

Improving Albertans' quality of life

May 31, 2007

Provincial grants to volunteer groups help build a stronger Alberta

Edmonton... Programs for youth and organizations that provide valuable health, social and community services throughout the province are among the 35 recent recipients benefiting from over \$1 million dollars in provincial grants.

"The Government of Alberta, through the Wild Rose Foundation, is pleased to support the many community-based projects and programs that are helping to improve Albertans' quality of life," said Hector Goudreau, Minister of Tourism, Parks, Recreation and Culture. "My sincere thanks and appreciation to Alberta's dedicated voluntary sector organizations."

The maximum grant available for programs or capital projects through the Wild Rose Foundation's Quarterly Grants program is \$50,000. Organizations are eligible to receive one grant in a three-year period. The grant recipients highlighted in the attached backgrounder received funding in the fourth quarter of 2006-07.

A total of \$4.5 million was awarded to non-profit organizations delivering programs in the areas of health, social services and community services in 2006-07. The Foundation also supports training and development opportunities, and recognition and awareness programs for non-profits, as well as provides grants to Alberta-based overseas projects through its International Development Fund.

The grants provided by the Foundation are made possible through the Alberta Lottery Fund. The Wild Rose Foundation received a \$400,000 increase in lottery funding in Budget 2007, raising its total budget to \$9.3 million.

For more information on the Wild Rose Foundation visit www.wildrosefoundation.ca or call (780) 422-9305 (dial 310-000 for toll-free access).

Supporting Alberta's non-profit and charitable organizations is part of Premier Ed Stelmach's plan to improve Albertans' quality of life. Other priorities for the government are to govern with integrity and transparency, build a stronger Alberta, manage growth pressures and provide safe and secure communities.

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Editor's note

: A complete list of grants awarded in the fourth quarter of 2006-07 is attached.

Media inquiries may be directed to:

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Backgrounder

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Wild Rose Foundation grant recipients for 2006-07 fourth quarter

Edmonton... To be eligible for the quarterly grants program, an organization must be legally registered as a society, non-profit company, charity or service club in Alberta for a minimum of one year, and the nature and scope of its activities must be health, social service or community service oriented.

The organization's current cash operating reserves must not represent more than one year of its operating expenses. Successful applicants must also demonstrate community support that meets or exceeds the grant amount requested. Grant submission deadlines are January 1, April 1, July 1 and October 1.

The following are the successful applicants who were awarded Wild Rose Foundation grants from the January 1, 2007 deadline:

GRASSLAND REGIONAL FAMILY AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT SERVICES SOCIETY (BROOKS)

\$50,000

- over two years for coordination costs to create, implement and evaluate a new Volunteer Resource Centre that will service Brooks and area.

LEARNING AND ENRICHMENT FOR AUTISM DISORDERS FOUNDATION (L.E.A.D.) (CALGARY)

\$17,550 -

for technology infrastructure upgrades, to meet organization growth and remote access requirements, that will improve efficiency, network security and stability for staff and client families.

GORDON RUSSELL'S CRYSTAL KIDS YOUTH CENTRE (EDMONTON)

\$50,000 -

over one year for operational costs. The centre provides at-risk youth and families a safe, secure and supportive environment to develop positive social skills and physical well-being.

CALGARY & DISTRICT FOSTER PARENTS ASSOCIATION

\$50,000 -

over one year for the Foster Parent Mentorship Program, which provides readily available support and behaviour management guidance to new foster parents, to help avoid placement breakdowns.

VERMILION ASSOCIATION FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES - FOCUS VERMILION

\$21,081 -

over one year for the development and coordination of local federal surplus accommodation. The project will provide individuals with disabilities access to safe, secure and affordable housing.

EDMONTON INNER CITY CHILDREN'S PROJECT SOCIETY (EDMONTON)

\$50,000 -

over two years to provide a safe and supportive environment for at-risk, inner city children. The program helps kindergarten to grade 6 children build confidence and develop positive social skills.

ARUSHA CENTRE SOCIETY (CALGARY)

\$39,186 -

over two years for project and volunteer coordination to increase civic engagement through community-led initiatives that promote social inclusion.

NORWOOD CHILD & FAMILY RESOURCE CENTRE (EDMONTON

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\$34,888

- over one year for outreach and home visitation services. The program helps strengthen child and family support by building trusting relationships, promoting community involvement and reducing isolation.

GENTLE BEN CARE SOCIETY (SMITH)

\$33,660 -

over two years for coordination and program costs. The funding will enhance services to seniors and handicapped persons that enable them to continue living independently in the community and area.

EDMONTON JOHN HOWARD SOCIETY

\$40,000 -

over one year for the coordination of the 'Victims Assistance Court Program', which provides services to victims of domestic violence appearing in court, including information on rights, safety and risk factors, emotional support and education through the court process.

CALGARY IMMIGRANT EDUCATIONAL SOCIETY

\$50,000

- over two years for operational costs. The Society provides information and referral services to meet the needs of newcomers and economically disadvantaged individuals.

TROCHU YOUTH SOCIETY

\$37,495 -

over one year for the coordination and delivery of youth programming. The Society provides a safe environment where youth can engage in positive activities and build developmental assets that will help them become confident community citizens.

TERRA ASSOCIATION - MEETING THE CHALLENGE OF TEEN PREGNANCY (EDMONTON)

\$24,892 -

over one year for the 'Let's Play Program.' The program encourages young parents in purposeful play with their children and promotes positive interaction and involvement in their child's learning and developmental milestones.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF LETHBRIDGE AND DISTRICT

\$50,000 -

over two years for operational costs to build safe, caring and committed relationships, and implement new strategies to increase Aboriginal and senior mentors to address growth pressures.

THE GEORGE SPADY CENTRE SOCIETY (EDMONTON)

\$33,100 -

for the replacement of worn customized sleeping units in the detoxification unit. New sleeping units will improve comfort for clients suffering the effects of alcohol and other drugs, in a caring, safe and non-judgemental environment.

ASIAN HERITAGE FOUNDATION (SOUTHERN ALBERTA) (CALGARY)

\$50,000

- over eighteen months for the 'Community Capacity Building Project.' The project will enhance civic engagement, cultural competency and organizational development for minority communities.

CARDSTON AND DISTRICT HEALTH CARE AUXILIARY ASSOCIATION

\$35,000 -

for the purchase of a pediatric colonoscope for the Cardston Health Centre, to increase the number and type of exams performed locally and maximize efficiency and time of visiting specialists.

PROSTITUTION AWARENESS AND ACTION FOUNDATION OF EDMONTON

\$28,358 -

over one year for fund development and financial management, to build capacity to create and pursue strategies and partnerships to address sexual exploitation issues created by prostitution.

YELLOWHEAD COMMUNITY SUPPORT SOCIETY (MANNVILLE)

\$22,125 -

over two years for the operation and coordination, of an affordable and accessible regional transportation service that meets the needs of seniors, persons with disabilities and those who are disadvantaged.

BEDDINGTON HEIGHTS COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION (CALGARY)

\$30,826 -

for the replacement of hall and meeting room furnishings and technology infrastructure to increase efficiency and accessibility while enhancing programs and services in a high use facility.

SKILLS CANADA ALBERTA ASSOCIATION (EDMONTON)

\$27,000 -

over one year for fund development and website improvements. The association provides opportunities for youth across Alberta to experience first-hand involvement with a variety of trades, as well as demonstrates the viability and accessibility of trades regardless of culture, gender or socio-economics.

THE FAMILY DAY HOME ASSOCIATION OF LLOYDMINSTER

\$14,023 -

over one year for operational costs and equipment upgrades. The funding will train, support and actively recruit new child care providers and help respond to the need and community growth challenges for quality care spaces that promote children's personal growth and development.

HINDU SOCIETY OF ALBERTA (EDMONTON)

\$50,000 -

for the purchase of tables, chairs, kitchen and hall equipment, to enhance facility programs and increase opportunities for youth and seniors.

BROOKS FOOD BANK FOUNDATION

\$50,000 -

over two years for staffing and operations. Foundation provides emergency food assistance and referrals to Brooks and area residents.

INSTITUTE FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF ABORIGINAL WOMEN (EDMONTON)

\$35,970 -

over one year for staffing to increase internal capacity to deliver educational programs and services that promote, respect and advance Aboriginal women in Canadian society.

ROCKY MOUNTAIN HOUSE AND DISTRICT WEST COUNTRY FAMILY SERVICE ASSOCIATION

\$12,000 -

over one year for operating costs. Association provides cost-effective and wheelchair accessible transportation services to Rocky Mountain House and M. D. of Clearwater area residents.

THE SUPPORT NETWORK - AN EDMONTON SOCIETY RESPONDING TO PERSONAL AND COMMUNITY NEEDS

\$25,000 -

over one year for the 'Walk in Counselling' program, which provides immediate, affordable, accessible face-to-face professional counselling and support to clients experiencing troubling issues or personal crisis.

METIS NATION OF ALBERTA ASSOCIATION LOCAL COUNCIL #1990 OF GRANDE PRAIRIE

\$16,184 -

for the upgrading of office furnishings and equipment to enhance programs and services that promote or address health, education, employment, self-reliance, cultural awareness, social and economic issues.

AFRICAN CANADIAN SOCIETY OF ALBERTA (EDMONTON)

\$12,950 -

over one year for the 'Positive Fundamental Changes in African Immigrant Youth Project, which is aimed at improving youth participation and involvement in the community they live in.

SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF FAMILY VIOLENCE FOR WETASKIWIN AND DISTRICT

\$38,000 -

over one year for staffing. The society provides programs and services that address family violence issues and raise awareness through preventative presentations with community partners.

SOUTHERN ALBERTA BRAIN INJURY INTEREST SOCIETY (CALGARY)

\$34,616 -

for information technology upgrades to improve organization efficiency and the delivery of programs that provide lifelong emotional and practical support to adults with brain injury and their families.

MIYWASIN SOCIETY OF ABORIGINAL SERVICES (MEDICINE HAT)

\$34,400 -

over one year for the development and coordination of an effective volunteer program. The program will recruit, screen, recognize and effectively manage volunteers that help with activities, special events and fundraising.

GAY LESBIAN BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDERED PRIDE CENTRE OF EDMONTON

\$33,280 -

over one year for the coordination of the youth program, which provides a safe place for youth to meet and access resources and support in the areas of health, wellness, employability and education.

BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS ASSOCIATION OF WOOD BUFFALO (FORT MCMURRAY)

\$6,301 -

for the replacement of office technology and furnishings, to improve efficiency and program environment.

LEADERSHIP EDMONTON

\$25,000 -

over one year for operational costs to enhance organization capacity to provide unique learning experiences and networking opportunities that promote and enhance wise and sustainable community leadership.

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