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Community Foundation Announces New Staff Members

Medicine Hat, Alberta (May 7, 2009) – The Community Foundation of Medicine Hat and Southeastern Alberta is pleased to announce the hiring of two new employees. The personnel bring a wealth of experience in public relations, member relations, office operations and business management.

Jennifer Thompson joins the Foundation in the position of Community Impact Coordinator. Thompson will work primarily in a community relations and marketing role, coordinating grant cycle activities and playing a major part in the production of the annual *Vital Signs* report.

Thompson holds a Bachelor of Arts from Linfield College with a major in mass communications and minor in sociology. She has several years of marketing and client service experience as a local small business owner as well as valuable communications experience with one of the United States' top PR firms.

“Jennifer’s experience in the community will be a definite bolster to our public affairs,” said Community Foundation Executive Director Mike Christie. “And we hope to use her PR experience and writing skills to further spread the word of the importance and significance of our organization.”

Also joining the team is Lisa Kowalchuk, who is taking on the position of Donor Relations Coordinator. Kowalchuk will assist with maintaining relationships with donors and friends of the Community Foundation. She will also assist with all bookkeeping and budgetary functions, as well as various aspects of fund development within the Foundation.

Kowalchuk holds an honours Diploma in Business Administration and has worked locally in membership services. Her previous experience with volunteers, community members and non-profit organizations will be an asset to the team and her passion for people, community and lasting legacies fit well with the Foundation’s role.

“Lisa will add a new dimension to our donor services,” said Christie. “Her experience in dealing with clients will assist the Foundation in meeting the needs of our donors even better.”

The Community Foundation also announces the recent departure of long-term Executive Assistant Melissa Wannamaker, who has left the Foundation for maternity leave.

For more information, please contact Mike Christie, Jennifer Thompson or Lisa Kowalchuk at (403) 527-9038.