



## HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) News

*Understanding the past, moving forward together*

### Update - Happy Canada 150 Plus

#### **For the Asking..**

1. Why do many Indigenous peoples not support Canada 150?
2. What are the current names for the Huron, Iroquois, Ojibway and Blackfoot peoples?
3. What are you doing to celebrate Canada 150 plus?

(answers at the end of the newsletter)

#### **Rotary News**

On June 5th & 6th, HIP Chair, Chris Snyder, Gifts-in-Kind Director, John Currie, HIP Directors, Lisa Farano and Andre Morriseau attended a conference in Toronto about what Nation to Nation Relationship would look like. This will be covered in greater detail in Chris' message at the end.

On Friday, June 23rd, the Rotary Club of Toronto held a luncheon with guest speaker Roberta Jamieson, President & CEO of Indspire (see the link on our website). In her remarks, she talked about the importance of education. Across the country only 40% of Indigenous young people finish secondary school versus 90% of the rest of the population. Her organization, Indspire, in 2016-2017 provided over 3,700 scholarships/bursaries and over the years 96% of bursary winners have finished secondary school. She stressed while people complain of the cost of providing education, the reality is it will cost much more if nothing is done through extra costs of social welfare, high unemployment, incarceration and loss of their productive minds which will improve our economy and other parts of our lives. She was the first in her family of 8 children to go to university and became the first female Indigenous lawyer in Canada and Canada's ombudsman. She added there are still thousands of families like hers.

HIP Director, David Newman attended the District 5550 District Conference in Kenora in late May. Keynote speaker was Kevin Lamoureux, professor at the University of Winnipeg. He was given a standing ovation because of his message which included the statement comments like "why don't they get over it?" speaks to a pathology of privilege and ignorance of what was done to our Indigenous Peoples by the Indian Act and residential schools and Treaty violations.

David also attended the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta in May. He reports viewing a Rotary sponsored ad outlining a US initiative installing and training residents in solar electricity to homes on a Navaho Reservation. As well, David, a lawyer, has been promoting the integration of restorative justice and Indigenous ways of peace building into the legal system. After participating in a workshop, he was approached by some Rotarians who want to learn more, many of them lawyers. Michigan Supreme Court Judge, Tim Connors is leading the way with integration and has a 90% success rate in the areas of commercial, child protection and family law. We hope this great dialogue continues.

The Rotary Club of Collingwood SGB recently donated \$7,000 towards a Land Stewards Youth Internship project delivered by Elephant Thoughts over a 4 week period starting this August in Long Lake #58 First Nation. This is a 3 year program that was developed at the request of the community to enable 10 youth in the community to develop job ready skills in the area of environmental science. Also, the club donated \$1,000 to host two KAIROS Blanket ceremonies to club and community members. HIP Director, Tim Thompson and LuAnn Hill were the facilitators.

The Rotary Club of Waterdown has donated \$3,000 towards One Laptop per Child. These funds will go a long way to supporting and equipping technology in first nation communities. As well the club is hosting a Ribfest on June 30-July 3rd where there will be a sacred fire. Come and enjoy for the day or the weekend.

Rotary Club of Uxbridge recently made a donation to support the summer camp run by Elephant Thoughts for young First Nations people in Temiskaming.

Ted Mann and George Krohn of the Rotary Club of Bowmanville recently attended the awards ceremony in Mattawa where their club again donated funds for student bursaries. One of their previous winners is now a doctor and has gone back to work in a First Nations reserve.

As previously mentioned, Nicole Patterson of the East York Club and John Currie, our Director of In-Kind-Gifts and Projects have recently been certified as facilitators for the Kairos Blanket Program. Nicole will be doing a blanket exercise in Belleville in the fall along with one at the 7070 Rotary District Conference. Great work! For further details go to the link ([Homepage - The Blanket Exercise](#)). Please contact either Nicole at nic.patterson@gmail.com or John at john.wayne.currie@outlook.com to book a program.

Gifts-in-Kind. As previously stated, this has been an overwhelming success. Over 180 pallets of goods worth over \$650,000 have been sent to twenty First Nations communities including two in Manitoba. Transportation valued at more than \$120,000 by Trucks for Change and Wasaya Airlines have been provided for no cost. HIP has been the coordinator and facilitator of the transportation. This is a partnership between the donor organizations (schools, churches, Rotary clubs), transportation companies and the local First Nations communities. We are working hard to put this program on a self-sustaining basis for the future. There has been some media, most focused on the donors. It is our aim to turn this into the start of engagement and interaction amongst people and the communities north and south. Already a few pen pal exchanges are starting to evolve.

On July 14th, Chris Snyder will attend the Rotary Club of Burlington North meeting. There will be a cheque presentation to ONEXONE Foundation who operate the First Nations School Breakfast Program (click the link on our website for more information). The club and 12 other Rotary clubs in District 7080 participated and along with a district matching grant, a total of \$12,800 was raised. Great work!

*What is your club doing?* Please email Julie Dunaiskis (julie@eccgroup.ca) with a brief summary so we can post on the HIP website and provide an update in upcoming newsletters. This will help other clubs and provide a sense of how we are involved. We do not know the precise number of clubs across Canada who are involved in educational and awareness activities, however, our guess is at least 100. Some were involved well before HIP, many on their own and some because of our encouragement and leadership. Let's all *go forward together*.

**Podcasts** - we have downloaded a new podcast with Bob Rae. Mr. Rae was guest speaker at the Rotary Club of Toronto lunch meeting on March 29, 2017. We now have podcasts with John Andras, Tim Thompson, Chris Snyder, the Honourable Paul Martin, the Honourable Bob Rae and Kenn Richard. These are short and will provide terrific insight into indigenous issues. We also have a video with Paul Martin. More are to come. Please advise if you have someone you think would be good to have on a podcast. These interviews were conducted by Emre Yurga, the incoming chair of the Rotary Club of Toronto's Indigenous Services Committee. Thank you, Emre.

**Request a Speaker** - Would your club like to have a Speaker at an upcoming meeting? If so, please check the list of available speakers on our website under Resources/Speakers List. Or contact Tom Sears (tsears@sympatico.ca) to propose a date and a subject you would like the person to speak about i.e. a) about HIP b) a project or c) awareness of the issues. Ideally these talks will inform members and guests and hopefully engage members in becoming involved in an Indigenous program, donating money and developing a relationship with the local

Indigenous community. We are happy to help you connect with the community close to you. There have been an estimated ten presentations in the past month. As mentioned, Jay Lomax has agreed to be a part of our speakers bureau.

### Other

As mentioned, we have produced a new HIP Brochure. You can find it on our website under Resources ([Rotary HIP - HIP Brochure](#)). If you would like to use it, you may print and distribute to your networks. If you need more, contact us and we can send. We have also improved our Facebook page and added a twitter handle. We have over 200 FB followers and 60 twitter subscribers to date. If you would like to be a friend on our Facebook page, click : <https://www.facebook.com/HonouringIndigenousPeoples/> to see our new site. You can like, follow and share. We also encourage you to check our website and contents regularly. Encourage your friends too. Also send Julie ([julie@eccgroup.ca](mailto:julie@eccgroup.ca)) the email address of anyone who you think would like to receive our newsletter.

### News & Events

On June 7th, Gifts-in-Kind Director, John Currie attended a funding presentation at the First Nations Technical Institute. The presentation was made by Deb Matthews, Minister of Advanced Education and Skills Development. A commitment has been made to the co-creation of policy to recognize Aboriginal Institutes as a critical pillar in post-secondary education in the province and a commitment to stable funding. Congratulations to FNTI President and HIP Director, Suzanne Brant who has been involved.



The Village at Blue Mountain is hosting an Indigenous Life Festival 'Miino Bmaadzwin' on August 18, 19 & 20th. Indigenous musicians, scholars, storytellers, chefs, artists, filmmakers, dancers, vendors and more will be in attendance and events will be shared as it becomes available. There will be an outdoor KAIROS Blanket Exercise delivered on Sunday morning. If you have any ideas for performers or activities, please contact Lisa Farano ([lisafarano@rogers.com](mailto:lisafarano@rogers.com)) who is co-ordinating the event.

The Be the Change Film Series in Collingwood screened *After the Last River* to a full house. Director and producer, Vicky Lean spent 5 years travelling to Attawapiskat FN to develop the film. A Toronto screening may be planned so we will let you know details. If you would like to read more information or organize a community screening, click on the link: <http://www.afterthelastrivermovie.com/>

The North American Indigenous Games are coming to the GTA in July. Click on the link to find out about the cultural festival, marketplace and sports events. <http://naig2017.to/en/get-involved/job-opportunities/>

October 4th - 8th - Indigenous Roots of Expressive Arts Therapy Conference, Winnipeg, MB - the conference will feature keynote presenters and workshops creating dialogue, celebration and promoting healing. A highlight will be a performance by Thomson Highway. Full details and the registration link can be found on our blog.

Are you making summer vacation plans for Canada's 150th birthday year? The Ontario Travel website has lots of great ideas focused on Aboriginal Experiences ([Aboriginal Experiences | OntarioTravel.net](#)) as well as several celebrations in Ottawa throughout the summer and fall. The National Gallery is beginning dual exhibitions of Canadian and Indigenous Art. Some long time traditional favourites are pow wows on Manitoulin Island, Sainte-Marie Among the Hurons near Midland, Crawford Lake near Campbellville, Curve Lake and Chippewas of Rama.

Owen Sound will be celebrating June 30th -July 9th with a Maawanji'idig: Festival Canadiana Owen Sound. Local First Nations and Metis communities will join in presenting a series of entertaining, informative and inspirational events. Check out the website for detailed dates (under Signature Events) [Celebration 2017 Owen Sound-Events - Owen Sound](#).

There will be a sunrise ceremony delivered by Gary Sault, an elder of the Mississaugas of the New Credit on July 2nd at 7 a.m. in Port Credit. It will be in the north end of the Memorial Park beside the Credit River (Lakeshore and Mississauga Road).

HIP has been instrumental in helping the Mushkegowuk Council and camps Pathfinder and Wabun and the Ontario Camping Association pull together an exciting canoe adventure. Seven communities in the James Bay area will be sending seven males and seven females and elders to these camps to have a joint canoe trip in Algonquin Park with young people from these camps. The First Nations young people will be exposed to canoe tripping for the first time and it is hoped it will set the stage for a trip next year down the Albany together. This is a great exercise in reconciliation, cultural awareness and leadership training. We are excited to being able to play a role!

#### **Approved Projects** ([Rotary HIP - Approved projects](#))

Check the HIP website to see full project descriptions and updates. We hope you or your club can support any of the projects mentioned as follows. We need much more financial support. Please join in. Not only will you help the project become reality and assist with the educational needs but you will learn a lot as well. We are also reviewing several new initiatives. When approved, we will be providing a brief outline with a link to the project. All of the projects below have been approved by our project committee and have the full support of the Indigenous community.

#### **Kashechewan's Paddling with the Cree**

One of our newest projects was a canoe trip with 16 young people from Kash. Last summer they completed their first canoe adventure along the Albany River to Kashechewan despite some difficulties with low water levels. The members developed strong whitewater skills and were able to line canoes down the rapids. Many could not swim but they learned how to be comfortable and safe in the water. **Two groups will be participating in summer 2017.** The first group leaves Kash July 3rd. The group leaves July 30th. If you would like to help cover the costs of equipment and training, you can do so online through our HIP website and receive an immediate donation receipt from Canada Helps who processes the donations for us. You can also send a cheque made payable to HIP and indicate it is for this project. This money will help First Nations children learn a lot about themselves and their culture. The Ontario Government have given us a sizeable donation, however, we need additional funding.

#### **Dolly Parton Imagination Library**

Through the Dolly Parton Foundation, OISE and Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, books are supplied every month to Indigenous children from age 0 to age 5 in the GTA. If your club would like to help sponsor this program in the GTA or in a separate community, contact Chris Snyder. Additional details are outlined on our website. Already there are 180 children enrolled in the GTA program and Keith McCrady, the co-ordinator who works with Native Child and Family Services of Toronto has received many favourable comments from the recipients. We have recently received an additional \$7,500 to help fund this.

#### **One Laptop per Child Canada**

OLPC Canada connects Indigenous education programs to technology designed with 21<sup>st</sup> century students in mind. To date, the initiative has provided laptops and tablets to more than 10,000 Indigenous youth located in 60+

communities from coast to coast. The laptops and tablets are preloaded with educational content including books and interactive programs highlighting Aboriginal languages and cultures. Please see our website for details or contact Jennifer Martino at [martino@olpccanada.com](mailto:martino@olpccanada.com). A number of clubs have recently donated to this project.

### **Elephant Thoughts**

Elephant Thoughts is a leader in First Nations and Inuit educational programs. A team of professional educators incorporate First Nations and Inuit values, culture, special needs and specific disciplines into all programs. Their programs teach and integrate traditional and contemporary knowledge.

*The Ask* - Elephant Thoughts is seeking \$3,000 in funding to support a one week summer science camp program in Timiskaming First Nation, Quebec. As the first reserve created in Canada, this Algonquin community is located right on the border of Quebec and Ontario and 60% of their traditional territory is in Ontario. The Elephant Thoughts Summer Camp has been travelling to First Nations and Inuit communities nationwide since 2004 to deliver high energy, high quality science and technology themed programming to help engage and empower participants between the ages of 9-13. The children in last year's program had many wonderful nature experiences. The aim of the program is to help promote the "Big Ideas" relating to all fields of science and technology while creating awareness about traditional culture and indigenous science practices. Participants are encouraged to develop confidence to ask questions and gain a better understanding of how the world around us works through hands-on materials and equipment. The goals of the summer camp are to promote science and technology, solidify a working foundation of scientific principals and methods and to encourage and excite participants to enter careers in science and technology. Your donation today will allow more children to experience nature this summer.

We continue to work with these and other groups to develop programs. If you have a project you would like others to join you in, please contact us. Application forms are on our website under Contacts if you have a project you wish us to consider or approve.

### **Blog ([Rotary HIP - Blog](#))**

As always, there have been many news items recently that have been added to our blog. Keep checking back for regular updates. There are also several upcoming events and exhibitions that you can find details about each on the blog.

### **Resources - Films & Documentaries ([Rotary HIP - Films & Documentaries](#))**

We have many available on our website - some you can just click and watch.

If you have recently viewed a good film or documentary or read a book not on our list with an indigenous theme or message, please email Julie Dunaikis ([julie@eccgroup.ca](mailto:julie@eccgroup.ca)) and Janet McLeod ([jmm@nexicom.net](mailto:jmm@nexicom.net)) to add to our list. JP Gladu has suggested Jim Prentice's book *Triple Crown: Winning Canada's Energy Future*. As well, the Mississauga Library had a display of 75 books on Indigenous Peoples of which some were for young people.

### **HIP Membership & Donations**

***We would like you, your club and friends to become members.*** You do not need to be a Rotarian to join. You can join today by selecting ([Rotary HIP - Become a Member](#)) on the HIP website. Complete the online form and send us a cheque for \$100 made payable to HIP. By becoming a member, you are saying we like and support what HIP is doing. Here is \$100 to help move the cause of education and awareness forward. Please note, membership payment cannot be done online as it is not tax-receiptable. Please send a cheque c/o 100 Simcoe St., Suite 110, Toronto M5H 3G2 and reference the online form or send a note with your name, address, email and club(if applicable) to the above address. We will send you an acknowledgement and ensure you will receive our monthly newsletter.

Charitable donations can now be accepted online through our website ([Rotary HIP - Make a Donation](#)) and the donor will receive a tax receipt immediately. You may designate funds to a specific project or to general projects focusing on education. Thank you for your continued support of our projects.

**Message from HIP Chair, Chris Snyder**

On June 5-6th, I attended an Indigenous conference along with John Currie, Andre Morriseau and Lisa Farano. It was part of a four-part series sponsored by Canadians for a New Partnership(CFNP). The purpose of the series is to explore what a Nation to Nation arrangement would look like and explore obstacles that would need to be overcome. The purpose of CFNP is to create a new partnership with Indigenous Peoples built on mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and equality.

CFNP was initiated by Stephen Kakfwi, a Dene and former premier of the Northwest Territories and the founding members including Paul Martin, Joe Clarke, Ovide Mercredi, Shelagh Rogers, Mary Simon and several other prominent Canadians active in indigenous issues. Scott Serson, a former deputy minister of INAC is also a director and someone who has been a great supporter of HIP since the start.

The conference featured many outstanding speakers including Michael Ferguson, the auditor general, Paul Thoppil, the chief financial officer of INAC, Ovide Mercredi, past National Chief, Wayne Wouters, former clerk of the privy council and many outstanding Indigenous leaders from across the country.

After two days of listening and mingling, there were several things that struck me:

1. The status quo cannot continue and a new relationship must be developed.
2. There have been many successful self governing Indigenous relationships that have already been created.
3. There are, in this country, many capable Indigenous Peoples(our board members all fit into this category).
4. In 1763, a proclamation by George III outlined the basis for future administration of lands in North America and the rights of the Indigenous Peoples including the right to be their own nation. This status has been confirmed in law and by politicians repeatedly since then. Most recently by Mr. Trudeau, the Indigenous Peoples have this right but it has not been followed by our governments.
5. The treaties were signed in good faith but continually broken by governments and corporations alike particularly in relation to resources.
6. Instead of a we-we scenario, it has been a we-they arrangement with rules being set by governments and the Indigenous Peoples being treated like children with no control over their destiny resulting in a loss of knowing who they are, little power and a continual spiral downwards. This has been compounded by such things as the Indian Act which many agree must be changed or scrapped and replaced, the residential schools, the 60's Scoop and the continuing colonial ways the Indigenous Peoples are treated.
7. A huge amount of dependency has been created which is of benefit to no one. As a result, the Indigenous communities have had to go cap in hand to governments as they have few means of creating their own streams of income.

What is needed is a new relationship that creates areas in which the Indigenous Peoples have control including education, some laws and revenue sources such as a share of resource income. Negotiations that were dealt with in a nation to nation manner such as the Cree in their agreement with Hydro Quebec albeit after a lot of difficulty have done very well!

There are plenty of obstacles to obtaining this we/we position, however, what better time than now for the government and the Indigenous communities to work this out together operating under the principles outlined by CFNP.

In the meantime, we as individuals, need to continue to build better relationships with each other through the creation of awareness and specific education action projects.

Happy Canada 150 Plus. We are taking a break for July but will return the end of August.

Sincerely  
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- Answers:
1. Many Indigenous Peoples are not celebrating because they believe the past 150 years have not been good years for them within the framework of Canada. Furthermore, it does not recognize Indigenous Peoples have been here approximately 12,000 years before Europeans arrived.
  2. The Indigenous names now being used are Wyandot, Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe. The Blackfoot is a confederacy whose indigenous name is Siksikaitapiti.
  3. Note, this is 150 plus. The plus is for the Indigenous Peoples. This can be celebrated many ways and could include reading a book about their past, having a conversation about Indigenous Peoples, going to a pow wow or celebration (see our section on news and events), visiting a reserve, making a commitment to meeting and chatting with some Indigenous Peoples. Whatever you do, it will be an excellent step towards the next 150 years better years for all.