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A new direction for Immigration in the Tisdale

Tisdale's 2006 strategic planning process has resulted in a number of new and active committees in the community. One of these is the new immigration committee which is chaired by Veronica Zazula and which will help immigrants with their transition into the community.

To date, immigration in Tisdale has been managed by different groups working independently trying to work through the process. "Our goal is to bring everyone to one table on a regular basis to discuss the challenges these families face and find ways to work together to help them settle in our community", says Zazula. The organizations currently represented on the committee include the Tisdale Chamber of Commerce, Tisdale Ministerial Association, Tisdale Elementary School, Northern Steel, Cumberland Regional College, Saskatchewan Immigration, Town of Tisdale, Renaud Realty and some recently landed immigrants.

According to the committee one of the biggest challenges for these new residents in the transition process is the length of time they must wait before their families are able to join them. Some of the workers have been here since November and are still unsure of when they can expect to have their families join them. Much discussion has centered around this problem and with representation from Sask. Immigration on the committee, it is hopeful that some solutions can be found to speed up the process. Currently there are 32 immigrants on staff at Northern Steel and it is expected that approximately nine children will be arriving in Tisdale for the next school year.

"We feel our committee has good representation from the community and will be able to help address the upcoming needs of all the new families in our community".