



# The HIP Circle

UNDERSTANDING THE PAST. MOVING FORWARD TOGETHER.



*John Lomax, Jay Lomax, John Currie, Bo Ouyang, Philip Schaus & Chris Snyder*

## SIEMENS, CFCC & HIP TEAM UP FOR EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Siemens' technical expertise, comprehensive portfolio and long-standing experience are helping to pioneer a sustainable future across the globe. But it doesn't stop there. Siemens is also a leader promoting a culture that builds healthy and strong communities by engaging employees and integrating their corporate values into the workplace. With a passion for technology and social responsibility, Siemens employees launched Corporations for Community Connections (CFCC) in 2010. CFCC is a registered charity dedicated to refurbishing decommissioned, donated, corporate computers at no cost to schools, charities and people in need.

On April 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> Siemens employees, family members & Rotarians attended an event to learn about Indigenous Peoples in Canada and participate in a robust process of refurbishing decommissioned corporate laptops which will be provided to Indigenous schools and students. **Jay Lomax**, an adoptions and permanency planning worker at **Native Child and Family Services of Toronto**, opened with a smudging and performed an honour song to thank those in attendance for their support and commitment to building relationships. Additionally, he provided historical, current and personal context to Canada's relationship with Indigenous Peoples, including how important these laptops are for removing barriers to education for Indigenous students.

Employees increasingly want to feel part of something bigger than just the walls within which they work. They want to feel proud of their company and feel that the work they do contributes to the betterment of society. Employee engagement events like this provide an effective means of creating connections and positioning organizations as one that people want to work for.

### BOOK AN EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT EVENT

Thousands of laptops are needed to remove an obstacle to learning for Indigenous students in Canada. Equitable access to digital learning gives students the ability to be competitive with post-education applications and careers. HIP and CFCC make it easy to host an educational employee engagement event and donate decommissioned laptops. Contact us to learn more.



Canadian Indigenous and non-Indigenous Peoples have been living on this land together for centuries. But how well do we know each other? Many would answer not nearly well enough. The Indigenous Life Festival (ILF) was designed to share learning and build relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in an interactive and engaging environment. Communities and municipalities can choose to host educational, inclusive and interactive activities and events that are equal partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. Canadians want to know more and ILF is a way to enrich and enlighten making the sharing of information the focal point. The ILF is supported by Indigenous Tourism Ontario and responding to The Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action to foster learning and education amongst Canadians. Watch for details about the Blue Mountain Village event in August 2019. [www.indigenouslifefestival.com](http://www.indigenouslifefestival.com)

## RC of BRANDON HOSTS HIP TALK

*Rotary working together with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples*

Thank you to **Tom Crew** (Rotarian) and **Mel Whitesell** (Indigenous) for teaming up to present a HIP TALK to the RC of Brandon. We look forward to welcoming the RC of Brandon to the HIP family.

## STUDENTS CONNECTING WITH STUDENTS

*Building a Shared Future*

Teacher's College student, **Kiara Fabbro**, invited Lindsay grade 11 students to make 125 individualized birthday cards for the students of **Dennis Franklin Cromarty High (DFC)** School in Thunder Bay. Kiara is building on the recent Valentines cards sent to DFC students by grade 12 student, **Matthew Warrick**, and his schools Social Justice Council. Kiara will include letters to the DFC students introducing them to the grade 11 students in Lindsay, who are seeking to build ongoing friendships.

## WATER FIRST

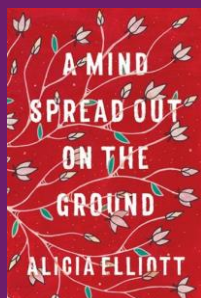
*Creating Sustainable Water Systems*

Water First is dedicated to working with First Nations communities with a focus on both drinking water and environmental water concerns, as well as water science education for youth.

To date, Water First has collaborated with over 35 First Nations communities to address water challenges through education and training.

*For more information, visit:*

<https://waterfirst.ngo/>



RECOMMENDED BOOK

### A MIND SPREAD OUT ON THE GROUND by Alicia Elliott

A Mind Spread Out on the Ground is Alicia Elliott's attempt to answer about the treatment of Native people in North America while drawing on intimate details of her own life and experience with intergenerational trauma, Alicia Elliott offers indispensable insight and understanding to the ongoing legacy of colonialism.

[www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/a-mind-spread-out-on/9780385692380-item.html](http://www.chapters.indigo.ca/en-ca/books/a-mind-spread-out-on/9780385692380-item.html)



John Currie, HIP Executive Director & Chris Snyder, HIP Chairperson, preparing laptops for Indigenous Students.



John Lomax, HIP Board Member, involving attendees in a smudging for the Siemens Employee Engagement event.

## SMUDGING

*As Posted by Indigenous Corporate Training Inc*

Sacred smoke created from burning medicinal or sacred plants is an aspect of many cultures and religions the world over. In North America, it is a practice common to Indigenous Peoples and is called smudging. Many, but not all, Indigenous cultures in Canada smudge but may have different beliefs associated with the smoke, and different ceremonies and protocols.

Smudging is traditionally a ceremony for purifying or cleansing the soul of negative thoughts of a person or place. There are four elements involved in a smudge:

- The container, traditionally a shell representing water, is the first element.
- The four sacred plants (cedar, sage, sweet-grass, tobacco), gifts from mother earth, represent the second element.
- The fire produced from lighting the sacred plants represents the third element.
- The smoke produced from the fire represents air, the fourth element.

*For more information, visit:*

[www.ictinc.ca/blog/a-definition-of-smudging](http://www.ictinc.ca/blog/a-definition-of-smudging)

## RC of NIAGARA HOSTS HIP TALK

*Rotary Working Together with  
First Nations, Inuit & Métis Peoples*

Thank you **John Andras**, HIP Board Member, for traveling from Peterborough to Niagara Falls to present a HIP Talk to the **RC of Niagara**. HIP has received positive feedback and look forward to supporting the RC of Niagara as they seek to build relationships with Indigenous Peoples in their area.

## HIP RECEIVES GLOBAL INTEREST

*Sharing & Working Together*

HIP recently received an inquiry from a Rotarian in Australia who was so moved by the Indigenous content at the Toronto Convention she is inspired to start a HIP committee in Australia.

The challenges Aboriginals face in Australia are in many ways similar to the challenges Indigenous Peoples face in Canada. In fact there is a common theme and need relating to Indigenous Peoples around the world.

HIP is delighted there is worldwide interest and in general, support working with Rotarians from other countries on building relationships with Indigenous People and supporting their education initiatives. Spreading to Australia, and elsewhere, raises many questions and considerations. Two of HIP's Board Members, **Bob Blacker**, who is originally from Australia, and **David Newman**, will be exploring this opportunity in the months ahead. More information will be posted in future editions of the HIP Circle.



Every Dollar Counts!

**MAKE A MONTHLY or  
ONE-TIME DONATION**

In Support of HIP's Mission

**DONATE**

[www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/HIP](http://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/HIP)





Thank you for \$2000 worth of new hockey equipment made possible by Kingston Canadian Tire & generous True North Aid donors.



Gary McCuaig & Daphne Woodger from Richmond Hill United Church readied 36 boxes of requested supplies for DFC School.

## CODE for LONG LIFE & WISDOM

*As Published by: Ojibway Heritage, Basil Johnston,  
Nov. 1, 1987, McClelland & Stewart*

Thank Kitche Manitou (the Great Spirit)  
for all his gifts.

Honour the aged; in honouring them, you  
honour life and wisdom.

Honour life in all forms; your own  
will be sustained.

Honour women; in honouring women, you  
honour the gift of life and love.

Honour promises; by keeping your word,  
you will be true.

Honour kindness; try sharing the gifts  
you will be kind.

Be peaceful; through peace, all will find  
the Great Peace.

Be courageous; through courage, all will  
grow in strength.

Be moderate in all things, watch, listen and  
consider; your deeds will be prudent.



## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

HIP is powered by volunteers. If you are interested in having your name added to our volunteer list, please email Executive Director John Currie at [john.currie@pickeringrotary.ca](mailto:john.currie@pickeringrotary.ca).

Currently HIP is seeking the following volunteers:

Communications  
Wordpress Development  
Project Management  
Speakers  
Event Support



## DISTRICT COORDINATORS

HIP is seeking District Coordinators across Canada to work closely with their District Governors and recruit, encourage and guide Rotary Clubs to participate and support HIP's mandate of awareness, education and the building and engaging in meaningful and equitable relationships with Indigenous Peoples.

If interested, please email  
HIP Chairperson Chris Snyder at

[chris@eccgroup.ca](mailto:chris@eccgroup.ca)



## THE INDIGENOUS JOURNEY

*Designed by Teachers for Easily Implementable Classroom Use*

Working in partnership with First Nations, Inuit & Métis community members, Elephant Thoughts, along with its contributors, have launched an education and awareness program that provides a unique learning experience about First Peoples history and current challenges experientially through the perspectives of Indigenous youth. Using interactive activities, discussion and active engagement, you are invited to face the challenges of today and yesterday honestly, responsibly and with compassion.

Indigenous Educators have collaborated to create this in-depth learning modules and support materials designed to help students understand important topics in Indigenous culture and history, including residential schools and thru to the major contributions Indigenous Peoples have made to the world.

Please join the Indigenous journey by visiting: [www.theindigenousjourney.com](http://www.theindigenousjourney.com)

## ELEPHANT THOUGHTS PROVIDES VALUE ADD

*Coordinating the distribution of 125 Laptops*

HIP is delighted to partner with Elephant Thoughts for the distribution of 125 laptops recently received from Siemens Canada. Elephant Thoughts provides value add by offering code and other STEAM Education programs. The programs includes the teachers in the training alongside the students. Additionally, the laptops, and other resources, are left behind to ensure the schools have the tools that they require to be successful in today's digital age. A number of these students will advance into Professional Certification level courses.

Some of the laptops will go to youth in Entrepreneurship Internships happening in places like **Sagamok First Nation (Sudbury)**, **Tobique First Nation (New Brunswick)** and **Oromocto First Nation (New Brunswick)**. For these interns, Elephant Thoughts will award laptops to those youth that complete the program to assist them with post-secondary education and building the businesses they have created.

Elephant Thoughts work with educators in Indigenous Schools to develop programs that combat low graduation rates, improve school attendance and apathy issues, and motivate the greater community to participate in education. Elephant Thoughts will be providing education support to 150+ Cree in Northern Quebec. Graduating students who meet the criteria will receive a laptop for their post-secondary education.

## REQUEST FULFILLMENT

*HIP Allies work in partnership with Indigenous schools, communities and organizations to fulfill their requests for education support. Requests range from procuring winter clothing and hygiene products that remove learning barriers, to collecting school supplies and providing resources that ensure Indigenous students receive equitable learning opportunities.*

### **True North AID Provides 5 Pallets of Hockey Gear!**

Big THANK YOU to HIP's partner **True North Aid** for providing 5 pallets of hockey gear to fulfill **Montreal Lake Cree First Nation's** request. Montreal Lake Cree is a northern community in northern Saskatchewan with a population of more than 2000 members. Sports and Cultural activities improve self-esteem and social skills while providing motivation for education and other areas of life. Working with the communities' leadership, and our circle of partners, HIP is happy to respond to this request and support wellness and positive lifestyles for youth in this community.

Thank you to **Canadian Tire Kingston** and one of True North AID's special supporters, **Amanda**, who made it possible to include some new hockey gear.

A big thanks goes to **Kriska Holdings Limited, Manitoulin Transport** and Pete from **Trucks for Change**, who co-ordinated transportation!

Thank you to **Rotarian Keith Fonstad**, who coordinated Saskatchewan activities, and **Northern Resource Trucking (NRT)**, a transportation company formed and owned by twelve First Nations & Métis partners from communities throughout northern Saskatchewan.

### **Richmond Hill United Church Delivers Needed Supplies to DFC**

**Richmond Hill United Church (RHUC)** has established an ongoing relationship with **Dennis Franklin Cromarty High (DFC)** School in Thunder Bay. DFC is administered by the **Northern Nishnawbe Education Council**. It was established in 2000 and serves Indigenous students from 20 communities around Northwestern Ontario.

RHUC sent 36 boxes of requested provisions (winter outerwear, shoes, sports gear, sleeping bag, bedding, toys, art and school supplies). A BIG THANK YOU goes to **Kathy McBey** for co-ordinating collection, **Lucy & Polaris Transport** for the pickup, **Gardewine** for delivering to the school and Pete from **Trucks for Change** for making the transport happen!

### **Global Medic and P&G Provide 5 pallets for Youth Shelter**

Global Medic partnered with P&G, who donated products & the packing and shipping of 5 pallets of requested female hygiene kits, oral kits, toothpaste, diapers and baby wipes. Pallets are destined for an Indigenous youth shelter in Quebec.

## CURRENT REQUESTS

**\$30,000 for Milestone Trip to Ottawa or Toronto** for 14 Ahgwahbuush Memorial School grade 8 students from fly-in First Nations community of Poplar Hill. Needed for June.

Sponsor: Needed.

**25 Welcome Boxes** for Indigenous Students attending Northeastern Catholic District School in Timmins.

Sponsor: RC of Pickering & RC of Timmins.

**175 Welcome Boxes** for Indigenous Students attending Dennis Franklin Cromarty High School in Thunder Bay. Sponsor: Robin Hood Army & Rotary Youth Leadership Awards.

**50 Laptops** for Indigenous Students attending post-secondary education.

Sponsor: Needed

**6 Laptops** for NeMeRes in support of Indigenous Men.

Sponsor: RC of Toronto

**\$1000 in Support of Language Restoration & Literacy.** Funding provides cultural and language specific books to Indigenous students.

Sponsor: RC of East York

**\$1500 in Support of Language Restoration & Literacy.** Funding provides cultural and language specific books to Indigenous students.

Sponsor: Needed

**\$2500 for Bursaries** for Indigenous students attending post-secondary education. Dollar match available.

Sponsor: Needed.

**Hockey Gear** needed for Manitoba Sports & Recreation Council. New or gently used skates, pads, sticks & helmets.

Sponsor: Needed.

## Messaae from the Chairman

### COME FROM AWAY

*Turning Tragedy into an Opportunity to Build New Relationships*

The highly acclaimed play "Come From Away" is about how Canadians lived up to their kind reputation, and opened their doors to the Americans stranded in Gander during the 9/11 crisis. As a result of the detour, 6,759 passengers and airline crew members — plus 9 cats, 11 dogs, and a pair of endangered apes — arrived in Gander, descending on the small northeastern town, nearly doubling its population of 9,651.

Strangers were invited into people's homes. Meals, beds, and new clothes were provided. Striking school bus drivers put down their picket signs and volunteered to transport people from the planes. Schools were converted into makeshift shelters. Restaurants and bakeries donated food, while pharmacies provided everything from diapers to medication to feminine products.

Every year, about now, because of flooding, hundreds of people are evacuated from Indigenous Communities in Northern Ontario. Most come from Kashechewan a community of 1900 located on the banks of the Albany River close to James Bay. The evacuation is because the community in 1957 was forced by government to move to a flood plain. When the ice breaks they are forced to evacuate. For years there has been much talk of relocating the community again, and in 2017 a framework agreement was reached with the Federal and, provincial, governments, Kashechewan and the NAN Nation. There has been little progress. In the past the cost of moving a thousand or more people has been as high as \$21 million dollars, which does not include the cost of repairing homes. This year, with the heavy snows, it is estimated the numbers evacuated will be at an all-time high.

Evacuees are transported to places like Timmins, Kapuskasing, Cornwall and Thunder Bay. Some people will be away from home for several months. This is very disruptive to their lives, not the least of which is an interruption in education for young people. Services are in place however, the evacuation creates an opportunity for the people in the receiving community to also get involved, like the residents of Gander. The Rotary Club of Timmins-Porcupine, together with HIP, are already working with the Red Cross, the coordinating body, to find ways to assist, build relationships and provide comfort during a difficult time.

There are hundreds of examples of communities around the world coming together during a crisis. The good that comes out of it and the relationships that develop can be life impacting. You do not need to wait for a flood to become involved. Indigenous Peoples are arriving every day to urban communities across the country. Going to the local Friendship Centre to welcome them and offer your support can have an impact, lead to better understanding and build new relationships.

Migwetch (Thank You)

*Chris Snyder*

HIP Chairperson  
Rotary Club of Toronto

### HIP TALKS

*Understanding the Past.  
Moving Forward Together.*

May 22: Rotary Canada DG's

June 12: RC of Whitby

June 20: RC of Toronto West

### UPCOMING

*Events & Activities*

May 2 – 5: HIP Director David Newman will host a table at the Rotary District 5550 Conference to create awareness for Peace Builders & HIP. This year's theme is "Be the Inspiration." Be sure to drop by and say hello to David!

May 14 – 15: Indigenous Services Canada's 2019 Ontario Joint Gathering. HIP Booth being organized by Nicole Patterson.

June 10: Change the Narrative, RC of Toronto

June 12<sup>th</sup>: Anishnawbe Health Centre, 2019 Toronto Reception and Auction (5:30 – 8:00 p.m.)

July 12 – 14: 2019 Gathering with the Credit River. Erindale Park, Mississauga, ON.

September 14: Dennis Franklin Cromarty School - Wake the Giant, Thunder Bay.

### GOT AN EVENT OR LOCAL STORY?

**Send It To Us!**

*If you have an event or news related to HIP's mission that you would like published, please email Julie Dunaiskis at:*

*julie@eccgroup.ca*



# JOIN THE MOVEMENT

Please join us! Imagine what is possible when all 720 Rotary Clubs across Canada, and others, work together with First Nations, Inuit and Métis Peoples!

While we have a strong connection to Rotary, HIP includes a diverse membership comprising of schools, faith groups, businesses and other service organizations.

Individuals, Rotary Clubs and other groups can become a HIP Ally or helper by visiting HIP's website and submitting the online application. The 2019 rates are as follows:

Type	Annual Fee
Indigenous Organizations ( <i>helpers</i> )	Free
Students (& youth under 21)	\$25
Individual	\$100
Rotary Club with less than 75 members	\$250
Schools & Education Institutes	\$250
Rotary Club with greater than 75 members, Other Service Clubs, Partners & Corporations	\$500

Join the 200+ Rotary Clubs already working collaboratively with Indigenous peoples to "Change the Narrative!" and address education challenges.

- Credible recognition as an Ally
- Participation in a nation-wide movement
- A like-minded community to exchange ideas
- The opportunity to connect with other leaders who are changing Canada
- Awareness of active reconciliation activities
- Access to "Ally" video conference meetings
- Access to resources (Education, speakers, promotional material, etc.)
- Access to partners (Transportation, Indigenous organizations, etc.)
- Discounts and special offers (10% discount with Goodminds.com, etc.)

JOIN HIP

## Big Thank You to Our CIRCLE OF ALLIES

