

“Providing support, information and networking opportunities to members”

CFAR Society

Circle for Aboriginal Relations



Society

Highlights from the CFAR Aboriginal Community Consultation: Grassroots Conference [Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort, Enoch]

On June 4th and 5th 2008 the Circle for Aboriginal Relations Society (CFAR) held our 2nd successful conference. The theme of this year's conference was *Aboriginal Community Consultation: Grassroots*. The conference featured world-class presenters who were able to provide diverse perspectives on Aboriginal consultation. From legal requirements to community based processes, conference attendees were provided with interesting and relevant information on this topic. The keynote speaker was Merrell-Ann Phare from the Centre for Indigenous Environmental Research. Her presentation was informative and well received, as were the other presenters, break-out sessions and panelists. CFAR would like to express our appreciation to the speakers and panel members. For more details on who our presenters were and their topics, please visit the newly redesigned CFAR website.

The conference also featured a gala dinner with Nathaniel Arcand as the master of ceremonies. CFAR would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to Nathaniel for his participation in this event. His smile and wit set the tone for an extremely enjoyable evening. As well, the gala dinner featured the Northern Cree and the Aboriginal Dance Theatre. The evening performers were truly exceptional and helped end the first night of the conference with a bang, inviting conference attendees to participate in a round dance that spanned the entire conference theatre.

The venue, Marriot at River Cree Resort, Enoch, was exceptional with food and service that surpassed all expectations. CFAR would like to thank the Marriott and staff for all their work in making the conference an event to remember. On the final day of the conference a golf tournament was held; thank you to all who participated. As well, for those non-golfers, a drum making session was held. CFAR would like to thank all those involved in making both the golf tournament and drum making possible.

CFAR would like to express their gratitude to all their sponsors for making this event possible and to all the companies that donated prizes for the conference. As well CFAR recognizes the extra effort put forth by its board to make this conference a success.



Northern Cree and Aboriginal Dance Theatre

The feedback CFAR received from attendees indicates that our members enjoyed the speakers, entertainment, venue and networking opportunities. The majority of people indicated that CFAR either met or exceeded their expectations for the conference. Some potential topics that members are interested in seeing for next year include: International Perspectives on Consultation, Community Capacity Building, and Sustainable Development/Cumulative Effects. If you have further feedback on the 2008 conference, please email submissions@cfarsociety.ca.

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Jacob Handel, CFAR board member, playing the flute at the conference

Members Corner

- CFAR has recently redesigned its website!
Some of the newest additions and upcoming features are:
 - The board meeting minutes are available for download. CFAR strives for accountability and transparency; by providing the minutes to its membership this goal can be achieved.
 - Currently there are CFAR Society bylaws available with a Governance Policy coming soon.
 - A section to highlight CFAR members and the work they are doing within the Aboriginal Liaison field. This feature is coming soon, so stay tuned!
- If you have a success story or other interesting news that you would like to share with CFAR membership please send your articles to submissions@cfarsociety.ca (note: not all submissions can be chosen, but we will endeavor to include as many as possible, submission may be edited for length and clarity). Also, if you have an event that you think CFAR members would be interested in you can send the event information to: submissions@cfarsociety.ca . The event information will be posted in the Members Corner section (events will be posted at the board's discretion).

Upcoming Schedule of Events

Networking Luncheon: September 24, 2008 at the Edmonton Petroleum Club
Speaker is from Heart Lake First Nation (more details available closer to the date)

Annual General Meeting to follow the luncheon (starts at 1:30pm)

