

Southwest Saskatchewan Model for Other Region's

The Board of Directors of Community Futures Southwest met on April 15th and motioned to provide financial support and serve as the umbrella organization to the Action Southwest partnership.

“Action Southwest is a strategy that has changed the face of how regional economic development is done in the region and now also in the province. Building High Performance Regions is the new buzz in Saskatchewan and this buzz originated at the Action Southwest table in 2005. The Action Southwest strategy looks at multi-agency partnerships which allows for tapping into a multitude of resources which in turn, results in more improved and streamlined economic planning”, said John Parker, General Manager for Community Futures Southwest and now also President of the Saskatchewan Economic Development Association. “Community Futures is very proud to lend support to the partners of Action Southwest to allow this work to continue and serve as a model for other regions across Saskatchewan”.

One of the founding partners to the Action Southwest strategy, City of Swift Current's Mayor Sandy Larson said, “We are very appreciative to Community Futures Southwest for their support. In just four short years Action Southwest has raised the profile of Southwest Saskatchewan within and beyond our borders as a result of its innovative and collaborative projects. In November, Action Southwest, the southwest region and the city were profiled on the cover of the Western Investor, raising the visibility of southwest Saskatchewan in newsstands all across the four western provinces. There are great things happening in the region and province and this acknowledgement is an indicator of our success. The Action Southwest partnership is going to continue to raise awareness about the greatness of Southwest Saskatchewan and now thanks to Community Futures this innovative work will continue”.

Two of the more recent and innovative projects the partnership is working on is expansion of a 24 hour commercial US border crossing and developing a framework for measuring regional economies. “The Southwest will be the first region in the province to have a framework for measuring and benchmarking the performance of our economy. In February we issued a survey to over 1200 businesses across the region to learn what our business community has identified as barriers to their growth but also what opportunities they saw. The results of this survey will be released in the next month, said Sandra Blyth Action Southwest Regional Project Manager. “It is our partnership that makes us successful and it is difficult to acknowledge the numerous businesses, organizations and communities that partner with us so we use our website at www.actionsouthwest.com to ensure that their support is always profiled, acknowledged and celebrated. It is these leaders who have made Action Southwest so successful”

If you want to learn more about Community Futures Southwest visit www.scfdc.com

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