

## Community school idea to be developed in Regina

The provincial government and Regina's two school boards have agreed on a community schools program to improve the quality of education and community life in the city's inner area.

The agreement to develop two public and three separate schools as community schools during the 1980-81 school year was announced in a news release by Education Minister Doug McArthur, Urban Affairs Minister Walter Smishek, board of education chairman Mary Hicks and separate school board deputy chairman Mike Riffel.

The public schools involved are Connaught and Kitchener. The three separate schools are Sacred Heart, Holy Rosary and St. Michael's.

The agreements, similar to ones drawn up in Prince Albert and Saskatoon earlier this fall, provide for special financing from the department for each school board. Each will receive about \$190,000 to operate the program during this school year.

The agreements provide for extra staff and resources to promote greater access to and involvement by parents in the schools, which have relatively large numbers of native students.

They also provide for more support for inner-city children in the classroom and more understanding between school and community.

Each community school will have a co-ordinator and community teaching associates working to involve parents in the school program making the school more relevant for students and parents.

The co-ordinator will promote involvement of neigh-

borhood residents, in the school and work with local agencies and social services to improve community life.

The teaching associates will bring their understanding of the community into the classroom, assisting teachers with instruction and preparation of resource materials.

The program also provides for the setting up of community school councils of parents and school staff, the news release said. The council could have a say in such things as school policy, curriculum development projects and new school staff orientation programs.

The program provides money to participating school divisions for local curriculum development projects at the school level. This will allow for "innovative, grass-roots" curriculum development projects like involving students, parents and local resource people in researching and publishing material suited to

the particular needs of the school.

The community school concept includes development of such other activities as increased community use of school facilities, local residents' involvement in classroom and other school programs, community-based adult education programs and promotion of local neighborhood development projects.

McArthur and board representatives said they were pleased with the participation of a number of community organizations, native groups and local parishes in drafting the agreements.

They said these groups' continuing participation will be instrumental in developing the community schools program.

McArthur said he believes the program will enhance and strengthen inner-city neighborhoods, reducing the alienation from social institutions which so many inner-city people feel.

## Program proposals

A committee representing parents of French immersion students attending Regina public schools has drawn up a list of suggested improvements for the program.

The suggestions, presented to the board at a public meeting at Campbell Collegiate Wednesday night, include among other things:

- Improving access to French immersion for parents throughout the city by increasing the number of schools offering the program and providing "proper transportation" to those schools.

- A thorough, extensive and objective evaluation of parents and teachers in the program.

- In-service training, including an upgrading program for teachers.

- The department of education providing more curriculum materials.

- More hiring of teachers in Quebec and Ontario, where French immersion teachers are available.

- Providing French immersion programs suited to children with special needs, including those needing enrichment or having learning difficulties.

- Hiring a bilingual consultant for the program with time to spend on the task and closely involved with the board in planning.

- Improved communication between the board and parents of French immersion students.

## French immersion supported by parents

By Matt Bellan  
of The Leader-Post

Parents and the Regina board of education have expressed confidence in the board's French immersion program.

The show of support came during a sometimes stormy meeting at Campbell Collegiate Wednesday night that included attacks on the board, the media and critics of the program.

About 130 people, including parents of French immersion students, the staff of Massey School, the board and others attended.

A committee representing parents of immersion students at Massey, Connaught and Sherwood Schools, the three public schools offering French immersion, organized the meeting.

Harvey Linnen, chairman of the committee, said it decided to hold the meeting partly to outline to trustees major areas where improvements can be made in French immersion.

But the main reason for holding it was to let the board know the majority of parents of French immersion students support the program, he said. This follows alleged recent attacks on it by a smaller group of parents.

The board held a series of closed meetings with critics of the program during October and November, Linnen said. Those attending included, among others, a former teacher in the program with personal concerns "involving criticism of the teaching staff at Massey."

"We're concerned you're hearing too narrow a view. You listen to criticism, not to support."

Linnen criticized the board for holding closed meetings, saying they lead to suspicion and distrust by those excluded.

He also criticized a L last week reporting mis immersion teachers on handed out to students.

The story gave several the mistakes and offered sions. But Linnen said the corrections themselves

"If all our work was day, you would find r work...The old argument find some errors in worksheet you can pro inadequate is false and

The school conducts a ized tests showing st French immersion pro average or above aver Teachers hired for the program also have above fications.

Regina board of educ Mary Hicks denied Linm the board invited parent program to a closed m Ron Hikel, one of the p asked for the meeting in board.

"As far as the articles in the press, why, we w as everybody, but you c press."

There were repeated i Hicks continued speaking of the audience demande placed by a more neutra

Trustee Les Hammon calm. "We can't do busin standing up and yelling want to stay if you can't

Calm returned. At an ber's suggestion the bo bers of the audience held dence in the French im

## Provincial water expert dies

Funeral service for Sam Stan of Regina, a long-time employee of the provincial department of the environment, was held today in Lakeview United Church.

Stan began work with the provincial department of natural resources in 1945 before moving to environment. He was known throughout the province for his knowledge of water management.

He served 18 months in the armed forces during the Sec-

ond World War

Stan was predeceased by his mother Mary, father Henry, sister Mary and brothers John and Bill. He is survived by his wife, Mary Lou, a daughter, Carole of Regina; two sons, Ron of Regina and Bob of Calgary; three sisters, Eva Stent of Calgary, Betty Petrar of Regina and Elaine Patterson of Raymore and three brothers, Steve of Dyshart, Nick of Ottawa and George of Cupar.

TONIGHT AT 7:30



Shragge's  
Journal

'THE MINUTEMAN  
NEXT DOOR'

An exclusive look at the nuclear missile installations near Minot, North Dakota



# THE NEW CIVIC 5 EXTENDED THINK EXPANDING FAN

As far as we know there's driver's seat. You are now