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Liard Aboriginal Women's Society Program Update

Since 2001 we have been receiving funding from the Aboriginal Healing Foundation to address the legacy of physical and sexual abuse of the residential schools. With their funding we have provided many programs and services which include:

Western Psychotherapy:

Programs and services have included:

- A full-time therapist
- Providing the services of Dr. Richardson to Ross River
- Naturopath and Chiropractor Dr. Carolee Bateson-Koch
- Training for community outreach peer support by Dr. Allan Wade
- Approaching Violence in the Context of Justice with Dr. Allan Wade
- Dr. Isis Van-loon
- Naturopath from Vancouver, Dr. Catherine Richardson
- Nick Todd from the Women's Shelter in Calgary who worked with Dr. Allan Wade

Over the 10 years there have been many other professionals as well who have helped us in our journey to address the issues of the residential school. We have been truly blessed to have had so many great teachers and healers who have come to Kaska homeland to assist us on our path of healing.

Traditional Psychotherapy:

From 2001 to 2005 we had the opportunity to take a group of members each year to Chilcotin Lake, BC to take part in ceremonies offered by Edmond Faubert and his team of healers. This provided an opportunity for many of us to once again witness the power of the ceremonies of our ancestors. We have been blessed to have had Edmond and his team travel to Watson Lake and Frances Lake for traditional ceremonies as well.

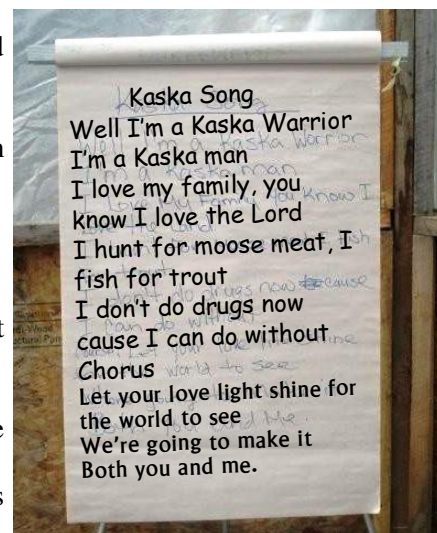
We have had many traditional healers come from Alberta and other areas to help us clear the energies that are left from the residential schools. There was a Medicine Wheel gathering in Ross River that we attended and we joined them in ceremonies and honoring of our ancestors for their medicines.



Cultural Camp at Frances Lake:

This program had the largest number of participants with members coming from Ft. Ware, Frances Lake, Good Hope Lake, Ross River, Lower Post and Whitehorse. The Aboriginal Health Fund provided us with funding from 2001 to 2005.

The project blessed many of us with the opportunity to connect with the Elders who were more than happy to teach us how to live on the land. The project not only helped us to learn the traditional skills but provided us with a sense of belonging and security. There was a lot of laughter and sharing, and members expressed how much they enjoyed going back to the land - and often did not want to return to the negativity of town!



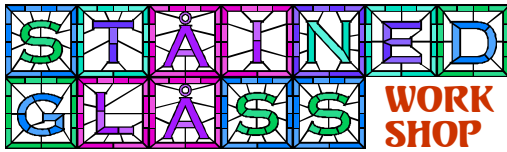
Over the last 10 years we have been able to provide many other programs with funding from sources too numerous to list in this newsletter. I would encourage you to visit our website to view the many programs and pictures that tell the story of our journey together.

www.liardaboriginalwomen.ca



Liard Aboriginal Women's Society

COMING EVENTS



We are in the process of organizing a Stained Glass Workshop for February and seating will be limited to 10 people. If you are interested please call our office and register for a seat. If there are a lot of interested members we may hold another workshop this spring.

The workshop will be held Feb 16, 17, 18.



TRADITIONAL CRAFTS

We have submitted a proposal for funding for Traditional Crafts workshops, hopefully in February. If we are successful in securing the funding, we will ensure that posters are put up with the details.

Therapist:

We are in the process of arranging for both a male and female therapist from Whitehorse to provide services to members in Watson Lake, Lower Post and Good Hope Lake.

In February, an introductory visit will take place where LAWS will be introducing them to the different resources in each community. After the introductory visit, LAWS will be assisting them in rotating through the communities.

Once we better know everyone's schedule, a routine will be developed for regular visits. Prior to a therapist's arrival, individuals and the community will be notified. If you would like to see a therapist, please call LAWS at 867 536-2097.



Travis Stewart

The purpose of the Cultural Support Program is to provide all eligible former IRS students and their families with access to the culturally safe support services of a traditional healer or practitioner.

We are very pleased to have Travis in our office providing the necessary office management and cultural support as needed.

Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program Now Funded by Health Canada

As of March 31, 2010, the Federal Government no longer funded the Aboriginal Healing Foundation. In anticipation of this funding cut, we submitted proposals and lobbied for funding from the Yukon Government and Health Canada.

We are pleased to report that we were successful in securing funding from Health Canada under their Indian Residential School Resolution Health Support Program.

What is the purpose of the Program?

The program provides funding for a **Residential Health Support Worker (RHSW)** who provides all eligible former **Indian Residential School (IRS)** students and their family members with access to emotional and referral support that allows them to safely address issues related to their experiences with Indian Residential Schools.

Who is the Residential Health Support Worker?

Ann Maje Raider

What is referral support?

The Residential Health Support Worker will provide all eligible former IRS students and their family members with referrals to supports as they pertain to the IRS Settlement Agreement. We are working very hard with Health Canada to have a therapist provide services to Watson Lake, Lower Post and Good Hope Lake on a regular basis but this has taken longer than we had hoped. For now, residential school survivors in Lower Post who need emotional support can call Ann at 536-2097, and for Good Hope Lake please call collect to our office 867-536-2097. If you need to see a therapist in the interim, you can call 1-800-464-8106 to make arrangements to see someone in Whitehorse.

In addition, LAWS can assist you or your family with emotional support and a referral to therapeutic support during your Common Experience Payment (CEP) and during your Independent Assessment Process (IAP) hearing.

If you need emotional support for your hearings or are just having a difficult time coping after your hearing, or just need someone to listen, then please give Ann Maje Raider a call at 867 536-2097 or visit our office. We can also come to your home or another place of your choice.

The **Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)** has announced that it will be in **Watson Lake, May 27th 2010**. Hearings in 19 communities throughout the north are a lead up to the TRC's second National Event to be held in Inuvik on June 28 - July 1 2011. TRC's mandate is to inform all Canadians about what happened in the 150 year history of the Residential Schools, and guide and inspire a process of reconciliation and renewed relationships based on mutual understanding and respect. LAWS will be working with Health Canada to host this event. *More info at: <http://www.trc.ca>*



Liard Aboriginal Women's Society

MORE COMING EVENTS

Meeting to Discuss Commemoration Initiative Ideas

There is currently Commemoration funding available for a community project to honor, educate, remember, memorialize and/or pay tribute to residential school former students, their families and their communities, and acknowledge their experience and the broad and systemic impacts of the residential schools system.

Commemoration initiatives may involve the creation of, or improvements to, existing permanent memorials and commemorative structures, or ceremonies or other projects.

We would like to invite LFN members living in Watson Lake to join us for a meeting on the Commemorative Funding on **February 10th at 10:00 am at 2 Mile Hall** with former students of the residential school.

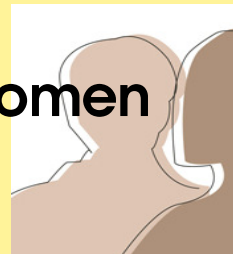
Traditional Healers

Jimmy Pipe and Cameron Pipe will be in Watson Lake from February 20th to 24th for ceremonies.

If you are interested in knowing more about these events please call Rose Caesar 536-2362 or Ann at 536-2097.



Violence Against Women Men Can Help Too...



- 1. Educate yourself**
Learn to recognize violence when it happens
- 2. Challenge a man who is abusing his partner**
Silence is support for abuse.
- 3. Challenge sexist jokes, homophobia, and degrading language**
Set a positive example of respect for women
- 4. Don't support companies that portray women in a negative light**
Sexually objectifying women to sell products is irresponsible and degrading.
- 5. Support local women's programs & shelters**
Make a difference and volunteer or fundraise
- 6. Learn to identify and oppose sexual harassment and violence in your work-place, school and family**
Sexual harassment poisons the work or school environment
- 7. Examine how your own behavior might contribute to the problem**
How do **you** view and treat women?
- 8. Educate and raise awareness.**
Teach sons their responsibility in preventing violence against women
- 9. Promote gender equality**
Teach gender equality and healthy relationships
- 10. Challenge stereotypes of men**
Abuse and disrespect of women is not manhood
- 11. Be there for your friends**
Pay attention to relationships close to you
- 12. Stop blaming women**
Blaming women only allows violence to continue

Adapted from the 12 Ways to End Violence Against Women Campaign Poster and Brochure

For detailed information on the
12 Ways End Violence Against Women visit:
stopviolenceinyukon.ca



Liard Aboriginal Women's Society

LAWS and the RCMP

Together for Justice: Language, Violence & Responsibility

A tentative
organizing meeting with the RCMP
has been set for February 3rd and 4th
with Dr. Wade. When this is confirmed
we will notify you.

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Society (LAWS) and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) have a mutual interest in building and sustaining effective working relationships to make lasting changes in the community. LAWS is currently working on a proposal to secure funding for the community project, **"Together for Justice"** a series of workshops delivered by Dr. Allan Wade on Language, Violence and Responsibility. These workshops will enable women's groups, community members, and the RCMP to develop and implement an action plan on preventing and responding to violence against women. We are hoping to begin the work in February and March with additional workshops from September to January 2012. We will ensure that we keep you updated with this important project.

We are pleased that we have received \$6200.00 from the RCMP Family Violence fund to begin the preliminary work and for the larger project.

The Current Situation:

- Women in the Yukon are abused more than twice the national average
- Aboriginal women are abused three times the national average
- As elsewhere in Canada, most women do not report violence because of a lack of trust in the criminal justice system to deal appropriately or effectively with crimes of violence against women.

Police Review, 2010 : Watson Lake Consultation:

A Kaska elder commented that "When I think of all the aboriginal women who are abused in their own families and then are afraid to call the police, I feel great pain,"

Women's groups are willing to work with the RCMP to improve the situation: *Together for Justice* could be an important way to make lasting change.

Priority steps to establish trust include:

- learning about safety
- the importance of accurate language
- violence and responsibility
- recovery when investigating,
- reporting and working to prevent male violence against women
- developing a plan of action to find solutions for the high level of violence against women in the north

Success requires the full participation of:

- women's shelters
- aboriginal women's groups
- other equality seeking women's organizations
- community agencies

There will be a series of seven workshops in Watson Lake and the same seven workshops in Whitehorse over a two year period. The presenters include Dr. Allan Wade and Dr. Catherine Richardson from the Centre for Response-Based Practice, and other community consultants and guest speakers to be determined.

Police Review 2010: Sharing Common Ground—

A Review of Yukon's Police Force was released on January 11, 2011. According to Justice Minister Marian C. Horne, the report is the blueprint for establishing a new relationship between Yukon citizens and the RCMP." The Co-Chairs spent a considerable amount of time in First Nations communities throughout the territory. "Despite the anger and disillusionment that some First Nations citizens felt towards the RCMP and the justice system, they welcomed us into their communities and treated us with respect and dignity. Indeed, the grace with which First Nations governments, citizens and communities welcomed us was remarkable." p.4 *Executive Summary*

The Police Review 2010 Report can be found online at:
<http://www.policereview2010.gov.yk.ca/>

Workshops will include:

Bridging the Gap—a cross cultural conversation between Kaska Women, First Nations, RCMP and Community Agencies

Social Responses and Social Justice—a review of research and community work internationally to address forms of violence, roles of community members in responding justly and effectively set goals for safety

Dignity Throughout the Life Span—restoring dignity, responding to humiliation, and the roles of criminal justice and community services to improve the process of recovery for victims and perpetrators

Honoring Resistance—exploring ways in which victims respond to , and resist diverse forms of violence

Violence is Deliberate—strategies used by perpetrators of violence to determine how to best work with offenders and how criminal justice, community services and community members can work together

Violence and Language—accurate accounts in addressing violence is crucial for courts, sentencing, rehabilitation and securing safety for victims and children.

Interviewing and Eliciting Accounts of Violence and Evidence—practice-based workshop on interviewing to assist service providers