

FIRST NATIONS ADULT AND HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM

Executive Director Report
FNAHEC 2008 Annual Meeting

By
Dr. Vivian Ayoungman

1. LOBBYING AND REPRESENTATION ON COMMITTEES

- Key focus – Federal uncapping of education funding and support and recognition of First Nations Postsecondary Students/Institutions/Programs (Lifelong learning as per the “Spirit and Intent of Treaties vs narrow focus on K-12)
- AFN PSE Committee – input and review of AFN documents to ensure inclusion of Adult/Postsecondary (**students and institutions**) in INAC authority renewal exercise. A key document is the update of the “Indian Control of Indian Education” policy. Several lobby activities have been held across the country. Special resolutions have been presented at National Chiefs’ assemblies. Documents can be accessed at the www.afn.ca website
- All of INAC education authorities were carried over for 3 years and PSE is not included; decision deferred for 18 months
- Meetings have been held with provincial officials including those overseeing the grant programs.
- A meeting was held with Minister Horner of Advanced Education and Technology. He indicated a possible collaboration on data collection
- *Dr. Smallface Marule, FNAHEC President, and Dr. Ayoungman, Executive Director, have served on various national working committees.*
- Among the commitments of the Executive Director are to serve on the: PWRDF Board, Alberta Computers for Schools, National Indian Education Council (AFN), Co-Director of the Aboriginal Learning Knowledge Centre (ABLK) of the CCL, Part-time Director of Treaty 7 First Nations Education Association. All of these roles provide maximum exposure for FNAHEC

Follow Up:

- Access AFN documents at www.afn.ca website
- Review and provide feedback to AFN documents as requested
- Solicit support of local leadership to endorse AFN resolutions (see resolutions under AFN banner at www.afn.ca)
- Select representative to National Chiefs’ Assembly in Ottawa, Westin Hotel, December 9-11 – all details at AFN website (registration, resolution template, hotel information...)

- Collaborate/Review potential data base initiatives of Advanced Ed, AFN and CCL
- Set up a meeting with Minister Zwosdesky, Aboriginal Affairs

2. REGIONAL HEALTH SURVEY

- *Monica Chiefmoon is the Coordinator*
- Alberta Survey Report for last phase is now published
- National RHS office, housed at AFN, has done training for regional coordinators for next Phase of Survey
- Alberta participating First Nations have been randomly selected
- Monica and research assistants will work with FN membership departments for random selection of interviewees; Alberta sample size is 3000+
- Health departments and FNAHEC colleges have been contacted to facilitate selection of Research Assistants.
- Training/orientation by Ottawa personnel for Alberta Research Assistants was held on November 4-5 on Edmonton with a very low participation rate (FNAHEC colleges and Health Directors were invited)
- Data collection was initially to be completed by end of November 2008 but the new deadline is March 2009 (due to the lateness of CA's)

Follow Up:

- FNAHEC's assistance in ensuring all FN's selected to participate get on board asap (FN BCR's required, research assistants still to be hired, more orientation/training to be arranged, random selection of participants to be done, 3000+ surveys to be completed by March 30, 2009)
- CA has been signed with AFN; expecting release of funds
- Immediate Communication with all relevant groups is a must; FNAHEC Board members are urged to lobby for the support of RHS – (AFN Resolution #9 from the July 2008 Chiefs Assembly outlines the rationale to support RHS)

3. INDIGENOUS WORLD NET – PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND (PWRDF)

- \$20,000 International grant (Second year of 3 year grant) – a portion is to be used to cover partial costs for two exchange students from Peru who are now at Blue Quills College. Blue Quills volunteered to host two students (tuition free and billets);
- Another portion is to be used in collaboration with Peru to submit bid for WIPCE 2011 and for FNAHEC's on-going involvement with WINHEC.
- I was to travel to Peru to Indigenous Women's conference to assist with bid preparation – was not able to go but have assisted electronically with various drafts of required submissions.

- Indigenous World Website – \$30,000 to update and maintain site and create useful links (translate into Spanish); and enhance e-learning capacity to share knowledge gained with other indigenous groups. This grant is currently being used to support travel and meeting costs for curriculum development for e-learning and for organizing of pilot starting January 2009. The learnings from this pilot are to be shared eventually with other indigenous groups.
- Vivian sits on the PWRDF Board and recently attended a Board meeting to present on the progress of the e-learning project. The initiative was well received; several PWRDF Board members are interested in registering for the course when open to the public.

Follow Up

- Clearly articulate how IWnet will assist indigenous groups at a global level
- Host a partners round table for PWRDF – determine date and location for early June
- Continue facilitation of bid for WIPCE 2011, and if successful, for Peru to host next WIPCE conference

4. ABORIGINAL LEARNING KNOWLEDGE CENTRE (ABLK)

- FNAHEC the Co-lead of the ABLK (that has 2.5 offices in Calgary, Saskatoon, Ottawa) is in its last few months.
- *Dr. Ayoungman* is Co-Director; *Genevieve Fox* is the Coordinator for the Calgary office under FNAHEC
- *Dr. Marie Smallface Marule, Andy Black Water, Dennis Callihoo and Doreen Beauchamp* represent FNAHEC on the Steering Committee
- Newsletter – contains updates from 6 Animation Theme Bundles (ATB's); our two colleges that are leading ATB bundles (ATB 1 – Learning from Place, RCCC and ATB 3 – Language and Learning, Blue Quills) are busy with research and knowledge exchange activities. Other FNAHEC members are members of the advisory committees of other ATB's
- Second Annual Conference, Feb 28 –March 1, 2008, Westin Bay Shore, Vancouver was highly successful.
- Community Dialogue Sessions were scheduled for 4 communities on Holistic Lifelong Learning/Redefining Success Model; both Genevieve and I have been invited to various locations to present on the model
- The other Knowledge Centres have actively recruited ABLK staff to attend their activities to enhance information exchange about First Nations/Metis/Inuit issues.
- HRSDC- has requested each Knowledge Centre to extend workplans to August 09 (instead of March 09, the end of current mandate) but with no new funds; this is to ensure continuity in case the mandate is extended for a further 5 year term.

- ABLKC involvement has escalated requests for presentations and has increased profile of FNAHEC
- CCL evaluation received positive feedback on ABLKC.

Upcoming Major Events:

- no stand alone ABLKC conference in 2009 ,but ABLKC ATB's are presenting at other major events: WIPCE 2008, Saskatchewan Learning Research Conference (April); Winnipeg Research Conference (May).
- A questionnaire was circulated to Steering Committee and Consortium to provide feedback on the future strategy for ABLKC, if CCL gets a renewed mandate; a conference call is scheduled with the ABLKC Steering Committee to review feedback received.
- Visit the CCL website for information on on-going events and products for each of the Knowledge Centres (www.ccl-cca.ca). CCL is tracking the visits to each of the Knowledge Centre sites (potential measure of the knowledge exchange activities of the each centre).

5. FNAHEC JOINT PROJECTS

- **work already in progress but accelerated by Access Grants from Alberta Advanced Education:** a) Indigenous Social Work Degree Program – coordinated out of Blue Quills, b) Language Certification – coordinated out of Blue Quills, and c) First Nations Accreditation Board (FNAB) – coordinated out of Yellowhead Tribal College
- Each of 6 institutions was to contribute \$30,000 from their \$200,000 grant from Advanced Education for a potential total of \$180,000 for joint initiatives. The FNAHEC Board by motion determined the 3 priority areas.
- Advanced Education has confirmed that the colleges will again receive access grant funds (\$1.2 M in total) and the 6 colleges agree to provide on-going funding to the joint initiatives.
- The 2009/10 workplans and budgets have been submitted by each of the projects.
- Advanced Education hosted funding raising workshops including our institutions

Follow up:

- Advanced Education will be requesting a progress report on each of the projects for activities and funds expended since the beginning of the projects.
- Facilitate fund raising activities as required; colleges need to raise funds to access Alberta matching grants

6. RENAISSANCE FUND – BURSARY FOR STUDENTS

- Bursary (\$2M) is available to each of the 6 colleges; the allocation formula was calculated by the 6 colleges when the grant was introduced – 50% was allocated as a base and the other 50% was based on enrollment. The formula has not been revisited.

Follow Up

- re-visit formula as necessary
- submit reports as required
- encourage recipients to submit thank you letters to Ministry
- track student successes

7. MARKETING GRANT

- FNAHEC brochure was produced
- FNAHEC website is being updated by Stoneboy media

Follow-Up:

- Recommend we focus on a document re: success stories (students but also programs) so that we are prepared when requested for to provide specific information.
- Seek funds to develop a DVD on FNAHEC

8. E-LEARNING GRANT

- Grant from Aboriginal relations for FNAHEC colleges to review E-Learning capacity and requirements – Ruth Provost prepared a Comprehensive Planning Guide and for colleges to map out what they need to do to start offering on-line courses
- A subsequent planning meeting was arranged with Brian Stewart from Athabasca University.
- The FNAHEC First Nations Studies Curriculum committee met in June and July to strategize and to begin drafting course(s) to be offered on line
- A “Moodle” orientation session by Brian Stewart of AU (and other AU personnel who joined us by teleconferencing) was hosted by Maskwachees Cultural College on September 19.
- The “Planning Team” went to AU in October to begin hands design of the first course under the guidance of AU personnel.
- Plan is still to begin pilot of a course (Cosmology in January 2009).
- The Sunchild E-Learning pilot ended at the end of June; funded 50% by TransCanada.

Follow Up:

- facilitate future corporate sponsorships for projects as appropriate and approved by the Board

9. FIRST NATIONS STUDIES COURSES

- Distributed learning Curriculum – a proposal was submitted to Alberta Advanced Education but was not approved. The development has proceeded in typical “let’s just do it” approach by visionaries of FNAHEC colleges. This is now tied to the e-learning work. Support for curriculum development meetings is supported by IWnet grant from PWRDF. The first course is scheduled to be offered in January 2009.

Follow Up

- Strategic plans required for all activities related to this initiative: what server will host, who will coordinate, what process to advertise, registration, student support etc (review Ruth Provost guide for implementation and workshops by Brian Stewart AU)

10. INTEGRATED LIBRARY PROJECT – FIRST NATIONS INFORMATION CENTRE (FNIC)

- official launch the website <http://fnic.sirsi.net> resulting from the integrated library project (off shoot of Lois Hole Campus Alberta Digital Library initiative) is November 13 at Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park
- Our FNAHEC librarians involved want to start a First Nations Library Association.

11. HEALTH CANADA INITIATIVES

- FNAHEC had been invited to submit a proposal to develop modules for inservice of Health practitioners, due to many commitments there has been no follow up as a collective.

12. WORLD INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ CONFERENCE ON EDUCATION (WIPCE) 2008

- Dr. Ayoungman serves as an advisor on the International Sub Committee and that attempted to hold virtual meetings (not too successful)
- She was invited to submit 3 names of featured speakers from Canada and an official representative for the opening ceremony; this got political

within Canada thus the Australian committee selected speakers on their own. Also, the participants were invited to designate their voluntary participation in opening and closing ceremonies.

Follow-up

- Assisting Peru to submit bid for WIPCE 2011

**13. WORLD INDIGENOUS HIGHER EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
(WINHEC)**

- next meeting will be held immediately before WIPCE 2008 in Australia
- Canada has four representatives: Amelia Crowfoot Clark (FNAHEC), Seaneen O'Rourke (FNAB) and Trevor Lewis and Doreen Beauchamp (NAIHL)
- WINHEC 2009 will be hosted in Canada – FNTI (Ontario) is the host site.