



Creating Futures

South Slave Divisional Education Council – PO Box 819 – Fort Smith, NT – X0E 0P0 – Ph: (867) 872-5701 – Fax (867) 872-2150

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Incorporating Culture into the Classroom **Annual In-Service Gathering Highlights Culture Based Education**

Fort Smith, NT – Helpings of moose stew and bannock served with a backdrop of Dene drums and hand games are on the agenda August 30-31 in Hay River at the South Slave Divisional Education Council's (SSDEC) annual staff in-service.

Nearly 200 educators from the eight South Slave region schools will participate in the two-day session, built around the theme of Culture Based Education. Teachers, principals, education assistants and regional office staff will mix literacy and numeracy workshops with moose hair tufting and beading as they learn tips and strategies to incorporate Dene Kede into classroom studies.

In addition, the premiere recipients of the SSDEC's prestigious Excellence in Education Awards will be announced. The award is presented to staff and community members who have shown exceptional commitment and dedication to the education of South Slave students.

SSDEC Superintendent Curtis Brown says he is excited with the theme of this year's in-service. "It is important that the traditions and history of the local people be understood and respected by our education system. When children see their culture and language reflected in and valued by the schools, it increases their self-esteem and chances of success. As well, friendly exposure to different cultures and viewpoints promotes greater understanding and positive relationships between all people."

The two days of staff professional development will also feature presentations and workshops related to mathematics/numeracy, language/literacy and inclusive schooling.

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For more information contact Jayne Murray, South Slave Divisional Education Council, (867) 872-5701 ext 23, or jayne.murray@southslave.learnnet.nt.ca