

## 4 Local and Provincial

# Community gets larger voice in inner city schools program

The board of education has given final approval to a program aimed at improving education for natives and others in poor areas of Regina.

Trustees voted to approve an agreement with the department of education covering a community schools program at their weekly meeting Monday. The vote followed changes in several clauses in the agreement to meet demands for a larger community voice in the project.

Ron Mitchell, superintendent of instruction, said in an interview that staff will be hired and he expects the program to go into effect early next year.

To be paid for totally by the department, it involves hiring eight native teaching associates to help regular teachers in the classroom, four each at Kitchener and Connaught, inner city schools with large numbers of native students.

It also includes hiring one community schools co-ordinator for each school.

The co-ordinator will be a professional similar to a social worker, getting parents and other community residents more actively involved in the schools through adult education and other programs.

A nutrition adviser will be assigned to Kitchener and Albert schools. The adviser will oversee the provision of breakfast or lunch and a daily snack for the children and will design nutrition education programs for parents and students.

### Similar to others

Financed by a \$248,000 grant in its first year, the public school board's program is similar to ones the department implemented under agreements with the separate school board here and with boards in Saskatoon and Prince Albert several months ago.

The Regina public school board was

the last to approve the agreement, partly because local community associations demanded last month that the board guarantee to consult community school councils on hiring program staff and other details. The councils are to be made up of parents and other local residents.

Under the agreement approved Monday, the board provided a framework making it easier to set up such councils. A committee composed of three board administrators and two community residents will select staff for the program.

Mitchell said the board and the department still have to work out how the community residents will be picked for the selection committee; there will be one native and one non-native, one male and one female.

The minister of education and school board chairman will probably sign the agreement within a week to 10 days, he added.

# Friendship Centre can bid for school

The Regina Friendship Centre can submit proposals to purchase Victoria School, 1915 Retallack St., for use as its new home.

The board of education voted at its weekly meeting Monday to "receive proposals" from the Friendship Centre for the purchase of the inner city school, closed last June because of declining enrolment.

Board chairman Mary Hicks said the board couldn't do anything more "concrete" at this point because, according to accepted practice, it must offer the school and playground to the city first.

"They (the city) haven't yet said they're officially interested in the school," she said, "but I note they have expressed interest in the playground."

The city parks and recreation committee advised city council Monday that it was considering Victoria School. It asked

School as a community park to be used by all people in the neighborhood."

Redwood said the Victoria School area would be an excellent place to move the centre because it's a residential neighborhood with large numbers of native residents.

"Victoria School would take us out of the business district and put us in a proper community environment."

Bill Fayant, a member of the Friendship Centre board, said he planned to meet city officials Wednesday to discuss possible co-operation in developing the school playground into a neighborhood park.

"We're not closed to other alternatives, for example co-operating with other agencies to turn the lot into a park," he said. "But we would like to play a lead role, so that the park will be regarded as a contribution by native people to the community we are moving into."

Winston Knoll, the school board's superintendent of business affairs, said in an interview that several other groups including the Open Door Society, an organization helping refugees arriving in Regina, have expressed interest in buying or using Victoria School.

## Board to renovate school for offices

SWIFT CURRENT (Staff) — The school board decided Monday to borrow

March and completion of the work by next fall.

by the school board in about 12 year Money was last raised for the construction of three gymnasiums and Fairvie School.

space for a park.

Maggie Redwood, acting executive director of the Friendship Centre board of directors, said in a letter to the board the centre must look for a new home because the city is expropriating its present property at 1689 Toronto St., to be used in the planned widening of 10th Av-

lic school.

The 10-year debenture will pay part of the cost of converting the building into offices for the board of education administration.

The board decided last spring to close the school because of declining enrolment. Attendance was once as high as 200 but was expected to drop to about 75

## Golf in 1759

The first games of golf in the