

**Premier's Board of Education Award
For
Innovation and Excellence in Education**

NOMINATION FORM

- 1. School Division:** Tisdale School Division #53
- 2. Chairperson:** Shelley Beaudette
- 3. Director of Education:** Tim Tarala
- 4. Program Nominated:** Classroom Community Connections - Community^{plus}
- 5. Goal of the Program:**

To develop partnerships and promote relationships between and among agencies, organizations and individuals in Tisdale and the surrounding communities. The TSD Board of Education wishes to expand programming for children in the area while engaging the public as partners in the venture.

To make School^{plus} programs an integral part of the overall community development strategy in Tisdale and surrounding area.

To develop school-community joint ventures that will provide entrepreneurial labs and co-op work experiences for students, while providing service to the community.

To expand the ownership of School^{plus} to community organizations in Tisdale and surrounding area.

- 6. Brief Description of how the program addresses the criteria:**
 - a) Board Involvement/Influence/Participation**

The Tisdale School Division Board of Education has entered into partnerships with a variety of agencies, organizations and individuals within the Tisdale community. The partnerships in the Community^{plus} program include the following:

- The Tisdale RECplex – a joint use facility operates in Tisdale as the result of a partnership involving the Tisdale School Division, the Town of Tisdale, Cumberland Regional College and the Regional Health Authority. The facility includes the Tisdale Community Library, health offices and clinical space, regional college administration and adult education classroom space, a 1500 seat hockey and skating arena, a six sheet curling rink with a lounge, a concession, an outdoor pool, meeting rooms, a cooperative daycare, a preschool, an auditorium, a 30 yard rifle and handgun range, and a performing arts theatre.
- The TMSS Welding Lab – the Tisdale School Division Board of Education has partnered with Northern Steel Industries and the Beeland Coop to upgrade the Industrial Arts Lab. Five new MIG welders have been added and 6 new welding booths have been constructed. \$30,000 of extensive renovations was funded through this partnership, including upgraded ventilation and electrical systems. The lab

opened in September of 2002 with over 35 students registered in the Welding 10 program. The grand opening of the facility was held on September 26th.

(<http://ensign.ftlcomm.com/education/partners/welding/welding.html>) Discussions are currently underway with the Cumberland Regional College to expand the use of the lab to adult learners in the region.

- **The Student Support Centre – the Tisdale School Division Board of Education has partnered with the Rural Municipality of Tisdale and the Tisdale Credit Union to provide a new location for the Student Support Centre (Alternate School). The RM and the Credit Union have jointly financed the purchase of the new facility at a cost of approx. \$40,000. Possession date is November 1st. Eastern Region 2 Metis Nation has entered the partnership by providing access to a Pathfinders Library and hardware, a computer directed learning program. Other partners in the Support Centre include the Regional Health Authority, the RCMP, Cumberland Regional College and the Department of Social Services. Discussions are currently underway with Cumberland Regional College to expand the use of the Pathfinders Program to adult learners enrolled in basic education programs. The grand opening of the new facility will take place in November of 2002.**
 - **Transportation Salvation – in May of 2002, the Tisdale School Division offered a bike repair service to the community through the Student Support Centre. The project was developed in cooperation with the Town of Tisdale, the Tisdale RCMP, Social Services, the Bike Doctor in Saskatoon, the Community Initiatives Fund, the Saskatchewan Centennial Summer Employment Program, and the Community Mobilization Fund. The idea for the business venture was generated from the involvement of the TSD Board of Education as members of the Enterprise Board in Tisdale, a board designed to promote entrepreneurship in the area. Four at-risk teens were employed for the summer in bike repair and community service activities. Plans are underway for the continuation of the bike repair business and the addition of another business venture in 2003.**
 - **Radio Station Zenon Park – Ecole Zenon Park School and the Village of Zenon Park have partnered in the delivery of a local radio station in Zenon Park. The community benefits from access to bilingual broadcasting of music on a 24 hour basis, and students will benefit by involvement in a broadcasting certificate program endorsed by the CRTC.**
- b) **Innovative nature of the program:**
- **The Tisdale RECplex is a unique facility, which provides significant benefit not only to students but also to community members at large. Community facilities are available to students throughout the school day. Access to community health and post secondary services is also facilitated.**
 - **The TSD has partnered with one of the major industries in the area and the Beeland Coop to provide a welding program. Northern Steel executives recognized the value of secondary level training in welding and TSD recognized the need for a local work force trained in the basics of welding. The Beeland Coop joined in the venture as part of its community building mission. This venture is unique in bringing a school division, a cooperative and a major industry together for common interests.**

- **The Student Support Centre relocation has been made possible by another unique partnership. The partnership, unique to the province, brings together the school division, a rural municipality, Eastern Region 2 Metis Nation and a credit union. Participation in the partnership is focussed on community development.**
- **Transportation Salvation developed as a business through the Student Support Centre. Students were taught Entrepreneurship 30 as a course, with one component being the development of a bike repair business. The business generated income for the school, which was put back into the program. A community service portion of the program involved the donation of bikes to the Support Centre by the RCMP. Students at Transportation Salvation repaired the bikes and donated them to children who were unable to afford bicycles. The bike business operated from May through to the end of August, employing four high risk teens. The student employees also worked at jobs assigned to them through the Summer Employment Centre odd job squad. Community members hired the students, allowing the program to continue through the entire summer.**
- **The Zenon Park Radio station is the only CRTC endorsed radio station operating from a high school in Saskatchewan. The station is a joint venture with the town and will allow the school to offer a broadcast certificate to its students.**

c) Sustainability of the Innovation:

- **By focussing on resources existing in the community and developing partnerships with other agencies, the Board of education is able to nurture ongoing relationships which lead to continued cooperation and the potential for expansion of programming in difficult economic times.**
- **Relationships which have been developed in the business community promote a healthy business sector, which in turn promotes a healthy school system. Partnerships are based on mutual benefit resulting in outcomes unattainable by individual organizations. As School^{plus} becomes the new paradigm in the Tisdale community, services will be coordinated resulting in more efficient, effective and focussed delivery to the community.**
- **Positive news reports about these and other partnerships within the school division have led community leaders and business officials to a new paradigm of thinking. Community^{plus} is the new way of thinking. The end result will be a continued pooling of resources, resulting in an increased financial capacity for the community to respond to local needs.**

d) Cost of the Innovation Related to Benefits Achieved

- **The pooling of resources, which has occurred in the above partnerships, has resulted in the expansion of programming in the Tisdale School Division. This expansion would not be possible without the cooperation of the many partners noted above. This synergy has resulted and will continue to result in expanded and more intense programming for youth in the community without unduly burdening any one agency or organization.**

e) Client Support for the Innovation

Client in this case includes the entire community of Tisdale and surrounding area, in addition to the main client, the students. Student enrolment in the Support Centre has increased dramatically over the past year. Student surveys regarding the summer bike program reflect the positive attitude of at risk youth to the innovation. Interest in the welding program has skyrocketed as a result of the addition of equipment and lab renovations. Thirty Eight students are currently registered in grade 10 welding. Endorsement for the various partnerships has been received from the Tisdale Interagency Committee, the Tisdale Chamber of Commerce as well as the individual agency directly involved in the partnerships. The Ecole Zenon Park radio project has received endorsement by the CRTC.

Parents and students have benefited by the addition of facilities and programs in Tisdale School Division. Use of the facilities, access to the programs and continued support of Community^{plus} activities is a clear indication of this support.

f) Evidence of Improved Student Achievement

All of the Community^{plus} innovations noted above have increased direct access of students to enhanced programming. Whether it be increased access to human services support at the Student Support Centre or increased access to facilities in the RECplex, students in the Tisdale community have greater educational opportunities as a result of the community focus on education. Increased attendance, higher levels of credit completion, reduced crime rate, increased community acceptance of students at risk and greater access to programming are a few of the benefits documented within the Community^{plus} program.

7. Conclusion

It takes a village to raise a child – the Tisdale School Division and the community of Tisdale have embraced this concept by joining together in many unique partnerships and participating in cooperative ventures to benefit the youth in the area. Individuals and organizations have embraced the concept of School^{plus} and Community^{plus}. The end result is an increased capacity of the community to respond to the needs of its youth and to proactively address social issues before they become systemic problems.