

“Providing support, information and networking opportunities to members”

CFAR Society

Circle for Aboriginal Relations

CFAR Wraps Up Another Successful Year!

The 2008-2009 year was a tremendously successful one for the CFAR Society! CFAR hosted a number of events throughout the year, offering our membership the opportunity to expand existing networks and develop professionally. The year's events culminated in our annual conference and golf tournament (detailed below) – our most successful conference to-date!

In addition to on-going networking events, CFAR made positive progress on the development of a credential recognition program (detailed below). During our June 2009 conference, CFAR's credential recognition committee presented various credential recognition models and solicited feedback from our members. CFAR is excited to continue down the path of developing a program that delivers value and recognition to new and existing Aboriginal Liaison professionals across Canada.

The 2008 – 2009 CFAR Board of Directors decided that the time had come to put a fresh face to CFAR. During the fall of 2008, CFAR opened up a logo contest to students at various educational institutions across Alberta. Our grand prize winner was Steve Morris Jr., a University of Calgary Marketing student. A passionate artist in his spare time, Steve drew upon several anthropology courses he had completed to create a new logo for the CFAR Society.

Steve describes his choice of elements that comprised the new CFAR logo: *The logo itself was meant to be something new age and modern but still classic enough with an old world feel to reflect the heritage of the Aboriginal people. I used the element of "4" through out the logo in the number of feathers, the colors and the arms on the surrounding sun symbol. The bear in the logo is regarded as a powerful Aboriginal symbol of strength and leadership and the younger bear represents growth and change, as well, the two together symbolize cooperation and relationships.*

Thank you Steve for providing the lasting symbol to represent CFAR's values!

In addition to our on-going successful networking events and development of a credential recognition program, CFAR is actively working toward expanding our current membership (including diversification), expanding the organization itself (e.g., opening chapters in Saskatchewan and/or BC), and exploring ways to deliver our members and sponsors better value. In closing, CFAR would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm thank you to all of our members and sponsors – CFAR wouldn't be possible without your support! CFAR looks forward to the 2009 – 2010 year!



New CFAR Logo

March 2009 Fort McMurray After-Hours Business Mixer

On March 18, 2009 The CFAR Society held their 2nd Annual Spring Mixer. The Mixer was held at the Quality Hotel and Conference Center, in Fort McMurray, Alberta.

Over 75 guests attended the Mixer, including Chief Allen Adam of Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation; Chief Vern Janvier of Chipewyan Prairie Dené First Nation, Fort McKay Industry Relations Corporation and Mikisew Cree Government and Industry Relations representatives; Métis Local 1935 members; and numerous members of other Métis community organizations.

It was great to have many Métis community representatives in attendance; Métis attendees remarked upon the great networking opportunities the Mixer presented. Industry was well-represented as well. Companies in attendance at the Mixer included Canadian Natural Resources Ltd., Syncrude Canada Ltd, Suncor Energy Inc, Petro Canada, ATCO Electric, Long Lake, Conoco Phillips Canada, North American, EnCana, Husky Energy, Shell Canada Ltd., Total E & P Canada Ltd., TransCanada, Athabasca Chipewyan FN Business Group, Esso Imperial Oil, Opti-Nexen, and MEG Energy Corp.

CFAR is very pleased with outstanding attendance at our 2nd Annual CFAR After-Hours Business Mixer. Thank you to the Fort McMurray Quality Hotel and Conference Center staff who did an excellent job with room set up, decor and appetizers.

2009 CFAR Conference & Golf Tournament

CFAR's 2009 Annual Conference & Golf Tournament, *Leadership Through Accountability*, was a tremendous success! Held on June 3-4, 2009 at the Edmonton Marriott at River Cree Resort, the conference was designed to showcase leadership and accountability in areas such as environmental stewardship, economic development, education and community autonomy. Delegates included Aboriginal Liaison and Relations professionals from government, industry, as well as community members, consultants and students.

This year's conference featured two keynote speakers (Chief Clarence Louie and Calvin Helin), three break out sessions, a cultural workshop, a gala dinner (including entertainment by Winston Wuttunee and Tom Ghostkeeper) and a golf tournament (held at The Ranch Golf & Country Club).

Day 1 of the conference opened up with a prayer by Thelma Chalifoux and energetic performance of O' Canada (in Cree) by young vocalist Akina Shirt. Only 15 years of age, Akina captivated the CFAR audience and set an inspirational tone to the 2009 conference.



Chief Louie presenting at conference

Following opening remarks, Chief Clarence Louie delivered a powerful keynote address about community leadership and the importance of Aboriginal participation in economic development. Chief Louie offered no apologies for his often controversial and hard-line approach to economic development, citing benefits incurred by his community (Osoyoos Band) as a result of a strong focus on economic development. A true embodiment of *leadership through accountability*, Chief Louie offered CFAR delegates insight into a successful leadership model.

Calvin Helin, a lawyer and entrepreneur who recently released 'Dances with Dependency: Indigenous Success through Self Reliance,' further underscored Chief Louie's message of the importance of economic development, leadership and community autonomy. Calvin Helin spoke to changing Canadian population demographics and implications for Canada's economy. Calvin illustrated the importance of Aboriginal participation in the Canadian economy, especially in light of the anticipated retirement of a large number of Canada's baby-boomers.

Break out sessions included a Traditional Knowledge workshop, and presentations by Wayne Thorp (Foothills Landscape Management Forum) and Alberta Research Council's youth interns (Ike Solway; Siksika Nation and Jan Noskiye; Bigstone Cree Nation). In addition to keynote speakers and break out sessions, CFAR took the opportunity to present a variety of credential recognition program models and solicit member feedback on CFAR's development of an Aboriginal Relations credential recognition program. Day 1 culminated with a gala dinner event featuring Tom Ghostkeeper (emcee) and Winston Wuttunee.



2009 Annual Golf Tournament

Day 2 featured an all-speaker panel session providing delegates the opportunity to pose questions to conference presenters. Following closing remarks, delegates could either participate in an afternoon cultural workshop or golf tournament. The cultural workshop was delivered by Mary "Cookie" Simpson (Mikisew Cree First Nation) who demonstrated and taught the art of fish scale work. Delegates that participated in the cultural workshop created their own fish scale art – a souvenir for years to come! Delegates that preferred an afternoon in the sun took to the Ranch Golf and Country Club where CFAR hosted another successful golf tournament. The weather was perfect and networking opportunities abound! The tournament wrapped up with a BBQ steak dinner and prizes.

2009 CFAR Conference Delegate Feedback

CFAR is proud to provide support for students and community members who, under given circumstances, are unable to attend a CFAR event. Caroline Bigchild (a CFAR sponsored delegate) provided the following remarks:

Thank you very much for allowing me to take part in the CFAR conference. I had an amazing time and met a lot of interesting people. It was a bonus to actually sit and have lunch with Chief Louie, who also met my daughter and shared some encouraging words with her. Hearing experiences and seeing what other Nations and companies are doing in partnerships was very enlightening and encouraging. Again I say thanks, and send a pat on back for job well done!

In addition to Carol's kind words, the following remarks were provided on the conference feedback forms:

- o "Well organized and great venue!"
- o "Great presenters, awesome entertainment and great food"
- o "Chief Clarence Louie and Calving Helin... they need to take their message across the country and the country needs to listen. I think they give Canada a way forward."
- o "Challenging, refreshing, visionary... in Mr. Helin's words, 'Wai Wah!'"
- o "Keynote speakers were great, all the sessions were informative and the networking opportunities were excellent!"
- o "Words of wisdom from Chief Louie and Calvin Helin are something to take home to my community!"

A Very Warm Thank You!

The 2009 CFAR Conference and Golf Tournament organizers would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in planning and organizing the 2009 conference and golf tournament. In particular, CFAR would like to thank the following conference sponsors:

Platinum (\$5000)	Talisman TransCanada
Gold (\$2500)	Alliance Pipeline EnCana Nexen Inc. Total E & P Suncor Syncrude Canada Ltd.
Silver (\$1000)	Access Pipelines Aseniwuche Winewak Nation Horizon North Logistics Pembina Petro Canada
Friends of CFAR (\$250)	Flint Energy Services Ltd. FMA Heritage Inc. Husky Energy
Golf Tournament (\$500)	Pembina Savanna Energy Services Corp.

Aboriginal Relations Credential Recognition

During the 2008 – 2009 year, CFAR embarked on developing a credential recognition program for Aboriginal Relations professionals. CFAR members from all sectors and organizations have informed CFAR that an Aboriginal Relations credential recognition program would lend credibility and support to this expanding profession. Furthermore, a credential recognition program would open a door to those interested in pursuing a career as an Aboriginal Relations professional. CFAR members have indicated that they look forward to participating in the program!

May 2009 Credential Recognition Survey

In May 2009, CFAR distributed an electronic survey to CFAR members, gathering valuable input into the development of a credential recognition program. One of the key findings of the survey was that the majority of CFAR members supported the development of a program designed to assess and build upon the combination of education, experience, and expertise of Aboriginal Relations professionals. An overwhelming 87% of respondents indicated that they would apply for the designation, if available.

June 2009 Credential Recognition Workshop

During the 2009 conference, the CFAR Credential Recognition Committee held a workshop to present the results of the May survey and discuss next steps in the development of a credential recognition program. During this workshop, focused group discussions explored various models of credential recognition. Here, credential recognition models used in other professions similar to Aboriginal Relations were examined. Workshop participants discussed differences and similarities in the field of Aboriginal Relations from Aboriginal, industry, and government perspectives. Different levels of credential recognition and existing qualifications were also discussed.

Next Steps...

During the coming months, CFAR will analyze the feedback received during the conference workshop and determine next steps. The development of a credential recognition program for Aboriginal Relations professionals is a top priority for the CFAR Society. CFAR would like to thank all those who participated in the 2009 electronic survey and conference workshop.

If you are interested participating in the development of the credential recognition program, or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vivienne Beisel at vbeisel@beisellaw.com.

Thanks to our Corporate Members!

