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Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment

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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**

**May 23, 2005**

### **Trades Awareness Program Partnership Constructed in the South Slave** **SSDEC, Aurora College and EC&E Initiative to Increase Student Exposure to Trades**

Fort Smith, NT – A unique trades awareness program has been constructed in the South Slave. The South Slave Divisional Education Council (SSDEC), Aurora College Thebacha Campus, and the South Slave Office of Education, Culture and Employment have joined forces to develop a *Trades Awareness Program* with the purpose of providing greater information and exposure to the trades and other College program offerings to junior and senior high students in the South Slave.

During the week of June 5<sup>th</sup> -10<sup>th</sup>, this intensive program will provide selected students from across the South Slave with hands-on experience as they rotate through four trades courses, including *Cooking, Welding, Plumbing* and *Carpentry*. The program will be hosted by Aurora College – Thebacha Campus in Fort Smith.

“Typically, because of their small size, schools in the NWT do not have accredited shops, adequate equipment, or qualified instructors to offer trades programs. “ noted Curtis Brown, Superintendent of the South Slave Divisional Education Council. “We believe this partnership is a first step to addressing many of these challenges.”

Although developed primarily with an emphasis on the trades, the program will offer students a snapshot of other programs available through Aurora College from *Management Studies* and *Natural Resources Technology to Teacher Education* and *Social Work*. As Kathy Purchase, Aurora College Thebacha Campus Director attests, “The diversity of course offerings available to these students will allow them to make informed decisions about a variety careers and provide tools and options for furthering their education after high school.”

The partner organizations believe this form of hands-on trades exposure will assist youth in planning for their futures. Sydney O’Sullivan, EC&E Regional Superintendent for the South Slave remarks, “We welcome the opportunities that these partnerships present for providing youth with work related experience, skills development and providing career related resources that are meaningful for students.”

Those junior and senior high South Slave students interested in the *Trades Awareness Program* should contact their school Principal for more information on the selection process.

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For more information contact Brian Leadbetter, South Slave Divisional Education Council, (867) 872-5701 or [brian\\_leadbetter@southslave.learnnet.nt.ca](mailto:brian_leadbetter@southslave.learnnet.nt.ca).