



Creating Futures

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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SSDEC Unanimously Approves 2005-06 Budget

Fort Smith, NT – At its regular meeting this past weekend in Fort Smith, the South Slave Divisional Education Council adopted its 2005-2006 school year budget 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 and schools. The unanimous approval of the budget shows a high level of support for the decision.”

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. Curtis Brown, the Council’s Superintendent remarks, “The vast majority of funding flows directly under formula to our DEAs and schools.”

2005-2006 budget highlights include:

- \$15.2 million for DEAs to directly control how best to spend those dollars
- \$1.38 million is devoted to Aboriginal Languages/Culture Programs
- over \$2 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 begin staffing while there are quality teacher applicants available. Brown observes, “As quality instruction is an important factor in providing students with the best possible opportunity for success in school, it imperative that our schools have access to the best possible teacher applicants when hiring.”

The next regular meeting of the Council is scheduled for April 9th in Fort Resolution.

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