



## **The North-South Partnership for Children Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win...**

On Monday, April 19, 2010, Dr. Judy Finlay and Betty-Lou Scholey from Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win, the North-South Partnership for Children, addressed the Belleville Rotary Club's weekly meeting at the Ramada Inn, Belleville.

Finlay, who was Ontario's Child Advocate before joining Ryerson's School of Child and Youth Care as an Associate Professor, is the Southern Co-Chair of the North-South Partnership for Children. In her remarks, she told Rotarians the organization was established in collaboration with First Nation Chiefs, elders, youth, community members living in remote neighborhoods in northwestern Ontario, caring citizens, and voluntary organizations based in southern Ontario.

The overall goal of the organization, emphasized Finlay, is to build capacity in remote communities by first listening to what their needs are and then seeking advice and direction from the people themselves.

"It's hearing from the elders, families and kids about their life experiences. Until you understand the community, culture and people, how can you possibly participate in meaningful community development work?" asked Finlay.

Finlay said First Nations communities welcomed the initiative that started in 2006. The goal is to improve life for children, youth, and families, as it is fully collaborative and respectful of the history, culture and wishes of the First Nations people.

"Southern partners match resources to the needs in the north as defined by the northern partners," Finlay explained.

Joining Finlay in her presentation was Betty-Lou Scholey, a member of the Matachewan First Nation and the Executive Assistant in the Toronto office of the North-South Partnership for Children. In her remarks, Scholey said "The varied needs of the communities included playground equipment, livestock, agricultural equipment, water treatment facilities, and water pumps to help reduce mold and other dangerous household contaminants."

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### **Mamow Sha-way-gi-kay-win continued...**

Following the presentation, local Rotary Club President, John Cairns said, "The Rotary Club of Belleville is very excited for the opportunity to support the North-South Partnership for Children. Rotary is a humanitarian organization that embraces all demographics. The mission of the North-South Partnership echoes that of our own: create a platform for children and youth, whereby they can achieve their full potential."

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