

Saskatchewan Municipal **Best Practice**

Joint Municipal Solution Building

CONTACT

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Project Date: 1996 (ongoing)

THE PRACTICE

Since 1996, the Town of Preeceville, along with the Sunrise Health Region, has been taking steps to build an Integrated Health Care Facility. Over the years, the local community reached its goal of 35% of funding through donations and community fundraising. However, by the time this project was approved, the cost had doubled, requiring an additional \$1.9M to be raised.

THE PROCESS

Under provincial government regulations, Saskatchewan Health is responsible for providing 65% of funding for this project, and the local community is responsible for providing the remaining 35% of funding. The need to raise such a large amount of money was very overwhelming for one community, so the Town of Preeceville extended communications with the surrounding municipalities. In 2006, the town entered into a guaranteed agreement with surrounding municipalities to provide a portion of the required funding.

The citizens and local community groups from each municipality have been involved and consulted throughout the development and implementation of the practice. The municipalities put forth an extra effort through advertising to provide the public with information on projects.

THE RESULTS

Through the joint efforts, funding has now been secured for the health care facility. Challenges involved a lack of cooperation on behalf of some municipalities in the region, but those who did participate have achieved their goal. Construction was set to begin in the spring of 2007.

The practice of consulting and cooperating with surrounding communities has not only been valuable securing funding for the hospital project, it has been valuable to the community's doctor shortage problem. The municipalities have formed a committee that concentrates on recruiting doctors and providing incentives to them to stay in the local community. The committee has successfully recruited one doctor through its efforts and is in the process of recruiting a second doctor.

LESSONS LEARNED

Through this practice, the Town of Preeceville learned that when dealing with difficult situations, there is strength in numbers. Consulting and cooperating with different communities and people provides a wider knowledge and experience base to derive solutions from. The relationships formed during this practice are sure to result in others in the future, strengthening the services provided in the region.