



newsletter

Liard Aboriginal Women's Society

01/08

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Together for Justice

We are very pleased to report that we have received the funding from Status of Women Canada for our project "Together for Justice" to continue with the workshops in Watson Lake and Whitehorse. 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.

The Liard Aboriginal Women's Societies (LAWS) goals for the project "Together for Justice" on Language, Violence and Responsibility is to promote a dialogue and improved relationships between Kaska women, Help & Hope for Families, government agencies in Watson Lake and Whitehorse, other women's organizations, community members and the RCMP. Through the dialogue created between these organizations (LAWS) wants to address the serious abuse women in Yukon communities face and to help develop a plan to help address this abuse.

RCMP participation and their ongoing communication and cooperation with both women's and community groups is key to building trust amongst all participants, and improving safety for women. The workshops will serve to educate all participants on safety, violence, responsibility, recovery and the importance of accurate language.

The overall project objective is to create lasting change, through the development of an action plan and Orientation documents that could be used by the RCMP, and/or a policy statement that can be used to inform and improve social service delivery and policing for women in Watson Lake and Whitehorse.

Thank you for your participation during our preliminary workshops "Bridging the Gap" in Whitehorse and Watson Lake in March of this year. As these workshops are progressive workshops building our knowledge each step of the way it is important that participants remain committed and attend workshops scheduled this fall and winter.

We would like to invite all those that attended the workshops in March and anyone that has an interest in creating positive changes in the community to attend our next workshop:

"Effective Responses to Interpersonal Violence" with Dr. Allan Wade and Dr. Catherine Richardson.

Watson Lake: September 19th and 20th
Time: 9:00 am – 4:00 pm
Location: 2 Mile Hall
Lunch will be provided.

Both Allan and Catherine will be available for one on one counseling on September 21st. If you would like an appointment please call Travis at 536-2097.

Whitehorse: October 13 & 14th
Time: 9:00 am—4:00pm
Location: NaKwaTaKu Potlatch House, Kwanlin Dun First Nation.



If your grandchildren were here today, what would they like about what took place in this workshop?

- "They would like that adults were having good conversations that were serious, but also some laughter was involved."
- "Have a better understanding of how we resisted the violence in residential school."
- "They would be glad that caretakers and professionals are beginning to understand how strong our people truly are."
- "The caring and respect in the room."

Youth Violence Prevention

With funding from Northern Strategy Trust and in partnership with Yukon Aboriginal Women's Council, Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle and Yukon Women's Directorate we are pleased invite you to the launch of the Youth Violence Campaign and Healthy Relationship Campaign.

For the last year the youth of our community with Kristel Vance, Project Coordinator, have been working very hard to develop posters with strong messages on ending violence. We are pleased to invite you to attend the launch of the [Youth Violence Campaign on September 16th at 5:00 pm at the Watson Lake Recreation Centre.](#)

In 2009, the Youth of both schools in Watson Lake attended a workshop, facilitated by Jeff Cook, to seek their guidance on creating a healthy community. Here are some quotes from the youth based on that workshop:

- *"Youth are the future. The environment a child is raised in makes them who they are, and who they will be in the future. If they believe there is no hope, they will feel helpless. Bonds, relationships between teacher and a student or coach and a student or a councilor and a student might inspire them to stay drug and alcohol free, and to get a good education, to move out of this town. I believe the youth don't know that there is more out there. More opportunities, more people, and possibly a better life out of Watson Lake."*
- *"My vision for Watson Lake is that everyone will be supportive and stay positive. We shall have more activities and less drugs and alcohol. I think the people will live a long healthy life."*
- *"My vision for Watson Lake, Yukon: People will be more active and be positive about their life. They'll be able to look past Watson Lake and succeed in their education. People will look for positive influences and not run to alcohol and drugs. And every goal that they have will be accomplished. Things would be good if people could balance their emotional, mental, and spiritual values."*



"For the sake of future generations, end youth violence today. Say "NO" to youth violence. Say "YES" to respect, love and caring for our youth."

Welcome Back Audrey Desvents...

Once again we would like to welcome Audrey Desvents back to Watson Lake for private sessions. Audrey will be here from September 26th–September 30th. If you would like an appointment with Audrey or for more information, please call Travis at 867-536-2097.



Traditional Crafts Workshops

We would like to extend our appreciation to Kathy Magun and Josephine Acklak for their patience in teaching our language and crafts during our workshop in August. In continued efforts to preserve the language and crafts we would like to invite you to our next session on September 13th, 14th and 15th from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm at the 2 mile hall. We kindly ask that you attend the full workshops and not drop in for material. Please bring your own beads and thread.

Traditional Parenting

We are currently working with Skookum Jim Friendship Centre on dates for a Traditional Parenting Workshop in Good Hope Lake in October. We will keep you posted.

Traditional Gathering Update

Due to the great success of our last traditional gathering, LAWS will once again be offering a Traditional Gathering of Sweats, feasts and ceremonies with Jimmy and Cameron Pipe from October 4th—October 8th. Please phone George Jackson for information on location.



You are Invited to
Dinner and Entertainment
For the
Youth Violence Prevention
Launch



This event will be held at the Watson Lake Rex Plex

September 16th, 2011 at 5pm

Sponsored by the Liard Aboriginal Women Society

With support from the Northern Strategy Trust

For more information call 536-2097