



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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SSDEC Unanimously Approves 2006-07 Budget for Third Consecutive Year

Council continues to chart sound fiscal course

Fort Smith, NT – At its regular meeting this past weekend in Fort Smith, the South Slave Divisional Education Council adopted its 2006-2007 school year budget totalling \$20.2 million as per the Department of Education's funding formula, with an adjustment for unfunded and under-funded programs. Ann Pischinger, Council Chairperson notes, "We believe the budget decision is fair and equitable to all of our DEAs (District Education Authorities) and schools. We are also cautiously optimistic that the recent GNWT draft budget including greater funding for school boards in the areas of student support and full-time kindergarten will allow us to offer an even higher quality of education program to all South Slave K-12 students."

The SSDEC continues to use a highly decentralized budgeting model, whereby the Council ensures that community-based DEAs have the power to make important funding decisions to meet locally identified needs and priorities. Pischinger remarks, "The vast majority of funding flows directly under formula to our DEAs and schools."

2006-2007 budget highlights include:

- \$16 million for DEAs to directly control how best to spend those dollars
- \$300,000 for technology support to schools and \$200,000 for a regional Numeracy Initiative to be funded through the Council's accumulated fund balance
- \$1.6 million devoted to schools for school infrastructure {fuel, electricity, etc.}, program and staff development, and substitute teacher costs

The decentralized budgeting approach requires that the Council pass a budget early enough to allow DEAs to develop their own budgets and staffing plans so that staffing can occur while there are quality teacher applicants available.

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