



## NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDSHIP CENTRES

### 38<sup>TH</sup> Annual General Meeting

July 14-17, 2009

**Crowne Plaza  
Niagara Falls, ON**

### Post AGM Update

#### Introduction

The NAFC 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting was held from July 14-17, 2009 at the Crowne Plaza Niagara Falls Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, ON. As well, the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Forum was held prior to the AGM on July 11-13, 2009. Both the Youth Forum and AGM were well attended by Friendship Centre representatives from across the country.

On behalf of the NAFC Board of Directors and national office staff, we want to thank everyone who assisted to ensure the AGM was a success - our Elders, Senate, volunteers, delegates, observers and guests who graciously let their names stand to assist with the AGM committee work; the exhibitors, crafts people, workshop facilitators, entertainers and our hosts the Niagara Regional Friendship Centre and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC).

We are pleased to provide this post AGM Update to the membership for those of you who were not in attendance and recap for those of you who were able to attend and participate in this year's AGM and Youth Forum.

#### Elections

At the National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) held at the Crowne Plaza Fallsview Hotel in Niagara Falls, ON from July 14-17, 2009, elections were held for the following positions: President, Secretary and Youth Executive.

The NAFC Executive Committee for this year is comprised of the following individuals:

<b>Vera Pawis Tabobondung</b>	<b>President</b>	<b>Parry Sound, Ontario</b>
<b>Nelson Mayer</b>	<b>Vice-President</b>	<b>Winnipeg, Manitoba</b>
<b>Kama Steliga</b>	<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Lillooet, British Columbia</b>
<b>Gordon King</b>	<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Halifax, Nova Scotia</b>
<b>Christopher Sheppard</b>	<b>Youth Executive</b>	<b>St. John's, Newfoundland</b>

Contact information for the NAFC Board of Directors is attached to this update.

## **2009 Resolutions Overview**

At the NAFC's 38<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting, there were ten (10) resolutions accepted to the Resolutions Committee prior to the deadline on Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 5:00 p.m.

The resolutions adopted by the membership in attendance are attached to this update and will be posted on the NAFC website. Further updates on the work of the resolutions will be provided to the NAFC Board of Directors and membership throughout the upcoming year.

The 2009 resolutions are attached to this report.

## **Future NAFC Annual General Meetings**

At this year's AGM, the membership accepted a resolution from a member Friendship Centre to host the 2011 AGM. Future AGM's are as follows:

2010 - Hinton, AB

Hosted by the Hinton Friendship Centre

2011 - Winnipeg, MB

Hosted by the Indian and Métis Friendship Centre

## **Groovy Delegate Award**

Many of you who attended the NAFC's 30<sup>th</sup> AGM in Winnipeg, MB will remember the inauguration of the Groovy Delegate Award. This award was established in recognition of individuals within the Friendship Centre Movement who are passionate; devoted to the Friendship Centre Movement; kind and considerate of others; and who have a great sense of humour. This award originated to honour Mr. Jack "Rusty" Wilson, a dedicated and committed member of the Friendship Centre Movement for many years. It was noted that at each meeting there are people who stand out among the rest and for that reason the Groovy Delegate emerged.

The first Groovy Delegate Award was presented to Rusty Wilson and at that time represented the following:

"G" is for a Good heart, Rusty has a good heart and he is a good man;

"R" is because he can also be a Royal Pain;

"O" is for the Okanagan Nation that Rusty comes from and honours each time he comes and speaks at these meeting;

"O" is for "Oh my God, Rusty's at the mic again";

"V" is because Rusty is a Veteran and a Visionary of the Friendship Centre Movement;

"Y" you ask? I'll tell you why, because Rusty loves the Youth and more importantly, the Youth love Rusty.

This year's Groovy Delegate award was presented, on behalf of 2008 recipient Willy Abraham, by BCAAFC Executive Director Paul Lacerte to Joseph Morrison from the Ne'Chee Friendship Centre in Kenora, Ontario.

Past recipients of the Groovy Delegate Award are:

2002 - Jack "Rusty" Wilson, Vernon, BC  
2003 - Nelson Mayer, Winnipeg, MB  
2004 - Eric Ravenelle, Montreal, QC  
2005 - Nathan Sack, Halifax, NS  
2006 - Skyler Whitefish, North Battleford, SK  
2007 - Roger Obansawin, NAFC Senate  
2008 – Willy Abraham aka "Free Willy", Terrace, BC

## **20<sup>th</sup> Annual National Youth Forum**

Throughout the past two decades, the Friendship Centre Movement has seen the development of a national youth movement which formally began in Prince Albert, July 1985. Annual youth forums have been occurring since the first NAFC Youth Conference at the NAFC's 14<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting.

The annual youth forum provides the opportunity for the Friendship Centre youth membership to be updated on, provide input into and give direction to the initiatives the Aboriginal Youth Council (AYC) is undertaking. As well, the annual youth forum provides a national youth voice to the NAFC; generates ideas for youth programs, creates unity; promotes and facilitates communication and information sharing; fosters education and leadership training; provides a place for decision making that affects youth; promotes volunteerism; identifies current youth issues on a community level and nationally; promotes social conscience and responsibility on a number of relevant issues and assists local youth in finding a place within the Friendship Centre Movement, including both cultural identity and general identity as a young person.

This year the youth forum had a delegation of 91 and 61 total votes. Each day was opened and closed by Elder Clayton Logan. Sean Vanderklis and Jocelyn Formsma were this year's Youth Forum hosts.

The Annual Volleyball Tournament was another huge success which saw Manitoba retain their championship title at this year's tournament. There were a total of 5 teams who participated including a team of the NAFC national office staff.

A contact list of the current AYC members is attached to this update.

The complete Annual National Youth Forum 2009 Evaluation Report will be made available on the NAFC/AYC website.

## **Conclusion**

A very special thank you to Jaynane Burning-Fields, Executive Director of the Niagara Regional Native Centre, Roxanne Buck, President of the Centre, Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director, and the rest of the OFIFC staff, and to the Board, Staff and volunteers from the Niagara Regional Native Centre. Also a very special thank you to Mr. Sam Thomas for his exceptional work as AGM coordinator.

The AGM and Youth Forum was well organized and an overwhelming success. This would not have been possible without all the contributions from the many people and organizations noted above.

In closing, we would greatly appreciate it if you could take a few minutes to complete the attached AGM Evaluation Form and fax it back to the NAFC national office at (613) 594-3428.

We hope everyone enjoyed their time in Niagara Falls, ON. We look forward to seeing you all again next year in Hinton, AB.

If we can be of any further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact the NAFC National Office.

**Enclosures:**

NAFC Board of Directors Contact List  
NAFC Staff Contact List  
Aboriginal Youth Council Contact List  
2009 Resolutions