



National Association of Friendship Centres Aboriginal Youth Council

Evaluation and Membership Consultation



INTRODUCTION

Since 1994, the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) has worked on developing itself and its profile both within the Friendship Centre movement as well as externally. The members of the AYC recognize that there is a need to evaluate the work they have done as well as consult the membership on what needs to be improved and make sure those improvements are made.

RATIONALE

According to www.dictionary.com, the definition of “evaluate” is:

*To ascertain or fix the value or worth of
To examine and judge; carefully appraise*

The AYC also recognizes that it does not work alone, a number of people and organizations are involved and invested in the work of the AYC. To just evaluate the AYC is not enough. They not only want to know what it is and isn't doing; they also want to know how to make things work better.

The definition of “consult” is:

*To seek advice or information
To take in account; consider
To exchange views*

By consulting membership, the AYC will receive concrete actions to improve its operations. These recommendations may also reach beyond the AYC, and it is important to note that not only does the AYC not operate in isolation, but that in fact other organizations, such as the National Association Friendship Centres and all the Provincial/Territorial Associations (PTAs) and Provincial Aboriginal Youth Councils (PAYCs) all have a role to play in ensuring that the voices of youth are carried forth to their national counterparts and vice versa.

WHY EVALUATE?

In order to complete an evaluation, it is imperative to know why an evaluation is necessary. The following outlines the main reasons for this particular evaluation:

- Examine AYC current style and its effectiveness
- Identify strengths (what to keep doing).
- Identify areas for improvements (what to change).
- Be accountable to membership.
- Reinforce our mandate and purpose.
- Make recommendations for change.
- Identify needs and resources to do the job better.

WHAT DO WE WANT TO KNOW?

Although the AYC is looking for the best ways to improve all around there are three particular areas the AYC will be looking for input into specifically: Communication, Action, and Participation.

How?

The AYC will undertake this evaluation using a combination of the following methods: phone interviews, a written survey, personal interviews, and an online survey.

WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW

The AYC recognizes that there are areas of improvement. In order to get an accurate picture on what needs to occur as well as ensuring that the AYC stays true to its values and principles. The membership will be requested to give their knowledge on what can be done to improve items such as:

Communication

To have good communication with local youth, local youth councils, PAYCs, the NAFC, PTA's as well as external organizations about upcoming events and opportunities, AYC actions and priorities and that AYC exists.

Necessary Resources

Action is necessary in order to achieve goals, in order to have resources we must first know what will AYC actions be on behalf of the membership, for programs and policies in government and externally. In order to ensure the maximum benefits from the AYC, the necessary resources must first be identified, and then attained.

Strategic Direction

For the last few years, the AYC has had a set number of principles and goals, however, a strategic direction has been lacking. A strategic plan has been developed and will be implemented within the next few years.

WHO DO WE NEED TO TALK TO?

The AYC recognizes that it does operate in isolation and that they are a compilation of the partners that support them. In order to receive the best results from the evaluation and consultation, the AYC feels it necessary to speak to the following:

- Provincial youth council representatives
- Local youth councils, youth and youth coordinators
- NAFC Board of Directors
- NAFC Senate
- PTA technicians
- Current AYC members

TERMINOLOGY

AYC – Aboriginal Youth Council

PAYC – Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council

PTA – Provincial/Territorial Association

NAFC – National Association of Friendship Centres

LFC – Local Friendship Centre

Please check only one answer under the "ARE YOU?" section. Should you be affiliated with more than one, feel free to fill out a questionnaire for each. Separating the responses from each other assists the AYC to differentiate between the varied views and opinions. Knowing specific needs from a local, regional and national level will allow the AYC to create strategies that will cater to those specific needs.

PLEASE RETURN ALL QUESTIONNAIRES BY JUNE 9, 2006

AYC EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE

ARE YOU?

(Check only one)

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Provincial Aboriginal Youth Council (PAYC) representative
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Friendship Centre youth council member
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Friendship Centre youth program participant
<input type="checkbox"/> Local Friendship Centre youth coordinator | <input type="checkbox"/> NAFC Board of Directors
<input type="checkbox"/> NAFC Senate
<input type="checkbox"/> Provincial/Territorial Association (PTA) technician
<input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) member |
|---|--|

AYC GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

1. Please rate each statement.

1= Agree very much, 2=Agree, 3=Disagree, 4=Disagree very much.

<i>I feel the AYC:</i>	1	2	3	4
Is overall doing a good job.				
Is currently creating positive change for Aboriginal youth				
Has good communication with their membership				
Increases training and development opportunities				
Increases youth involvement, externally and internally				
Facilitates the development of young leaders				
Provides awareness on issues facing Aboriginal youth				
Encourages and supports the spiritual, mental, emotional and physical development of Urban Aboriginal Youth				
Involves youth at all levels of the Friendship Centre Movement				
Preserves Aboriginal culture and heritage				
Promotes Aboriginal culture and heritage				

COMMUNICATION

Please rate your top three for each question. Should you have any other ideas that don't fit on this page, please continue under the "other comments" section at the end of the survey.

2. What is the best way to communicate?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email/Listserv
<input type="checkbox"/> Website
<input type="checkbox"/> Faxes to Friendship Centre or PTA | <input type="checkbox"/> Mail to Friendship Centre or PTA
<input type="checkbox"/> Phone Call
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|---|---|

3. What does the AYC need to be communicating?

- | | |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> National Conferences
<input type="checkbox"/> Training opportunities
<input type="checkbox"/> Internships
<input type="checkbox"/> Job Opportunities | <input type="checkbox"/> AYC documents
<input type="checkbox"/> Local and Provincial activities
<input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
|--|---|

4. What would make it easier for you to communicate directly with AYC?
- Email/Listserv
 More visibility by AYC in the local friendship centre
 Online bulletin board on website
 More communication with my regional representative
 Other: _____
5. To whom should the AYC be communicating to the voices of the Youth?
- Government of Canada
 International organizations
 Provincial Governments
 Corporations and companies
 Other national non-profit organizations
 NAFC
 Other Aboriginal organizations
 Other: _____
 PTAs
6. What is the role of all involved parties in ensuring communication remains clear? For each role outlined, please check the box of whose responsibility you think it is. There can be more than one answer for each role.

Role	LFC	AYC	PAYC	PTA	NAFC
Sending out opportunities to Local Youth					
Identifying and providing training					
Finding money for local youth initiatives					
Finding money for provincial youth initiatives					
Developing programs and projects that can be implemented at the provincial and local level.					
Providing content for a national newsletter that would be sent to all Friendship Centres.					

PARTICIPATION

7. How can the AYC recruit the best possible members?
Please check all that apply
- More training at the local and provincial levels to young leaders
 More information about the positions available sent to local and provincial youth councils
 More advertising everywhere about the AYC
 More training for AYC members
 Other: _____

