatives under their four priority areas: community capacity building, early childhood, youth and research.

The Early Childhood Project, for example, is aimed at helping to improve coordination and delivery of services in the region. Under that initiative, over 80 people working in the early childhood field recently met to network and look at ways they can work together.

The CRSC came together in 1999, the first of six SSP steering committees.

For more information on the work of the CRSC, call Heather Hillier at 709-535-0901.

Communities have a vital role to play in helping to attract and keep professionals living and working in rural areas.

That was the theme of *Joining Forces*, a human resources forum organized by the Central Region Steering Committee (CRSC) of the SSP, with support from Human Resources Development Canada.

About 100 participants from across the region left the forum with lots of ideas,

everything from identifying specific roles that partners play in recruitment and retention, to having municipalities organize welcoming committees.

Participants also talked about the need for better career planning in schools so that rural areas can “grow their own” professionals.

Speakers included Sr. Elizabeth Davis, Danny Huxter (pictured above with facilitator Jim Hornell) from Springdale, and SSP Minister Gerald Smith.

Labrador Opens Door to the North

Made-in-Labrador solutions to the recruitment and retention of professionals was the theme of a conference organized by the Labrador Region of the SSP.

Participants in Opening the Door to the North human resources forum identified a number of strategies including:

- * Regular annual video-conferencing with human resources managers
- * Combining recruitment budgets to develop marketing tools
- * Advertising vacancies in adventure/outdoor magazines
- * Increased career planning and better post-secondary programming
- * Establishing committees in coastal communities that welcome new professionals
- * Hiring a Labrador recruitment/retention specialist

A working group is now looking at ways to implement recommendations.

The SSP in Action - Partnership working for students

Getting extra tutoring help or using the school computer after the last bell for the day, is not an option for all students. Many are bussed to central schools and don't always have a way to get back and forth after hours. So the Central Region Steering Committee (CRSC) launched a pilot project this year to help young people access after school tutoring and other activities. The project provides additional transportation for students in a number of smaller communities.

The CRSC developed the project with departments of Education, HCS, HRE, TCR, and Youth Services and Post Secondary Education. The pilot reflects the SSP's focus on partnerships, building capacity and investing in people.