



Grant Workshop Attracts Attention

On June 29th, 2006 a grant application workshop presented by the Community Foundation attracted over a dozen local charities and not for profit organizations to the Heritage Inn at Brooks. The interest was sufficient to even warrant a mention in the Medicine Hat News and was four fold increase on last year. In fact there was so much interest that the Foundation now has a waiting list of participants for the Medicine Hat workshop.

So why is there so much interest? Two reasons really. First the information contained in the workshop is good for Community Foundation applications but also for grants from government departments and other Foundations. Second despite the increased economic activity there is increasing demand on charities to provide services to a growing number of needy and qualified clients. For example at the Foundation we very often receive applications for funding ten times the amount that we have available. Each application is very carefully scrutinized by both staff and volunteers to ensure that a clear need has been identified and that value for money will be achieved if a grant is approved.

Key elements of a good application are:

- F** Each question has been answered in a concise and complete manner.
- F** That the budget relating to the grant is fair and balanced.
- F** That there are clear objectives and a good plan of action.
- F** That outcomes and measurement of success have been identified.
- F** That projects are not too complex – two simpler projects are better than one large complex project.

In addition the best advice is to call the staff at the Foundation and discuss the project with them before submitting the application.

Due to the pressure on resources, unfortunately the Foundation is not able to provide grants to - service debts - provide routine ongoing operational funding - direct political or religious activities – personal or travel expenses - annual fundraising or endowment building campaigns.

But on the bright side just about anything else could be funded.

Grant application workshops will be held in Medicine Hat in late July and August. The next application deadline for the Community Foundation is September 15th, 2006. Applications are available at www.mhcf.ca

For more information about Community Foundation grant applications or any other services provided by the Foundation call Mike Christie or Melissa Frew Wanamaker at (403) 527 9038