



STRATEGIC SOCIAL PLAN

NEWFOUNDLAND AND LABRADOR

SSP Connections

a bulletin about the Strategic Social Plan

Avalon Region Consults with Community

Early in its mandate, the Avalon Region Steering Committee wanted to develop a list of priority issues for the region.

After discussions, a review of partner organizations' strategic plans and a retreat, they came up with a list of four strategic directions:

- * **Building community capacity/Community engagement**
- * **Prevention/Early Intervention**
- * **Human Resource Development**
- * **Recreation for all**

Meeting with community was the next step in the process of identifying regional priorities, so in January the committee began phase one of a three-

phase community consultation.

"We're a fairly new committee and very action-oriented," said Calvin Manning, chair of the Avalon Region Steering Committee. "But before we rolled up our sleeves, we wanted to seek input from the community. We wanted the community to validate the issues, identify priorities and help establish solutions."

With phases one and two now complete, Calvin says that people have certainly validated the issues presented by the regional steering committee.

"During our focus group sessions, participants talked about the need to retain our young people, about the need to have meaningful employment, and about

providing better career planning information to young people," said Calvin. "That's just some of what they said. They also urged us to make our consultations count."

The next phase will summarize consultation findings and seek input into an action plan for the region.

"The consultation process will establish our priorities and guide our work as we implement the Strategic Social Plan," says Calvin.

"Though we have issues that challenge us, people here are optimistic about the future. They see a lot of promise for this region."

For more information on the Avalon Region, contact regional planner Jamilee Browne at (709) 227-1322.

You can also email her:

J.browne@thezone.net

Published by the Strategic Social Plan Unit,
Government of
Newfoundland and Labrador

Volume 1, Issue 3

April, 2002

In praise of volunteering

With National Volunteer Week coming up April 21-27, Gerald Smith, Minister responsible for the Strategic Social Plan, extends thanks to all members of steering committees who work to implement the SSP across the province.

"We appreciate your dedication and commitment," said Minister Smith. "I've visited with all steering committees and I see all of you working to make a difference in your communities through the SSP and the many other things that you do." Steering committees have also supported volunteers in communities through seminars, workshops, conferences and other activities.

The SSP in action - Partnership good for families

The Eastern Region Steering Committee has helped establish a partnership that brings family resource programs, including a healthy baby club and drop in play group, to the Musgravetown area. The Vista Family Resource Center has teamed up with the Winterbrook-Port Blanford Rural Development Association to offer family resource programs from the association's office. Local residents also have computer and internet access through a Community Access Program in the same building.



GOVERNMENT OF
NEWFOUNDLAND
AND LABRADOR