As Chairperson of HIP’s Board, it is my privilege to present the 2018 Annual Report. I am humbled and honoured to work alongside a group of dedicated Board of Directors, staff, volunteers and partners to serve all Indigenous Peoples across Canada.

Social change and removing obstacle to achieving potential and providing equitable education opportunities for Indigenous Peoples is complex and challenging. It involves networking, knowledge sharing and working together. Everything we do helps build relationships that further our mission of improving social, economic, cultural, political, civil, physical, mental and spiritual way of being of Indigenous Peoples.

Having an estimated 175 clubs contributing to HIP’s mandate of education and awareness is both exciting and rewarding. So too is the fact that we are now working with 75+ Indigenous communities across Canada and 75+ partners, including faith groups, schools, businesses and other service groups.

There are many reasons for our success. One of them is the Canada wide understanding of the need and importance of reconciliation however, what has made this happen is the unique perspectives and talents of our Board of Directors, Executive Director, John Currie, and Administrator, Julie Dunaiskis.

John Currie has been highly dedicated and selfless in serving HIP. A combination of John’s many skills, practical hands on work, ability to develop relationships and his visits to clubs and communities has taken us to a level we did not even dream about a year ago.

What is more exciting than our past successes, are the opportunities in front of us. These include, but are not limited to, expanding the work we do with our indigenous partners on community awareness and reconciliation, providing computer equipment with cultural enriched content, supporting Indigenous outdoor education, strengthening school transition programs and the development of financial literacy programs.

To continue to deliver its programs, expand participation and fulfill the increasing number of support requests, HIP is in need of funding. HIP is seeking support from Rotary Clubs, foundations, individuals and government agencies. We have also replaced our old members program with our new Ally program to help fund growth.

I am proud to be an ally in this partnership with Indigenous Peoples. HIP is truly passionate about making a difference in the lives of Indigenous People across our country. I hope you will become an ally too.

Best

Chris Snyder
HIP Chair

HIP (HONOURING INDIGENOUS PEOPLES)
Understanding the past. Moving forward together.
Facebook: @HonouringIndigenousPeoples Twitter: @RotaryHIP
www.rotaryhip.com
ABOUT HIP

In 2014, Rotarians in Southern Ontario initiated an action group to investigate the needs of Indigenous Peoples. Before taking any action, the team consulted with numerous Indigenous People to understand what Rotarians could focus on that would make a positive impact for Indigenous Peoples in Canada. In agreement, Indigenous people recommended that Rotary focus on education.

The Truth and Reconciliation report identified an educational achievement gap between indigenous and non-indigenous students due to funding inequality, shortage of qualified teachers and absence of a curriculum that ensures Indigenous youth see themselves and their cultures, languages, and histories respectfully reflected in the classroom. According to the First Nations Regional Health Survey (2008/10), only “23.8% of First Nations youth reported aspirations to obtain post-secondary education, with 23.4% wanting to complete high school”.

Education is one of Rotary’s six areas of focus to build relationships, improve lives, and create a better world in support of peace efforts. Rotary already supports education through scholarships, donations, and service projects around the world, so this was a natural fit. The result was the launch of HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples).

HIP is a Canada wide partnership between Indigenous Peoples and Rotarians. We are extremely proud to tell everyone that our board is 50% Indigenous and 50% Rotarian. HIP is an independent registered Canadian charity (BN: 885709212RR0001) that serves all Indigenous Peoples and communities across Canada, including First Nations, Inuit and Métis, living in both rural and urban settings. While we have a strong relationship with Rotary, HIP includes a diverse membership comprising of schools, faith groups, businesses and other service organizations.

VISION

HIP envisions a Canada where every Indigenous person has equitable education opportunities as other Canadians and where all Rotarians, and other Canadians, work collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to remove barriers to education and enable sustainable solutions thereby building strong nations where all prosper.

“I must commend Rotary on the HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) initiative. You have acted on the calls to actions outlined in the Truth & Reconciliation report and created a program that will educate all Canadians about our shared history, but more importantly, our shared future.”

PERRY BELLEGARDE
National Chief,
Assembly of First Nations
MISSION
To promote awareness of Indigenous knowledge systems, language, culture, history and inherent rights in Canada. To build and engage in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples. To invest time and resources in support of indigenous education initiatives that will assist with improving social, economic, cultural, political, civil, physical, mental and spiritual way of being of Indigenous Peoples.

STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE:
- Work with Indigenous People to reach their education goals, removing obstacle to achieving potential and providing the availability of equitable education opportunities.

NON-INDIGENOUS PERSPECTIVE:
- Inspire 721 Rotary Clubs, and all other Canadians, to build and engage in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

INTERNAL:
- Strengthen HIP’s infrastructure and capitalize on innovative processes and products to optimize efficiencies and financial performance.

ORGANIZATION CAPACITY:
- Equip the organization with the right people, competencies and culture to drive results forward and ensure HIP’s success.

FINANCIAL
- Raise funds to safeguard the health, viability and growth of HIP’s programs and ensure the successful delivery of its strategic objectives.
OPERATIONS REPORT

The accomplishments of the past year are a display of truth and reconciliation in action and the result of the dedication and commitment from HIP’s Board of Directors, volunteers and Allies.

Overall, the increased number of members and speaker engagement sessions, along with the development of partnerships to support HIP’s mission, have allowed HIP to garner a positive reputation and successfully establish key partnerships with Indigenous communities, Indigenous support groups, government agencies and other organizations.

HIP made great strides in its unwavering commitment for instigating social change by strategically building relationships and connecting Allies (the family of Rotary, schools, faith groups, businesses and other community partners) with Indigenous Communities to remove education obstacles and inspire learning.

HIP achieved several milestones in 2018, including attaining the participation of 175 Rotary Clubs and the successfully delivery of $1.5+ million in education and wellness supplies since 2016. Other notable highlights include the development of HIP’s first strategic business plan, the launch of HIP’s computer program and the delivery of 300 laptops to Indigenous Schools across Canada, the transportation of 61 pallets of hockey gear accompanied by 12,000 concussion guides and the sponsorship of the Fort Albany Girls Hockey team to attend the Little NHL tournament in Mississaug.

HIP is proud of its creation and preservation of a transportation pipeline to isolated northern communities. With the support of partners, this logistics pipeline not only ensures critically needed education and wellness supplies are delivered to Indigenous communities, it provides an affordable solution for individuals, Rotary Clubs, schools, faith groups and other service organizations to participate in practical reconciliation and engage in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

Although HIP’s programs have proven successful, and HIP operates from a positive cash flow position, increased funding is needed to scale up, meet the rise of Indigenous requests and achieve its strategic priorities.

HIP expanded all areas of operation in 2018 and has clarified its operating principles. HIP has developed a step by step engagement process that starts with introducing clubs and other organizations to Indigenous culture, history and inherent rights in Canada through HIP Talks. We dispel myths and voice the hard the truth with Change-the-Narrative events. We engage Rotary Clubs, faith groups, schools, businesses and community organizations in reconciliation projects. By starting to change the focus, HIP is inspiring understanding and friendships and by doing so creating social change.

John Andras, HIP Board of Director
TELLING OUR STORY TO THE WORLD

Toronto hosted 25,000 International Rotarians and HIP was front and centre. From the opening ceremony, where Chief of the Mississaugas of the New Credit, Stacey LaForme, gave a heartfelt welcome on behalf of the Indigenous Peoples of Canada, to the display of Indigenous culture in the House of Friendship organized by HIP Director John Lomax, HIP embraced the opportunity to tell its story to the world.

HIP member Nicole Patterson, HIP Director Karihwakeron Tim Thompson and LuAnn Hill joined forces to host and deliver an emotional Kairos Blanket Exercise. HIP member Steve Smith, and volunteers from many clubs, spoke to 1000’s of convention attendees who visited HIP’s booth.

Organized by HIP Director Lisa Farano, with support from the Board, HIP Director Andre Morriseau facilitated an informative panel discussion entitled “Indigenous Leaders: Success in Action.” HIP had a full house with approximately 400 people in attendance. Panelists included Riley Yesno, Diane Redsky, Rina Watinga (New Zealand) and Charles Coffey.

“We work together in Rotary, because that is how we achieve. We leverage our contributions to do more together than we ever could do alone.”

Ian H.S. Riseley, President of Rotary International
LAUNCHING A NATIONAL DISCUSSION

HIP successfully hosted 246 people at the Canadian Museum for Human Rights in Winnipeg for the launch of the APTN television series “First Contact.” The show takes six Canadians, all with strong opinions about Indigenous people, on a unique and compelling 28-day exploration of Indigenous Canada.

The event wouldn't have been possible without the collaborative efforts of many, including HIP Directors David G. Newman and Diane Redsky, the producers, Rotary Club of Winnipeg Peace Builder Committee, Winnipeg HIP Committee, the 9th annual Rotarian and Friends inspired Peace Days planning team and the Ma Mawi Centre.

Following the screening, a panel moderated by Ry Moran, Executive Director of the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation, 3 producers of First Contact, local activist Michael Champagne, Vice-President of Indigenous Affairs at the University of Winnipeg and Ma Mawi youth leader Crystal Leach made an amazing contribution to the evening. The event was streamed live on Facebook.

"When the new Winnipeg-produced TV series First Contact aired on Sept. 11, 2018 in a three-night special on APTN, it touched off a national discussion about racism, reconciliation and the potential for change in bigoted opinions"

Melissa Martin, Winnipeg Free Press
ROTARY IN ACTION

Rotary is a global network of 1.2 million neighbours, friends, leaders, & problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. Solving real problems takes real commitment & vision. For more than 110 years, Rotary’s people of action have used their passion, energy, & intelligence to take action on sustainable projects.

HIP is powered by Rotarians and taking a united national approach to instigating social change. Currently an estimated 175 of the 721 Rotary Clubs across Canada are working together with Indigenous Peoples to remove education obstacles and provide equitable learning experiences.

Through fundraising & collection activities, HIP Rotarians, along with schools, faith groups, businesses and other community partners, have provided winter clothing to make it safe for children to attend school, nutritional food to allow students to focus on learning, books, technology and supplies to support Indigenous classrooms and bursaries for continued education.

HIP Rotarians inspire Indigenous youth to achieve their full potential by utilizing sports and cultural activities to encourage students to stay in school. Projects include, but are not limited to, donations of hockey gear, building of playgrounds and delivery of coaching clinics, such as training seminars, science camps and canoe trips.
CHANGING THE NARRATIVE

The stories we tell ourselves matter. They make a difference in how we think about who we are and the way we structure our lives. They affect the paths we blaze and those we follow. We are our stories.

But so often, these stories are based upon propaganda and misconceptions. Changing the narrative is a commitment to challenge the stories we have learnt and develop new ones. Changing the narrative is a shift in perception – extracting the unbiased truth and engaging in meaningful and equitable relationships.

HIP encourages and facilitates relationship building between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people. Relationships that respect boundaries, celebrate our differences and work collaboratively together.

HIP strategically builds relationships and connects Rotary Clubs, schools, faith groups, businesses and other community partners, with Indigenous Communities to remove education obstacles and inspire learning. In 2018, HIP also launched its “Change the Narrative” event: a transformational experience that brings Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people together to dispel myths, understand the truth and build friendships. Together, we can change the narrative!

“We owe it to each other to build a Canada based on our shared future”
Justice Senator Murray Sinclair
TIMELINE OF HIGHLIGHTED ACHIEVEMENTS

HIP is a movement and every day we provide guidance to individuals, Rotary clubs, schools, faith groups and other organizations who are taking action towards removing barriers to education and building meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples. To this end, HIP provides these organizations with many resources including, but not limited to, speakers, facilitation of indigenous relationships and sponsorship of Kairos blanket exercises. HIP also provides support for canoe trips and cultural education initiatives, funding for bursaries, project management and transportation for education and wellness supplies such as books, computers, food, clothing and hygiene products. Some of HIP’s 2018 achievements include:

Q1

January, February, March 2018

1. Board approval of 1st HIP Strategic Plan.
2. Launched “HIP Talks” to establish a foundation for peace & inspire the building of respectful relationships with Indigenous Peoples.
3. Received request from Indigenous leaders for assistance with head injury education. Partnered with Steve Podborski of Parachute Canada & TPH to provide 12000 concussion guides.
4. Raised awareness about barriers to fundamental elements of health & well-being resulting in the delivery of 61 pallets of hockey gear to encourage sports participation & inspire Indigenous youth to achieve their full potential.
5. Built an enduring friendship with Fort Albany First Nations girl’s hockey team & supported their participation in the Little NHL Tournament.

Q2

April, May, June 2018

1. HIP Board members & special guests presented to 400 attendees at the 2018 Rotary International Convention on the value & practical ways to engage with Indigenous peoples in Canada: session entitled: “Indigenous Leaders-Success in Action”.
2. Championed & facilitated Indigenous cultural presentations & entertainment for 2018 Rotary Convention which hosted 25000 international visitors.
4. Established new relationships with Indigenous fly-in communities which taught us about the geographical challenges & access to resources resulting in the communities benefiting from the facilitation & deliver of 300 laptops for their schools.
5. Launched redesigned monthly HIP Circle newsletter
6. Facilitated the understanding & appreciation of Indigenous culture with Oshawa’s Father Joseph Venini Catholic School who hosted the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nations.

Q3

July, August, September 2018

1. Brought 246 Indigenous & non-Indigenous people together to instigate social change with the launch the APTN Television show “First Contact” in Winnipeg at the Canadian Human Rights Museum.
2. Partnered with advocates like the Financial Literacy Working Group for Indigenous Peoples to fight financial illiteracy by incorporating content into HIP’s programs.
3. Travelled across northern Ontario meeting Indigenous & Rotary leaders to understand existing programs & challenges while building new relationships.
5. Returned for 4th visit to Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School & expanded its relationships to include local Rotary Clubs, further raising awareness & support.
6. MILESTONE: Est. 175 Rotary Clubs participating in HIP activities.

Q4

October, November, December 2018

1. Hosted “Change the Narrative” event in partnership with The Honourable Elizabeth Dowdeswell, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario to fight against pervasive myths & stigmas.
2. Presented Trucks for Change with Certificate of Appreciation for being an Ally who demonstrates the strength of bringing communities together to evolve peace.
3. Established partnership with Indigenous Sports & Wellness Ontario (ISWO) to support the advancement of Indigenous youth leaders and broaden HIP’s cultural immersion.
4. MILESTONE: Delivered $1.5 Million of requested education & wellness supplies focused on removing education barriers.
Chris Snyder | HIP Chairperson, RC of Toronto

Chris is the co-founder and chairman of the ECC Group, one of Canada’s first broad-based financial planning firms. Chris is an active member of the Rotary Club of Toronto and has sat on a number of not-for-profit boards. Chris currently is past chair of the Canadian Landmine Foundation and founding and current chair of HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples). He also is on the board of CUSO and the Trudeau Centre of Peace Conflict and Justice at the Munk Centre (University of Toronto). Chris is the recipient of many awards including Rotary’s Paul Harris, and “Service above Self” award, the Queens Golden and Diamond Jubilee award, the Governor Generals 2018 Sovereign’s medal for Volunteers. He has authored a number of financial books and more recently “Creating Opportunities A volunteers Memoir”

Kenn Richard | Métis, St. Francis Xavier

Kenn is the former Executive Director of Native Child and Family Services of Toronto, a mandated society and children’s mental health centre. Kenn is the recipient of the Civic Award of Merit, The Aboriginal Affairs Award, The Chief of Police Community Award, and the Salute to the City Award for outstanding civic contribution. Most recently he has been honored with the Diamond Jubilee medal in recognition of Queen Elizabeth’s 60 years on the throne. Kenn received the 2018 Cross of Merit.

Andre Morriseau | Ojibway, Fort William First Nation

Andre Morriseau (Fort William First Nation) is an enthusiastic advocate and ambassador for Indigenous arts, culture and public affairs. Andre has worked as the Secretariat for the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) now Indspire and as Communications Officer for the Chiefs of Ontario (COO). He is the former Chair of the James Bartleman Aboriginal Youth Creative Writing Awards Jury as well as a board member for the Anishnawbe Health Foundation (AHF). He is the former Director, Awards & Communications for the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business (CCAB) and is currently the Communication Manager for the Ontario Native Women’s Association (ONWA).
Kahontakwas Diane Longboat, MEd | Mohawk, Turtle Clan, Six Nations

Diane is a member of the Turtle Clan and Mohawk Nation at Six Nations Grand River Territory. She is a ceremonial leader, traditional teacher and healer. She has served as Elder for CAMH since January of 2013 and is currently the Senior Project Manager, Guiding Directions Implementation. Diane is founder of Soul of the Mother, a Healing Lodge on the shores of the Grand River at Six Nations Grand River Territory, as well as, the founder of First Nations House (Office of Aboriginal Student Services and Programs) at the University of Toronto.

John Andras | RC of Toronto

John is Executive Vice-President of Andras Group. He is a Shareholder, Senior Vice-President and Director of Mackie Research Capital, past president of the Rotary Club of Toronto (2003-2004). Mr. Andras has been awarded the Distinguished Service Award and Paul Harris Fellowship (Rotary), Ellie Brown Humanitarian Award (Warkworth JCs), Fiona Nelson Award (Healthy Beginnings) and the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Medal. John received the 2018 Sovereign’s medal for Volunteers.

Suzanne Katsi‘tsiarihshion Brant, M.E.S. | Mohawk, Tyendinaga Territory

Suzanne is a Mohawk from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory situated on the Bay of Quinte. Suzanne graduated from the Institute of Integrated Medicine as an integrated medical clinician. She completed her master's degree in environmental studies at York University in 2005, with the development of an Indigenous-based education program that focuses on indigenous knowledge, health and the environment. She is recognized as a cultural educator, author and visual artist. She is the co-author of “The Words Before All Else”. Suzanne is currently the vice-president academics at the First Nations Technical Institute.

David G. Newman | RC of Winnipeg

David G. Newman serves as Senior Counsel to Pitblado Law as well as former Managing Partner and Chair of predecessor firm Pitblado & Hoskin. David is an advocate, negotiator and dispute resolver. He serves as a facilitator of restorative justice processes and as an educator in the field of peace, conflict resolution and human rights. He served as a Minister in the Manitoba Government of Northern and Native Affairs, Energy and Mines, Community Economic Development Fund and Manitoba Hydro. David was awarded the Eagle Feather & Star Blankets & Metis Sash for service to aboriginal peoples.

Diane Redsky | Ojibway, Shoal Lake #40 First Nation

Diane is a proud mother of three children and a kokum (grandmother). She is a band member of Shoal Lake First Nation #40. Currently the Executive Director of the Ma MawiWi Chi Itata (Ma Mawi) Centre in Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada. Ma Mawi translated from Ojibway means, “we all work together to help one another” is a community-based, community-led, indigenous-driven family resource centre that is a leader in community based care for children, youth and families in Winnipeg. Diane received the YMCA-YWCA Women of Distinction Award and Queen’s Diamond Jubilee Medal, inducted into the Order of Manitoba and awarded the Leadership Award by the Joy Smith Foundation.
Fred Lawlor | RC of Mississauga West
Fred Lawlor is currently President of Sliced Apple Hospitality Group, a hotel advisory group, located in Canada. Sliced Apple is a North American Hotel Consulting Company. A seasoned hotel industry professional, Fred has over thirty years of experience in progressive leadership roles in the hospitality industry, as well active in active academic and community board memberships.

Karihwakeron Tim Thompson | Mohawk, Wahta Mohawk Territory
Tim Thompson is from the bear clan of the Mohawk Nation at Wahta Mohawk Territory. He has served as the education coordinator for the Chiefs of Ontario, worked for the Assembly of First Nations in parliamentary liaison, and with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres as their policy director. Prior to returning to the Assembly of First Nations as director of the education, jurisdiction and governance sector, and as AFN Director of Languages, Karihwakeron served as the president and CEO of First Nations Technical Institute, an internationally known First Nations-controlled post-secondary institution.

Janet McLeod | RC of Peterborough Kawartha
Janet is a member of the Rotary Club of Peterborough-Kawartha. She served as club president in 1996-97. Janet is also the past chair of Indigenous Focus for District 7010. Janet is part of the team organizing Adventure in Understanding, which sees Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth paddle war canoes together over five days, while they learn about each other’s’ cultures.

Lisa Farano | Rotary E Club of Social Innovation
Lisa is co-creator of the children’s education charity, Elephant Thoughts, where her focus is on indigenous education not only here in Canada but around the globe. Lisa believes that education is the key to freedom and prosperity and continues to work with Elephant Thoughts enabling education solutions in aboriginal communities across Canada. Lisa is a Paul Harris Fellow and Past President of the Rotary Club of Collingwood SGB and currently is a charter member of the Rotary E Club of Social Innovation.

John Lomax | RC of Brampton
John immigrated to Canada from England with his parents in 1957. He and his wife Marilyn adopted two Native children and eventually had one of their own. John began a career with CIBC that spanned 6 decades. After CIBC he consulted for various companies focusing on Commercial Loan Structuring and Credit Risk Analysis. He fully retired in 2015. John has served on the Board for the Rotary Club of Brampton for 15 years in various roles including Treasurer and President. He also served on the Board of St Leonard’s Place Pee for 30+years where he helped grow a halfway house. For 15 years, John was involved in Rotary District 7080’S Youth Exchange program including 3 years as Chair. He is now the Chair of 7080’s Indigenous Resource Committee, CIRCLE. John is a recipient of the Paul Harris Fellowship (Rotary) and YMCA’s Peace Medallion for his community work.
SPECIAL THANK YOU TO HIP VOLUNTEERS & HELPERS
The following volunteers and helpers have provided significant support to HIP.
We value their contribution to HIP’s success throughout the year.


TESTIMONIALS

“I am pleased, as Chief of the Kashechewan First Nation, to write this letter of testimony and thanks for the tremendous support received by our community over the last two years from the Rotary HIP (Honouring Indigenous Peoples) Program. We have been deeply engaged with Rotary HIP in programming initiatives to help the youth of Kashechewan.”

Chief Leo Friday | KASHECHEWAN FIRST NATION

“First, let me preface with sincerest gratitude for your support in donating laptops to my class of Grade 6 students. The students were incredibly excited to get to work and they have already started their Science and Social Studies projects. These laptops are going to be essential tools in our classroom in helping me to provide more cross curricular connections between all of our subjects. From the students and I: thank you, thank you, thank you!”

Erica, Thomas Fiddler Memorial Elementary School Teacher | SANDY LAKE FIRST NATION
Big Thank You to Our
CIRCLE OF ALLIES

Peace, Respect & Friendship

“Allies to Indigenous peoples are committed to lifelong listening & learning as equal partners, respectful of differences & keen to see where bridges of collaboration can be constructed.”

~ Kahontakwas
Diane Longboat