

### **Southwest Communities Assessed for Strengths and Gaps**

Action Southwest continues to form partnerships. The Information Highway Branch of Industry Canada recently heard about Action Southwest's latest project to survey 10 communities across the region and the branch felt a project they had been developing, "The Community Progression Scorecard Tool (CPS)" would be a great addition to the Action Southwest's First Impressions Community Exchange pilot project.

The CPS tool will offer the participating communities a means to assess their strengths and gaps when it comes to Information Communication Technology (ICT). The assessment results will provide a good opportunity for communities to discuss the important role technology plays in their socio-economic development, and further, it will offer the opportunity to begin to address certain gaps that may exist.

"We are focused on improving communities ability to participate in the new *"Information Age Economy"*, Said Sandra Blyth, Action Southwest Project Manager. Better informed and connected citizens build a stronger society, increase their opportunities to be competitive and productive and increase their ability to attract and retain people and businesses in their home communities, and thus, are enabled to build a stronger economy.

"The Branch heard about the great work Action Southwest was doing in the region and that the First Impressions Community Exchange project was a pilot with the potential to be delivered in other regions of the province and they saw an opportunity to work together."

Action Southwest says "this is a great partnership that will benefit everyone in the region. It is also a great example of how working in partnership you can streamline your efforts. By working with Industry Canada we are saving time, money and resources while at the same time building our capacity as a region.

The results of the First Impressions Community Exchange project and the Community Progressions Scorecard Assessment will be presented at a public meeting scheduled for Saturday, March 10, 2007 in Swift Current. Everyone in the region will be invited to attend, so please mark your calendars.

To learn more about the Projects visit [www.actionsouthwest.com](http://www.actionsouthwest.com) or call 778-6445.

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