

# **SHINING MOUNTAINS LIVING COMMUNITY SERVICES**

## **2009/2010 Annual Report**

**December 11, 2010**

### **Summary of Main Activities**

As in years previously Shining Mountains Living Community Services continues to operate without real designated core funding. The agency functions with project funding. This year however, the agency received some funding from Alberta Community HIV/AIDS Fund to operate the Community Capacity Building program. Although this funding is not core funds, it has the opportunity to become ongoing funding, based on agency performance. SMLCS also secured a grant from Public Health Agency of Canada to begin the Messengers project, an initiative that was originally applied for in 2008. The agency received a contract of \$200,000 for the year (October 2010 to October 2011). At this time Shining Mountains is the only aboriginal AID organization funded by both the province and the federal government. The agency is currently waiting on a decision from Public Health Agency of Canada for funds that would allow us to offer cultural knowledge capacity development activities throughout the province.

### ***HIV/AIDS***

**Capacity Building** – this project is currently funded at a minimal level, by ACHF. This project allows a staff member to provide cultural knowledge and support to ACCH members. It will be reassessed in March to determine if funding will continue.

**Messengers** – this project has been funded since October 1<sup>st</sup>, by Public Health Agency of Canada. The end result will be a Métis specific tool kit for use by front line staff, to help address HIV/AIDS in our Métis communities and homes.

### ***Housing***

**Tawow** – (Homelessness Initiative) The residential 8 bedroom house is located at 181 Grieg Drive, in Red Deer and is owned by the agency without a mortgage. Given that the house has no staffing funds to operate it as a supportive staff home, the house has been offered as a general rental home for a single family and is currently in use. It has been repainted throughout but could definitely use some maintenance, so the agency is looking for grants to accomplish this.

**Second Steps** – Another homelessness initiative, this project received a grant of one million dollars towards the purchase of a 12 unit apartment block, primarily for Aboriginal women with or without children, who are in the process of stabilizing their lives, returning to educational facilities or programs or beginning work related activities. The apartment block is affordable housing and is full with a wait list of 5. Currently, the apartment is full, with 3/4 of the

units being occupied by tenants needing affordable housing. There are some outstanding rental arrears which involved tenants have made voluntary commitments to bring up-to date.

**Multi- Sites** –part of the housing initiatives undertaken by SMLCS, became a reality May 1, 2010. The funding was obtained through a successful grant application made to the provincial government which allowed the purchases of two 4 plexes to be used as affordable housing. This housing initiative is fully occupied; one of the units has been successfully modified for wheelchair accessibility.

### ***Additional Work***

**Helping Hands** – has morphed into the SWAN PACKS program and is funded through a MAC AID grant. This current change will allow participants to increase their own ability to prepare meals for themselves and utilize to a greater extent the dry foods available from the Food Bank. We are still able to offer diabetes testing through the provision of equipment from the Canadian Diabetes Association and training from our volunteer nurse. Clients remain able to access appropriate referrals, increased social support and contact.

**Connecting Culture** – (Unfunded) Staff continue to offer cultural support/overview to the Red Deer College primarily to the nursing students and social work students. SMLCS Staff continue updating the program in order that the ED can search for future funding applications.

**Governance** – Raye St. Denys, E. D.

A volunteer Board of Directors governs Shining Mountains Living Community Services. This Board has expanded from a 5 member Board to a 9 member Board of primarily but not exclusively Aboriginal members. The Board has 3 representatives from the south, 3 from the north and 2 from Red Deer and area. The gender makeup of Board is 5 women and 3 males currently. The Board meets a minimum of 4 times per year, reviews major funding applications, discusses future opportunities and provides guidance and decision making with the Executive Director.

### **NEW ENDEAVOURS**

Shining Mountains has applied to Public Health Agency of Canada for a two year social marketing and research project. This RFP was temporarily suspended but when reopened SMLCS will resubmit the project. Shining Mountains also has submissions before PHAC for a several one year projects, one involving cultural and organizational capacity building and one working with Hepatitis C. No decision has been made on our proposals at the time of the AGM, however we are hopeful for decisions to be announced by the early 2011.

***Current Organization Funders:***

Alberta Community HIV Fund

Public Health Agency of Canada

MAC AIDS

***Current Organization Financers:***

Servus Plus