



MEDIA RELEASE

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COMMUNITY OF MAPLE CREEK SELECTED FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE FIRST NATION – MUNICIPAL COMMUNITY ECONOMIC INITIATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

(Treaty 4 Territory, Maple Creek, SK) Nekaneet First Nation, Rural Municipality of Maple Creek No. 111, and Town of Maple Creek in partnership, are proud to announce that, we have been selected from a pool of twenty-eight (28) applicants to participate in a **3-year stream of the First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) program for the joint initiative of a Licensed Day Centre and Youth Centre.**

“It’s the first time a small community in Saskatchewan has received the CEDI funding as it usually goes to bigger centres.” said Nekaneet First Nation Chief Alvin Francis. “In June, we signed an MOU with the Town and RM of Maple Creek to develop a working relationship to build capacity in economic development, health, education and work force development. We wanted to join forces to strengthen the quality of life in southwest Saskatchewan. Receiving the funding allows us to move closer to these goals and make them a reality.”

The First Nation – Municipal Community Economic Development Initiative (CEDI) aims to improve the economic prosperity of participating First Nations and adjacent municipalities through joint community economic development planning and initiatives. CEDI is a joint initiative of CANDO and Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM)

“With this opportunity, our community can showcase the uniqueness of Nekaneet First Nation, RM of Maple Creek and Town of Maple Creek, there really is no other community such as ours,” said Maple Creek Mayor Michelle McKenzie. “We have the opportunity to set the example for others to follow by setting aside assumed differences for one common goal, that is coming together for the good of our community – Maple Creek.”

Over the course of the next three-years, we will attend six (6) workshops through the CEDI Program with provided funding, education and guidance for the development of a Licensed Day Centre and Youth Centre for our collective community.

“This is a proven result of what can be accomplished by working together. Leading by example not only accomplishes success for the community today but sets a standard for our youth to strive for and surpass in the future. By setting aside fears and uncertainties and trusting in the common good for our community, we will be successful. We are stronger together,” said RM of Maple Creek Reeve Elden Jamieson.

The first virtual meeting will take place in January 2022 and begin the process for our new community economic development initiative. We are looking forward to sharing the development of this project every step of the way

The community of Maple Creek, defined as Nekaneet First Nation, Rural Municipality of Maple Creek No. 111 and Town of Maple Creek, is located in Southwest Saskatchewan, ideally positioned 30 kilometres north of the Cypress Hills.

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