

“Providing support, information and networking opportunities to members”

CFAR Society

Circle for Aboriginal Relations 

President's Message

Greetings CFAR members and non-members alike! It's been a busy fall and early winter for the CFAR Board of Directors and staff; we're please to present our first Newsletter of the year, summarizing successful events held this year and providing an update on coming CFAR events and activities.

Since the beginning of our 2009/2010 year, we've held two networking luncheon events, one evening gathering event and have devoted time and resources to reaching out to the next generation of Aboriginal Relations professionals. In addition to planning and executing a number of successful events, the CFAR Board of Directors has been undertaking work on developing an Aboriginal Relations credential recognition program. Phase I of the creation of this program has recently wrapped up; we are currently examining a Phase II which will include the identification of steps necessary to develop and implement a strong pilot program. CFAR has actively solicited feedback from our membership on credential recognition; the feedback gathered via electronic survey and during our 2009 annual conference has informed the development of the program. Of course, CFAR remains open and interested in additional feedback regarding a credential recognition program for Aboriginal Relations professionals; please do not hesitate to contact us if you'd like to provide feedback. As well, CFAR looks forward to keeping our membership apprised of our work and progress on this important Project.

I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the hard work of our Board of Directors and our Office Manager (Christine Schreuder); CFAR operates with a volunteer Board, in addition to our part time Office Manager. The Board of Directors has identified some ambitious goals for the organization, and, is putting in a lot of hard work in creating awareness around CFAR, the profession of Aboriginal Relations, expanding the organization and continually seeking ways to offer additional member and sponsor benefits. I am proud to be working with such a devoted group of Aboriginal Relations professionals!

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my sincerest gratitude to all of our members, supporters and sponsors – CFAR would not exist without your on-going support! We strive to take every opportunity to recognize our sponsors and supporters. CFAR's ability to operate and deliver high value events at a low-cost is a direct result of the financial support received through sponsorship. Again, thank you for your support!

I invite you to explore this newsletter which will provide additional information on successful events and work carried out to-date, as well as coming events. I'm looking forward to continuing work with our Board of Directors, the hosting of many more successful events and the growth of this unique professional organization!

Warmest regards,

Janais Turuk

Chair, Circle for Aboriginal Relations Society

2009 CFAR & Aboriginal Opportunities Committee (AOC) Evening Gathering

On November 25th, 2009 the CFAR Society and the Calgary Chamber of Commerce Aboriginal Opportunities Committee hosted their third annual Evening Gathering Event at the Chamber's historic building in downtown Calgary.

The event brought together approximately 100 CFAR and Chamber members to facilitate connections and build a shared understanding of these Aboriginal focused and member-driven organizations.

By all accounts, the 2009 Evening Gathering was a success, complete with scintillating conversation, delectable hors d'oeuvres, and a casual atmosphere set to the acoustic stylings of Walter MacDonald-Whitebear. Additionally, nearly \$800.00 in donations was raised for the Aboriginal Friendship Centre of Calgary.

The 2009 CFAR & AOC Evening Gathering was made possible through the generous support of our: Platinum Sponsor Primco Dene, Gold Sponsor Pembina Pipelines, and Silver Sponsor Newalta Corp.

Event Sponsors

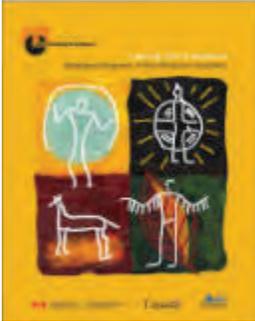


CFAR January 2010 Networking Luncheon

CFAR kicked off the New Year with a networking luncheon event, held on January 25, 2010 at the Delta Calgary South. CFAR was extremely fortunate to have Elder Patrick Déanger provide a blessing for the luncheon and share words of wisdom, both before and after the event.

With an attendance of 70 people, CFAR saw many familiar faces and were thrilled to see some new faces as well. Luncheon delegates enjoyed the networking opportunities alongside an informative presentation from the Alberta Chamber of Resources.

Barrie Robb, Director of the Alberta Chamber of Resources and Chair of their Aboriginal Committee, delivered an engaging and informative presentation that explored learnings from Aboriginal programs and resource industries, a review of Alberta's consultation guidelines, and, Aboriginal participation in the economy. Barrie brought a sense of humor to the luncheon event and drew upon a long and varied career as an Aboriginal Relations professional. Delegates left the luncheon having made and renewed networking connections as well as a greater understanding of the ACR's role and value-added in developing solutions with respect to Aboriginal participation in Canada's resource development sector.



A copy of **2006 - Learning from Experience: Aboriginal Programs in the Resource Industries** was available to all in attendance. To order a copy of this report please visit: <http://www.acr-aboriginalproject.org/>

We are very grateful to our Silver sponsors Boreal Land Services, ATCO Electric and Royal Camp Services Ltd. as well as our Friends of CFAR sponsor, Flint Energy Services Ltd. for their support in making this a successful luncheon event!

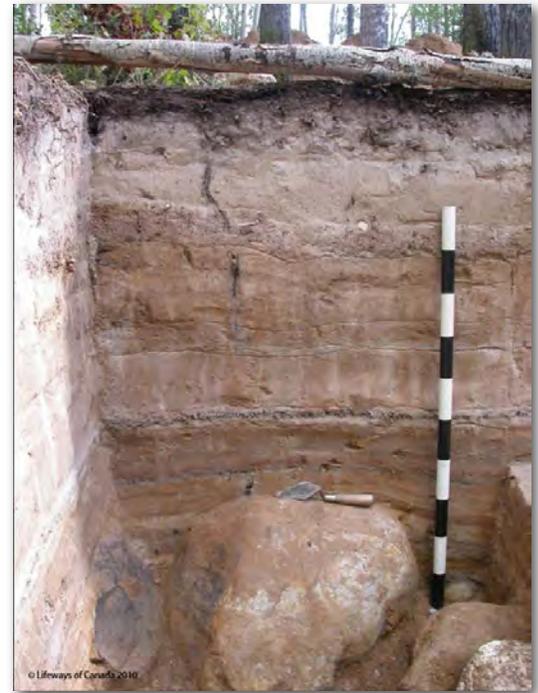


March 9, 2010 Quarry of the Ancestors Presentation

On March 9, 2010 the **Circle for Aboriginal Relations (CFAR) Society** will be holding a casual *Learn at Lunch* event at the University of Alberta spotlighting *The Quarry of the Ancestors* archaeological site. Alberta Culture and Community Spirit (ACCS), Historic Resources Management Branch archaeologists Darryl Bereziuk and Brian Ronaghan will be delivering this unique presentation. There are over 30,000 archaeological sites in Alberta, dating back to 10,000 years ago! Located in the Athabasca oil sands region, *The Quarry of the Ancestors* is one of the oldest and most significant archaeological sites in Alberta.

CFAR invites you to join us on March 9, 2010 to explore this site with ACCS archaeologists Darryl Bereziuk and Brian Ronaghan. The *Learn at Lunch* presentation will outline just why *The Quarry of the Ancestors* site is such an important piece of Alberta's pre-history, the role of ACCS as stewards of historic resources, and fascinating evidence about Alberta's early history that has been uncovered at this, and other archaeological sites in Alberta.

This event will be held at the University of Alberta, Engineering Building, Room No. ETL 1-003.



EVENT SCHEDULE

12:15-12:40 Registration
12:40- 1:00 Prayer, Introductions and Lunch
1:00-1:40 Presentation and Q&A
1:40-1:45 Final Comments/Close meeting.

Tickets	Prepaid by March 5, 2010	Rush
Members	20.00	30.00
Non-Members	30.00	40.00
Students	Free	Free

*All students who pre-register by March 5 will be entered in a draw.

** In order to qualify for prepaid pricing, payment must be received by March 5, 2010.

This event is proudly sponsored by Turtle Island Cultural Resource Management and Nexen Inc.



TURTLE ISLAND
CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Registration is now open. Please see the flyer & registration form for this event at <http://www.cfarociety.ca/site/media/CFAR%20March%202010%20Luncheon%20Flyer.pdf>.

Save the date! - 2010 CFAR Conference

The CFAR Board of Directors is busy planning our 2010 Annual Conference, scheduled to take place May 19-20, 2010 at the Marriott at River Cree Resort and Casino, Enoch. This year's conference theme will centre on land stewardship and planning in Alberta and elsewhere. CFAR anticipates bringing key players involved in Alberta's land planning together at this year's conference to tackle tough issues in the management and stewardship of Alberta's land. Of course, CFAR will ensure that balanced perspectives are presented and all parties are brought to the table. Please save this date and stay tuned for conference details! We promise that this year's conference will be more engaging and interactive than ever!

Credential Recognition Update

What is Credential Recognition?

CFAR membership has called on CFAR to develop a Credential Recognition program since the inception of the organization. A credential recognition program is designed to recognize the unique core competencies and skill sets of dedicated and professional individuals working in relationship building roles in community, government and industry. Currently CFAR is investigating models of professional and occupational accreditation and designation that are available to people who work in similar jobs such as Community Relations, Public Involvement, Government Relations, Communications and other similar areas.

CFAR members agree that our roles are a unique sub-set of all these formally recognized disciplines and want to be recognized for the expertise they ethically demonstrate in the arenas of Aboriginal Crown consultation, Aboriginal economic development and community investment, for example.

Why is CFAR pursuing Credential Recognition for its members?

In its application for society status one of CFAR's main objectives was "...to encourage the establishment of recognized qualifications and the development of necessary skills, to assist in the growth of credibility of its professional membership, both individually and collectively."

Of all the questions asked in the 2009 CFAR survey, the one with the clearest results was designed to gauge CFAR member interest in a professional recognition program; 87% of the respondents indicated that they would apply for a designation if a program existed.

What is the current status of the Credential Recognition initiative?

Currently, extensive research and surveys have been conducted to review the current practices of other organizations, outline the options for a credential program and recommend a credential recognition program structure for members of CFAR and the CFAR Board. A report for Phase I is currently being reviewed by the CFAR Board of Directors. The Credential Recognition Committee has commenced work on Phase II, which will include the development of a business plan, among other things.

Although the Credential Recognition program has the potential to bring substantial benefits to CFAR and its members, the initiative carries some risk in terms of financial obligations and reputation of the organization. Thus, CFAR is taking the time necessary to carefully explore the options available and is being prudent to ensure there is the required level of support for the initiative from community, industry and government members within CFAR.

For more information regarding the CFAR Credential Recognition Initiative please direct your enquiries to info@cfarsociety.ca.

Activities at post-secondary institutions

CFAR's membership committee has enjoyed the opportunity to speak with students at a series of post secondary institutions in Calgary and Edmonton.

The CFAR Membership Committee team members spoke at the University of Alberta as well as the Native Centre at the University of Calgary, and the Chinook Lodge on the campus of the Southern Alberta Institute of Technology in the months of January and February 2010.

These events were well attended by Aboriginal students who enjoyed a lunch and a presentation by one of CFAR's Board members. The message delivered to the students focused on the value CFAR membership has for students now and into the future. In return, the events provided CFAR some understanding of the student perspective and what CFAR can do for our future Aboriginal business, industry and government leaders.

Thanks to our Corporate Members!



Thanks to CFAR Board of Director Corporate Support!

The CFAR Board of Directors recognizes that their ability to participate in the operation and growth of CFAR would not be possible without the support of their respective organizations. To this end, CFAR would like to take this opportunity to recognize those organizations that support employees acting as Directors of the organization. Organizations that support Board participation include:

- FMA Heritage Inc.
- Turtle Island Cultural Resource Management
- PTI Group
- Nexen Inc.
- Pembina Pipelines Corp.
- Energy Resources Conservation Board
- Savanna Energy Services
- Husky Energy
- Aramark Remote Workplace Services
- Calgary Chamber of Commerce
- Alberta Innovates Technology Futures
- Primco Dene Ltd.
- ATCO Electric
- Alexis Nakota Sioux Nation
- First Peoples Group
- Sunchild First Nation
- RAIMS International Inc.

Members Corner: Celebrating 30 years of Rediscovery by Michael Lickers

Celebrating 30 years of Rediscovery

Established in the Queen Charlotte Islands in 1978, there are over 40 Rediscovery programs around the world today. The Rediscovery International Foundation's mission statement is

"Drawing on the strength of indigenous cultures and the wisdom of the Elders, Rediscovery aims to assist youth of all ages to discover the worlds within themselves, the cultural worlds between people and the natural world."

Rediscovery is a broad network of affiliated programs, each community-based, independently administered and funded and uniquely sited to its bioregion and Indigenous culture. While all Rediscovery programs meet established health and safety standards, and none discriminates based on race, sex, creed or nationality, each program draws its distinguishing features from the strengths of the local indigenous people.

Rediscovery programs serve the needs of Aboriginal as well as non-Aboriginal youth within an authentic cultural context. You will not find totem poles propped in front of tipis as part of Indian lore. Cultural authenticity is integral to the Rediscovery experience.

Ghost River Rediscovery

Founded in 1994 on the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains in the traditional territory of the Nakoda (Stoney) people, Ghost River Rediscovery ran largely on a volunteer basis offering summer programs. In 1997, we moved to a year round operation, with the support of The Calgary Foundation and The City of Calgary FCSS. Our full year program provides an immediate extended family for the children and youth living in unsettled and difficult situations.

Ghost River Rediscovery is unique in that it was the first and only Rediscovery program successfully establishing itself in an urban centre, the first to operate in a full year round capacity. Ghost River Rediscovery operates winter programs and urban Rediscovery programs in Calgary to provide the needed follow-up programs for young people who attended the summer sessions. Ghost River Rediscovery has developed into an internationally recognized development centre assisting communities in designing their own Rediscovery models. Ghost River Rediscovery assisted in designing and developing a School based curriculum, which has been accessed by several schools in Calgary. Now there are four key areas of operation:

1. Summer and Winter Outdoor educational programs
2. International Programs that assist Calgary Aboriginal Youth in Leadership development
3. Rediscovery in the Schools
4. Leadership, training programs and program development assistance

One of the most powerful experiences from a past participant arrived three years ago:

Dear Mr. Lickers

Thank you for the opportunity of meeting you and your team 8 years ago. I found it quite comforting to know that your program is still being a very useful tool in helping today's youth.

I will always remember the times that I experienced at Ghost River Rediscovery. I can reminisce on the days that we had there and the personal growth and knowledge that happen within the camp. I gained so much from those days spent in camp and continually learn from the trials and experiences that I had there.

I was struggling with loss of identity, family breakdowns, and a hard time fitting in with society. There was one thing that I walked away with instantly and that is that I felt I had finally found myself. By learning a touch of my culture and heritage, I finally felt a sense of balance in my life. I have continued to carry the tools I gained with me.

I would like you to know that I am about to complete a Native Studies course and have gained the position of Youth Program Director, starting my own Rediscovery Camp with a partner.

Giving back to my community is very important to me. Especially when I can share what you shared with me and provide the opportunity to gain life-learning lessons to youth in my community.

Again, a big chi-meegwetch for this space you provided me with.

As a founder and Executive Director of Ghost River Rediscovery, I have spent the last 15 years offering what I believe are essential skills for all young leaders. Give them the opportunities, the knowledge and skills and they will accomplish more than we ever could. There is no greater recognition than the voices of the young people who have walked into our lives at Ghost River Rediscovery; nothing could ever replace the value of their words.

Mike Lickers
Executive Director
Ghost River Rediscovery

For more information about our programs visit
www.ghostriverrediscovery.com