

## Group geared to young professionals

For young professionals in Swift Current who want to meet like-minded people, Action Swift Current (ASC) has a solution.

The Young Professionals Network, an ASC initiative, is in the works to provide an informal way for people in the city to meet and exchange ideas in a relaxed social atmosphere.

Though the structure of the group has not been formally defined, Doug Howorko, a Director of Action Swift Current and Regional Manager for Saskatchewan Rural Development, said interest in the network is growing after only two meetings.

"Really what we're trying to connect to is harnessing that energy, those ideas, the power of that age group," said Howorko, who notes that people between the ages of 19 and 45, as well as the "young at heart" are free to join the network.

Howorko said the Network will serve a number of functions.

"Number one it's a social environment. We're really finding there's a real need for young professionals to connect in...a very informal setting like a lounge or restaurant, not in a board room," said Howorko. "We're looking at trying to become social and build business relationships and acquaintances number one, first and foremost."

"Number two we want to actually build an environment where this young professionals network can have a voice and can actually work on initiatives that help make this community conducive to its needs a little bit more.

Number three, harnessing the power of the young professionals network to work on community building initiatives as well, because we have an investment to want to see this community grow as well, through economic development and social development," Howorko said.

Howorko said that the term "professional" is loosely defined.

"It can be any type of profession, whether it's a creative class, whether you're a musician, you're an artist, you're an entrepreneur, or you have a professional designation," he said.

ASC Chairperson Chuck Thomson said the network is an important initiative, especially for new-comers to the city.

"A lot of these people – at least half of them – are new to the community," said Thomson. "My wife and I know: we're not new now but we were 20 years ago, and I found it difficult. When people are born and raised here you've got all sorts of stuff on the go already, so they're quite busy, and this young professionals by definition is great because it allows you to network and learn from each other and recognize that.

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