



## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES**

**39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting**

**July 13-16, 2010**

**Hinton Centre  
Hinton, Alberta**

**Executive Director's Report**

### **Introduction**

Welcome to the National Association of Friendship Centres 39<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) and the entire Friendship Centre Movement has been incredibly active and engaged in a number of fronts.

The uncertain political environment, renewal of all three of our national programs and the launch of NAFC lobbying activities has been a challenge. While it is certain that we have a number of challenges with our primary funder, it is also certain that there are a number of opportunities emerging for Friendship Centres across Canada.

It has been a very active year and I am pleased to be providing this report on the activities of your national office. The report has been divided into three sections; Programs, Policy and Administration.

### **Programs**

#### **AFCP Enhancement Process**

Enhancements to the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP) remain the top priority of the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC). The past year has seen many activities focussed on this outcome. The primary activity has been the Friendship Centre Lobby Day on the Hill which took place on November 17, 2009. On this day over 50 Friendship Centre representatives briefed 80 Members of Parliament (MP's) on the need for increased funding to AFCP. In addition to the Lobby Day the NAFC also launched a caucus of Federal MP's concerned about Friendship Centre issues. It is called the All Party Friendship Centre Caucus. The Co-Chairs of the Federal Friendship Centre Caucus are Jean Crowder and Chris Warkentin, and they will be our advocates and support our federal efforts. The inaugural Friendship Centre Lobby Day also included four statements being read into the House of Commons on the need for increased supports for Friendship Centres and two questions during Question Period.

Despite our best efforts, enhancements to AFCP were not in the March budget. We have continued to find other mechanisms to secure additional funding. We have been in discussions with the office of the Minister of Canadian Heritage on issues related to our request. Specifically, the Minister's office wanted to discuss impact of funding, political considerations, other sources of revenue and potential concerns of

frozen funding levels. The Minister's office has also been very helpful in securing briefings with Department of Finance officials to help them understand the request and the details around it.

On June 2, 2010 a meeting was held with the Friendship Centre Caucus to continue in our enhancement campaign. Representatives from all parties came together to review the demographic challenges facing Friendship Centres and how we are responding to them. The MP's asked many pointed questions which allowed us all to expand upon the core need for increased funding for Friendship Centres. We are pleased with the support we have been receiving from the Caucus and are looking forward to building upon this success in future efforts.

We have also been very active in working with the political parties in advance of the next federal election to position enhancements to Friendship Centres as a campaign commitment. On May 25, 2010 a meeting was held with Michael Ignatieff's office to discuss the Liberal platform. On June 9, 2010 the NAFC was invited to present to the New Democratic Party on our ideas for their platform. We have also been talking to the Conservatives about their platform through our discussions with the Minister of Canadian Heritage's office. Discussions with the Bloc Quebecois are being handled by RCAAQ.

Finally, it is clear that the NAFC needs to follow-up on all of our efforts by conducting another Friendship Centre Day on the Hill next fall. This day would see Friendship Centre representatives brief Members of Parliament on our ongoing issues and remind them that our work is not finished as enhancements have not been secured. In the interim we need the support of all Friendship Centres in talking to their MP's, MPP's / MLA's, Mayors and other opinion leaders to move this file forward together.

#### Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP)

As we entered into a new fiscal year the NAFC was faced with the familiar challenge of ensuring AFCP funding is delivered in a timely manner. The program has been "renewed" for a year resulting in some significant changes to the Contribution Agreement. While many of the changes were areas that required the NAFC to engage in more administrative work, others clearly have an impact on the Friendship Centre Movement. These include the imposition of the requirement that the NAFC sign agreements with local Friendship Centres for AFCP, increased reporting on client usage and a new 5% hold back on their contributions until audited financial statements are submitted.

The administration of AFCP has been running smoothly. In fact we have noticed a significant reduction in the numbers of Friendship Centres on Special Agreement over past year. We are now working with 18 Friendship Centres in total, with 6 we would consider to be under significant difficulty. We are continuing to partner with our regions to ensure that all Friendship Centres are not in difficulty; however we are encouraged by the progress.

Finally, the NAFC was encouraged with the number of Friendship Centres who completed their AFCP applications online this past year. Nearly 1/3 of all Friendship Centres are doing so. We have had a number of helpful conversations with Friendship Centres that have done this and we are going to continue to strengthen the database for future years.

---

---

### Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY)

On November 17, 2009, during our lobby day on the hill, the federal government announced that the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative (UMAYC) was being replaced with a new program called Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth (CCAY). The transition has not been seamless. First, there was a shorted and rushed Request for Proposals process given the delays by PCH in having the program ready for launch. Of greater concern was the PCH's retroactive interpretation of their Guidelines to declare a series of our CCAY projects to be "ineligible". This interpretation lead to a decision for a delegation of the Friendship Centre's to meet with PCH and voice our concerns. A meeting took place on April 27, 2010 where a case was made for PCH to revisit their decision. Based upon this meeting a new interpretation of the Guidelines was applied and we are now working with the regions on finding ways to move forward this fiscal year.

Another issue of significant concern has been the attempts to review the current allocation formula for CCAY. A notice was sent out to PTA's asking for their advice on how to best approach an allocation model. Specific data for this formula was not provided as we wanted to avoid regions selecting models which advance their interests at the expense of other regions. However, this lack of clarity only added to the confusion and concern over this process. In an attempt to address concerns the current National Allocation Model was applied with updated data and shared with all regions. In response to concerns raised by many regions the NAFC Board developed a committee with regional representatives to review the allocation formula and to provide their recommendations. This work is ongoing.

### Young Canada Works (YCW)

This has been a successful year of programming for Young Canada Works (YCW). Last fiscal year there was a record low number of Friendship Centres applying for YCW. As a result the NAFC conducted a questionnaire to explore why Friendship Centres are not applying. Not surprisingly, the majority of Friendship Centres are concerned about the reporting required for the program versus the overhead they receive to operate the program. The NAFC met with PCH to discuss the survey findings and to attempt to find a way to address the issues raised. As a result, we secured the ability to have Friendship Centres use a paper based system for this year's call if the online system was not working for them.

These efforts seemed to have an impact. This year there was an increase of 15% in applications being submitted. Much like AFCP and CCAY, the contribution agreement for YCW has contained increased reporting and a 5% hold back on final payments.

### Aboriginal People's Program Evaluation

February 2010

PCH has finally begun the formal evaluation of the Aboriginal Peoples Program (APP) for the years 2006-2009. This is a very important process for us as the APP includes the Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative (UMAYC), the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP) and Young Canada Works (YCW). The NAFC had an initial site visit on January 8, 2010 that went very well. In addition to

---

the NAFC visit, this evaluation is focussing on four case studies found within the Friendship Centre Movement.

### PCH – NAFC Committee

After a couple years of difficult relations, the NAFC and PCH have agreed to meet at a technical level to discuss a variety of program related issues. Our first meeting was held on January 20, 2010 and included discussions on a variety of program related matters. The recent renewal of PCH programs has demonstrated a number of challenges in our relationship and we look forward to engaging PCH on these issues. In addition we have begun discussions with the Minister's Office to help determine how we can continue to strengthen our relationship.

### Youth Intervenor

The NAFC's contribution agreement to staff our Youth Intervenor position, Policy Collaboration Agreement, with Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC) has now expired. We met with HRSDC on April 9, 2010 to discuss this amongst other issues. It appears as though a new form of this agreement will come forward. HRSDC is poised to announce a new program which will contain a component to allow for continued funding for this position. In the interim we continue with our efforts to support the Aboriginal Youth Council with staff from the NAFC.

While the Youth Forum at our Annual General Meeting was the most visual of these efforts, our Youth Intervenor has been active on a number of other files as well. Our Youth Engagement work continues with the development of Leadership Curriculum. The AYC's preparation for the Youth Forum and their Strategic Plan is ongoing. Members of the AYC also participated in the BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centre's annual "Gathering Our Voices" youth conference in March, 2010.

### Torch Bearer Program

The NAFC partnered with the Vancouver Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympics Games (VANOC) on an Urban Aboriginal Heroes Torch Bearer Program. Eight Friendship Centre people ran with the Olympic torch as a part of this initiative, and many others ran as a part of other ones. Congratulations to all that had an opportunity to participate!

### Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC)

November 2009

The NAFC has previously partnered with the Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP (CPC) to offer intake services into their processes. We have now completed a successful pilot project with six Friendship Centres to demonstrate the effectiveness of partnering with local Friendship Centres to provide greater information and access to the complaints process. We have conducted a survey of our Friendship Centres who were engaged in the partnership, and found it to be effective and helpful for those working in the communities.

---

The CPC and the NAFC both would like to build upon the success of the pilot project process. We worked with CPC to find ways of bringing the information of the complaints process out to more Friendship Centres. We both recognize that it is not efficient to travel to each location and are seeking alternative distribution methods. The CPC and the NAFC developed a video to walk Friendship Centres through the process of making a complaint. This video has since been completed, and we are waiting for French translation prior to distribution.

## **Policy**

### **Data and Mapping Research**

The NAFC continues in our development of communication tools and resources to share the important information we have found in our data mining from the 2001 and 2006 Census data. All of our information is now here at the NAFC and our online maps are complete. We are now moving to different forms of knowledge mobilization activities to share the information we have.

An important and exciting opportunity is the ability to publish our research in a book. We have now secured a book publishing deal with Thompson Educational Publishing to print our research paper series. The following papers are being adapted into book chapters:

- Creating Friendship Centre Service Area Custom Geographies – Tim Albert
- Language – Mary Jane Norris
- Education Outcomes and Contributing Factors – Amanda Parriag with Paul Chaulk
- Labour Market Outcomes and Contributing Factors – Ben Brunnen
- Income and Economic Development Potential – Nicholas Spence and Jerry White
- Mobility – Mary Jane Norris and Stewart Clatworthy
- Youth At Risk – Irwin Cohen and Raymond Corrado
- Community Well Being – Stewart Clatworthy

### **Urban Aboriginal Knowledge Network (UAKN)**

Our development of the UAKN continued to move forward in the past quarter. Meetings with SSHRC and CIHR have continued to demonstrate support for this model. We are in the final months of trying to make this policy / research infrastructure a reality. We have invested over \$1 million dollars in resources to see this brought to reality. It must happen this year or it is not going to happen at all.

The NAFC has been meeting with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) on the idea and how we may be able to move it forward. A meeting with the SSHRC President and INAC Deputy Minister took place on February 8, 2010. It was hoped that this meeting would see the creation of UAKN. SSHRC expressed some concerns about a 'Joint Initiative', though we continue to move forward in our work.

---

Since these meetings we have continued to work with SSHRC and INAC officials to determine if there is enough support to move forward with the initiative. We are hopeful, but there is much to do.

### International Activities

The NAFC has been engaged in three significant international activities in the past quarter. Our efforts to secure Special Consultative Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council have been successful. The NAFC was present when the NGO Committee met to review our application. We were able to answer questions that were posed by Egypt, India and Pakistan which sought to ensure we were separate and autonomous from government. The NGO Committee has recommended the NAFC receive Special Consultative Status and this will be ratified at a full ECOSOC meeting in July 2010. This will allow the NAFC access to ECOSOC meetings, the ability to formally submit briefings to UN business and further strengthen our credentials domestically.

The second area of activity has been our participation in the 5<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum held in Brazil March 22-26, 2010. The NAFC moderated a special roundtable on urban Indigenous issues with representatives from countries around the world. The forum provided an excellent opportunity for the NAFC to demonstrate leadership in our programming and processes and gain additional knowledge from other participants.

Finally, the NAFC attended the 9<sup>th</sup> United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII) in April 2010. The NAFC submitted three briefings to the UNPFII on the urban impacts of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, on the ½ session on North American issues and on the Access and Benefit Sharing of Genetic Resources.

### Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS) / Aboriginal Skills and Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS)

This past year has seen the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS) be changed to the Aboriginal Skills and Employment and Training Strategy (ASETS). It is our view that this program looks very much like the previous program. The NAFC has met with HRDSC to discuss their plans for Aboriginal employment and training for the next five years. The NAFC is attempting to work within the existing parameters of the renewed program and find some accommodation for greater Friendship Centre involvement. HRSDC has yet to formally launch all of their renewed programs and we will be watching with interest to see where we may be able to partner.

### Public Health Officer

The NAFC is pleased to announce that a Public Health Officer has been placed at the NAFC by the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC). In response to the SARS crisis PHAC launched an initiative to place over 70 Public Health Officers in agencies to respond to future challenges. Host sites get to gain from the staffing capacity and PHAC has in place a network of professionals to help respond to the crisis. After a common staffing process was completed there were 950 applicants who indicated that Ottawa was their first priority. In early April we conducted interviews with four candidates and have come to an agreement with MaryAnn Notarianni to start in June 2010.

---

### Economic Development

The NAFC has been busy in the area of economic development this past quarter year. Discussions with INAC are ongoing concerning the *New Federal Framework for Aboriginal Economic Development*. The federal government is renewing a series of programs in light of this framework. INAC is currently conducting engagement sessions across Canada on their suite of economic development programs and how they might be improved. While a series of events are taking place across Canada, the NAFC is pushing for the need to have an urban specific session. In addition, we are exploring the opportunity for the NAFC to conduct some research on the access to capital for urban Aboriginal peoples as a result of this work.

The NAFC is also exploring the idea of micro-financing for urban Aboriginal peoples in Canada. The idea of micro-financing has been met with success in third world countries; it is not as clear that it will work here. Our initial efforts will explore the use and success of micro-financing in Canada to determine if we should attempt some pilot projects here.

### National Aboriginal Organizations

The NAFC attended the AFN National Chief election where Shawn Atleo was elected National Chief. Few will forget the epic all night balloting which took place between Atleo and Perry Bellegarde. It was a memorable event to witness first hand. On August 18, 2009 the NAFC President and Executive Director met with the National Chief to discuss his new mandate and the relationship with the NAFC moving forward. Both parties agreed to find some common areas to work together in the short term to identify a truly collaborative relationship. Ongoing discussions and dialogue have resulted in a series of working items including the development of an urban strategy.

We have also received expressions of interest from both the Native Women's Association of Canada and the Métis National Council that they are interested in pursuing a formal relationship with the NAFC. Follow-up is ongoing.

### Sharon Mclvor Decision

The NAFC has been active in the fall out from the Sharon Mclvor court decision to amend Section 6 of the Indian Act. The NAFC hosted a small Friendship Centre gathering to discuss the issues raised by the Mclvor court case and the follow-up to it. Modest funds were secured to bring in 10 delegates to review the proposed amendment, provide broader advice on citizenship approaches and to encourage more efficient communication. This meeting took place on October 27, 2009. The discussion centred on the larger issues of citizenship, identity and nationhood and less on the technical amendments to the Indian Act being proposed.

The NAFC has been identified as a key partner in exploration of issues which rise out of the Mclvor decision. We have submitted a proposal to host a series of meetings in Friendship Centres across the country to explore some of the issues that Mclvor has raised including citizenship, identity and membership. The NAFC presented on Bill C-3 and presented our views on the need to work directly with local Friendship Centres.

---

---

### Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination

In February 2009 the NAFC attended a meeting of the Canadian Municipalities Against Racism and Discrimination (CMARD) to discuss a new organizational framework and guide to consider their work. Ongoing development has resulted in the development of a policy statement which the NAFC has formally endorsed.

### H1N1 Efforts

The NAFC has been very active in the area of H1N1 over the past year. Early in the epidemic, specific instances in Ontario and requests for actions from British Columbia highlighted the fact that existing processes were not serving us well. We requested meetings with PHAC to provide a list of our concerns in how urban Aboriginal people were being treated in pandemic planning. Essentially the federal government accepted responsibility for on-reserve and Inuit peoples, but not for off-reserve peoples. It was indicated that Provincial / Territorial pandemic plans were to deal with off-reserve peoples. A review of these plans indicated that major weaknesses existed. In addition, the materials that PHAC had available on their website were too technical in nature and did not provide the necessary information for our front line service delivery agencies. In response the NAFC developed a small manual based upon existing PHAC products and placed them on our website.

To our surprise the federal government approached the NAFC asking us to contact Friendship Centres, provide PHAC materials, facilitate conference calls with PHAC staff and provide communication advice. We agreed and a modest agreement was put in place to support our efforts. Through additional support from PHAC and INAC, the NAFC has been able to hire a consultant and better understand what local Friendship Centres have been able to do on this issue, discuss the impacts of H1N1 in their communities and to encourage local Friendship Centres to operate as vaccination sites. A series of surveys and conference calls have provided insight into the excellent work local Friendship Centres have been able to accomplish. One deficiency was noted in this work, however. Local Friendship Centres reported that they required specific policy and planning templates to deal with H1N1 and other similar challenges. Through this agreement, we developed some templates for local Friendship Centre use.

### Committee Presentations

During the past year the NAFC presented to a number of federal committees. They have included:

- Standing Committee on Finance during the Pre-Budget Consultations – September 15, 2009
- Standing Committee on Human Rights, Examination on Child Sexual Exploitation, October 19, 2009
- Standing Committee on the Status of Women - Violence Against Aboriginal Women - April 28, 2010
- Standing Committee on Human Resources, Skills and Social Development and the Status of Persons with Disabilities of the House of Commons - Study of the Federal contribution to reducing poverty in Canada - March 31, 2010

- Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development - McIvor Decision Impact on Friendship Centre Movement – April 13, 2010

The NAFC was pleased to see that our request for increased funding was reflected in the Standing Committee on Finance's report on the 2010 budget. On page 11 of the report they state:

*Moreover, the government should increase and streamline existing funding for federal "at risk youth" programs, with a view to creating a centralized initiative that would better engage such youth in their communities. The government should also increase funding for Aboriginal friendship centres for the benefit of Aboriginal youth in cities.*

In addition, the report references Friendship Centre interventions on Infrastructure (page 62) and servicing Rural and Remote Needs (page 67) of the report.

### Tobacco

The NAFC is very pleased that our proposal for work in the area of tobacco was approved. This project will allow the NAFC to build upon our earlier work on "Everyone Loves a Quitter" and seeks to update it and test its relevance. A committee has been struck to help guide the committee and much progress has been evident. We are looking forward to seeing the final product developed by the project.

### Literacy

As with our tobacco proposal, we were very pleased that our literacy proposal was approved. This project will allow the NAFC to develop some practical tools for local Friendship Centre use. These include the development of culturally appropriate literacy assessment tools, the adaptation of curriculum for Friendship Centre use and the development of train the trainer manuals for model dissemination.

### Urban Aboriginal People's Survey (UAPS)

During the past quarter Environics released the findings of their research on urban Aboriginal peoples. While the UAPS contained few surprises it did validate a number of the issues that our Friendship Centres deal with every day. In addition, the survey found that Friendship Centres are the most useful urban Aboriginal organization.

### Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative

After many attempts, the NAFC was finally able to secure a meeting with Health Canada officials to discuss the need to renew the Initiative and continue to work with Friendship Centres. Prior to our meeting with Health Canada, we were encouraged to see funding in the federal budget for the initiative and remain hopeful that local Friendship Centre projects will continue. During our discussions, officials requested that the NAFC conduct research on successful diabetes programs for urban Aboriginal peoples and partner with them on how to do this. At the writing of this report we are still exploring this opportunity.

---

### Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)

Our attempts to partner with TRC remain ongoing. The NAFC has met with senior leadership at TRC on a number of occasions and have formally submitted a proposal to support local Friendship Centres to host community events. The NAFC has since received information requiring us to apply for each event in isolation. We are working with the Dauphin Friendship Centre and the Manitoba Association of Friendship Centres to host an event in July. Finally, the NAFC was pleased to be able to participate in the TRC National Launch event which took place in June in Winnipeg.

### Canadian Co-operatives Associations (CCA)

The NAFC has been approached by the CCA to partner with them, the Métis National Council, the Assembly of First Nations and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami to join in a project to foster more Aboriginal co-operative development. Our role is to provide some policy and programming advice for them to consider. An initial meeting took place in mid-May and the NAFC is looking forward to participating in this initiative.

### Alberta Aboriginal Policy Framework Review

The Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) invited the NAFC to participate in the review of their provinces Aboriginal Policy Framework. The ANFCA received resources to have a Friendship Centre specific review of the current policy with an eye to how it can be improved. The NAFC was able to attend a briefing in Cold Lake, Alberta on April 28, 2010 and Bonnyville, Alberta on April 29, 2010. The NAFC appreciates the invitation and warm hospitality shown by ANFCA and looks forward to seeing the results of their important work.

### Council of the Federation

In 2009 the Council of the Federation (COF) decided to start a working group with the various Ministries' of Aboriginal Affairs and National Aboriginal Organizations to start a new process leading to a First Ministers Meeting in 2010. The NAFC wrote the Premier of Saskatchewan Brad Wall as the Chair of the Council to ask for standing in the process. Not surprisingly, NAFC's participation has been rejected by the Premiers and, much like Kelowna, we remain on the outside. However, in an effort to be a good partner and contribute to the process, the NAFC is preparing a series of policy papers to have input into the discussions taking place in the areas of education, economic develop and violence against Aboriginal women.

### Liberal Roundtables

During the prorogation of Parliament, the Liberal Party has been active holding a series of roundtables to explore policy questions and seek advice on specific areas. The NAFC has attended two of these sessions as participants and observers. On January 25, 2010, two representatives of the Aboriginal Youth Council presented during a discussion on Youth and Jobs. On February 8, 2010 the NAFC participated as observers during the Life Long Learning Roundtable where Friendship Centre funding was raised as an issue. It is not clear what will come of these efforts, but it was great to be able to participate as an organization.

---

### Canadian Aboriginal Aids Network (CAAN)

The NAFC has been invited by CAAN to participate in a conference concerning Hep-C. At the conference it is hoped that representatives from the National Aboriginal Organizations would consider endorsing a ten point action plan to deal with this issue. CAAN is continuing in the development of their plan and will come forward with a final version for support. In addition, the NAFC is partnering with CAAN to engage in the development of some capacity development resources for local communities in the area of HIV and AIDS.

### Elections Canada

Elections Canada and the NAFC have agreed to work together to facilitate participation in the next federal election. We will be active with Elections Canada on two areas. First we will be developing materials encouraging Aboriginal people to vote; and secondly to facilitate dialogue with local Friendship Centres and Elections Canada staff to engage partnerships as necessary.

### Natural Health Product Regulations

A resolution from 2007 instructed the NAFC to seek an exemption from Health Canada on proposed changes to the Natural Health Product Regulations for Aboriginal people. The concern was that it may have become illegal for Elders to use traditional medicines under a strict interpretation of proposed changes. The NAFC met with the Minister of Health advocating for this exemption to be put in place. When we returned from last year's AGM a letter was received informing us that the exemption to Aboriginal people was provided.

### **Administration**

#### Youth Engagement Forum

Our follow-up on the Youth Engagement Session continued in the past year. The NAFC has developed action items for our follow-up. We have shared this report and the session minutes with all regions and meeting participants. The NAFC has begun our efforts by focussing on development of some Youth Leadership Development curriculum for use within the AYC. In addition, the NAFC is seeking funding to develop a mentorship program, facilitate some youth leadership training, and to address the AYC request for suicide prevention training.

#### Strategic Plan

The NAFC has recently approved an updated strategic plan to guide our efforts over the next five years. Here is a summary of the activities we will be engaged in:

- 1) Communications
    - a) Establish Effective Branding for NAFC
    - b) To provide effective communication to the entire Friendship Centre Movement
-

- 
- c) To be the lead Aboriginal organization for media to consult when covering urban Aboriginal issues.
  - d) To review and revise the NAFC Communications Strategy to ensure its effectiveness including the use of:
    - i) An Effective Website
    - ii) Newsletters
    - iii) Press Release
    - iv) Annual Reports
    - v) Specialized Publications (State of the Friendship Centre Movement, etc)
- 2) NAFC Mandate
- a) To engage in a discussion with the Friendship Centre Movement on the representative nature of the NAFC for Friendship Centres and Provincial / Territorial Associations.
  - b) To engage with the government of Canada to recognize the appropriate role for Friendship Centres in policy and advocacy conversations on behalf of urban Aboriginal peoples.
  - c) To secure, maintain and enhance partnerships with the Assembly of First Nations, Métis National Council, Native Women's Association of Canada and the Inuit Tapriat Katatami.
  - d) To work with all levels of the Friendship Centre Movement to ensure the original concept of Friendship Centres as gathering places is maintained.
- 3) Friendship Centre Movement Standards
- a) To establish a national working committee to examine options for standards implementation.
  - b) To have national standards approved by the NAFC membership.
  - c) To publish models of excellence to share.
  - d) To develop an effective implementation strategy for Friendship Centre standards which would include:
    - i) Standards of Operation
    - ii) Training Supports
    - iii) Tools
    - iv) Planning
- 4) Youth in the Friendship Centre Movement
- a) To create curriculum to support the development of youth leaders.
  - b) To develop an NAFC mentoring program to support youth leadership development.
  - c) To develop materials for use in local Executive Director training processes.
  - d) To establish an effective recognition program for youth participation.
  - e) To develop a national policy statement outlining the Friendship Centres commitment to youth.
- 5) Financial Security for the NAFC
- a) To secure Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program Enhancement for the Friendship Centre Movement.
  - b) To secure diversified government funding for the Friendship Centre Movement.
  - c) To develop activities which support the increase of our own source revenue.
  - d) To secure charitable status at the NAFC.
-

### Trademark

The NAFC has been informed that our application for a trademark for the name "Friendship Centre" has been accepted and has been posted for comments. If no objections are provided then our trademark will be granted and will provide us for better tools to guard against misuse of the term.

### Executive Directors Forum

On April 17-18, 2010 representatives from all PTA's and the NAFC met for an Executive Directors Forum in New York City. The Forum was held in New York as many Executive Directors were planning on attending the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and it was more efficient for all to meet prior. Discussions this year focussed on PTA updates, the Urban Aboriginal Peoples Survey, resolutions for the Annual General Meeting, Cultural Connections for Aboriginal Youth, AFCP enhancements and many other areas. These meetings not only help to plan and coordinate the work we are doing, but it also helps to foster a growing sense of a Friendship Centre family.

### Edith Cloutier – National Aboriginal Achievement Award Winner!

We are delighted to acknowledge that Edith Cloutier, Executive Director of the Centre d'amitie autochtone de Val d'or has been awarded a National Aboriginal Achievement Award for Public Service. The award was presented on March 26, 2010 in Regina.

### NAFC Website

The NAFC is pleased that we have launched our website with access in both official languages. As new documents and items are added they will be done at the same time in both languages. This has been a long time coming but demonstrates our commitment to serving the entire country.

### Non-Profit Corporations Act

The federal government has recently passed a new *Non-Profit Corporations Act* which will impact the NAFC. The new Act has a number of impacts which we are now beginning to understand. The NAFC has three years to make any necessary changes which are required by the Act

### Conclusion

There are a number of challenges and opportunities that the national office continues to deal with. As program renewals run their course we fully anticipate a return to business as usual. What will not change is our commitment to securing increased funding for local Friendship Centres who so desperately need it.

I welcome any comments that you may have.

In Friendship,

---



Peter Dinsdale  
Executive Director