

Welcoming Communities Forum

(Red Deer, March 3, 2008)

Central Alberta Economic Partnership Ltd. (CAEP) is pleased to host a **Welcoming Communities Forum** on **Friday, March 14, 2008** at the **Innisfail Golf Club**. The one day event will showcase the Town of Innisfail's efforts and successes during 2007 in becoming a Welcoming Community. *"We are extremely proud of the work Innisfail has done to assist the transition of their foreign workers"* noted **Mayor Dale Barr**, CAEP Chair.

Dr. Valerie Pruegger will be the keynote speaker addressing the importance of immigration and integration as well as government policy. A **panel** consisting of the government, industry, and a foreign worker who immigrated from the Philippines in 2006 and has recently moved his young family to Innisfail.

The Forum is intended for **municipal and government officials, educators, economic development officers, social planners, business leaders and any other settlement service providers.**

Pat Bidart, Associate VP of Academic at Olds College, headed up the Pilot Project in Innisfail along with **Scott Boyd**, Executive Officer at Canadian Home Builders' Association and Chair of CAEP's Welcoming Communities Steering Committee.

Registration is required by March 10, 2008, for information and to register go to Training and Events at www.centralalberta.ab.ca.

Media enquiries may be directed to:

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Attachment: *Backgrounder & Media Notice*

ITINERARY

Forum Information

- Agenda
- Guest Speakers and Panelist Biographies
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Display Tables

RESOURCES

Toolbox

- Central Alberta Pilot Project Supplement
- Attracting & Retaining Immigrants: Toolbox of Ideas for smaller centres

Immigration and Settlement

- Inventory of Services for Newcomers to Red Deer and Area
- Immigrant Serving Agencies in Central Alberta
- Central Alberta Refugee Effort Committee (C.A.R.E.)
- Catholic Social Services
- Alberta's Official Immigration Website
- AUMA Welcoming & Inclusive Communities Toolkit
- Integrating Skilled Immigrants in the Alberta Economy
- Supporting Immigrants and Immigration to Alberta
- Integration-Net: A Communication, Information & Research Tool
- Going to Canada Website

Immigration and Education

- Olds College:
International Focus
- Olds College:
English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Red Deer College:
English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Academy of Learning (Red Deer):
English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Red Deer International Education Alliance (RDIDEA)
- International Qualifications Assessment Service (IQAS)
- International Education:
An Action Plan for the Future / Linking Alberta to the World
- Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada (LINC) Program
- Coalition for Equal Access to Education:
ESL Demographic Trends

Immigration and Employment

- Alberta's Official Immigration Website
- Provincial Nominee Program
- Temporary Foreign Worker Advisory Offices in Alberta
- How to Retain Your Foreign Workers
- Temporary Foreign Worker Program
- German-Canadian Young Workers Exchange Program
- Cultural Profile Project
- Useful Websites for Skilled Workers and Employers

Acknowledgements

The Central Alberta Economic Partnership (CAEP) would like to thank the Welcoming Communities Steering Committee and the Innisfail Welcoming Communities Committee members for their guidance, expertise, and time commitment to this project. Special acknowledgement is made to the project funders: Citizenship and Immigration Canada and Alberta Employment, Immigration & Industry and the Central Alberta Economic Partnership Ltd.

The Welcoming Communities Steering Committee is made up of representatives from the following organizations:

Welcoming Communities Steering Committee		
Name:	Job Title:	Company:
Scott Boyd	Chair, CAEP Director, Executive Officer	Canadian Home Builders' Association - Central Alberta
Patt Churchill	CAEP Director, Councillor	Town of Innisfail
Dwight Oliver	Alternate, CAEP Director, Reeve	Clearwater County
Jan Underwood	Public Awareness Coordinator	Central Alberta Refugee Effort
Patricia Bidart	Associate Vice-President, Academic Services	Olds College
Cal Dallas	Executive Director	Red Deer Chamber of Commerce
Wendy Klassen	Community Facilitator	City of Red Deer
Kathy Lineham	General Manager	Community Futures Central Alberta
Paul Peters	Executive Director	Community Futures Parkland Area
Donna Stewart-Wood	Regional Director	Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry
Jill Francis	Settlement Officer	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Gregg Braden	Settlement Officer	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Ilona Tothova	Settlement Officer	Citizenship and Immigration Canada
Paul Lindsay	Manager, Health & Safety/Human Resources	Sunterra Meats
Dwight McCulley	Human Resources Consultant	Olymel SEC
Gill Vallee	General Manager	Red Deer Lodge
Dee-Anna Rebryna	Human Resources Manager	Red Deer Lodge
Sherry Cooper	School Trustee	Chinook's Edge School Division
Penny Archibald	School Trustee	Chinook's Edge School Division
Rowena Lunn	Director	Marigold Library System
Ron Sheppard	Director	Parkland Regional Library System

For more information contact:

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CAEP Member Municipalities

Alix	Bentley	Big Valley
Blackfalds	Bowden	Caroline
Carstairs	Castor	Clearwater County
Clive	Coronation	Cremona
Delburne	Didsbury	Donalda
Eckville	Elnora	Halkirk
Innisfail	Lacombe	Lacombe County
Millet	Mountain View County	Olds
Paintearth County	Penhold	Ponoka
Red Deer	Red Deer County	Rimbey
Rocky Mountain House	Stettler	Stettler County
Sundre	Sylvan Lake	Three Hills
Trochu	Wetaskiwin	Wetaskiwin County

CAEP Associate Members

Canadian Home Builders Association
Canadian University College
Central Alberta Career Prep
Chinooks Edge School Division
Community Futures Central Alberta
David Thompson Health Region
Community Futures East Parkland
Joint Economic Development Initiative (JEDI)
Mirror and District Community Development Association
Olds College
Red Deer Advocate
Red Deer Chamber of Commerce
Red Deer College