



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

December 22, 2006

Community Foundation receives \$500,000 donation Andrew Paterson establishes First Nations Youth Apprenticeship Program

Kenora– The Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation has received a major donation from Board Member Andrew Paterson. Mr. Paterson and his family have been residents on Lake of the Woods for five generations and are keenly aware of the needs of the local community. Paterson has agreed to donate \$500,000 over a period of five years to establish a First Nations Youth Apprenticeship Program. He will make his first contribution of \$100,000 at City Hall this Friday December 22 at 2:00 pm. The entire community is thrilled with this wonderful investment in our future. The revenue from Mr. Paterson's Donor Advised Fund will be invested in helping first nations youth learn job skills that will last a lifetime. To qualify for the program the youth must be enrolled in grades 11 or 12 or taking some form of post secondary education.

"Young people need an opportunity to prove to others that they can do it on their own. Every one needs their first big break and this program will give them that opportunity" says Andrew Paterson. " Every one will benefit from this program; the recipients, local business and the citizens of our community. If you teach a person a trade, they will feed themselves for life" he says. He encourages local businesses to partner with the program in order to provide subsidized job opportunities for local youth.

Mr. Paterson is chairman of the Community Foundation's Dream Fund Committee. The Committee is raising permanent endowment funds for the Foundation and since mid August has collected over \$800,00 in pledges.

Created in 2004 and one of 154 community foundations across Canada, the Kenora and Lake of the Woods Regional Community Foundation exists to help strengthen the entire local community. The Foundation is committed to attaining this goal through building endowments, offering flexible donor services, providing broad and effective grant making and building capacity in the community through programs such as Youth in Philanthropy. Every gift to the Community Foundation's endowment is a permanent gift. Only the revenue from the principal is used to provide grants to local charities.

The Community Foundation Movement is often described as the fastest growing area of philanthropy in Canada with combined assets of over \$2.3 billion and grants of \$95 million made to thousands of charities in 2004. In 2004 alone, \$210 million was donated to Community Foundations across Canada.

For more information, please contact:

Darlene MacGillivray, Executive Director

Kenora and Lake of the Woods

Regional Community Foundation

807-467-4427 communityfoundation@mykenora.com