



National Association of Friendship Centres
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For Immediate Release

National Association of Friendship Centres Demands Apology from Canadian Taxpayers Federation

OTTAWA, November 27, 2007 - The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) demands an apology from the Canadian Taxpayers Federation for implying that our funding is not well spent.

In a press release yesterday, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation listed the NAFC's contributions from the Government of Canada in their list of "Top 100" contributions for their first year in office. In the release they suggested that initiatives on the list are not well spent, and that Aboriginal spending in particular is unaccountable. In particular we are disappointed that the Canadian Taxpayers Federation would imply that our funding is not scrutinized by the auditor general.

"By using inaccurate language and suggesting that all "aboriginal groups" are not scrutinized by the auditor general, the Canadian Taxpayers Federation is discrediting their entire report", stated Vera Pawis Tabobondung, President of the NAFC. "One would think that if they are to suggest payments to local community agencies are spent "questionably, inefficiently and, in some cases, outright irresponsibly" they would have taken some care in getting their most basic facts straight."

The National Association of Friendship Centres and our member Friendship Centres are held to the highest standards possible for the funding we receive and the programming we are engaged upon. We are in full compliance with Transfer Payment Policy and have been monitored accordingly. The NAFC has completed a Summative Evaluation, Program Audits and Recipient Audits from the Government of Canada to ensure that funds are spent appropriately and programs are conducted properly. In each instance the NAFC has come out favourably.

"We provide excellent value for the Government of Canada in providing much needed services to Canada's urban Aboriginal population", said Peter Dinsdale, Executive Director. "To diminish the value of these services, or suggest the funding we receive is not well spent, is inappropriate and ill-advised."

If the Canadian Taxpayers Federation have any honour they will apologize for suggesting our funding is not well spent, and issue an appropriate retraction. At minimum they should be forced to describe their methodology. How did they determine which programs offer value, and which are misspent?

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is Canada's only urban Aboriginal service delivery infrastructure dedicated to improving the quality of life for Aboriginal Peoples in an urban environment by supporting self-determined activities which encourage equal access to, and participation in Canadian

society; and which respect and strengthen the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

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