



FSIN JUSTICE

Newsletter



Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations



December 2009



Greetings From Vice Chief Delbert Wapass

On behalf of my family and the Justice Staff of the Federation, I extend warmest wishes to you and your family during this holiday season. May the blessings of peace, happiness and prosperity be yours now and remain with you throughout the New Year.

This year has been one of many challenges for First Nations in the area of justice. However, out of these challenges arose peacekeeping development that has traditionally been an important part of First Nation community life. Beginning in January 2010, First Nations will have the opportunity to participate in a peacekeeping pilot training project. The success of the pilot will determine future development of the peacekeeping agenda on a province-wide basis.

As the Executive Member responsible for the Justice Portfolio, I want to assure you that I will do my utmost in supporting First Nation initiatives and effectively responding to the expressed needs of the communities.

I look forward to the opportunities that the New Year will bring and I am honoured to serve and be able to contribute to your vision of justice and what it means from a First Nations perspective.

Respectfully,



"It would be so much easier just to fold our hands and not make this fight. To say, "I, as one man, can do nothing". I grow afraid only when I see people thinking and acting like this. We all know the story about the man who sat beside the trail too long and then it grew over and he could never find his way again. We can never forget what has happened, but we cannot go back, nor can we just sit beside the trail."

 Chief Pitikwanapiwiyin 1886

Background to First Nations Peacekeeping

Peacekeeping has been an ongoing agenda item for the past several years. In September 2007, Canada, Saskatchewan and FSIN established an Intergovernmental Table with representatives from Public Safety Canada, Saskatchewan and FSIN to discuss improved community safety services for First Nations that are currently delivered by the RCMP. Since then, the Intergovernmental Table held a minimum of ten meetings and each of these meetings reiterated the importance of prevention and intervention activity as a critical aspect of community safety within First Nation territories.

At the June 2009 Legislative Assembly, the Chiefs of Saskatchewan mandated FSIN with the "negotiation of a First Nation Peacekeeping Initiative that would include:

- infrastructure and protocol development;
- Funding;
- quality training;
- capacity development; and
- further directed FSIN to "continue to re-negotiate the *Framework Agreement* as directed by the Chiefs-in-Assembly in February 2007".

One component of the Chiefs-in-Assembly resolution is to provide quality training for the development of skilled peacekeepers to work in First Nation communities. In July 2009, the FSIN facilitated the establishment of a partnership between First Nations University of Canada (FN University) and the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology (SIAST) to design and deliver an Indigenous Peacekeeping Program that would meet the unique needs of First Nation communities. Curriculum was designed by SIAST and FN University, and presented to the Indian Justice Commission and the Chiefs who are signatory to the Policing Tripartite Agreements for their review and approval.

The negotiation of the Peacekeeping Initiative is also part of the Intergovernmental Table process. At the 10 November 2009 Intergovernmental meeting, Canada and Saskatchewan committed to fund the Indigenous Peacekeeping Pilot Training Project which will conclude at the end of June 2010.

The pilot training project will be supported by mentors in each area and by the Peacekeeping Coordinator who began employment with FSIN on 14 December 2009.

FSIN, in collaboration with FN University, has contracted SIAST to deliver the pilot training. SIAST was established in 1959 as a diploma granting college that is nationally recognized for its skills and technical training. Due to the nature of pilot projects, space will be limited until it becomes a program.

First Nation communities who are interested in having further discussions about peacekeeping may contact the FSIN Justice Secretariat.

We can't change what has happened, but we can change the future for ourselves, for our children and for those yet to come. And we can hold onto those values that were handed down from generation to generation." Tony Incashola, Flathead"

Indigenous Peacekeeping Training Program

Introduction

The Indigenous Peacekeeping Training program is a pilot project delivered through a partnership among the Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Sciences and Technology, the First Nations University of Canada and the Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations. The partnership was established in response to identified public safety concerns of Saskatchewan First Nations communities.

Peacekeepers will gain knowledge and skills to perform a number of duties and responsibilities such as:

- Understanding and enforcing criminal and First Nation law and bylaws
- Responding to family and community crisis situations
- Controlling crowd activity
- Protecting and securing investigation scenes
- Working with the community, RCMP & other agencies
- Providing accurate written reports

The Indigenous Peacekeeping training will focus on:

- strong interpersonal communication skills
- working knowledge of the criminal justice system
- understanding and dealing with family violence and addiction
- managing conflict, aggression and violence
- accurate report writing and note taking
- suicide intervention and prevention techniques
- problem-solving
- ethics and professionalism in a peacekeeping role
- knowledge of First Nations governance

Throughout the program, course participants will develop a healthy lifestyle, expand personal knowledge about occupational health and safety, and practice leadership and teamwork.

The complete program consists of 19 courses totalling 617 contact hours plus 90 hours of field experience. This field experience will take place in individual First Nation communities and will provide participants with an opportunity to apply skills learned in the classroom.

Course participants who have previously completed relevant post secondary education or work related training will be assessed for advance credit into the program.

Entrance Requirements for the Program include:

Grade 12 and successful completion of Security Officer Training as recognized by the Province of Saskatchewan.

The program will be delivered in 4 levels: Level 1 and Level 2 will be delivered from January 25 to March 31, 2010 and Levels 3 and 4 will be delivered from April 12 to June 30, 2010. Training is scheduled in four different areas: La Ronge, Prince Albert, Yorkton and North Battleford. A specific location for each program will be determined.

For more information please contact: **Daryl Watson: 1-306- 956-6901**

Indigenous Association for Just Relations

In 1996 FSIN embarked on a partnership with Saskatchewan Justice and the RCMP to deliver Victim-Offender mediation trainings in First Nation territories. The intent of the partnership was to develop the capacity of First Nations to conduct mediation trainings within their own territories. Unfortunately this did not occur to the extent that was envisioned.

The FSIN Justice Secretariat then focused on the development of an accrediting body for First Nation facilitators, mediators, negotiators and adjudicators. The accrediting body is called the *Indigenous Association for Just Relations* which was federally incorporated in May 2008. The objects of the corporation are:

- To ensure that all programs and processes developed by the *Association* reflect the principles of Indigenous law
- To provide Indigenous Nations with the skills necessary to facilitate the resolution of Indigenous issues in all areas of community life
- To assist in the accreditation of Indigenous programs and processes, including Indigenous Peacemaking
- To establish and enforce Indigenous standards for the identified processes of facilitation, mediation, negotiation and dispute resolution
- To establish ongoing internal review mechanisms to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the Association

The Association's integrated governance training strategy includes effective facilitation skills as a starting point. Tools such as the "Good Relations" and "Facilitating for Self-Determination" guides were developed to support and advance this governance work which is so essential in our territories.

Governance developments in First Nations have been proceeding on a number of fronts. Some First Nations are expanding their jurisdictional foundations through legislative and policy development; others are developing institutional capacity for effective governance; and others are building sustainable economies that provide individual and community opportunities. As experienced among First Nations, the development of effective governance structures and processes requires the critical elements of community consultation, engagement, decision-making and mobilization. These elements of community participation are necessary to lead the change effort that will result in responsible First Nations' governance.

Over the past year, the Association has been gradually developing its governance structures and processes. Facilitation and mediation standards have been developed in accordance with the Association's objects. In September 2009, five First Nation professionals were trained as Trainers for Interactive Processes. These people will be available to assist in enhancing facilitation skills in the communities;

- Rick Whitecloud, Standing Buffalo First Nation
- Shawna Greyeyes, Muskeg Lake Cree Nation
- Crystal Albert, Waterhen First Nation
- Nola Mahingen, Cowessess First Nation

