



Life Long Learning

Goal

To ensure that urban Aboriginal people have access to quality, Aboriginal education programs at every stage of the life cycle.

Issue Statement

Aboriginal people have historically under-achieved in education. Programs in urban communities for Aboriginal people have been sporadic and underfunded. At many levels it is non-existent. The National Association of Friendship Centres would like to see work done on the following areas:

Programming Areas

- *Aboriginal Head Start Program* - an expansion of the program to provide service in all 117 Friendship Centre communities who desire it.
- *Program for Aboriginal people aged 6 to 12* - a critical junction in the development of a child. Many health, justice and education impacts can be realized with meaningful programming for this age group
- *Education Attainment* - Aboriginal specific programming is needed to help ensure all Aboriginal people graduate from highschool
- *Literacy* - a national Aboriginal literacy strategy is needed to help adult learners
- *Employment Retraining* - as the labour market evolves, we need targeted strategies to help urban Aboriginal people be equitably employed
- *Aboriginal Languages and Culture* - supports must be provided to help people in communities retain language and culture
- *Bridging the Gap* - Friendship Centres can help facilitate cultural understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities through sensitivity training and workshops.

Meaningful Statistics*

- 71% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve
- 68% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population live in urban areas
- 50% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25
- 48% of Aboriginal people have not completed highschool
- 20% of Aboriginal youth (15-19) who dropped out of school did so because they were bored
- 39% of non-reserve population completed post-secondary schooling compared to 55% of non-Aboriginal population



All Call For Action and Inclusion

The NAFC, as Canada's largest Aboriginal social service delivery organization, must be engaged in developing strategies to address these issues. Many Friendship Centres are engaged in programming locally to address many of these issues. What is missing is a national strategy to ensure that consistent and effective services are available from coast-to-coast-to-coast.

National Association of Friendship Centres

Mandate

To improve 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 respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

Background

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a national Aboriginal organization representing the concerns of 117 cultural and community development organizations across Canada. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres, as well as the clients they serve, at the national level.

Friendship Centres deliver a wide spectrum of programs and services to Aboriginal people living in towns and cities across the country. Friendship Centres represent a community based and directed Aboriginal institution serving the interests of urban Aboriginal Peoples in the areas of social, cultural, recreational, economic and community development. Friendship Centres provides and promotes human resource development through a wide range of programs and services to a diverse and increasing urban Aboriginal community.

In the past year alone, Friendship Centres across Canada provided over 757,000 people with services through over 900 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a status Indian, non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit.

For more information please visit the NAFC website at:

www.nafc-aboriginal.com

National Association of Friendship Centres
275 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0L9

Telephone: (613) 563-4844 Fax: (613) 594-3428



Accountability

Goal

To ensure that all governments and organizations are accountable for and to the people they serve.

Issue Statement

Accountability is more than reporting financials and activities to funders. Accountability means that we are truly representing and serving the needs of peoples living in communities. Many have argued that accountability means recognizing the authority of an organization to speak for the people they represent. We would like to see accountability mean being responsible for the living conditions of the people we serve.

Programming Areas

Accountability has long been a priority for the Friendship Centre Movement. Friendship Centres have been accountable to the communities we serve and our funders for the past fifty years. As an example of accountability, the Friendship Centre Movement has accepted a Code of Ethics to govern our behaviors. Any move to focus accountability for the status of the people we serve is welcome. As a service delivery organization, the Friendship Centre Movement is committed to helping people in communities and is not side tracked by politics.

Meaningful Statistics*

- 71% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve
- 68% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population live in urban areas
- 50% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25
- 56% of Aboriginal people reported excellent or very good health
- 45% of Aboriginal people over 15 reported having a chronic health condition
- 7% on the non-reserve Aboriginal population has diabetes vs. 4.3% of the total population
- 31% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population has access to traditional medicine
- 48% of Aboriginal people have not completed highschool
- 20% of Aboriginal youth (15-19) who dropped out of school did so because they were bored
- 39% of non-reserve population completed post-secondary schooling compared to 55% of non-Aboriginal population
- 25% of off-reserve households were in a core housing need vs. 16% of non-Aboriginal people
- 17% of off-reserve Aboriginal people live in crowded housing compared to 7% of non-Aboriginal peoples
- 18% of Aboriginal people living in non-reserve areas required major repairs vs. 8% of the total population
- Aboriginal household income is 87% of non-Aboriginal households
- Average Aboriginal income is \$ 14,553 vs. \$ 19,207 for the non-Aboriginal population
- Aboriginal peoples unemployment rate is 19.1% vs. 7.4% for the non-Aboriginal population



All Call For Action and Inclusion

The NAFC, as Canada's largest Aboriginal social service delivery organization, must be engaged in developing strategies to address these issues. Friendship Centres must be an active partner in the development of programs aimed at ameliorating the urban Aboriginal condition. Friendship Centres remain committed to be accountable to our communities for the effectiveness of the programs we provide. Friendship Centres must be invited to represent ourselves at all tables where service delivery is discussed.

National Association of Friendship Centres

Mandate

To improve 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 respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

Background

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a national Aboriginal organization representing the concerns of 117 cultural and community development organizations across Canada. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres, as well as the clients they serve, at the national level.

Friendship Centres deliver a wide spectrum of programs and services to Aboriginal people living in towns and cities across the country. Friendship Centres represent a community based and directed Aboriginal institution serving the interests of urban Aboriginal Peoples in the areas of social, cultural, recreational, economic and community development. Friendship Centres provides and promotes human resource development through a wide range of programs and services to a diverse and increasing urban Aboriginal community.

In the past year alone, Friendship Centres across Canada provided over 757,000 people with services through over 900 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a status Indian, non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit.

For more information please visit the NAFC website at:

www.nafc-aboriginal.com

National Association of Friendship Centres
275 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0L9

Telephone: (613) 563-4844 Fax: (613) 594-3428



Economic Opportunities

Goal

To ensure that urban Aboriginal people and organizations have access to tools and resources which will enable them to realize the potential economic opportunities available to the rest of Canada.

Issue Statement

Economic development has long been a goal for Aboriginal people living in urban areas. Unfortunately, most of the governments focus on economic development opportunities has taken place on-reserves. Both individuals and organizations require tools and resources to access economic opportunities which exists. The National Association of Friendship Centres would like to see work done on the following areas:

Programming Areas

- *Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy* - this strategy is a natural fit to ensure that urban Aboriginal people have equitable access to federal government labour market programming
- *Urban Aboriginal Infrastructure* - the acquisition of buildings and property for programs greatly expands programming opportunities. A new capital acquisition program needs to be established to facilitate urban Aboriginal infrastructure development.

Meaningful Statistics*

- 71% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve
- 68% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population live in urban areas
- 50% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25
- Aboriginal household income is 87% of non-Aboriginal households
- Average Aboriginal income is \$ 14,553 vs. \$ 19,207 for the non-Aboriginal population
- Aboriginal peoples unemployment rate is 19.1% vs. 7.4% for the non-Aboriginal population

All Call For Action and Inclusion

The NAFC, as Canada's largest Aboriginal social service delivery organization, must be engaged in developing strategies to address these issues. Friendship Centres are a natural service delivery point to reach urban Aboriginal people who require specific employment and training supports. Additionally, a capital acquisition program would be a much needed program to help Friendship Centres, as the primary urban Aboriginal service delivery agent, become self-sufficient.



National Association of Friendship Centres

Mandate

To improve 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 respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

Background

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a national Aboriginal organization representing the concerns of 117 cultural and community development organizations across Canada. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres, as well as the clients they serve, at the national level.

Friendship Centres deliver a wide spectrum of programs and services to Aboriginal people living in towns and cities across the country. Friendship Centres represent a community based and directed Aboriginal institution serving the interests of urban Aboriginal Peoples in the areas of social, cultural, recreational, economic and community development. Friendship Centres provides and promotes human resource development through a wide range of programs and services to a diverse and increasing urban Aboriginal community.

In the past year alone, Friendship Centres across Canada provided over 757,000 people with services through over 900 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a status Indian, non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit.

For more information please visit the NAFC website at:

www.nafc-aboriginal.com

National Association of Friendship Centres
275 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0L9

Telephone: (613) 563-4844 Fax: (613) 594-3428



Health

Goal

To ensure that urban Aboriginal people have access to effective and efficient health programs which provide culturally appropriate responses for the health status of urban Aboriginal peoples.

Issue Statement

The health status of all Aboriginal people is very poor. Reduced life expectancy, diabetes rates, fetal alcohol syndrome / effects and others highlight the urgent crisis which exists. The level of services available to urban Aboriginal people is not sufficient to address the demands. The National Association of Friendship Centres would like to see work done on the following areas:

Programming Areas

- *Prevention* - work on healthy sexuality, food and nutrition, tobacco use, family violence and mental health must be undertaken.
- *Promotion* - the promotion of better health amongst Aboriginal peoples needs to be a priority. Work on healthy pregnancies, children's health, mental health, physical activity and seniors health are important to the future of our communities.
- *Access to Primary Health Care* - poverty prevents many Aboriginal people from access help when they need it.
- *Addictions* - a great need exists for treatment programs, aftercare and acute care facilities
- *Programming* - Fetal Alcohol Syndrome/Effects, residential school issues, family violence, diabetes and justice transition are all issues which require immediate action.

Meaningful Statistics*

- 71% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve
- 68% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population live in urban areas
- 50% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25
- 56% of Aboriginal people reported excellent or very good health
- 45% of Aboriginal people over 15 reported having a chronic health condition
- 7% on the non-reserve Aboriginal population has diabetes vs. 4.3% of the total population
- 31% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population has access to traditional medicine

All Call For Action and Inclusion

The NAFC, as Canada's largest Aboriginal social service delivery organization, must be engaged in developing strategies to address these issues. Friendship Centres are a critical juncture point in addressing the urban Aboriginal health condition. Friendship Centres have a role to play in providing Aboriginal specific health programs as well ensuring access to primary health care. The time for Nation-wide, Aboriginal specific health programming in urban areas has come.



National Association of Friendship Centres

Mandate

To improve 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 respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

Background

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a national Aboriginal organization representing the concerns of 117 cultural and community development organizations across Canada. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres, as well as the clients they serve, at the national level.

Friendship Centres deliver a wide spectrum of programs and services to Aboriginal people living in towns and cities across the country. Friendship Centres represent a community based and directed Aboriginal institution serving the interests of urban Aboriginal Peoples in the areas of social, cultural, recreational, economic and community development. Friendship Centres provides and promotes human resource development through a wide range of programs and services to a diverse and increasing urban Aboriginal community.

In the past year alone, Friendship Centres across Canada provided over 757,000 people with services through over 900 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a status Indian, non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit.

For more information please visit the NAFC website at:

www.nafc-aboriginal.com

National Association of Friendship Centres
275 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0L9

Telephone: (613) 563-4844 Fax: (613) 594-3428



Housing

Goal

To ensure that the urban Aboriginal community has access to effective, Aboriginal controlled, designed and delivered Homelessness and Housing Programs.

Issue Statement

Urban Aboriginal people are under housed at all levels of the housing continuum. In urban areas across Canada, Aboriginal people are over represented in the homelessness population. As well, years of inaction has increased the demands for social housing units to crisis levels. The National Association of Friendship Centres would like to see work done on the following areas:

Programming Areas

- *Urban Aboriginal Affordable Housing Program* - urban Aboriginal housing status is very poor. Investments are needed to ensure that urban Aboriginal people have access to affordable housing units.
- *Urban Aboriginal Homelessness Program* - too many Aboriginal people are homeless. A national program is needed to ensure that all Aboriginal people have appropriate services available.
- *Urban Aboriginal Home Ownership Plan* - it is not enough to rely on affordable housing units, action is required on the private ownership front.

Meaningful Statistics*

- 71% of all Aboriginal people live off-reserve
- 68% of the non-reserve Aboriginal population live in urban areas
- 50% of the Aboriginal population is under the age of 25
- 25% of off-reserve households were in a core housing need vs. 16% of non-Aboriginal people
- 17% of off-reserve Aboriginal people live in crowded housing compared to 7% of non-Aboriginal peoples
- 18% of Aboriginal people living in non-reserve areas required major repairs vs. 8% of the total population

All Call For Action and Inclusion

The NAFC, as Canada's largest Aboriginal social service delivery organization, must be engaged in developing strategies to address these issues. Friendship Centres are the first line of action to help service homeless and under-housed Aboriginal peoples. As Friendship Centre programs add the continuum of supports for homeless and housing services, the development of a specific program to address the shelter and affordable housing needs of urban Aboriginal peoples is essential. Further interest free loans and down payment programs should be made available to enable urban Aboriginal people to become home owners.



National Association of Friendship Centres

Mandate

To improve 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 respects and strengthens the increasing emphasis on Aboriginal cultural distinctiveness.

Background

The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is a national Aboriginal organization representing the concerns of 117 cultural and community development organizations across Canada. The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) was established in 1972 to represent the growing number of Friendship Centres, as well as the clients they serve, at the national level.

Friendship Centres deliver a wide spectrum of programs and services to Aboriginal people living in towns and cities across the country. Friendship Centres represent a community based and directed Aboriginal institution serving the interests of urban Aboriginal Peoples in the areas of social, cultural, recreational, economic and community development. Friendship Centres provides and promotes human resource development through a wide range of programs and services to a diverse and increasing urban Aboriginal community.

In the past year alone, Friendship Centres across Canada provided over 757,000 people with services through over 900 programs. All of our programs are provided 'status-blind', that is without consideration if a person is a status Indian, non-status Indian, Métis or Inuit.

For more information please visit the NAFC website at:

www.nafc-aboriginal.com

National Association of Friendship Centres
275 MacLaren Street
Ottawa, Ontario
K2P 0L9

Telephone: (613) 563-4844 Fax: (613) 594-3428