

**Elders Wisdom Circle Report
to the Quarterly Meeting
December 2, 3, and 4, 2011
per Linda Boudreau-Semaganis**

Winter is showing its icy tentacles, snow is falling and driving becomes difficult, as we make our way through the province. It has been a busy time for me, and I am working on the Elders Bio's, and assisting Centres with projects and activities. I attended a two day workshop in Red Deer for the Youth and Elders, and was impressed with the interaction between the groups that gathered. I have attended the ANFCA Sacred Circle Diabetes project meetings and the Train the Facilitators workshop in Camp He-Ho-Ha. I encourage all the Centres to send staff to the Training, as it is excellent information for our communities, and can be used with little cost and lots of effectiveness. It is also worth the time to view the new and updated website for the Sacred Circle Diabetes Initiative, Emilea and Dylan have created a very informative site, with resources that can be downloaded and utilized in your Centres.

I was invited to Fort McMurray to attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony, and was privileged to lay a wreath for the Aboriginal Veterans from my home community, including my brother who was killed in action in Viet Nam. It was a solemn ceremony and there were about a thousand people there to honor the sacrifices of our men and women in the Armed Services. Nistawayou Friendship Centre hosted a lunch, and our Elder Smokey Tomkins entertained us with his guitar and songs and then took us to the Legion to meet up with the local people and talk about our families who went out and defended the freedom of all people.

Am presently compiling several more bio's of Elders who were in our Elders Wisdom Circle and hopefully we will have everything complete in the very near future. As winter closes around us, I would like to take the time to wish you love, laughter and good health during the holiday season and in the upcoming year. I look forward to continuing good working relationships that will benefit all our Friendship Centre communities.

Respectfully submitted

Linda Boudreau-Semaganis
Chair, Elders Wisdom Circle