

# VOICES



## Success with YES!

In November of 2010, NRT hosted YES — the Young Entrepreneurs Symposium — along with co-hosts the Dreamcatcher Foundation and the Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business. The event was a great success, with 120 young Aboriginal leaders in attendance.

By bringing burgeoning Aboriginal entrepreneurs together with established business people, YES helps our young leaders develop critical business skills, make valuable connections and have fun. Delegates were treated to a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity at the 2010 YES. They were organized into teams in order to participate in challenges over three jam-packed days.

Challenges included:

- Creating a company name and logo
- Creating a commercial for Tim Hortons, including acting in the commercial



- Making the best smoothie given \$20 and 90 minutes
- Selling an original piece of art work by Salish artist Bonny Graham

Teams were judged by panel members and an awards ceremony was held at the symposium's closing gala.

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## Message from the CEO

As we usher in a new year, NRT is pleased to welcome on board two new Directors. Hugh Braker of the Tseshaht First Nation and George Saddleman of the Sylix Nation have recently joined NRT for a two-year term. Both Hugh and George have impressive portfolios and have demonstrated their commitment to Nation re-building. Their input will be a valuable addition to the Trust, as we move forward in our endeavours to continue strengthening BC First Nations through capacity support.

Of course, welcoming new Board Members means saying goodbye to others. As George and Hugh come aboard, Gloria Morgan and Leona Sparrow step down from their posts. Gloria has been actively involved with NRT since our inception. She participated at the first series of Regional Engagement Meetings in 2006, and was appointed to the Board the following year. Leona served the past two years. Both ex-Directors are lawyers and will no doubt be carrying on with their work to strengthen First Nations in their own communities and Province-wide. On behalf of all the staff and the new NRT Board, I wish Leona and Gloria all the best and thank them for their work and dedication to NRT these past years.

We had a busy year in 2010 and it ended on a high note, with the YES conference for young Aboriginal entrepreneurs. Moving forward, we expect 2011 to be another year of building on our successes and refining and developing support in our five priority areas: Education, Economic Development, Youth & Elders, Governance Capacity and Culture & Language.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Cliff Fregin'.

**Cliff Fregin, CEO**



*Cliff with the 2009/10 Board of Directors. Standing: Leona Sparrow, Terry Kuzma, Judith Sayers, Gloria Morgan. Seated: Kathryn Teneese, Mike Bonshor. Missing from photo: Catherine Panter.*

## Success with YES! (cont.)

Between challenges there were a number of presentations and panel discussions. Executives, young leaders, women in business and celebrities — in total 18 speakers shared invaluable experiences and advice. Some highlights were:

- Rick Hansen spoke passionately about his life and the obstacles he has overcome bringing many people to tears.



- Sean Wise of Dragon's Den talked about how to pitch ideas in a way that will get better results.



- Mike Tamaki from New Zealand inspired participants to look at how to share their culture with the world.



- Milton Wong urged delegates to get something out of every experience, be involved and constantly learn.



- And Alvin Powell spoke passionately and realistically about the effects of drugs and alcohol.



Delegates and speakers inspired each other and teammates pushed one another to do the best at the challenges. A lot of fun was had by all and young leaders of the future walked away with the tools and networks they need to launch their careers.



All at YES! symposium

## 2009–10 Bursaries and Scholarships

NRT continues to support advanced education for First Nation students. In 2009–10, we supported 137 post-secondary students in reaching their goals, dispersing a total of \$725,000 in education grants. The funding

<b>Bursaries</b>	60 Awards	\$120,000
<b>Undergraduate</b>	42 Awards	\$205,000
<b>Masters</b>	24 Awards	\$200,000
<b>Doctorate</b>	11 Awards	\$200,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	137 Awards	\$725,000

breakdown was as follows:

Bursaries and Scholarships for 2010–11 will be announced in the spring. Check our website for details, [www.newrelationshiptrust.ca](http://www.newrelationshiptrust.ca).

## Meet the New Directors

### George Austin Saddleman (X<sup>w</sup>eeTa?)



George Saddleman (X<sup>w</sup>eeTa?) is a member of the Sylix Nation with ties to the St'ilmux (Lillooet), NI'kap'mux (Thompson) and Shuswap Nations. He has served as elected Chief/Council member for more than 35 years. During that time, he served as Chairperson of the Nicola Valley Tribal Council and the Okanagan Nation Alliance. He has been appointed to numerous Aboriginal boards and committees, working on policy in areas such as employment,

economic development, health, environment, governance, fisheries, social development, child/family, and Aboriginal Title and Rights. George has participated within the Union of BC Indian Chiefs, First Nations Summit, and the Assembly of First Nations. He is an advocate on the behalf of his people, particularly with respect to Aboriginal governance issues. George enjoys being a Master of Ceremonies and Rodeo Announcing from time to time. He can be described as a student of his peoples' ancestral beliefs, values and instructions.

### Hugh Braker



Hugh Braker is a member of the Tseshaht First Nation, Nuu-Chah-Nulth Tribal Council (NTC). A lawyer, Hugh provides adjudication services and consulting to a variety of Aboriginal clients. Hugh's interest in the justice system started when he was a child — at a time when Aboriginal people didn't have the right to vote. He excelled in law school, moving directly into the thick of it as Director of Self-Government with the Assembly of First Nations.

He was the first male Nuu Chah Nulth lawyer in the country and the first BC First Nations lawyer to be made a Queen's Counsel (Q.C.). Hugh worked as staff lawyer for the NTC for almost 10 years litigating and negotiating fishing and hunting rights and Aboriginal child welfare. He opened his own practice in 1989 and has volunteered as president of the Native Courtworker and Counseling Association of BC for 20 years.

## Board of Directors

Kathryn Teneese (Chair)

Michael Bonshor

Hugh Braker

Terry Kuzma

Catherine Panter

Judith Sayers (Kekinusuqs)

George Saddleman

## Contact Us

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## Mission

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

## Vision

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