

Scouts Canada

Presents the



RBC First Nations Symposium on Scouting

Canad Inns - Ambassador Room K

1405 St. Matthews Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba



2009 Report



FIRST NATIONS SYMPOSIUM ON SCOUTING

CANAD INN

WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

MAY 2009 – REPORT

On Saturday, May 23rd some twenty people gathered in Winnipeg, Manitoba for the first historic First Nations symposium on Scouting. First Nations community leaders, Scouts Canada volunteers and staff dialogued on the needs of First Nations youth and their families and how Scouting can help through our joint values and spirituality.

Scouts Canada's volunteers and staff listened tentatively to the need of building relationships, acquiring knowledge of the traditions and history of First Nations people and their struggle and challenges of the past, present and future desires of a proud people.

We learned of the importance of balance in life, health, earth, spirituality, traditions and the role of the Elders in the community. The issue of intergenerational differences and lost parental skills due to residential school programs that took children, youth and young adults from the home and the community and the importance of realizing the history of First Nations people before and after the arrival of Europeans.

We need to respect and appreciate the founding culture of the America's and their form of governance, language, spirituality and traditions relating to Mother Earth. We need to tread lightly, establish trust and recognize what First Nations communities bring to the table.

We need to identify barriers while at the same time acknowledge assets that inter-relate with our core values in our programs and identify traditions that compliment both cultures Scouts Canada and First Nations in existing programs and the establishment of alternative programming that specifically relates to the needs of youth leadership development, local initiatives and the sharing of ideas that youth can relate to, families can partake in and communities can promote as an extension of their needs through a joint partnership with Scouts Canada.

The role of the Elders needs to be understood (Elder is not a chronological definition, but an Elder is one who has earned the respect of his or her peers within the community). What will be most important will be follow-up by both parties on the time line that is not western but Aboriginal in time. Trust will play an important role in our relationship and on that point Scouts Canada will need to place emphasis on and build overtime.

Scouts Canada will need to highlight its strengths, offer leadership development, structure and allow for flexibility in program development, delivery systems and support structures.

First Nations representatives identified the need for program structure, youth leadership development, offering their own curriculum to enhance First Nations traditions, history, and language through Scouting programs. Scouts Canada will need to address program options, volunteer adult screening, uniform and its own structural barriers and the importance of skills training. Both partners will need to address the existing diversity within First Nations communities and develop meaningful partnership agreements.

Where do we go from here?

- Develop a First Nations assembly resolution of support.
- Identify the appropriate decision making elements within each First Nations community.
- Design a partnership agreement that reflects both in language and visual diagram the cultural and political structure of First Nations and Scouts Canada.
- Motivate supporters of Scouting within First Nations and Scouts Canada communities to give testimonials for the benefits of Scouting as a youth development organization.

How can Scouts Canada help?

- Start to build strong and enduring relationships with First Nations community leadership.
- Help recruit local First Nations community leaders and youth for First Nations Scout programming.
- Offer membership funding support where possible like No One Left Behind programs for families in need.
- Work with First Nations leadership on cultural and spiritual program alternatives.

Prepared by: John Plumadore, First Nations Facilitator

Report dated: July 27, 2009

RBC First Nations Symposium

Canad Inn - May 23rd, 2009

Opening Remarks

By: John Plumadore, Facilitator



Today we have come to listen and learn about First Nations history, culture, spirituality, value system and in exchange, we will learn about Scouts Canada's history, value system, spirituality and program opportunities.

This will be a true dialogue of thoughts, ideas and how we can come together in understanding the needs of First Nations youth and their communities.

It is possible that we might not be a match, it is possible that we need to look at alternative programs, but for sure, we will dialogue, have open minds and be creative in our thinking.

For sure this is the first of many dialogues that needs to take place, we will not necessarily go from here today with clear cut solutions, with resolve to hundreds of years of history, fully understood values, spirituality, but we will establish... I hope, life long relationships, open communications and a desire to learn about each other in ways that are enduring, hopeful and promising.

We might struggle for the right words and language that is inclusive. We will make mistakes, we will need to be patient, caring, not to offend – but to understand and seek answers that will build our relationships, grow our joint family and build young leaders for tomorrow.

John Ralston Saul's... A Fair Country, Telling Truths about Canada, ***Unfulfilled Nation Born from its Aboriginal Roots.*** Canada is in trouble because it has been untethered from its Aboriginal moorings.

The central inspiration of our country is Aboriginal. It is the Aboriginal ideas of harmony, balanced relationships, and inclusive circle and an appropriate equilibrium between peoples and the land that explain Canada's invention of peace keeping, the pioneering environmental efforts of Greenpeace and multiculturalism.

In my humble opinion, I agree with Mr. Saul, it is time to internalize consciously the First Nations as the senior founding pillar of our civilization; it is about a nation finding itself and moving forward.

As your facilitator, I am encouraging you to be open, focused on the cause and the needs of First Nations youth.

Let us first start with a few words of greeting from our host...
Manitoba Council Scout Commissioner Mike Papst.



RBC First Nations Symposium

Saturday, May 23rd, 2009

Position Statement:

How can Scouting work with First Nations Communities to assist in the education of youth, specifically in the areas of?

- 1) Youth Leadership
- 2) Environmental Stewardship
- 3) Healthy Active Living

Vision of the First Nations Scouting Symposium:

To work with First Nations community staff and volunteers delivering the Scouting program to community youth.

Goal of Symposium:

To raise the awareness of First Nations Culture in Scouting in the areas of;

- 1) First Nations history leading to the signing of the Treaties
- 2) First Nations history after the signing of the Treaties
- 3) How to address present day community recreational/educational needs through the use of the Scouting program.



A message from the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs Grand Chief Ron Evans

Tansi,

On behalf of the Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs, I welcome all First Nations youth from across the country to the RBC First Nations Symposium on Scouting in Winnipeg, May 23, 2009.

For over 100 years, Scouting has been practiced as a way to involve youth in a non-formal educational process that teaches them self-reliance and duty to themselves, others and society.

Our Youth are in need of positive influences and recreational programs that recognize our own cultural values, which include the worldview that all things, including animals and the land, have a spirit and are due respect.

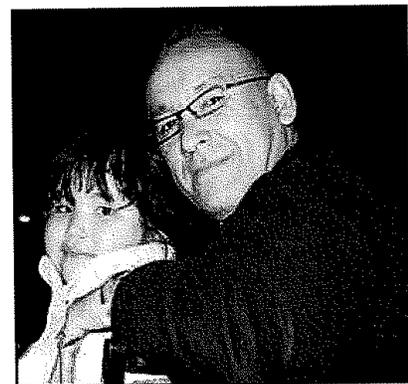
I am pleased that Scouts Canada and RBC recognize our unique cultural needs and have chosen to consult us and include us in order to broaden their program in its relevance to First Nation youth.

I am especially pleased that our youth have chosen to come together in open dialogue here at this symposium, to take a positive and active step in creating programs for themselves, which embodies the Scouts emphasis on self-reliance.

Congratulations to RBC, Scouts Canada and the First Nation youth of Canada on your efforts to create a better life for us all.

Sincerely,
ASSEMBLY OF MANITOBA CHIEFS

**Ron Evans
Grand Chief**





Creating a Better World
Créer un monde meilleur



RBC First Nations Symposium on Scouting
May 23, 2009
Winnipeg, Manitoba

Ladies and Gentlemen

I sincerely thank you for the kind invitation to attend the RBC First Nations Symposium on Scouting. Although due to a previous commitment I am regrettably unable to attend, I would like to share some thoughts with you.

Canada's First Nations communities are a fundamental part of our country's history. A vital and compassionate people, they are our living heritage and a true example of the strength that comes only from many years of tradition.

Scouting and First Nations people share so many common bonds...respect for the environment and beauty of the natural world, spiritual awareness, and the pride that comes from people working together for the betterment of their community.

Our programs offer the best of youth leadership, environmental stewardship and healthy, active living. As Chief Commissioner, I will encourage Scouts Canada to share everything Scouting has to offer, and by doing so, raise the awareness of First Nations culture and peoples nationwide. There is no limit to what we may accomplish together.

We will be proud to collaborate with Canada's First Nations communities and explore the many ways we can work with you to make our mutual dream of a better world come true.

Yours in Scouting

Stephen P. Kent
Chief Commissioner and Chair of the Board of Governors
Scouts Canada



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Canad Inns

Winnipeg, Manitoba

Saturday, May 23rd, 2009

First Nations Guests by Province

Alberta

- Judy Toews
- Dexter Bruisedhead
- Tim Patterson

British Columbia / Yukon

- Erika Wilson
- Helena Paul

Manitoba

- Frances McGillvray
- Jonathon Weenusk

Ontario

- Cindi Lee Ecker-Flagg

Special Guests

- Jon Himmens, Board of Governors, Member-at-Large
- Claudette Commando
- David Courchene

Scouts Canada Volunteers by Province

Cascadia

- Chris Jennings

Manitoba

- Mike Papst
- Maureen McConnell
- Dave Farmer

Scouts Canada Staff by Province

Alberta

- Juran Greene
- Kenneth Lausen

Manitoba

- Gary Waycik
- Daryl Wright

Ontario

- John Plumadore
- Ross Francis
- Dawood Zwink