

ALBERTA NATIVE FRIENDSHIP CENTRES ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL YOUTH BOARD REPRESENTATIVE REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2009

Lethbridge, Alberta

Tansi,

It is my privilege and honour to present my annual report as National Youth Representative of the ANFCA. I would like to open my report by congratulating Eric Anderson on being elected to the position of Vice-President for the NAYC and to congratulate and welcome Nelson Mayer as ANFCA executive director. With the election of Eric and hiring of Nelson, Alberta can now demonstrate our leadership at a national level by having two National Vice-Presidents representing us.

Next I would like to honour our Elders by welcoming them to our annual meeting and thanking them for the wisdom and guidance they have shared with our youth over the past year. I also extend a warm welcome to all our youth, delegates, observers and invited guests to the ANFCA 39th Annual General Meeting.

This past year has been very busy for the NAYC, as we strived to ensure the Aboriginal youth voices are heard at every level of the Friendship Centre movement, locally, provincial and nationally. Though there is still much work I believe we were successful in reaching this year's goals and targets. With the ongoing support of local, provincial & national PTA's and guidance from the National senators and BOD, I am confident the Friendship Centre youth movement will continue to achieve and reach many milestones.

Two NAYC members along with the NAFC Youth Intervener attended the provincial youth conference sponsored by the BC Association of Friendship Centres. They conducted a Youth Engagement session at the conference. The NAYC was very appreciative to have the opportunity to take part in and learn at this conference.

An NAYC member was also part of the NAFCs delegation to the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. This forum was very valuable in fostering youth leadership skills development.

The National Youth Forum in Niagara Falls was a relative success despite having a smaller number of youth in attendance. Workshops were held utilizing YOUCAN, The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and an organization called "apathy is boring". There were

also motivational speeches from Sylvia Maracle the Executive Director of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres and Senator Marge White from BC.

There have been seven NAYC conference calls as well as two NAYC board meetings. The fall meeting addressed the NAYC strategic plan and identified initiatives that we want to complete in 2009. There was also discussion regarding the Youth Engagement Summit scheduled for January in Saskatoon. The spring NAYC meeting held in Ottawa was to plan and prepare for the national Youth Forum.

I attended the Youth Engagement Summit to identify the role of youth in the Friendship Centre movement held in Saskatoon. This meeting addressed the themes of youth leadership development, AYC retention, youth involvement/visibility, and NAYC/PAYC relationship and roles.

The NAYC and the NAFC Senate continue to maintain a good working relationship and attend each other's meetings. We also had the opportunity to have lunch with the Senate at the national annual meeting. The NAYC is grateful for the opportunity to strengthen this relationship and take advantage of the tremendous wealth of knowledge and wisdom from the NAFC Senators.

As ANFCA National Youth Representative I have also participated in several other National and Provincial initiatives identified in previous quarterly reporting, such as: Aboriginal Economic Development Framework consultation – Ottawa, Gathering for Success symposium - Banff, 2009 Youth and Elders Gathering - Jasper etc.

In closing, I want to thank the AAYC, the ANFCA board and staff, the Elders Wisdom Circle, Executive Directors, Executive committee and the SLNFC for all their support and guidance. Thank you and I wish everyone a safe trip home.

Jamie Linington