



News Release

Social Development in Olds

1 December 2009 Olds, Alberta – At its meeting of 24 November 2009, the Olds Neighborhood Place Society (ONP) passed a motion to wind up its affairs 31 December 2009.

For approximately ten years this not-for profit society has facilitated the provision of a wide range of programs to support social development needs in our community, including Community Kitchens, Aboriginal Connections, Rainbows and Prisms, Office of the Public Guardian and support to Seniors. Olds Neighborhood Place has also been the host agency for the Healthy Families program that provides services for young families in Olds and parts of Mountain View and Knee Hill Counties. Earlier in 2009, the board of ONP requested that the Town of Olds consider assuming responsibility for this group of initiatives.

"Our board requested support earlier this year. We knew then that we could not ensure continued service without the vision and support of the Town of Olds," says ONP Chair Sam Moebis.

Effective 1 January 2010, programs running at Olds Neighborhood Place will come under the jurisdiction of the Town of Olds. "We are excited at the prospect of building community capacity in the area of social development," says Mayor Judy Dahl, "Since approached earlier this year, Town administration has worked collaboratively with ONP to determine the best way to continue to meet community needs in the immediate future."

This transition of programs and services has planted the seeds for a full community engagement process for social planning that will involve the Lifestyles Committee of the Olds Institute – a process that began in October 2009 and that will continue into 2010.

Both Chair Sam Moebis and Mayor Judy Dahl indicated how much working together has been a key aspect of this transition process. While ONP is changing, the programs and services, so critical to social development in our community, will continue. NU2U Thrift Store operations will continue at the current location on 51 Street. Office operations for ONP programs and services will be closed for the Christmas break on 18 December, and will resume under Town of Olds leadership 4 January 2010.

This partnership in change is consistent with The Town's commitment to building opportunities so that community members are able to participate in a healthy, flourishing lifestyle.

-30-

For more information:

Mayor Judy Dahl, Town of Olds
403.507.4802 or mayor@olds.ca
www.olds.ca

Sam Moebis, Chair, Olds Neighborhood Place
sam@asc-mva.ab.ca