

"Providing support, information and networking opportunities to members"

# CFAR Society

Circle for Aboriginal Relations



## Highlights from the CFAR Luncheon in Calgary with David Paul

CFAR held another successful luncheon on Feb 19th at the Delta Inn South in Calgary with approximately 80 members and guests attending. Members were honoured by having Chief Reg Crowshoe, a well-respected Piikani-Blackfoot Elder, provide the opening prayer.

In addition we had a special recognition moment for Rob Barber, the past President of CFAR, who received a drum and honour song performed by Chief Crowshoe. Rob has been a significant source of energy in making CFAR the success it is to date.



Although our keynote speaker, Chief Commissioner Manny Jules, became ill and had to decline at the last moment, Mr. David Paul, the Deputy Commissioner of the First Nations Tax Commission flew in from New Brunswick and did an excellent job of substituting for him.

The key message in Mr. Paul's presentation was about economic certainty. Developing a property tax system on FN lands provides a significant benefit to the community because it allows them to unlock the revenue generating potential of the land. It does this by providing investors with certainty regarding the tax regime for any investments they wish to make and it provides the community with the ability to use the land value to access any needed financing for infrastructure development requirements.

Pictured (l-r) is Jacob Handel, CFAR Board member, with Rob Barber and Chief Crowshoe performing the honour song.

As Mr. Paul was trying to arrange for a return home flight, the audience unfortunately didn't have time to ask questions, so he has volunteered his e-mail address [dpaul@fntc.ca](mailto:dpaul@fntc.ca) as a number of participants had follow-up questions. In addition the Tax Commission has an excellent web-site at [www.fntc.ca](http://www.fntc.ca) to review what has been developed over the last 18 years in the area of taxation on Reserve lands.

Our special thanks to Pembina Pipelines Limited for sponsoring an excellent lunch, served by a very professional Delta Inn staff. Our great sponsors help to keep costs down for our members, so thanks on behalf of our members as well. We would also like to thank Syncrude Canada for providing some great door-prizes. This was another successful CFAR networking opportunity enjoyed by all who attended.



Pictured (l-r) is Chief Reg Crowshoe with Mr. David Paul, Deputy Commissioner of the FNTC and Jacob Handel, CFAR Board Member.

## CFAR and the Edmonton Aboriginal Education Council

On March 11, CFAR board members Rob Barber and Gerry Laslo made a presentation of the CFAR Society to a group of Aboriginal post-secondary students and other interested individuals at the NAIT student lounge atop the business centre tower. A good cross section of students showed up, 30 in total, from British Columbia, Nunavut, the Territories, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and New Brunswick who attend such local Edmonton schools as NAIT, Concordia, NorQuest, and Yellowhead Tribal College. Pizza and pop was on the menu and everyone decided to position themselves in a circle before starting.

Rob began by welcoming all to the event, distributed handouts explaining the history of CFAR and the direction which the board of directors and members have planned for the Society. Gerry added that he has been involved with First Nation administrations in a variety of capacities for over 30 years and has been associated mostly with the Suncild First Nation which made joining the CFAR board a natural fit with his duties as the liaison worker.

An overview of the reasoning for developing an accreditation program for Aboriginal liaison personnel for both communities and industry was explained, as was the process in place to achieve this. The other responsibilities of CFAR were also outlined, followed by a 'Q & A' period for the students. The questions were all very good and well thought out and Rob and Gerry answered them as best they could. If the students required more information, they were directed to their handout package which included accessing the CFAR website and contact information.

The event was originally scheduled for 4 - 6 p.m., however due to interest it actually went from 3:45 - 7:15 p.m. One participant from the Territories told the group that he was glad that he came because he was in Edmonton changing his career from that of a carpenter to one involved in the humanities. He said that as companies look to the north as the next major development area for natural resources, these liaison positions will be in demand and that he was very interested to get involved as soon as possible.

Overall, it was a great evening enjoyed not only by the students, but by the presenters as well. They wished the best for all of the students who attended and applaud them for continuing on with their education and career selection, whatever that may be. CFAR has added another career option for post-secondary Aboriginal students to consider.

### Growing a successful organization....

The Circle For Aboriginal Relations Society is rapidly becoming the best networking organization in Alberta for people interested in the profession of Aboriginal relations. This has taken the time and commitment of a number of volunteers including all of the Board, and has reached the point it requires more time than our volunteers and one part-time contractor are willing or able to commit.

We have been fortunate to have Christine Schreuder as a part-time office manager/general manager for the last two years. Many of you have had the opportunity to talk with Christine directly or via e-mail and some of you have met her at the various luncheons or conferences CFAR has hosted. She has been a wonderful addition to CFAR.

The Board would like to take this opportunity to thank Christine for her efforts to-date and to also introduce another excellent addition to our network, Fernande Comer. The following provides a bit of insight into these ladies who are managing the many administrative needs we have in the Society. We hope you will let them know how much you appreciate their efforts and take a moment to introduce yourself the next time you are attending one of our functions.



Christine Schreuder

Christine, her husband and two young children, are very active within their community and as a summer camping family. When we first asked her if she would be interested in adding another client to her small company, Christine was already the office manager/bookkeeper for her own company, and also the Vice-President of her community association. She is also an active soccer mom.

Christine did not have much experience in the Aboriginal relations area, but has been an active and willing learner, listening to the various Board members and offering to take on activities that need extra help. Although the CFAR Board initially thought Christine would only be needed for nine months in 2007, the combination of the quality of her work, her warm personality and the success of CFAR has her working with us even more in 2009, and we hope for years to come.

## Growing a successful organization....

Fernande Comer just joined the CFAR network in 2009, but brings some very interesting pieces of diversity with her including being bilingual. She has lived in Calgary since 1983, where she obtained her Mechanical Engineering Technology diploma at SAIT.

Fernande was introduced to Canada at an early age, and grew up in Montreal. You might never guess that having been born in Haiti she took the total plunge into becoming Canadian.

In the picture to the right you see a young lady in a jersey similar to Les Montreal Canadiens. Yes, Fernande likes to play hockey! She has three active children, Tracy, Rebecca and Bobby who also are part of her cheering section. She is also the owner of her own company.

Fernande will be stick-handling her way through the books of the CFAR Society and working alongside Christine to ensure our members continue to receive timely information about our many activities.

I think you'll agree they both do a great job helping to organize our many events as well.

Thanks Christine, and welcome to CFAR, Fernande! On behalf of the Board and all members, we look forward to working with both of you and your ongoing involvement with CFAR!



Above and Below: Fernande Comer



### Member's Corner

- ➡ To accommodate the growth and interest in CFAR, the current e-mail address [cfarsoc@telus.net](mailto:cfarsoc@telus.net) is currently being phased out. It is now replaced with the general mailbox address [info@cfarsociety.ca](mailto:info@cfarsociety.ca). In addition, two new e-mail accounts have been set up to reach Christine and Fernande directly ([christine@cfarsociety.ca](mailto:christine@cfarsociety.ca) and [fernande@cfarsociety.ca](mailto:fernande@cfarsociety.ca)). The three new accounts are currently active, so please write us!
- ➡ The 2nd annual CFAR Business Mixer was held in Fort McMurray on March 18, 2009. The social evening included a cocktail bar and reception menu that proved entertaining within a business oriented atmosphere. Monetary donations to attend the event will go to the Fort McMurray Family Crisis Centre Society Unity House. Details of the event will be highlighted in the next newsletter.
- ➡ A reminder that March 31, 2009 is CFAR's year end and a membership renewal notice will be forthcoming. There will be no increase in membership fees for the fourth year in a row! We wish to remind everyone that one benefit of membership includes announcements and reduced rates to attend CFAR conferences, luncheons and mixers.
- ➡ Husky Energy Aboriginal Education Awards are being offered to individuals pursuing academic post-secondary upgrading in careers related to the oil and gas industry. For additional information, follow the link: <http://www.huskyenergy.com/socialresponsibility/aboriginalaffairs/educationawards.asp>
- ➡ If you have a success story or other interesting news that you would like to share with CFAR members please send your articles to [submissions@cfarsociety.ca](mailto:submissions@cfarsociety.ca) (Note: not all submissions can be chosen, but we will endeavor to include as many as possible, submissions may be edited for length and clarity).
- ➡ If you have an event that you think CFAR members would be interested in you can also send the event information to [submissions@cfarsociety.ca](mailto: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

### *Conference: Leadership Through Accountability*

### *June 3 & 4, 2009 – Marriot at River Cree Resort*

CFAR is excited to host its third annual conference, June 3 & 4, 2009. This year's conference, **Leadership through Accountability**, features high-profile speakers from a diverse range of organizations, a cultural workshop, networking opportunities, a top-notch venue with exciting evening entertainment as well as golf tournament.

2009 CFAR Conference speakers include:

- Chief Clarence Louie
- Calvin Helin
- Wayne Thorpe (Foothills Landscape Management Association)
- Youth Interns - Alberta Research Council

As well, the 2009 Conference will feature a workshop delivered by CFAR's Credential Recognition Committee. This workshop will allow CFAR members and conference delegates to gain a better understanding of CFAR's work in developing a credential recognition program as well as the opportunity to provide constructive feedback to those involved in developing the program.

Last year's conference work shop and golf tournament was well received by all delegates; CFAR is happy to feature a work shop and golf tournament on Day 2 of our conference. The golf tournament will be taking place at The Ranch Golf & Country Club. The work shop, occurring simultaneously, and geared toward those that don't golf, will teach participants the art of fish scale beading. Cookie Simpson, of Fort Chipewyan, will be facilitating the workshop.

On the evening of Day 1 of the conference, CFAR will host a Gala Dinner. The Gala Dinner will be followed by a performance by singer/story teller, Winston Wutunee and emcee'd by Tom Ghostkeeper.

The 2009 CFAR Conference Advertisement will be distributed shortly. Please stay tuned for this advertisement which will provide additional conference information.

## Thanks to Our Corporate Members

