

**ALBERTA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ASSOCIATION**

**ELDERS' WISDOM CIRCLE COMMITTEE**

**FRIDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2009**  
**SIK-OOH-KOTOKI FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY**  
**1709 – 2nd Avenue South, Lethbridge, Alberta**

**MINUTES**

9:00AM- 4:30PM

**Member**

Mary Ann Swan  
Francis Dumais  
Terry Lusty  
Theresa Marten  
Carl Fiddler  
Angie Crerar  
Rod Chalifoux  
Rita St. Onge  
Florence Boucher  
Doreen Waskewitch-Rosa  
Rosaline Crow Shoe  
James Grant  
James "Smoky" Tomkins  
Bertha Poor  
Cora Fedyk  
Irene Medin  
Eileen Knott  
Sylvia YellowOldWoman  
Hazel Eagle Bear  
Roland Cotton  
Mary Brown  
Myrtle Calahaisn  
Adrian Wolfleg

**Centre**

Athabasca Native Friendship Centre Society  
Bonnyville Canadian Native Friendship Centre  
Canadian Native Friendship Centre  
Cold Native Friendship Centre Society  
Cold Native Friendship Centre Society  
Grande Prairie Friendship Centre  
High Level Native Friendship Centre Society  
Hinton Friendship Centre  
Lac La Biche Canadian Native Friendship Centre Association  
Mannawanis Native Friendship Centre Society  
Napi Friendship Association  
Nastawoyou Association Friendship Centre  
Nastawoyou Association Friendship Centre  
Red Deer Native Friendship Society  
Red Deer Native Friendship Society  
Rocky Native Friendship Centre Society  
Sagitawa Friendship Centre Society  
Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society  
Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society  
Sik-Ooh-Kotoki Friendship Society  
Slave Lake Native Friendship Centre Society  
EWC Alumni - Edmonton  
Community Development Specialist, ANFCA

**Absent with regrets:**

**Member**

Marcel Auger

**Centre**

High Prairie Native Friendship Centre Society

**No Designate**

No designate

No designate

No designate

**Centre**

Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary

Edson Friendship Centre

Lloydminster Native Friendship Centre

**1. Call to Order 9:00 a.m.****2. Prayer with Youth and Executive Directors****3. Review and Adoption of September 2009 Agenda**

Changes – Additions: 9: Elections, then 10 becomes 11 and 11 becomes 12

Terry Lusty

Angie Crerar

Approved, with additions, by consensus

**4. Review and Adoption of June 2009 Minutes**

Carl Fiddler

Mary Brown

Approved, with changes, by consensus

**5. Presentations:**

- Common Ground Toolkit: Charlene Ball, Common Ground Project

Charlene Ball – introduction, overview of Common Ground

Handouts – newsletter; “Common Ground Process”

Angie Crerar – didn’t want Elders to be overwhelmed. We already do a lot of things listed.

Adrian – historical overview. Examples of work being done Grande Prairie and other centres

Mary Brown – insights into Slave Lake

Irene Medin – Rocky Mtn House insights “we had a really, really good meeting”. It was more of a refresher – we work together, but coming together has been really good.

Charlene Ball – Rocky Mtn House: School division donated four vans for the different groups; other corporate contributions. Town/Chamber/FC – collaboration for town pow wow

High Prairie – real need for Aboriginal Awareness – they had a workshop. Next step – town forum. Each group has youth active within the process.

Slave Lake action group on visioning: detox centre, youth. Red Deer’s forum is next week.

- Cultural Inquiry: Louise Pozdzik, New Dawn Rising Project

Introduction, overview of New Dawn Rising

Request other terms for addiction and treatment

James “Smoky” Tomkins – terms “indigenous” and “Aboriginal”. Aboriginal relates more

Theresa Boucher – we are taught about healing – it is part of our life.

Roland Cotton – stigma of “Indian”; some do not want to be identified as Indian.

Angie Crerar – when we (Terry Lusty) presented at the Youth and Elders Gathering we emphasized healing. We did our research and we know there are those who are suffering in silence. We are not walking alone. When I shared I could feel the empathy. I need that

support. It took from 1997 – 2010 to have the apology. Angie asked our circle for their supports for those who are suffering in silence.

Mary Brown – Personal identification listed as “half-breed” when she was younger. She was so proud when she received new identification and was now “status Indian”. Identification Rosaline Crowshoe – terminology. We are all healing. We all have an addiction and we are all healing. Healing is a powerful word other than “addictions”

Francis Dumais: Cree word for addiction translates as “something is getting the best of you”  
James “Smoky” Tomkins – Mary Two Axe – dedication, memorial, something...

## 6. Community Updates

Did not occur due to time constraints

## 7. ANFCA Update: Nelson Mayer

Introduction: ANFCA literature review (minutes, reports, and docs). There are some really good ideas. We need to follow up with them. A highlight of the past few months was attending the Youth & Elders Gathering; it was great to meet with Youth and Elders one on one. Future considerations would be to hold the event at a location near a friendship centre. That way we can contribute back to our centres (i.e.: Meals, snacks). Updates New Dawn Rising, Common Ground.

- Marketing plan – calendar (2 centres per month, Youth Nov, Elders Dec).
- Youth ambassadors: Princess, young male. Showcasing our youth.
- Walk for Friendship. Fundraiser for all 20 centres with pledge sheets for Youth & Elder Gathering. Some Friendship Centres have access to local television/radio/newspapers
- Funding: Alberta 757,000 – 20 centres. Manitoba 2,500,000 – 13 centres. Funding comes with responsibilities:
- Reporting requirements – late reporting affects funding for all of us. Current report processes state # of centres late. Will name the late centres in future reports.
- Visiting centres: some are welcoming (clean, warm, and friendly) others – not so...
- Education system. Grande Prairie example ~ Education dollars.
- Edmonton letter re: paddy wagon / mobile Friendship Centre
- Partnerships – our most successful centres are those who utilize community partnerships such as Women building Futures and the Parent Link Centres
- ANFCA has to focus on Policy, Research and Training. Adrian will be developing the ANFCA training.
- Meeting with Members of Parliament. Would like our National representative to report in November that all 20 centres met with their MPs.
- 2008 NAFC report; 1.3 Million people accessed Friendship Centres
- Elders – Adrian Wolfleg can be the staff resource person for the Elders Wisdom Circle.
- Nelson Mayer provided EWC members with his Cellular number

Eileen Knot – direction provided ~ 3 years ago about board notification for late reporting; 5 years when we were directed to meet with our MPs we did.

Nelson Mayer – It is good that many centres did that. The thing is that the government changed after that, then again.

Eileen Knot – then this is something we should keep doing.

Mary Brown – Really appreciate receiving updates; this is the most we have had.

Angie Crerar – collecting everyone’s expertise. The BoD has to ensure that they know what the ED is doing. Partnership – that’s how we move forward.

James “Smoky” Tomkins – Shared BC Elders’ Gathering. In 2008 they had 2500 Elders.

Correspondence – Adrian to distribute to all Elders

### **8. Vice President’s Address: Yvonne Oshanyk**

Did not occur due to scheduling and time frame.

### **9. Election of Elders’ Wisdom Circle Chair**

Francis Dumais                      Nominator: Mary Brown              Seconder: Florence Boucher

Angie Crerar                        Nominator: Eileen Knott              Seconder: Rod Challifoux

\*Terry Lusty was nominated but did not let his name stand for Chair.

Nominators were provided three minutes each to speak to their nominee

Nominees were provided five minutes each to speak to their nomination

Discussion: as there are two nominations for Chair and the EWC would like a Chair and Co-chair, why not decide on the two nominees to take on the roles of Chair and co-Chair.

Motion to Accept Angie Crerar as Elders Wisdom Circle chair and Francis Dumais as Co-chair of the Elders Wisdom Circle co-chair.

Mary Brown, Myrtle Calahaisn,

16 in favour, 0 against, 1 abstention

PASSED

### **Recommendation 1**

The Elders’ Wisdom circle recommends that \_\_Angie Crerar\_\_\_\_ be appointed Alberta Native Friendship Centres Association (ANFCA) Executive Committee Elder Representative 26 September 2009 through the 2010 ANFCA Annual General Meeting

Terry Lusty Myrtle Calahaisn

PASSED – Consensus

The EWC recommends that the EWC Executive committee Elder Representative be appointed for a two year period.

Eileen Knott

Irene Medin

Roland Cotton, James Tomkins spoke against the motion.

Motion to table – Mary Brown, Carl Fiddler

PASSED - Consensus

#### **10. Meet with Members of AAYC**

#### **11. Closing Prayer with Youth**