



GARY TINKER FEDERATION
FOR THE DISABLED INC

NEWSLETTER
SPRING 2010

WHAT WE DO

Identify the special needs of northern people with a disability and create awareness
Gary at 2010 Paralympics
2010 Provincial Budget

Help establish self-help groups
Supported Employment Week
In communities & affect action.
Psycho-Educational Assessment
Help establish a peer support network for people with disabilities.
Annual General Meeting Notice

Work with government and non-government agencies to provide services for northern people with disabilities.

To expand vocational skills and job training opportunities for disabled people

**MAIN OFFICE
IN LA RONGE,
SERVING ALL
OF THE NORTH**



Internet School Makes the Grade

FULL STORY INSIDE



About the Gary Tinker Federation for the Disabled Inc.

- The Gary Tinker Federation is a non-profit community organization open to northern persons, 18 years of age and living with any type of disability
- Established in 1989 to assess and address the unmet needs of the disabled residing in northern Saskatchewan
- Strives to make long term improvements in the lives of the disabled
- Offers services to expand opportunities for its members to achieve vocational skills & job training

The Gary Tinker Federation is a member of:

- The Northern Labour Market Committee (NLMC)
- Northern Human Services Partnership (NHSP)
- Supported Employment Training Initiative (SETI)
- Cognitive Disabilities Strategy (CDS)
- Disability Income Support Coalition (DISC)
- Affiliate member of Saskatchewan Association of Rehabilitation Centres (SARC)
- Program Implementation Advisory Team for Saskatchewan Assured Income for Disability
- Saskatchewan Mental Health Coalition (Saskatchewan Mental Health Association)

Membership:

- Regular membership in the Federation is open to northern persons with a disability.
- Only members of the Federation have the right to hold office and the right to vote.

Become a member today! To find out more call 1-800-365-5508

Box 135 - La Ronge - SK - S0J 1L0 www.garytinker.ca Ph: 306-425-6612 Fax: 306-425-6613

Internet School Makes the Grade

GTF partners to provide online skills training

By Valerie G. Barnes-Connell

The Northerner – March 25, 2010

The Gary Tinker Federations for the Disabled Inc. partnered with the Neil Squire Society to provide online skills training for people in La Ronge, using the Neil Squire Society Employ-Ability program. The Employ-Ability program began Feb. 22 and runs to May 14 with five students - three First Nations, one Metis and one non-Aboriginal. The Gary Tinker Federation administers the program. They gathered funding to cover administration costs including, finding the building, getting computers, along with advertising for students and hiring the on-site program assistant, said Clarence Neault, co-ordinator for the Gary Tinker Federation for Disabled Inc. "There was a lot of administration, each student has different funding, ensuring people met the qualifications and the day-to-day management of the operation." The Neil Squire provided the on-line training the teacher Nikki Lamb, in Regina. Nikki Lamb visited the class in La Ronge March 11, Neault and Lamb spoke with *The Northerner* about the program. Funding for the program was provided through the EADP program of Advanced Education, Employment and Labour; Keewatin Career Development Corporation (KCDC) supplied room, utilities and computer support; Computers for Schools (a program) provided the computers. The Employ-Ability program is run across the country. Along with La Ronge, they have programs running in Regina, Saskatoon and Weyburn Lamb said. We always welcome sites, so if another site wants to join us we welcome them." The program includes: wellness career counselling, resume and cover letter development, interview skills and they learn to use computers. The purpose of the program is to offer "skills to get a job and, in particular, for people who need, computer skills. We work with people who have disabilities or barriers to employment." Founded in 1994, the Neil Squire Society, a national not-for-profit organization, works with

holistic approach to learning. Students work at a self-paced rate and employ professional staff to deliver their programming.

For more information or to start a program:

Call the Gary Tinker Federation at 1-866-365-5508 or contact us through our website at www.garytinker.ca and ask for the Coordinator.

Gary Tinker with a New Team at the 2010 Paralympics

Gary has been selected to be the national representative for the Metis National Council (MNS) and Canadian Council for Rehabilitation and Work (CCRW) federally funded initiative: "Increasing Employability for Metis With a Disability".

Fifteen people from British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Ottawa will meet regularly to develop a resource for counsellors to better serve Metis, and all aboriginal clients, who have a disability.

The first meeting was in Vancouver on March 13th when Gary and the others were able to attend the opening ceremonies of the 2010 Paralympics. Then the hard work began.



2010/11 Provincial Budget

The 2010-11 Provincial Budget provides increased funding of more than \$17.5 million to support the inclusion of people with disabilities in the social and economic life of our province.

- *This budget makes key investments in the areas of disability supports, employment, housing, accessibility improvements and tax initiatives.*

- *These investments demonstrate government's commitment to support the inclusion of people with disabilities.*

Social Services

- \$1.5 million for the continuation of the waitlist initiative for people with intellectual disabilities. In 2010, an additional 52 people will be served through the waitlist initiative. Of the 440 people identified for the initiative, 72 per cent have been provided with support during the first two years of this four-year plan. Services include specialized, residential and day program services, enhancing support for individuals with complex needs and implementing a new approach to day program funding.
- \$3.8 million increase for the Disability Rental Housing Supplement to support an estimated 2,600 people.

Advanced Education Employment Labour

- \$200,000 increase to the Employability Assistance for People with Disabilities Program (EAPD) to provide individualized employment support for people with disabilities.

Finance

- Increase to disability-related tax credit amounts:
 - Disability tax credit – \$8,395 (2009) to \$8,445 (2010)
 - Disability supplement – \$8,395 (2009) to \$8,445 (2010)
 - Caregiver tax credit – \$8,395 (2009) to \$8,445 (2010)
 - Infirm dependent tax credit – \$8,395 (2009) to \$8,445 (2010)

Government Services

- \$3.1 million to improve the physical accessibility of government buildings.

Accessibility upgrades are scheduled for the Legislative Building in Regina, Sturdy Stone in Saskatoon, the Prince Albert Courthouse, and seven other buildings throughout the province.

Health

- \$2.5 million increase in autism funding to support additional service providers for individuals with Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) throughout the province and provide additional respite resources.
- \$2.7 million increase to the Saskatchewan Aids to Independent Living (SAIL) Program.
- \$3.8 million increase for operating funding for the new Irene and Leslie Dubé Centre for Mental Health, which will increase Saskatoon's mental health in-patient facility capacity to 54 adult beds and 10 child and youth beds.

Other Initiatives

- Community-Based Organizations will receive a further one per cent increase, over and above the additional funding announced in both last year's budget (three per cent) and increases in 2008, totalling an increase of more than 13 per cent over the last three years.
- The Community Vitality Program is a new program designed to enhance the culture and quality, accessibility and use of the facilities in communities across the province. The Program also encourages volunteerism and community involvement; engages Aboriginal and young people as leaders in community activities; and improves access and inclusion for those who experience barriers to community involvement. This Program will run over the next three years, funded through the Community Initiatives Fund.



Mural of two canoeists & seaplane Northern Tradition & Transition (2005) by Roger Jerome at Legislature.

Compassion to Action Conference Report - Now available!

The "Compassion to Action" conference report is now available at www.garytinker.ca, or by request on paper or CD - (Ph: 866-365-5508)



From the report:

Declaration from the North

Together we can make a difference — from compassion to action we are all in it together and we are ready, willing, and able to help ourselves and others to a better future. A future in which people with disabilities enjoy the same quality of life as everyone else and a standard of living that is equal to that of others.

A Vision for the North

In northern Saskatchewan, people with disabilities will be more visible, better understood, more integrated and welcome in mainstream society. Our basic needs will be met and we will have a high quality of life. Our families will not be afraid for our futures. We will be more empowered to find solutions to issues, to take advantage of opportunities for participation and our voices will be heard as united. We need to do things in the north for the north — and be our own advocates.

Together we can make things happen and build on this work we have done. The issue will be to maintain momentum and continuity to the process and we are hoping

that the Gary Tinker Federation and all our partners will help to keep things going.

Ten Steps Toward a Brighter Future

The following are concrete goals and priorities that form the basis of an action plan for the north, for people with disabilities.

1. Establish a "centralized resource centre" (a resource hub or central clearinghouse) for information, resources, service & connections for people with disabilities — a one stop service centre with a training and capacity building mandate
2. Seek additional funding for more human resources — helpers, interpreters, care givers and respite workers and for technology to help reduce isolation and disconnections
3. Develop and implement a public awareness campaign related to perceptions and acceptance of people with disabilities (how to include people with disabilities into mainstream life) — and provide more training to improve relationships
4. Provide more treatment services including lifeskills for people with disabilities (many have other issues including addictions and depression in addition to their disability)
5. Increase and coordinate the northern "voice" — develop an advocacy agenda to help people with disabilities to speak up for themselves on matters that will improve our quality of life and standard of living
6. Determine way to improve employment opportunities and encourage employers to hire people with disabilities
7. Improve current conditions related to housing, transportation and health issues and develop an evaluation framework to measure progress and results in these areas
8. Reduce violence and abuse of people with disabilities — zero tolerance
9. Develop a data base of people with disabilities and use it to maintain a constant source of connection and input for people with disabilities (interactive web-sites)
10. Provide support for the newly formed Northern Association for Deaf that was formed at the conference and has started its work as a team.

Recommendations and Next Steps

- Based on the mandate given to proceed, review the notes and determine how an overall strategy might be developed - Action Strategy for the North for People with Disabilities).
- Refine the goals and priorities above and turn them into an concrete Action Plan include the details provided in the action plan basics (table talk discussions) in the notes below as well as the visions drawn on the colored sheets.
- Form committees to work on various action items and develop a Terms of Reference for each committee in order to keep moving forward.
- Each person at the session volunteered to continue with this work, and will need to be contacted to keep connected and to see where they might be able to fit in.
- Prepare a budget and seek funding to create the plans and form a network across the north – structures and role need to be established and a communication plan put in place asap.
- Share contact information from the session so that a network can be formed and people can stay connected to each other and the process as it unfolds.
- Ask the Gary Tinker Federation to provide continuity and support to maintain momentum and to provide leadership to the process.
- Evaluate progress between now and next year so that the conference next year will be about progress made and success stories as a result of this gathering.
- Hold another conference and working session like this next year.

Supported Employment Featured in Month of March

GARY TINKER FEDERATION PROVIDES EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

By Valerie G. Barnes-Connell

The Northerner – March 18, 2010

A series of trainings, information systems and workshops focused on Supported Employment formed the basis for a variety of

opportunities for various sectors If the community March 1 through 4.

Lorri Solomon, of Solomon Organization Sololutions (SOS), facilitated the series throughout the week. She spoke with the Northerner while in La Ronge.

The series began with a two-day Job Coach training geared to teaching staff and career services personnel, featuring “the roles and responsibilities for those who work with people who are looking for work.”

A half-day workshop March 3 focused on talking with teachers and teacher assistants about how “work experience in the schools impacts work once students leave school.”

She led a proposal-writing workshop in the afternoon geared to assisting people to write a proposal for funding purposes.

Solomon talked with employers and potential employers about the benefits, the pitfalls and challenges and changes regarding Supported Employment issues at a Gary Tinker Federation Breakfast of Champions March 4.

She emphasized approaching employers showing them the value a potential employee would bring to the workplace.

Solomon later met with members of the Gary Tinker Disability Sub-Committee, which included issues related to employment and disability and diversity at work.

Solomon takes a creative approach to address employment barriers. She assisted with the development of Best Practices Standards for Supported Employment Programs and a Job Coach Training Program with South East Supported Employment Committee. She also worked with SIAST to develop two courses, Roles and Responsibilities and Intervention for Job Coaches.

The Gary Tinker Federation for the disabled and North Sask Special Needs sponsored the four-day series of trainings and workshops, which were supported by the Ministry of Advanced Education Employment and Labour.



Supported Employment Transition Initiative Psycho-educational Assessments

A psycho-educational assessment is an evaluation that focuses on an individual's intellectual abilities and academic skills.

These assessments are used to determine strengths and weaknesses in learning, as well as help determine how an individual learns best.

The tests assess the following as related to learning: Intelligence, language skills, memory, planning ability, verbal and visual learning, attention / concentration, eye hand coordination, reflective / impulse response style.

The tests also assess academic skills:
Reading (phonetics skills, sight vocabulary, reading understanding / comprehension)
Spelling, Writing, Mathematics,
Academic fluency (speed of reading, writing, calculating)
Listening comprehension, and oral verbal expression.

A psycho-educational assessment takes about five hours of testing time. Interviews with others are out; all the aspects of the testing, Whenever possible, the report is followed up with a formal meeting between the referring agency and the client.

Sometimes it is used to help provide some of the required information. Within approximately one week, a report that sets and provides recommendation is written.

Confidentiality is adhered to in the assessment and report release. Copies are given to the client, the referring agency, the government agency that pays for the assessment (EAPD), and with permission to educational institutions.

The agency that conducts the psycho-educational assessment is Powell & Associates Human Services, located in Prince Albert (306) 763-7057.

Keith Powell is a registered psychologist in Saskatchewan and a member of the Canadian Psychological Association.

Staff of the Gary Tinker Federation

- **Clarence Neault** – Coordinator
Phone: (306) 425-4374
E-mail: c.neault@sasktel.net
- **Randy Stomp** – Vocational Counsellor
Phone: (306) 425-4373
E-mail: r.stomp@sasktel.net
- **Rachelle Worobey** – Administrative Assistant
Phone: (306) 425-6612
E-mail: garytinker@sasktel.net

Board Members

Max Morin – Chairperson,
Ile a la Crosse, Ph: 888-4742, Cell: 716-1716
Gary Tinker – Vice-Chairperson,
Pinehouse, Ph: 884-4942, Cell: 425-9855
Clinton Carriere – Second Vice Chairperson,
Cumberland House, Ph: 888-4725
Calvin Laliberte – Board Member,
Green Lake, Ph: 380-2669
Shane Delaney – (Secretary Treasurer),
Air Ronge, Ph: 425-5933
Noah Ballantyne – Board Member,
Pelican Narrows, Ph: 425-4796

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Gary Tinker Federation for the Disabled Inc

9:00am - Saturday June 12th, 2010

**Ramada South Hill Inn – Main Floor
3245 2nd Ave. W. - Prince Albert SK**

Agenda will include - but is not limited to:

- **Election: Board of Director vacancies**
- **Election of Officers vacancies**
- **By-Law / Constitution amendments**

POSTING: There will be public notices of the Annual General Meeting posted in the north a minimum of 4 weeks in advance of the June 12th, 2010 date.