

VOICES



Capacity Support - Coming Soon!

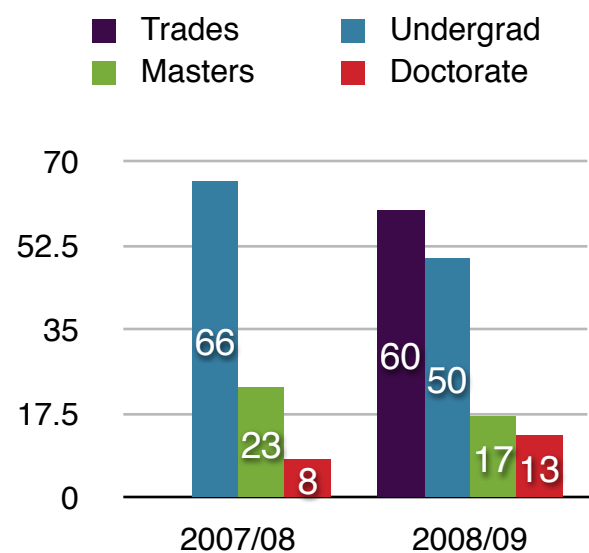
NRT is now offering direct support for capacity building projects. This initiative was piloted in 2008/09, with in excess of \$750,000 granted to First Nation communities and partnerships between communities. 2009/10 support will become available on June 1, 2009, with funding once again available to individual communities as well as collaborative efforts. Watch the NRT web site for details.

237 Students Assisted to Date



NRT continues to place a high priority on higher education of BC First Nation students. Our scholarship and bursary program is one of our successes; now entering its third year, we have already assisted 237 post-secondary students work toward a degree or certificate.

Students supported to date



The program continues this year - with a total of \$750,000 in funding available, we hope to support another 130 students. If you are interested in applying for a scholarship or bursary, check the Programs section of the NRT web site; application forms and guidelines will be online soon!

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Message from the CEO



At the start of the new fiscal year, NRT welcomed two new Board members: Leona Sparrow and Judith Sayers join remaining Directors Terry Kuzma, Kathryn Teneese, Gloria Morgan and Mike Bonshor. We expect the final new Director to be appointed by the Province of BC soon.

This newsletter presents a great opportunity to welcome our new Directors and to provide you with a brief introduction.

Until recently, Judith (Kekinusuqs) served 14 years as elected Chief of the Hupacasath First Nation in Port Alberni, where she worked to build capacity, create sustainable development opportunities, and restore and rehabilitate the Hupacasath territory. She is currently involved with a number of First Nation corporations and Boards and previously served two years on the First Nations Summit executive.

Leona is Director, Treaty Lands & Resources for the Musqueam Indian Band, where she is responsible for negotiations within the BC Treaty process and for land referrals and consultation / accommodation requirements. Leona also acts as the Band's liaison to the University of BC and the Museum of Anthropology, and works extensively with local schools to support the education of Musqueam children.

Both Leona and Judith have extensive backgrounds in law and business, and work tirelessly to build capacity and ensure rights and title of First Nations people in BC.

While I am delighted to welcome the new Directors, I am also sad to have to say goodbye to the three outgoing Board members who have contributed so much to NRT in the past few years. The new Board extends its heartfelt thanks to original Chair Nathan Matthew, Dawn Farrell, and Yvonne Smith, who worked hard to establish NRT strategic direction based on feedback from First Nations leaders and members.

One of the first tasks of the new Board was to review and refine the strategic direction for NRT. That task has been completed, and our 2009 - 2012 Strategic Plan is now available.



If you didn't receive a copy, visit the NRT web site to download one or contact the NRT office.

Respectfully,



Cliff Fregin, CEO



NRT Board of Directors and CEO

*Back Row, from left: Leona Sparrow, Terry Kuzma, Judith Sayers, Gloria Morgan
Front Row, from left: CEO Cliff Fregin, Kathryn Teneese, Michael Bonshor*

Youth and Elders Grants Connect Communities, Revive Cultures

The first year of funding for Youth and Elders projects wrapped up this spring, with \$125,000 in funding handed out to each group. In total, 44 Elders projects and 36 youth projects were supported in 2008/09. Types of projects included storytelling and recording of oral traditions, participation in events and gatherings, and the sharing and teaching of cultural activities.

A number of initiatives supported involved both youth and Elders, bringing generations together so they could share vital knowledge about heritage and cultural traditions. Another trend was the use of contemporary media to tell or record age-old stories. Some of the projects funded were:

- NRT support allowed Maya'anti Elders to participate in cultural camps held by the Tsawataineuk First Nation. Participants learned traditional methods of barbecuing fish, jarring seal fat and meat, and using local plants for medicine, as well as carving and cedar weaving class.
- The Canim Lake Band project was designed to connect youth and Elders. It included storytelling, traditional crafts, baking and musical sessions with daycare and elementary school children, as well as seasonal trips to the bush to fish, pick berries and gather traditional craft materials. A summer camping trip allowed youth to enjoy Camin Lake and participate in traditional dancing, drumming and craft making.



Canim Lake Elders telling stories to youth.

- T'sou-ke Elders were recorded telling heritage myths and real life stories. The ten Elders who participated were partnered with a community member (usually a related youth) who recorded their stories. Elders also provided photos and music, and these media were merged to create 'digistories' with narrative, imagery and musical soundtracks. Elders maintained control of the content, while youth learned about digital technology during the process.
- The Ts'k'aylaxw youth group community cultural project was multi-faceted, with activities to build capacity, leadership, and cooperation amongst youth, as well as mentoring of youth by Elders, teaching of traditional knowledge, and a gathering for local youth. 75 youth were impacted in total.
- The Ucwalmicw Center Society youth developed a radio play dramatizing the post-contact history of the St'at'imc people. The script of the play, titled "150," underwent several revisions based on input from community members and Elders as well as a local historian.



St at imc Elder Gertrude Ned in the recording studio.

- The Nuuchahnulth "Take Back our Culture Association" received a grant to purchase recording equipment that was used by youth to record Elders who speak

Coming Soon – to a Town Near You

In 2006, NRT's inaugural year, we traveled to 11 communities in BC to gather feedback from First Nations people about how we should spend and manage the fund. What we heard led to the development of NRT's overall strategic direction, including our five priority areas of support and our spend/invest ratio.

In the fall of 2009, we plan to carry out another series of community engagement sessions, to check in with members, share what we are doing, and to find out how we can improve our programs and services to best support the needs of First Nation communities.



Over the next few months we'll be planning for the regional sessions. Locations and dates will be announced in the summer of 2009; we will send the details along to communities and you can check the NRT web site soon for details.

NRT Welcomes New GM

New General Manager Chanze Gamble joined the NRT team at the beginning of May. In this role, Chanze is responsible for day-to-day operations including financial planning and management, overseeing project development and guiding NRT staff. Having Chanze on board allows NRT CEO Cliff Fregin to focus on the overall strategic direction for the organization.



Chanze has a strong background in financial management and business development and a solid understanding of Aboriginal Title and Rights issues. He is a member of the Beardy's and Okemasis First Nation, Saskatchewan and has worked with a number of Aboriginal organizations and governments. Most recently, Chanze worked as a business development consultant, providing expertise to a number of First Nation communities and organizations.

Board of Directors

Kathryn Teneese (Chair)

Judith Sayers

Leona Sparrow

Gloria Morgan

Michael Bonshor

Terry Kuzma

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Mission

Investing in First Nation governments in British Columbia to support their authority and jurisdiction.

Vision

A better British Columbia where First Nations have efficient and effective governments, vibrant cultures and languages, social justice, and economic prosperity.