

**ALBERTA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ASSOCIATION**

**NATIONAL BOARD REPRESENTATIVE**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2009**

Greetings everyone! Welcome to our wonderful Friendship Centre in the beautiful community of Lethbridge, Alberta. Let us work together to set the direction for the ANFCA during this next year and let us take the time to reflect on our accomplishments of the past year.

It has been a very busy year for me attending our national board meetings on behalf of Alberta's Friendship Centres. Our President, Mark Calliou, has attended some of these meetings with me and can attest to the amount of work that is involved at the national level.

One of the most important items of discussion over the past year concerns the Aboriginal Friendship Centre Program (AFCP) and the negotiation strategy for enhancements to our core funding base. We developed a lobbying strategy package and I hope that all our Centres will use this package to meet with your local MPs and ask for increased financial support for our Centres.

The next important item was the Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centre (UMAYC) program. This program needs to have a new agreement signed as it concludes in the near future. Presently, the NAFC is expecting a one year extension of the program 2010-2011 before another five year renewal is negotiated.

The NAFC held another Aboriginal Policy Research Conference on March 8-12, 2009 in Ottawa. Our President and the past ANFCA Executive Director attended this conference. The NAFC is planning the next Policy Research Conference scheduled for 2012.

The NAFC has submitted a proposal to Human Resource Services Development Canada (HRSDC) to bring Friendship Centres to a meeting to discuss and identify roles that the NAFC and the membership could play in a new Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS).

The NAFC has ended the 2008/09 fiscal year with a minor surplus amounting to \$12,000 and reported this at the National annual general meeting in Niagara Falls. All the documents from the annual meeting are available on the NAFC website.

In closing, I wish everyone a safe journey home and it has been my pleasure to serve as Alberta's national board representative for the past year. Thank you.

Roland Cotton