

Travelling Road Show helps raise public knowledge of G-8

By **KIM MORISON**

Lethbridge Herald

For those unsure of exactly what the G-8 is, Sarah Kerr suggests they think of the "Alberta Advantage."

The Calgary-based activist and educator is hoping to educate the masses about the events surrounding the G-8 Summit in Kananaskis at the end of June.

One of two speakers on the Talking G-8 — The Travelling Road Show, Kerr spoke at the Southern Alberta Council on Public Affairs lunch Thursday.

She compares the G-8 to the "Alberta Advantage" in that the summit also encourages privatization and globalization.

Before people take action about the G-8 Summit, Kerr says they first need to understand what it is.

"The big value is that (protests) shine light on what's going on," she said. "Protests bring attention to the matter. We're going to educate people and we're going to figure out how to get the G-8 to listen to us."

Pamela Foster agrees with Kerr in that the G-8 is exclusive and undemocratic.

"Their approach directly benefits the people who made the rules, the G-7 rules," said the co-ordinator of the Halifax Initiative, a Canadian coalition of development, environment, labour and human rights groups. "The other developing countries at the formation were only colonies at that time."

Foster and Kerr described what the G-8 is, what they are planning for this year and the initiatives that each group is taking against the G-8.

Both say the G-8 makes decisions behind closed doors that affect people around the world without little information getting out to the public.

The Travelling Road show, sponsored by the Parkland Institute and the Alberta Council for Global Co-operation will be speaking in Pincher Creek today beginning 7 p.m. at the Daily Grind.