

2013 RCE Saskatchewan ESD Recognition Event: Final Report

Summary

RCE Saskatchewan marked its 5th Annual Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) Recognition Event on May 8, 2013 at the Evergreen Convention Centre in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. Along with a number of distinguished guests from various backgrounds, the RCE celebrated the outstanding accomplishments of 21 groups and individuals who have worked to promote ESD in the province--proving that conversations about sustainable development can engage a broad range of participants. The vast geographic range represented by these award recipients demonstrated that the passion for sustainable development is alive and growing in every part of Saskatchewan while presentations from distinguished guests reminded participants of the remarkable national and global impacts of these local activities. This local to global perspective was a resounding theme throughout the event.

Dr. Roger Petry and Prof. Lyle Benko, RCE Saskatchewan Co-coordinators, began the day's events by welcoming approximately forty participants. Her Honour Vaughn Solomon Schofield, the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan, then made her entrance and gave her guest remarks. Further guest remarks were made by Dr. David Bell, Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University and Chair of Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF) Canada and His Worship, David Trann, Mayor of Nipawin. These two guests represented the national and local perspective of sustainable development respectively. The award presentations followed the guest remarks. Each recipient spoke about their project while a slideshow of their photos played in the background. After each presentation, the recipient received a framed certificate and posed for a picture with Prof. Benko and Her Honour. The morning concluded with a special gift presentation to Her Honour consisting of two books on sustainable development and a hand-crafted walking stick made by a Nipawin artisan. Guests then enjoyed a delicious lunch catered by Gieni's Restaurant. Twenty-two of the event attendees then stayed for an interactive afternoon session called "Connecting the Dots" discussing the innovation that could be achieved for ESD by crossing boundaries, whether political, disciplinary, or geographic. Prof. Charles (Chuck) Hopkins, UNESCO Chair at York University, opened with a presentation about the educational aspect of ESD then Brenda Green spoke about sustainable development (SD) from a First Nations perspective interpreting how SD is understood within this context.. Participants then engaged in group discussions about the opportunities for building relationships and the learning opportunities needed to advance ESD. This concluded the formal part of the RCE Recognition Event.

The RCE appreciates the generous financial and in-kind sponsors that made the event possible. The financial sponsors included the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan (APEGGS), SIAST (that also provided in-kind sponsorship), SaskEnergy, the Co-operators, Sask Water, the University of Regina President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, and the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan. The Town of Nipawin and Cumberland College provided in-kind administrative and event planning support while Luther College at the University of Regina provided meeting spaces at no charge and support for financial activities such as creating invoices and receipting payments. The RCE is also grateful to the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation for promoting the Recognition Event through the *STF Bulletin*, APEGGS for promoting the event in the *Professional Edge*, CJNE Radio for interviewing Prof. Benko and Prof. Hopkins about the event and ESD, the staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Office and Dr. Garth Pickard for meticulously coordinating the arrangements for Her Honour's attendance, and the Evergreen Convention Centre for their great venue.

Overall, the 2013 Recognition Event was a great success. Recipients demonstrated not only pride in their projects but their enthusiasm for furthering their efforts and ESD in general. Representation from various sectors and geographic parts of the province prove that ESD is relevant everywhere. This was evidenced by the range of guests and sponsors who participated in and supported the event.

Event Details

RCE Saskatchewan held its 5th annual Recognition Event on May 8, 2013, at the Evergreen Convention Centre in Nipawin, Saskatchewan. The event was both a celebration of the accomplishments of 21 deserving groups and individuals who promote ESD in Saskatchewan, and also a venue to bring people of various locations and perspectives together to discuss ESD. A recurring theme throughout the event was the local, national, and international contexts of ESD. These contexts were provided by recipients, guest speakers and other participants throughout the morning speeches, recipient presentations, lunch conversations, and afternoon group discussions. The interest in and commitment to ESD was apparent throughout the day as was the recognition of the need to work collaboratively to promote ESD in the province. This celebration was possible through the generous support of both financial and in-kind sponsors (see "Summary" and list below) who, by supporting events such as this one, also show their own commitment to ESD.

Details of Projects Recognized

Organizations involved in the Recognition Event

RCE Saskatchewan is grateful for the generous support it received from a number of organizations including its financial sponsors (see list in "Summary" above), in-kind sponsors including the Town of Nipawin, Cumberland College, and Luther College at the University of Regina, and the event planning committee. The members of the 2013 Recognition Event Planning committee include Lyle Benko, Chris Hudyma, Valerie Mushinski, Roger Petry, Curt Schroeder, and the RCE Event Coordinator, Adrienne Billings. The committee planned all aspects of the event including coordinating the venue and food, sponsorship, creating the certificates, and advertising. The details of the event were discussed at nine meetings between October 2012 and April 2013 with Dr. Petry acting as chair and Ms. Billings recording minutes. A follow-up meeting occurred on June 7, 2013 to discuss the 2013 Recognition Event and to start looking ahead to the 2014 Recognition Event.

Financial and in-kind sponsors were instrumental in the recognition event. Of approximately 30 organizations that were approached in November, eight provided financial support. These organizations included the School of Environment and Sustainability at the University of Saskatchewan, Sask Water, the University of Regina President's Advisory Committee on Sustainability, SaskEnergy, the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Saskatchewan, the Co-operators, and SIAST who also provided in-kind sponsorship.

In-kind sponsors were also generous and provided valuable support. In particular, the Town of Nipawin provided administrative support, information packages for out-of-town guests, and event planning support for the Recognition Event, a pre-event meeting with First Nations Chiefs, and the "Education for Sustainability in Rural and Remote Regions" conference on May 9, 2013 with Recognition Event participants and organized by the North East Saskatchewan Sustainability Team of Action (NESTA). Cumberland College provided similar in-kind administrative and event planning support for the events in addition to organizing the evening wine and cheese reception for Recognition Event participants and arranging for a Nipawin artist to handcraft the walking stick that was given to the Lieutenant Governor as a gift. Luther College at the University of Regina provided meeting spaces at no charge for the planning meetings as well as maintained the bank accounts for RCE Saskatchewan. In-kind promotion of the Recognition event was provided by the Saskatchewan Teacher's Federation who promoted the Recognition Event in the *STF Bulletin*, APEGS who promoted the event in the *Professional Edge*, and CJNW Radio who interviewed Prof. Benko and Prof. Hopkins prior to the event.

A number of guest speakers were present at the 2013 Recognition Event. These guests included First Nations Chiefs and members of First Nations communities, His Worship David Tran (the Mayor of Nipawin), Her Honour Vaughn Solomon Schofield the Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan), Dr. David Bell (Professor Emeritus, York University, and Chairperson of Learning for a Sustainable Future (LSF), Professor Charles Hopkins (holder of the UNESCO Chair at York University), and Brenda Green (First Nations and Métis Education Advisor for the Saskatchewan Ministry of Education). Each of these guests provided a unique perspective on sustainable development and eloquently shared their thoughts and facilitated dialogue on promoting ESD in Saskatchewan

In addition to the financial and in-kind sponsors mentioned above, the Recognition Event would not have been possible without the help of a number of other supporters. The RCE would like to thank Dr. Garth Pickard, Professor Emeritus in the Faculty of Education at the University of Regina and the staff of the Lieutenant Governor's Office for meticulously coordinating the arrangements for Her Honour's special attendance at the event as well as Inspector Lorne Constantinoff of the Saskatoon Police Service for accompanying Her Honour as the Aide-de-Camp. It is worth noting here that Her Honour's participation in the 2013 Recognition Event contributed to RCE Saskatchewan being able to hold the 2014 event at Government House in Regina, a true honour. The RCE is also grateful to Vince Anderson from the University of Saskatchewan School of Environment and Sustainability for helping evaluate the applications, Tim Maciag for his help with

the RCE Saskatchewan website, SIAST for printing the certificates at no-charge and for covering some travel expenses, and the Evergreen Convention Centre for their great venue and supportive staff.

The 2013 Recognition Event was held at the Evergreen Convention Centre in beautiful Nipawin, Saskatchewan. The morning award ceremony, the lunch, and the "Connecting The Dots" session were all held in the Auditorium of the building. Catering was provided by Gieni's Restaurant, the in-house caterer at the Evergreen Centre. Coffee and muffins were available in the morning as guests arrived at the event. Lunch consisted of a choice of two soups and a variety of sandwiches, or a special meal for guests with dietary restrictions. Coffee and muffins were once again available in the afternoon during the "Connecting the Dots" session. Gieni's also provided china for the meal to prevent waste that comes from using disposable dishware and cutlery.

Recognition Award Recipients

The RCE received 22 applications for the recognition awards and evaluated them against specific criteria. To qualify for a recognition award, projects must:

- build capacity for ESD in Saskatchewan;
- educate others (formally, informally, or non formally) about the importance of becoming more sustainable;
- take place, at least in part, in Saskatchewan;
- have achieved significant milestones at the time of the application;
- have not been recognized at prior RCE Recognition events or, if previously recognized, have had further innovations and significant accomplishments since the earlier recognition event.

Twenty-one of the projects met the above criteria. The topics of these projects included energy consumption reduction, recycling, sustainable economies, cultural sustainability, sustainable food production, climate change awareness and adaptation, sustainable infrastructure and physical capital, and sustainable transportation. The complete list of award recipients can be found in *Appendix A*.

Media

On May 1, over fifty media contacts received a release inviting them and the public to attend the 2013 Recognition Event. The CJNE radio station in Nipawin conducted an interview with Prof. Benko and Prof. Hopkins on Monday, May 6, which aired the following day.

Recommendations for upcoming recognition events

At the follow-up meeting on June 7, 2013, the planning committee put forward a number of suggestions for the 2014 Recognition Event. These suggestions included:

- Accepting Her Honour's offer to hold the 2014 Recognition Event at Government House in Regina;
- Scheduling the event in May again if Government House is available;
- Considering video recording the 2014 Recognition Event and posting the video online;
- Continuing the post-event "Think Tank";
- Dedicating a portion of the event to formal education;
- Encouraging greater participation by First Nations (this could be done by dedicating a portion of the event to First Nations);
- Inviting Prof. Hopkins again if his schedule allows;
- Allowing participants time in the afternoon to speak more specifically about their projects and/or seek advice or help;
- Encouraging participation from the Ministry of Advanced Education, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of the Economy, the Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Parks, Culture and Sport;
- Communicating the criteria for the award more clearly in the application;
- Insisting that applicants include pictures with their application. The photos could be compiled in advance of the event into a booklet and distributed to attendees at the event;
- Ensuring the stability of the website throughout the planning of the event;
- Setting the attendee deadline one month prior to the event day; and,
- Having sponsors provide funding for particular aspects of the event such as the venue, the meal, the picture booklet, the certificates, etc.

Importance of the RCE Saskatchewan ESD Recognition Event

There are a number of benefits of the RCE *ESD Recognition Event*. For example, through the Recognition Event, the RCE facilitates bringing together individuals and organizations from different

geographic regions and with different perspectives to discuss sustainable development. This is important as each of these individuals and organizations represents a unique perspective and has a unique set of partnerships and resources that is beneficial to further promoting ESD. Since the first Recognition Event in 2008, the RCE has handed out over 100 recognition awards. With each Recognition Event the RCE holds, the network of people working to promote ESD expands as more recipients are recognized, more financial and in-kind sponsors become involved, more guest speakers participate, more of the public attend the events, and more pictures are posted online. As each of these happen and the network expands, the vital conversations that may not have naturally happened, begin to take place and with each conversation comes a growing knowledge and understanding of the importance of ESD. This networking is an essential aspect of moving ESD from the local to the provincial, national, and global levels.

The networking facilitated by the Recognition Event also allows recipients the chance to discuss their projects in greater detail with other groups or organizations that may be equipped to support or help them. In other words, organizations may meet others that have the resources to further their efforts. For example, the "Sharing Productive Capital" project may allow the various sustainable gardeners to create an inventory of physical capital that they could share or Campion College and FNUC may share ideas to further their efforts in making their campuses more sustainable in ways that are specific to post-secondary institutions. These opportunities may allow groups or individuals to pursue activities that were never possible before, which once again further promotes ESD.

Finally, the Recognition Event allows all participants, whether it is individuals, sponsors or guest speakers, to meet like-minded individuals and gain validation that their work is important and appreciated. This connection with like-minded individuals was evidenced by the willingness of participants to tell intensely personal stories of hardship, loss and victories on their path to promoting ESD. This type of sharing comes only with the trust that these stories are appreciated and respected and that others can relate to these experiences. This year, participants had a unique opportunity to tell these stories with an audience consisting of a number of distinguished guests. This sharing and connecting is one of the most remarkable aspects of each Recognition Event.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the *5th Annual RCE Saskatchewan ESD Recognition Event* was a success. Approximately forty participants attended the event where twenty-one groups including First Nations organizations, fruit and vegetable farmers, academics, school children and teachers, business owners,

and other concerned Saskatchewan residents were recognized for their tremendous efforts in promoting ESD in the province. The interactions and discussions between recipients, guest speakers, the event planning committee and other guests proved that ESD is a conversation that can occur across sectors and between people of different backgrounds. The RCE would like to further expand these cross-sectoral conversations by encouraging greater participation by First Nations, government officials, industry leaders and the public in future events. A number of other suggestions were put forth by the 2013 Recognition Event planning committee to continue to build on past successes and generate new possibilities for ESD in the province.

The RCE was proud to host the 2013 Recognition Event which engaged organizations and individuals including sponsors, award recipients, guest speakers, event planning committee members and others in important conversations about ESD. The enthusiasm, commitment, and sharing of personal stories demonstrated at the event are important aspects to growing ESD in Saskatchewan. The RCE was proud to see the broad geographical range and range in sustainable development topics represented by event participants and sees even greater potential to promote ESD elsewhere in the province. This interest will grow as the RCE continues to hold these events and facilitate the relationship building required for this growth. The planning committee looks forward to implementing many of the recommendations from the follow-up meeting and continuing to develop the networks that will not only make upcoming events an even greater success but ultimately propel Saskatchewan towards a sustainable future.

Adrienne Billings

RCE Saskatchewan Event Coordinator

July 9, 2013



Prof. Lyle Benko, RCE
Saskatchewan Co-coordinator,
welcomes guests to the 2013
Recognition Event



Dr. Roger Petry, RCE
Saskatchewan Co-coordinator
provides opening remarks



Guest remarks by Her Honour
Vaughn Solomon Schofield,
Lieutenant Governor of
Saskatchewan



Presentation by Dr. David Bell,
Chair of Learning for a Sustainable
Future (LSF) Canada



Presentation by His Worship David
Trann, Mayor of Nipawin



Murray Gray accepts a recognition award for Aylsham Fruit and Vegetable Co.



Gwen Evans accepts a recognition award for the U of R Alternative Transportation Initiative



Audrey and Kelly Taylor-Faye accept a recognition award for the Riverstone Studios Straw/Light Clay Workshop



Chief Whitecap and Chief Head accept a recognition award for the Sipanik Territory project



Marla Walton and Morris Sawchuck accept a recognition award for the Habitat for Humanity Prince Albert Inc - Nipawin Project



Laura Stewart accepts a recognition award for Public Pastures Public Interest Group



Dr. Petry and Prof. Hopkins each present Her Honour with a book about sustainability



Valerie Mushinski, CEO of Cumberland College, presents Her Honour with a handmade walking stick



Event participants enjoy lunch catered by Gieni's Restaurant



Group discussion during "Connecting the Dots"

**APPENDIX A:
2013 RCE RECOGNITION AWARD RECIPIENTS
MAY 8, 2013**

- 1. Campion College Relamp Project**
- 2. FNUC - Northern Campus Footprints**
- 3. Fort a la Corne Employment Development**
- 4. Craik Sustainable Living Project - "Fun Just Begun"**
- 5. Historical Sculptures along the Louis Riel Trail**
- 6. Public Pastures Public Interest Group**
- 7. Rainbow Organic UPIK**
- 8. Regina Catholic Schools Oil Recycling Project**
- 9. SaskAdapt Climate Change Adaptation Website**
- 10. Sharing Productive Capital Software Development**
- 11. Saskatchewan Ecomuseums Initiative**
- 12. Davidson School Social Justice Arts Class**
- 13. Steve Rudy Fruit Production**
- 14. U of R Alternative Transportation Initiative**
- 15. Craik Sustainable Living Project World Environment Day**
- 16. Riverstone Studios - Straw/Light Clay Workshop**
- 17. Aylsham Fruit and Vegetable Co.**
- 18. Habitat for Humanity Prince Albert Inc - Nipawin Project**
- 19. Sipanik Territory**
- 20. Twin Lakes Community Planning Association**
- 21. Kitsaki Management Limited Partnership**



RCE
SASKATCHEWAN

REGIONAL CENTRE
OF EXPERTISE
ON EDUCATION
FOR SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT



University
of Regina



A P E G S

Association of Professional Engineers
& Geoscientists of Saskatchewan



RCE Saskatchewan Education for Sustainable Development Recognition Event

Evergreen Convention Centre

300 Evergreen Drive

Nipawin, Saskatchewan

May 8, 2013

Auditorium

- | | |
|-------|--|
| 9:00 | Registration and Reception (Coffee and muffins) |
| 9:30 | Welcoming Remarks by Prof. Lyle Benko, RCE Saskatchewan Co-Coordinator |
| 9:35 | Introduction by Dr. Roger Petry, RCE Saskatchewan Co-Coordinator |
| 9:40 | Arrival of Her Honour Lieutenant Governor Vaughn Solomon Schofield and guest remarks |
| 9:50 | Guest Speaker: Dr. David Bell, Professor Emeritus, Faculty of Environmental Studies, York University |
| 10:00 | Guest Speaker: His Worship David Trann, Mayor of Nipawin |
| 10:10 | Award Presentations |
| 11:50 | Presentation to Her Honour |
| 12:00 | Lunch (Provided) |
| 1:00 | "Connecting the Dots" Networking Afternoon (for those who can stay) including: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Guest remarks by Professor Charles Hopkins, UNESCO Chair, York University• "Indigenous Contexts" Presentation by Brenda Green, First Nations and Métis Education Advisor, Saskatchewan Ministry of Education• Small group discussions followed by large group reflection on ideas that emerge• Topics of discussion include the value of sustainable development, championing sustainability across borders and at all levels, and opportunities with RCE SK |
| 3:00 | Gathering concludes; opportunity to visit Nipawin |
| 5:00 | Wine and Cheese Reception (for those who can stay; Evergreen Convention Centre) |
| 7:00 | Wine and Cheese Reception concludes |