



Creating Futures

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News Release

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Deninu School Principal recognized as one of Canada's Best

Fort Resolution, NT – South Slave educator Moh Odeen, principal of Deninu School in Fort Resolution, has always been an innovator and creative thinker whose positive attitude and work ethic have produced amazing results. Those qualities were recognized Canada-wide recently when he was named as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals 2008 by the national non-profit organization, The Learning Partnership.

The competition's selection criteria require that a principal has made a significant improvement in student achievement and that he or she has established successful, positive relationships between the school and community which support that improved achievement. Nominations also required community support from a range of stakeholders before they would be considered.

South Slave Divisional Education Council Superintendent Curtis Brown says he is thrilled Moh Odeen is being honoured. "Principal Moh Odeen is an inspiration and role model to students, colleagues and community members. His belief in his staff and students, his commitment to improving their lives and futures, his unwavering dedication to education and to young people cannot help but make a difference. He has instilled a pride and expectation of success into the students of Deninu School that will carry them throughout their lives."

Since Mr. Odeen took the helm at Deninu School five years ago, student achievement has improved significantly in various areas. Academic improvements include elevated levels of literacy – reading, writing and numeracy; vastly improved results on achievement tests, higher numbers of graduates and a higher number of students remaining in the high school program. Student behaviour, attitude, motivation and school spirit have all strengthened immeasurably. The Career Development program has been expanded and now includes an annual Career Fair organized by students as well as regular presentations from people in a wide range of occupations. Mr. Odeen has expanded the cultural programming at Deninu School to include at least three Culture Camps per year, weekly traditional teachings by local elders, and has incorporated traditional language and culture into the curriculum. He introduced "International Day" and travel club to expose students to other peoples and cultures.

Mr. Odeen says that some of his main objectives are to instill a love of learning in students, along with a sense of respect for themselves, others and the world around them, and to help students understand that they can achieve anything if they are willing to work for it. "From the time they arrive in school, I want the students to dream of all the things they want to be so that they realize the whole world is theirs."

Mr. Odeen will be officially recognized at a gala dinner in Toronto on February 26, and will take part in a four-day executive leadership program at the University of Toronto's Rotman School of Management. He was previously recognized for his accomplishments with the South Slave Divisional Education Council's Excellence in Education Award 2006.

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