



Final Summary Report

Of the

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, Ontario
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



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Disclaimer

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Executive Summary

The Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women was a provincial initiative based upon the need to address the abnormally high rates of violence perpetrated against Aboriginal Women. This three-day forum was a collaborative partnership between the Ontario Native Women's Association, the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and the Ontario Women's Directorate, as lead funding agent.

The following is a report based on The Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women, which was held on March 20-22, 2007 at the Best Western Nor'Wester Resort Hotel in Thunder Bay, Ontario.

This event was a huge success, with 114 participants in attendance; the participants represented a cross-section of stakeholders which included: Aboriginal community-based organizations/services (34); shelters (6); Aboriginal Health Access Centres (3); Healing Lodges (4); First Nations (6); Aboriginal Provincial Territorial Organizations (39); Non-Aboriginal community-based service providers (7); colleges and universities (1); and government representatives (14).

The Summit was designed to be both a learning opportunity as well as a working meeting. Key - note speakers, panel presentations, best practice presentations and break-out sessions engaged participants in the design of the framework strategy. The three areas that were focused on in facilitated break-out session were Policy Change, Community Capacity, and Education.

The **main objectives of the Summit** were to:

- create a forum to bring together community "leaders for change", to consider a framework for a strategy to end violence against Aboriginal women;
- establish a Provincial Steering Committee of Aboriginal community leaders, who would champion the strategy into action;
- improve services at the community level by increasing skills and learning opportunities for the Summit participants; and
- secure public and corporate partnerships to support a strategy to end violence against Aboriginal women.

A direct result of the Summit will be the creation of a framework for a provincial strategy led by Aboriginal women, to eliminate the multiple forms of abuse that Aboriginal women are currently suffering. We were able to bring together various Aboriginal and mainstream organizations from across the Province of Ontario to continue and enhance the dialogue for changing current policies, procedures, and practices, as well as to showcase successful achievements of best practice models.

The Summit increased and improved services at the community level by enhancing the capacity of the Summit participants through traditional practices, education models, and motivational techniques. The inclusive and respectful nature of the Summit ensured that multiple points of view were incorporated into the framework. Therefore, the participants were able to experience a sense of pride and accomplishment which reinforced community capacity-building.

The strong partnership between the Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres resulted in the establishment of a provincial Steering Committee that will champion the strategy across the Province of Ontario.

Overview of Summit Partners

The Ontario Native Women's Association and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, along with the Ontario Women's Directorate as the lead funding source, established a partnership to ensure collaborative efforts were put forth in the planning process to achieve the objectives of the Summit.

Ontario Native Women's Association

Incorporated in 1971, the Ontario Native Women's Association is representative of the views, aspirations, and needs of Aboriginal women and their families in Ontario. The ONWA exists to create a forum through which Aboriginal women can effectively address the social, economic, health, justice, employment, and training issues that affect their lives, and their families. ONWA is an affiliated Chapter of the Native Women's Association of Canada.

The ONWA head office is based in Thunder Bay, and has approximately 80 affiliated community groups or "Locals" across the Province of Ontario, each with their own memberships and volunteers. The ONWA membership is open to Aboriginal women 18 years of age or older, who reside in Ontario. Our main programs and services are provided to Aboriginal women and their families, and/or as specified in each program's criteria, as set by various funding sources. The ONWA programs and activities over the course of a year will provide a variety services, products, and supports to over 10,000 Ontario citizens.

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) is a provincial Aboriginal organization representing the collective interests of member Friendship Centres within the Province of Ontario. The OFIFC was incorporated as a not-for-profit organization in July 1971 under the laws of Ontario. Friendship Centres specifically serve the interests of urban Aboriginal people in the social, cultural, economic, and community development areas by offering a wide variety of programmes. The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres communities are: Atikokan; Barrie, Cochrane; Dryden; Fort Erie; Fort Frances; Geraldton; Hamilton; Kapuskasing; Kenora; Kingston; London; Midland; Moosonee; Niagara; North Bay; Ottawa; Owen Sound; Parry Sound; Red Lake; Sault Ste. Marie; Sioux Lookout; Sudbury; Thunder Bay; Timmins; Toronto; and, Windsor. The OFIFC is part of the National Association of Friendship Centres.

Ontario Women's Directorate

The Ontario women's Directorate (OWD) provides focus for government action on issues of concern to women - in particular, social, economic and justice-related issues. A division of the Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration, the OWD has two key areas of activity: preventing violence against women, and promoting women's economic independence. The government works towards achieving its goals of safety and economic well-being for women, in part, by fostering partnerships with and among different sectors of society.

Violence Summit Working Group Representatives

A Working Group of the partner representatives was established to ensure sufficient human resources, made up of Aboriginal women, were committed to guiding the design, planning, coordination, implementation, and evaluation process to achieve the objectives of the Violence Summit.

The Working Group met via teleconference on a regular basis, with one face-to-face meeting held in Thunder Bay. This Group was influential in all aspects of the conference planning, including, but not limited to, determining the date, venue, agenda, Elders, Keynote Speakers, Best Practise Presenters, and invited delegates and organizations. As well, the Group provided assistance with the evaluation and final report-writing.

The Working Group was comprised of the following partner representatives:

Ontario Native Women's Association

Dawn Harvard, ONWA President,
Dorothy Wynne, ONWA Board Treasurer
Linda Ense, ONWA Board Secretary
Sally Ledger, Executive Director
Cora McGuire, Health Policy Analyst

Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

Sylvia Maracle, Executive Director
Terry Swan, AHWS Program Manager
Jessica Hill, Health Policy Analyst

Ontario Women's Directorate

Sarah Hahn, Policy Analyst
Stakeholder Relations and Policy Development

This initiative was made possible with the **Financial Support** of the:

Ontario Women's Directorate

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Toronto, ON M7A 2J4

Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care

Intergovernmental & Aboriginal Policy Branch
Hepburn Block, 8th Floor
80 Grosvenor Street
Toronto, ON M7A 1R3

Conference Technical Support Team

An initiative of this magnitude required significant pre-planning, and coordination of logistics and resources prior to, during, and after the event. We were able to secure three consulting firms to provide the essential coordination and logistical functions prior to the event, and also secured professional Lead Facilitation services. All were key factors in the event's success.

Lead Facilitator:

Joan Riggs, Catalyst Research and Communications
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 0Z3

Joan Riggs has been providing organizational development services to the non-profit and government sectors since 1986. She has undertaken more than 100 projects, with clients ranging from community-based groups to national and international NGOs, and municipal, provincial, and federal governments. Joan's role as Lead Facilitator was to support and prepare

the breakout sessions, the designing and processing of the report back discussions, the facilitation of the event, and the compiling and writing of the draft action plan, based on the summary of the event. Joan's ability to summarize and present participants' input immediately greatly assisted in maintaining the momentum and group focus throughout the three-day Violence Summit. Ms. Riggs was invaluable to the Summit proceedings, and in ensuring that the project deliverables were not only met, but exceeded.

Conference Coordinator:
Angecone and Company
Elizabeth Angecone and Germaine Elliott
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

Angecone and Company is a small, privately-owned and operated Aboriginal company located in Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, specializing in the health field. Their main role was to work in collaboration with the Working Group for overall coordination of the event, including but not limited to: developing the agenda; identifying and securing the speakers and presenters; developing and distributing the invitation; gathering conference resource materials; and assisting with final report-writing.

Logistics Coordinator:
Kari Chiappetta,
Thunder Bay, ON

Kari Chiappetta is a Thunder Bay businesswoman who specializes in the coordination of large and small events. Her main role was to maintain the registration of invited delegates, and coordinate venue needs and travel arrangements, including financial tracking. Kari was able to successfully coordinate all travel arrangements, hotel accommodations, and catering needs. She ensured that the overall event logistics went seamlessly, by assisting with on-site needs of participants.

Break-Off Group Facilitators:

The group facilitator's role was to encourage and facilitate three (3) open-dialogue discussions among the small group participants, which had 15 to 20 individuals per group. These individuals also participated in team debriefing sessions, to provide input on event proceedings, and make recommendations for improvements. The group facilitators were key in maintaining group focus, and respectfully guiding the discussion processes toward achieving the sessions' goals.

We would like to thank and recognize the following individuals, for their excellent contribution to the Violence Summit process. Meegwetch:

Neena LeCaille, Enaatig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre
Terry Swan, OFIFC
Jessica Hill, OFIFC
Cora-Lee McGuire, ONWA
Germaine Elliot, Conference Support Coordinator/ Enaatig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre
Kelly Brownbill, OFIFC

Break-Off Group Note-Takers and Volunteers

We were able to secure ONWA personnel and Community Volunteer Note-Takers to collaborate with each Facilitator. The role of the Note-Takers was to ensure that the dialogue discussions were documented for future reference, and to assist the Facilitator where possible. We also secured ONWA Trainees for the Summit to assist with managing the registration table, acting as runners for the coordination team, as well as setting-up and removing of the Summit resource materials. We would like to recognize the following people:

Peter Brown
Melissa Twance
Barbara Jordan
Kathryn Wynn
Priscilla Sky

Juanita Wanakamik, ONWA Trainee
Marla Wanakamik, ONWA Trainee
Ingrid Green, ONWA
Loretta Sky, ONWA

Display booths

The Violence Summit had information and display booths located throughout the venue. These booths provided increased access to relevant resource material for Summit participants and other hotel guests. Organizations that presented and or displayed materials included: Ontario Native Women's Association Community Wellness Program; ONWA's Healthy Babies Healthy Children Program; ONWA's Diabetes Program; Za-geh-do-win Information Clearinghouse; Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres; and Artisan's Craft Table. (Please see Appendix II for contact information.)

Summit Background

The Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women was the result of key activities and concerns beginning in 2004. A joint conference on Family Violence, supported by the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA) and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC), was held in October of that year in Sault Ste. Marie. ONWA and the OFIFC continued discussions to strategically move the issue forward.

In March, 2006, representatives from ONWA and the OFIFC attended the Status of Women Canada's National Policy Forum on Aboriginal Women and Violence. At this forum, Aboriginal participants from across Canada met to discuss awareness, access to programs and services, and policy/program enhancement. Many ideas and suggestions were shared at this forum, and it was an excellent networking opportunity.

In September of 2006, after a follow-up meeting to the National Policy Forum hosted by the Ontario Women's Directorate, ONWA, with support from the OFIFC, tabled a submission proposing the provincial *Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women*. The forum and subsequent meetings were instrumental in generating ideas and discussion with regard to needs, gaps, and best practices. The necessity for a framework to begin the design for a provincial strategy to end violence against Aboriginal women was now identified.

The Violence Summit was designed to bring together 75 people who would actively work to end violence against Aboriginal women. Furthermore, participants were recruited who had a demonstrated commitment and desire to strengthen the circle through partnerships and action. The Participants came from different sectors, and were recruited from the northern, southern, urban, and rural Aboriginal communities, in an effort to ensure different perspectives could be highlighted. Participants were also identified through ONWA Locals, Indian Friendship Centres, Métis Communities, and First Nations.

The overall goal of the Summit was to translate the consultations from the March, 2006 National Policy Forum and May, 2006 meeting of the Ontario Aboriginal delegation into a strategy framework. That strategy would seek to address policy change and community capacity, change public attitude, and include best practices. The goal would be to mobilize communities to end violence against Aboriginal women.

Additional anticipated identified outcomes from the *Summit to End Violence* included:

- creating a provincial network of partners who identify addressing violence against Aboriginal women as a priority;
- strengthening the circle of Aboriginal women at the community level, by making available tools and strategies to address violence in a coherent and sustainable manner;
- creating a framework for a strategy to end violence against Aboriginal women, conceptually developed by Summit participants; and
- increasing awareness, particularly in government leaders in Aboriginal communities and at the municipal, provincial and federal levels, of the harmful social, economic and health costs of violence in Aboriginal communities.

Summary of the Event

Opening Ceremonies

Conference participants were welcomed by ONWA Executive Director Sally Ledger, who invited Elders Annie Wilson, Josephine Mandamin, and Bill Messenger to formally open the Violence Summit with a traditional opening ceremony. This included a prayer, smudge, and the drumming of the Aboriginal Women's Drum Group, to honour and recognize the Violence Summit participants' commitment to this worthy cause, and to ask for strength and wisdom during our deliberations.

Mushowzee Ekwewok (Strong Women) Drum Group:

- ❖ The Thunder Bay Woman's Drum Group started informally as far back as the 1980's, with Josephine Mandamin and Freda McDonald gathering to share songs and drumming. The Group slowly grew with small gatherings at their home on a regular basis, to practise and learn their songs. In 2000, the Group became formally recognized as Mushowzee Ekwewok. Since that time, the Group has had singers come and go, and more recently have formed another group, The Medicine Wheel Singers, who regularly sing at the Kari Centre. Both groups sing together at times, and also sing

separately at different functions. The Women's Drum Group have become well known throughout Thunder Bay, and are called upon by many agencies to attend a large number of functions. They share their stories through song, and/or participate at opening and closing ceremonies.

Violence Summit Elders

Annie Wilson, Respected Community Elder

- ❖ Annie is a highly respected cultural Elder recognized throughout Ontario. She originates from the Rainy River First Nation, and is a member of the Bear Clan. Annie has been a long-standing member of the ONWA Grandmothers Council. She is often called upon by the community to share teachings and wisdom on traditional ways of life, and ways to live a "good life". She is an advocate in the conservation of all traditional languages, and is known for encouraging traditional parenting skills through her teachings.

Josephine Mandamin, Respected Community Elder

- ❖ Josephine is a valuable resource in Thunder Bay, addressing such issues as traditional teachings and values adoption, cross-cultural relations, Native family violence, inter-generational abuse, and holistic healing principles. Josephine has a grave concern about the lack of understanding surrounding women's and grandmother's roles. Her belief is that older women need to, and must be, reminders to the younger generations of their role in their communities. Her career and voluntary contributions have encompassed a variety of fields, in teaching, family supports, housing, and mental health services.

Bill Messenger, Respected Community Elder

- ❖ Bill is active in his local Aboriginal Community, as he has participated on the Board of Directors of the Can Am Friendship Centre of Windsor since the early 1980's. Bill is involved in the Traditional Teaching Camps held locally in the Windsor area three times per year. He is recognized for his time dedicated to serving as a Grandfather for the Alderville Women's Shelter Board of Directors. Additionally, he serves as Chair of the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Plan. Bill also participates on the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative.

Welcoming Address

A formal welcome and brief overview were presented on behalf of the Ontario Native Women's Association and the Summit Working Group, by Executive Director Sally Ledger. She turned the Violence Summit proceedings over to the capable hands of Lead Facilitator Joan Riggs.

A video welcoming address by the Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister Responsible for Women's Issues, was presented to the participants. Due to a previously-booked engagement regarding the federal budget, the Hon. Minister Pupatello sent regrets. However, she ensured that representatives from her office were in attendance, and she will have full briefing on the results and recommendations of the Summit. Her Ministry continues to support initiatives that end

violence against Aboriginal women, and confirmed her desire to work in partnership to improve our quality of life.

Getting Down to Business:

The Lead Facilitator, Joan Riggs attended to housekeeping matters, including an explanation of Break-off Group process. Participants were grounded by a brief orientation of the previous consultation results, emerging framework, Violence Summit objectives, methodology, and expected results. The three Strategies that would be focused on at this Violence Summit would be: Policy Change; Community Capacity; and Education.

Keynote Speaker: *Learning from the Past: Moving Forward*

Sylvia Maracle (Skonaganh:ra), Executive Director – Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

- ❖ She is a Mohawk from the Tyendinaga Mohawk Territory, and is a member of the Wolf Clan. With a degree in Journalism from Ryerson University, Ms. Maracle has been involved in Aboriginal Friendship Centres for over thirty (30) years, serving as the Executive Director for the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres (OFIFC) for much of that time. Ms. Maracle has also served as the Vice-President of the National Association of Friendship Centres, President of the Native Women's Resource Centre, and Co-Chair of the City of Toronto Taskforce on Access and Equity.

Ms. Maracle opened the Summit with a powerful keynote address. She set the tone by illustrating the atrocities related to the levels of abuse against Aboriginal women, and that it is not the life we were given. Through the teachings of the Two Row Wampum Belt, an agreement originally made between the Iroquois Confederacy and the Dutch settlers, Sylvia emphasized that Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people have crucial roles to play while walking alongside of each other to end the abuse. These roles in ending violence are defined by the concepts of Friendship, Respect and Peace. She stressed that as a result of cultural genocide and assimilation, Aboriginal communities must stop dividing themselves, and create unity through a shared vision to end violence. The Medicine Wheel teachings of Resist, Reclaim, Construct and Act will set the stage for our Vision, Knowledge, Reason and Action, as we engage in developing a framework for a strategy to end violence. She concluded her remarks by stating that only then can we truly reclaim our sovereignty, and live by the original teachings of Peace, Power and a Good Mind.

Panel A: Impacts of Racialized and Systemic Violence on Aboriginal Women

Jolene Soulis, Team Lead Policy and Research – Native Women's Association of Canada

- ❖ Jolene's accomplishments include her involvement with the Sisters in Spirit (SIS) Campaign. The Stolen Sisters Report outlined the life stories of women who have gone missing in communities across Canada.

Jolene spoke of the approximately 500 women who were murdered across Canada. The SIS Campaign is a five-year initiative that's policy, research, and education-based. She completed in-depth interviews, trying to find out the life stories of the murdered and missing

women. A database has also been created that will help prove the root causes of why the women went missing. A strategic policy paper will then be developed and given to the government, showing why they need to change policy, and why they need to start addressing the issue. Jolene also spoke of her experiences supporting families during the Picton Trial in Vancouver.

Rhonda Kelly, *Justice Coordinator – Grand Council Treaty # 3, Restorative Justice*

- ❖ A proud member of the Ojibways of Onegaming First Nation, and a member of the Lynx Clan, Rhonda graduated in 1996 from the University of Manitoba with a Bachelor of Social Work degree. She also completed her Bachelor of Laws from that University in December, 2006. Some of her accomplishments include coordinating the “Working Together Committee”, comprised of Treaty #3 and non-Aboriginal political and community leaders in the Kenora area, and coordinating men’s and women’s domestic violence workshops as a means to hear what the people need to make their families healthier and stronger.

Her address identified work that remains to effectively confront systemic racism within the justice system. Rhonda demonstrated the systemic violence by relaying a personal family story about their challenges with the justice system.

Nena LaCaille, *Executive Director – Enaahdig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre*

- ❖ Nena was born and raised along the Seneca territory of New York and Pennsylvania, and is a member of the Wolf Clan. With over 25 years in Aboriginal organizations, Nena has worked in the field of community development, including: Native Way education; Aboriginal family support; and human resource and organizational development training. Nena worked for many years as a trainer/developer for the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres. She became the first Executive Director for the Enaahdig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre in 1995, a position she still holds today.

Nena’s address included sharing stories of how Aboriginal women are frequently re-victimized when trying to flee abusive situations. She contextualized these accounts by giving examples of racist and sexist policies.

Break Off Session #1 – Policy Focus:

Participants for each break-off group were pre-determined by the Working Group, and name tags with colour codes were given to identify people. This was done to ensure that each group consisted of representation from the government sector, private/public sectors, and community based-organizations. Each break-off group had 15 – 20 members, and an assigned Facilitator and Recorder.

Participants were asked to break off to their respective rooms to actively participate in facilitated discussion on the following questions:

Policy Focus:

- * What are we building upon in the current policy framework? What is working?

* What specific policies need to be introduced at the federal, provincial, and community levels to support the elimination of violence against Aboriginal Women?

As this was the first session for each group, time was required for circle introductions of group members, as well as orientation and acceptance of group processes.

A summary of participant input was collated by the Lead Facilitator, and presented on final day of the Violence Summit. Please refer to Appendix IV for the Policy Focus Report Back Summary.

Showcase Presentation: Love You Give Video

Deborah Chansonneuve, *Project Coordinator – Minwaashin Lodge*

- ❖ Deborah Chansonneuve is the Project Coordinator for the Healthy Relationship Project at Minwaashin Lodge. She is the author of two healing manuals related to trauma and addictions in the context of residential school abuse.

This Project, funded by the Ontario Women's Directorate, is a dynamic hip-hop video. It is developed by and for Inuit, Métis and First Nation youth to prevent violence, and promote healthy relationships. Deborah presented the video, and explained the incredible experience, exposure and capacity-building that the Project was able to bring to the Youth and community members who were able to participate in this initiative. Participants were encouraged to pursue similar initiatives in their communities, as it assisted in breaking down barriers, and encouraging community partnerships.

What Progress Have We Made? Update on ONWA's "Breaking Free Report"

Sally Ledger, *Executive Director – Ontario Native Women's Association*

- ❖ Sally originates from the hamlet of Jellicoe, now part of Greenstone, in Northwestern Ontario. She has a diverse skill set, and extensive experience working with, and advocating for, Aboriginal women in Ontario. Her most recent roles with the Association include Healing Lodge Consultant (2005), Partnership Development Advisor (2001-05), and Business Leaders of Tomorrow Project Manager (1999-2001). Sally started with ONWA as a Community Development Worker in the early 1990s, and is presently serving as Executive Director.

Sally shared the progress and challenges since the release of the *Breaking Free* report in 1989, which was the Report greatly responsible for the establishment of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy. The Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy is groundbreaking, in that it is designed, determined and managed by a management structure comprised of both Aboriginal leadership and government officials. Sally spoke about promising practices like: the Residential School Survivors at the Aboriginal Healing Foundation; Alternative and Community Justice Programs; the Sisters in Spirit campaign; the Urban Aboriginal Taskforce; and emerging Aboriginal housing initiatives. She stated more work needs to be done to continue to move forward in an unjust system, moving beyond feeling powerless and hopeless. We need to learn as an Aboriginal community to unlearn negative behaviours, take personal responsibility, and open up our hearts and doors to end the violence.

Panel B: Family Violence

Jackie George, *Detective Constable – Nishnawbe Aski Police Services*

- ❖ She is a Band Member of the Kettle & Stoney Point First Nations, and holds the distinct position of being the first female officer. From May, 2003 to October, 2004, she worked as a Detective Constable in the Crime Unit, serving 23 First Nations communities as Abuse Issues Coordinator and Investigator. From October, 2004 to September, 2006, she completed a two-year secondment with the OPP in the Behavioural Sciences Section as a VICLAS Analyst. In October, 2006, she returned to the Nishnawbe Aboriginal Police Services as the Community Initiatives Coordinator. She is now working out of the General Headquarters located in Thunder Bay.

Jackie stressed the importance of breaking down the barriers of community members not wanting to call the police. She also saw room for improvement in police educating themselves on the cultural norms and diversity amongst Aboriginal communities, and playing a more active role in educating the community on issues of abuse. She saw the need for more community-based training on anger management and bullying.

Jackie Fletcher, *Nishnawbe Aski Nation Women's Council*

- ❖ Jackie Fletcher is a North American Cree woman, a mother of four sons, a grandmother of six grandchildren, an Elder of the Missanabie Cree First Nation, and a residential school survivor. Some of her accomplishments are: Founding Member of the Eastern Shore Learning Opportunities for Women, 1982 – 1992; Founding Member of the Otisiabi Matriarchal Society Women's Group, 2003; and National Anti-Poverty Organization Executive Committee Member, 1986 – 1991.

Jackie shared her history of growing up traditionally, and the importance of reclaiming our history to restore the balance in our communities. She also spoke about the role of women traditionally, the evolution of this role in creating councils to support each other, and the need to move forward on addressing issues related to violence.

Calvin Morisseau, *Social Policy Analyst – Grand Council Treaty Three*

- ❖ Calvin is a published author, having written "Into the Daylight – A Wholistic Approach to Healing". This work was published in 1998, and is still being used in colleges and universities. It has been translated into Italian, and is currently sold in that form. He has worked with First Nations people, having developed two facilities for Aboriginal Youth. Although primarily used by the Aboriginal population, the use of traditional methods of helping and healing has intrigued and encouraged non-Aboriginals to enter their programming. In addition, Calvin developed the Za-Geh-Do-Win Information Clearinghouse, which is now a stable part of the First Nation health and social service infrastructure.

Calvin's strong message conveyed that action at the community level results in the development of creative social policy. He spoke of the process of coordination, relationship-building, and protocol development.

Lyndia Jones, Health Policy Analyst – Independent First Nations

- ❖ Lyndia Jones is from Shawanaga First Nation, and from the Marten Clan. Lyndia has worked in the health field for most of her life, doing front-line work including street patrol, and work in a Native Women's Shelter. She has been part of the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy since 1997, serving her communities as a Health Policy Analyst for the Independent First Nations. She has played a key role in the development of the Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Strategy, and has worked with the Southern Ontario Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative since 1998.

Lyndia shared traditional knowledge passed down from her father on how issues of abuse and violence were addressed within the community. She spoke about the roles of grandmothers and aunts in communities that would provide safe places for women, and prompt communities to address the abusive man and his behaviour. Healthy community norms could be restored and protected if we could learn more about, and understand, this traditional knowledge.

Linda Ense, Native Women's Centre, and Clare Freeman, Interval House

- ❖ Linda is from Six Nations Reserve of the Onondaga Nation, and is of the Wolf Clan. She presently sits on the ONWA Board of Directors as the Secretary, elected to the position in 2004. She also sits on the Woman Abuse Working Group, known as WAWG in Hamilton. This Committee works with other Violence Against Women service providers from the mainstream agencies, toward ending violence against women. Linda is also active on the Hamilton Executive Directors' Aboriginal Coalition, also known as HEDAC. This Committee works collectively on behalf of the urban Aboriginal members in Hamilton, to enhance and develop existing or new programs and services required for the community members.

Linda co-presented, with Clare Freeman, a community development model for collaboratively addressing violence in an urban Aboriginal community. Their Power Point presentation demonstrated the diverse and multi-disciplinary support services that are required in each community to meet the needs of Aboriginal women and their families.

Break Off Session #2 – Community Capacity Focus:

Participants were asked to break off to their respective room to actively participate in facilitated discussion on the following questions:

Community Capacity Focus:

- * What are the capacity issues Aboriginal communities are facing when trying to address violence against women?
- * What action would be most useful to help improve capacity within the communities to end violence?

A summary of participant input was collated by the Lead Facilitator, and presented on the final day of the Violence Summit. Please refer to Appendix IV for this summary.

Keynote Speaker: Advancing Recognition of Indigenous Women in Tribal/State and Federal Domestic Violence Initiatives and Legislation

Jacqueline Agtuca, *Director of Public Policy – Clan Star, Inc.*

- ❖ Jacqueline Agtuca is of Cherokee decent, and is Clan Star, Inc.'s Director of Public Policy. Jacqueline has dedicated her legal career to enhancing protections for women by reforming tribal, state, and federal law and policy. Ms. Agtuca served as a staff attorney for the Legal Assistance Foundation of Chicago (1984-1988), Director of the San Francisco District Attorney's Office Family Violence Project (1988-1990), and Director of the Criminal Justice Advocacy Unit for the Family Violence Prevention Fund (1990-1995). In 1995, Ms. Agtuca helped to open the newly-created Violence Against Women Office, United States Department of Justice (USDOJ). In this capacity, she played a critical role in establishing current federal policy and programming for tribal governments.

Terri Henry, *Principal Director – Clan Star, Inc.*

- ❖ Terri Henry is of the Longhair Clan and Eastern Band of the Cherokee Nation. As the Principal Director of Clan Star, Inc., she is an agent of change, and dedicated to the sovereignty of Indian tribes and Native women. In 1996, Terri joined the USDOJ Violence Against Women Office to direct policies and programs for Indian tribes. In this capacity, she directed and helped to develop training and technical assistance for over 250 American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages. Through Terri's leadership, the first Native-based federal programming to address violence against Native women became a reality.

Jacqueline and Terry were invaluable speakers and resources to the Summit, sharing their expertise in being an integral part of developing and passing the Violence Against Women Protection Act. This Act had special provisions for American Indian women in the United States. In reforming the system, they spoke of the importance of keeping women safe in the immediate moment, and in the restoration of Native sovereignty. In addition, they spoke of the legal obligation of the U.S. government to safeguard Native women, and return authority and funding to Indian people.

Panel C: Helping Communities Change: The Role of Leadership

Dawn Harvard, *President – Ontario Native Women's Association*

- ❖ Dawn is a member of the Wikwemikong First Nation. Her research addresses the epidemic of low academic achievement and high drop-out rates among Aboriginal populations in Canada. In examining the experiences of those few Aboriginal people who have successfully completed post-secondary education, she seeks to help define appropriate directions for educational restructuring. This work represents a new approach to the topic, as most work to date focused on the deficits, disadvantages, and failures of Aboriginal students. She is committed to breaking cycles of poverty in Aboriginal communities, and assuring a better future for Aboriginal children in Canadian society through culturally appropriate educational reforms, and culturally sensitive support mechanisms. Receiving the Trudeau Scholarship has provided her with the

opportunity to give back to the Aboriginal community, and to potentially make a difference in the lives of all Aboriginal children.

Dawn spoke of the importance of everyone's responsibility to end violence, and to stand up as leaders in our communities. She made strong references to the impact the violence is having on our children.

Pamela Johnson, Chief – Stanjikoming First Nation

- ❖ Pamela is of the Chiefs Responsible for Health at the Grand Council Treaty #3. She is a fluent speaker of the Ojibwe language, and a traditional Ojibwe Woman. Pamela resides in Stanjikoming First Nation by choice, and her family loves living at home. They are a small community, with a population of approximately 100 people on reserve. It is a goal of Pamela's and her community to keep their traditions and culture alive as much as possible, by practising and turning to their Elders for healing and guidance.

Pamela Johnson spoke first-hand about the significant challenges of addressing violence in under-serviced and remote First Nations. She spoke about the high rates of sexual assaults and gang rapes, and emphasized the necessity of women to be protected and provided safety. In addition, she spoke of the need for qualified professional counsellors in her community.

David Martin, President – Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

- ❖ David is a Mohawk, and of the Turtle Clan. He serves his community as the President of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, and is currently in his third term. He works for the community as Executive Director of the Barrie Native Friendship Centre, where he lives with his family. He is the proud product of a single-parent family, and has lived through domestic violence. His life's story has been about learning how not to be violent.

David led the Summit participants in an exercise to demonstrate the power of the circle, and the strength of people when they can work productively and collectively to address an issue. He also discussed the unique leadership role for men to play in addressing violence against women.

Steven Martin, Brothers-in-Spirit Campaign

- ❖ Steven is a member of the Restigouche First Nation. In 2006, the Native Women's Association of Canada presented him with the Jane Gottfriedson Award - the first man to have received such an honour.

Steven spoke about his concern regarding the epidemic of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada. He relayed the experience of organizing a commemorative demonstration on Parliament Hill, in partnership with the Native Women's Association of Canada, and Amnesty International. This demonstration was to call attention to the victims of the "Highway of Tears". He is one of the principal drivers behind a movement to organize men to support a coordinated response called the "Brothers in Spirit" movement.

Showcase Presentation: Kanawayhitowin Campaign

Gloria Harris, Executive Director – Marjorie House

- ❖ Her Native name is Miigizi Giiwabma Kwe – “Walking Eagle Spirit Woman”. She is a member of the Missanabie Cree First Nation. Regional involvements include the Northwestern Ontario Women’s Decade Council, Northern Women’s Centre, Coordinating Committee to End Woman Abuse in Thunder Bay and District, and the Thunder Bay and District Violence Against Women Committee. Provincial involvements include work at the Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses, where she has held board and committee positions, including extensive work on the Anti-Racism/Anti-Oppression Committee. On the national level, she has been involved with the National Association of Women and the Law, and the National Judicial Institute’s Advisory Committee. Currently, she is on the Board of Directors for the Provincial Assaulted Women’s Helpline. She recently assisted Legal Aid Ontario with trainings for Legal Aid workers, both mainstream and Aboriginal, and is a member of the Aboriginal Expert Panel of the Neighbours, Friends, and Family Project.

Alex Zygniuk, Native Court Worker – Parry Sound Friendship Centre

- ❖ Alex Zygniuk is from the Wasauksing/Parry Island First Nation. He is a former police officer with 15 years’ experience working on First Nations, and is actively involved with community services. At Wasauksing First Nation, Alex is serving his second term as a Band Councillor. He is on the Board of Directors with the West Parry Sound Museum, while continuing to develop representation of Aboriginal culture and contributions to the history of the Parry Sound District. As a member of the CAS Board of Directors, District of Parry Sound, he is involved in the area of programs and services. He also assists as resource person to improve relationships and develop protocol agreements with First Nations.

Kanawayhitowin is an Aboriginal initiative to raise awareness of the signs of woman abuse in our communities, so that people who are close to at-risk women or an abusive man can provide support. This initiative has been adapted from the Neighbours, Friends, and Family Campaign in the Province of Ontario, to reflect a traditional and cultural approach to community healing and wellness. The campaign materials include a facilitator’s manual, brochures, training video, website, and public service announcements for television and radio. *Kanawayhitowin* will be officially launched in late Spring, 2007.

Showcase Presentation: Gahnokwa Sra Men’s Program

Dianne Beaver, Supervisor – Ganohkwa Sra Shelter

- ❖ Dianne is a member of the Mohawk Turtle Clan in Six Nations Grand River Territory. She has been a Supervisor for 15 years of the Sahnikonhri:io Men’s Program, Ganohkwasra Family Assault Support Services. She has been on many paths of unrest searching for this “Good Mind”, only to discover “we are born with it, eh!” During her sometimes upside-down, inside-out, twisted journey, she managed to go to college and university, raise her babies, bury her mom and her partner, and then walk beside her father until the end of his days in this human form. It was during that time that she accepted she was to devote countless hours to walking beside many men, as they took

responsibility for their discovery of their Good Mind, so that they may become the “Men Of Honour” they were meant to be. The Creator meant for our men to be gentle spirits with partners, patient fathers, and compassionate grandfathers.

Sakoieta’ Wildrick, Saho’Nikonri’:io ne Men’s Counsellor – Ganohkwa Sra Shelter

- ❖ Sakoieta’ comes originally from the Adirondack Mountains of Upper State, New York. He is of Mohawk-Seneca-German ancestry, and his Clan is Okwabo (Wolf). Sakoieta’s work has taken him all across the United States and Canada, and he is focused on living and teaching a lifestyle that is free of drugs, alcohol, substances, and gambling. He is devoted to family life, the pursuit of peace, and recognizing the strength of prayer. Sakoieta’ follows the traditional Kanienkehaka (Mohawk) lifestyle. He is an artist, craft worker, ritualist, singer, dancer, flute-maker and player, instructor, educator, healer, gardener, and recognized writer. He is an active participant and singer at the Grand River Six Nations Mohawk Longhouse, and a member of the Old Mush Men’s Traditional Iroquois Singing Society.

Dianne and Sakoieta’ relayed the successes of utilizing a traditional approach to empower men to heal, and to take responsibility for themselves, their families, and their communities.

Break Off Session #3 – Education & Mobilizing Focus:

Participants were asked to break off to their respective rooms to actively participate in facilitated discussions on the following questions:

Education & Mobilizing Focus:

- * What education tools and strategies have worked, and which would we want to continue to invest in?
- * What new educational tools do we need to mobilize the communities? What educational campaigns are needed at the provincial and federal level?

A summary of participant input was collated by Lead Facilitator and presented on final day of Violence Summit. Please refer to Appendix IV for the summary.

Evening of Festivities:

In recognition of the need to find balance, an evening filled with good food, excellent companionship, and laughter was planned for the participants. Elders blessed the meal, and prepared a spirit plate to honour our cultural ways. After a very enjoyable meal, the participants were entertained by Native comedian Gerry Barrett, from Winnipeg, Manitoba. The Big Bear and his good-natured “rap assistant”, OFIFC’s very own Terry Swan, did an awesome job of ensuring that the participants released their stress through humour.

Summary and Wrap-up

The final morning of the Violence Summit was utilized to present a roll-up of the Break-off discussion group findings. Lead facilitator, Joan Riggs walked the participants through a Power Point presentation of their collaborative input. The session was wrapped up by empowering members of the Violence Summit to stand up and read a statement from the collective list of “What will have changed when we come back together in five years”. Summit participants were invited to “sign-up” and leave their contact information if they were interested in continuing to network, and/or establish a working group to continue the momentum of the Summit goals.

Powerful closing remarks on “Where do we go from here?” was presented by Sylvia Maracle, OFIFC Executive Director. She ended the summit in the same manner in which it began, by bringing the attention to her Two Row Wampum Belt, which was one of the first original treaties. She encouraged the participants to continue with a ‘Good Mind’, and challenged them to end violence within their communities. She also spoke about gathering strength, and bringing forward our knowledge that was created over the past couple of days. She ended by encouraging the participants to continue the momentum of the Summit.

This was followed by an extremely motivating speech led by Sally Ledger, ONWA Executive Director. She stressed the need to move forward in unity, acknowledging that a large amount work needs to be completed in order to achieve our goals. She added that by participating in the Summit, we have began our journey, and have initiated the first of many steps. She also spoke about the need for our elected Leadership in both Aboriginal and mainstream communities to become more engaged in the solutions, in order to achieve our goal of ending violence against women.

Closing Ceremonies

Sally Ledger, ONWA Executive Director, on behalf of the Association and Working Group Committee, acknowledged and presented gifts of appreciated to the Elders, Drummers, Key Partners and funding sources, Working Group members, Speakers / Presenters, Facilitators, Recorders, and Volunteers.

Participants were asked to form a large circle, and Elders were called upon to do closing prayers. The Drummers sang a traditional traveling song, and drummed as the delegates participated in a traditional hugging circle to say farewell. This was a very powerful ending to the Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women.

Next Steps

This final Report, once approved by the Violence Summit Working Group, will be duplicated and distributed to all participants.

The Ontario Native Women’s Association, along with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, will construct a process and a committee to begin the work of writing a

strategy to address violence against Aboriginal women, based on the strategic framework developed at this Summit.

The Partners will continue an open dialogue and activities which support the overall strategy developed.

Evaluation Summary

The following key messages were generated by asking participants to articulate their vision of progress on the issue of ending violence against Aboriginal women. These messages will guide policy development and change, as well as inform the strategic framework:

1. Fewer Aboriginal women will experience violence, with fewer women missing, and fewer women murdered.
2. The Sisters in Spirit database, created by Aboriginal women, will measure the data and statistics of our success.
3. The violence against Aboriginal women will be properly covered in the media, and the public will be outraged.
4. That outrage will produce a momentum to end the violence against Aboriginal Women that is similar to the momentum created by “An Inconvenient Truth”, to end pollution and address climate change.
5. More communities will have anti-violence programming.
6. Every time people gather together to publicly speak on any issue, someone will talk about ending violence against Aboriginal people.
7. We will have legislation to end violence against Aboriginal women.
8. A number of communities will have a resolution to end violence against Aboriginal women.
9. The AFN will have a resolution that acknowledges the issue of violence against Aboriginal women, and will commit to addressing the issue.
10. Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people will be working collaboratively on the issues of violence against Aboriginal women.
11. Chiefs and others in leadership roles will be aware of the issue, engaged, and leading. Specific Chiefs will have taken the lead at the provincial and federal levels, and there will be more women Chiefs.
12. There will be more Aboriginal healing lodges and programs, and male-specific programming.

13. There will be age-appropriate education and training on how to end the violence.
14. There will be a 24-hour, Aboriginal helpline.
15. Leadership and policy training will exist for Chiefs and Councils.
16. The men will go to the shelters, and the women and children will stay in their homes.
17. There will be a social marketing plan with a clear message on how to stop the violence against Aboriginal women.
18. Some of the funding and specific supports identified as part of this Summit's strategy will have been achieved.
19. When we come together in five years, the Summit will have been organized by men who are committed to ending violence against Aboriginal women.
20. Each of us, individually, will have committed to end the violence within ourselves. Every single person will try every day to affect change.

Summit evaluation forms were distributed on the last day of the Summit for participants. All participants were encouraged to complete the questionnaire, and provide their input for future planning and evaluation purposes. Please refer to Appendix V for a summary of Summit participants' feedback (evaluation) comments received.

Budget

The Ontario Native Women's Association was responsible for the financial management of this initiative. Total funds received from the Ontario Government were \$169,950 (less 10% holdback for project close-out, which will be release upon successful completion). One hundred percent of these funds were expensed, as per the enclosed financial statement. Please see Appendix VI for a complete breakdown of the budget.

Appendix I

Violence Summit Delegates

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, ON
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



Ontario Native Women's Association
212 East Miles Street, Thunder Bay ON P7C 1J6
1-800-667-0816 or 807-623-3442
Fax: 807-623-1104; Website: www.onwa-tbay.com

In Partnership with:



Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
219 Front Street East, Toronto ON M5A 1E8
1-800-772-9291 or 416-956-7575
Fax: 416-956-7577; Website: www.ofifc.org

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women Participant List

First Name	Last Name	Organization
Annie	Wilson	Elder
Josephine	Mandamin	Elder
Bill	Messenger	Elder
Freda	McDonald	Elder
Sylvia	Maracle	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Terry	Swan	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Sally	Ledger	Ontario Native Women's Association
Linda	Ense	Ontario Native Women's Association
Jacqueline	Agtuca	Clan Star Incorporated
Terri	Henry	Clan Star
Judy	Mungovan	Ministry of the Attorney General, Policy Division, Aboriginal Issues Group
Jackie	Fletcher	NAN Women's Council
Elize	Hartley	Ontario Native Women's Association
Dawn	Harvard	Ontario Native Women's Association
Jodie	McConnell	Ontario Womens Directorate
Arlene	Barry	Union of Ontario Indians, Women's Council
Leah	Bayly	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
Dianne	Beaver	Gahnokwa Sra Shelter
Delaney	Waddell	Ontario Secretariat for Aboriginal Affairs
Pamela	Big George	Grand Council Treaty #3
Verna	Big George	Grand Council Treaty #3
Constance	Jamieson	Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy
Martin	John	Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy
Kelly	Brownbill	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Kim	Brunelle	Biminaawzogin Regional Aboriginal Women's Circle
Michael	Chamandy	Aboriginal Peoples Alliance of Northern Ontario
Deborah	Chansonneuve	Minwaashin Lodge/ Aboriginal Women's Support Centre
Doug	Wilson	Métis Nation of Ontario
Christine	Goulais	Aboriginal Health Unit
Susan	Cole	Aboriginal People's Alliance (Northern Ontario)
Brenda	Comegan	Big Grassy First Nation
Elaine	Lynch	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
Joanne	Copenance	Onigaming Health Services
Rosalyn	Copenance	Prevention Services- Anishinabe - Abinooji Family services
Michele	Dale	Métis Nation of Ontario
Dixie	Doxtador	Native Women's Centre
Sue	Hastie	Ontario Women's Directorate
Wendy	Komiotis	Metropolitan Action Committee On Violence Against Women
Barb	MacQuarrie	Centre for Research and Education on Violence Against Women and Children
Germaine	Elliott	Enaahgtig Healing Lodge

Elizabeth	Angeconeb	Conference Coordinator
Matt	Chapple	ONWA Technical Person
Kari	Chippetta	Conference Coordinator
Evelyn	Esquega	Ontario Native Women's Association
Norma	Fawcett	RSTWC
Carrie	Flamand	Ontario Native Women's Association
Melvina	Flammand	Beendigan Inc
Clare	Freeman	Interval House of Hamilton
Jeanine	George	Oneida Nation
Jennifer	Cooney	
Lisa	Gray	Ontario Native Women's Association
Ingrid	Green	Ontario Native Women's Association
Jenny	Grizans	Ontario Native Women's Association
Gloria	Harris	Marjorie House
Jessica	Hill	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Toronto, ON
Natasha	Hiltz-Comanda	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Clara	Ho	Metropolitan Action Committee On Violence Against Women
Kim	Horan	Aboriginal Health Unit
Brendalyn	Huntus	Ontario Native Women's Association
Pamela	Johnson	Stanjikoming First Nation
Lyndia	Jones	Independent First Nations
Rhonda	Kelly	Grand Council Treaty #3
Cindy	Crowe	Teaching Lodge
Noella	Kwissés	Ontario Native Women's Association
Nena	LaCaille	Enaahdig Healing Lodge and Learning Centre
Kim	Lamothe	Nijikiwendidaa Anishnaabe-kwewag Services
Natasha	Lefebvre	Métis Nation of Ontario
Donna	Lyons	Beendigan, Inc.
Jo	MacQuarrie	Métis Nation of Ontario
Holly	Maggrah	Ontario Native Women's Association
Teresa	Magiskan	Anishnawbe Mushkiki --Thunder Bay Community Health Centre
Steve	Martin	Fathers in Spirit Campaign
Brenda	Mason	St. Joseph's Care Group/LPH
Cora-Lee	McGuire	Ontario Native Women's Association
Maureen	Mcleod	Sault College of Applied Arts and Technology
Sheila	McMahon	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Bonnie	McNulty	Ministry of Citizenship & Immigration
Marie	Meawasige	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Andrea	Metansinine	Biidaajiwun Inc.
Lisa	Moncrief	Regional Services Branch
Margaret	Monette	Enaahdig Healing Lodge
Calvin	Morriseau	
Eileen	Morrow	Ontario Association of Interval and Transition Houses
Niki	Naponse	Zagehdowin Clearinghouse
Juliette	Nicolet	

Mary Ellen	Ningewance	Lac Seul First Nation
Marilyn	Oladimeji	Ontario Coalition of Rape Crisis Centres
Marlene	Pierre	RSTWC
Yvonne	Pierre	Ontario Native Women's Association
Nancy	Recollet	Regional Services Branch
Kiri	Richardson	Noojimawin Health Authority
Jolene	Saulis	Native Women's Association of Canada
Susan	Seaby	Ontario Womens Directorate
Loretta	Sky	Ontario Native Women's Association
Priscilla	Sky	Note-Taker
Barbara	Stevens-Burns	Aboriginal Recruitment Coordination Office
Donna	St. Jules	Métis Nation of Ontario
Myrna	Stonefish	Niijkiwendidaa Anishnaabe-kwewag Services
Vanessa	Bennett	Ontario Native Women's Association
Pat	Tangie	Aboriginal People's Assiance (Northern Ontario)
Frederick	Thomas	Lac Seul First Nation
Dean	Thomas	Lac Seul First Nation
Alanna	Thompson	Nishnawbe-Aski Police Services
Melissa	Twance	Note-Taker
Carol	Burridge	ONWA- Summit Finance
Peter	Brown	Note-Taker
Juanita	Wanakamik	Volunteer
Marla	Wanakamik	Volunteer
Sakoieta	Widrick	Gahnokwa Sra Shelter
Laura	Williams	De dwa da dehs nye>s Aboriginal Health Centre
Bea	Wilson	Geraldton Family Resource Centre
Dorothy	Wynne	Ontario Native Women's Association
Kathryn	Wynne	Recorder
Alex	Zyganiuk	Parry Sound Friendship Centre
Tina	Armstrong	WASSAY·GEZHIG NA·NAHN·DAH·WE·IGAMIG (Kenora Health Access Centre)

Appendix II

Information Booths and Best Practices Contact Information

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, ON
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



Ontario Native Women's Association
212 East Miles Street, Thunder Bay ON P7C 1J6
1-800-667-0816 or 807-623-3442
Fax: 807-623-1104; Website: www.onwa-tbay.com

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219 Front Street East, Toronto ON M5A 1E8
1-800-772-9291 or 416-956-7575
Fax: 416-956-7577; Website: www.ofifc.org

Contact List of Information Booths & Key Presenters:

TITLE	NAME AND WEBSITE	CONTACT INFORMATION
Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative	Ontario Native Women's Association www.onwa-tbay.ca	adsc@onwa-tbay.ca 1-800-667-0816 Ph:(807) 623-3442
Community Wellness Program	Ontario Native Women's Association www.onwa-tbay.ca	cwwtbay@onwa-tbay.ca 1-800-667-0816 Ph:(807) 623-3442
Aboriginal Healthy Babies Healthy Children	Ontario Native Women's Association www.onwa-tbay.ca	ahbhc@onwa-tbay.ca 1-800-667-0816 Ph:(807) 623-3442
Kizhaay Anishinaabe Niin – I am a Kind Man	Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres www.ofifc.org	1-800-772-9291 Ph: (416) 956-7575
Za-geh-do-win Information Clearing House	Niki Naponse, Executive Director infor@za-geh.do.win.com	1-800-669-2538 Ph: (705) 692-0420
Artisan Craft Table	Please contact the Ontario Native Women's Association for contact information, (807) 623-3442	
SHOWCASE PRESENTATIONS	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Advancing recognition of Indigenous women in Tribal/State and Federal domestic violence initiatives and legislation. Building partnerships.	Jacqueline Agtuca, Director of Public Policy Clan Star	jacque@clanstar.org
	Terri Henry, Principle Director Clan Star	ndn.grits@mac.com
Love You Give video	Deborah Chansonneuve, Minwaashin Lodge/ Aboriginal Women's Support Centre	c_troy@minlodge.com
Update on ONWA's "Breaking Free Report".	Dawn Harvard, Ontario Native Women's Association	mharvard@sympatico.ca
Gahnokwa Sra Men's Program	Sakoieta Widrick, Gahnokwa Sra Shelter	ganohkwasra@sixnationsns.com
Gahnokwa Sra Men's Program	Dianne Beaver, Gahnokwa Sra Shelter	ganohkwasra@sixnationsns.com
Sisters in Spirit Campaign	Jolene Saulis, Native Women's Association of Canada	jsaulis@nwac-hq.org
Kanawayhitowin Campaign	Terry Swan, Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres	tswan@ofifc.org
Kanawayhitowin Campaign	Gloria Harris, Marjorie House	gharris_mh@shaw.ca
Catalyst Research and Communications	Joan Riggs, Lead Facilitator	catalyst@bellnet.ca
ENTERTAINMENT	NAME	CONTACT INFORMATION
Big Bear	Gerry Barrett	Kristine@argusindustries.ca

Appendix III

Violence Summit Final Agenda

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, ON
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



Ontario Native Women's Association
212 East Miles Street, Thunder Bay ON P7C 1J6
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**A Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women
Thunder Bay, Ontario; March 20-22, 2007
AGENDA**

Day 1 Tuesday, March 20	
7:30	Breakfast: Kaministiquia Room Registration
8:30	Opening Ceremonies
9:00	Keynote Speaker: <i>Learning from the Past: Moving Forward</i>
9:30	Panel: <i>Impacts of Racialized and Systemic Violence on Aboriginal Women</i>
10:30	Nutrition Break
10:45	Breakout Facilitated Discussion Sessions <i>Addressing issues raised by panel</i>
12:00	Lunch
1:00	Showcase Presentation: "Love You Give" video
1:15	<i>What Progress Have We Made? Update on ONWA's "Breaking Free Report".</i>
1:45	Panel: Family Violence <i>Offering potential solutions, best practices, experiences, gaps and barriers on the issue of family violence</i>

Welcome: Sally Ledger, *Executive Director, Ontario Native Women's Association*

Prayer: Elder Josephine Mandamin
Honour Song: *Women's Drum Group*
Introduction: Joan Riggs, *Catalyst Research*
Message from the Hon. Sandra Pupatello, *Minister Responsible for Women's Issues*

Sylvia Maracle, *Executive Director Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres*

Jolene Saulis, *Native Women's Association of Canada, Team Lead Policy and Research*

Rhonda Kelly, *Grand Council Treaty 3, Restorative Justice*
Nena LaCaille, *Executive Director, Enaahtig Healing Lodge*

Lead Facilitator: Joan Riggs, *Catalyst Research*
Conference Participants: Identify action steps
Prioritize action steps
Identify resources

Deborah Chansonneuve, *Minwaashin Lodge*

Sally Ledger, *Ontario Native Women's Association*

Jackie George, D-Cst., *Nishnawbe -Aski Police Service*

Jackie Fletcher, *Nishnawbe-Aski Nation Women's Council*

Calvin Morrisseau, *Couchiching First Nation*

Lyndia Jones, *Independent First Nations*

Linda Ense, *Ontario Native Women's*

Association , with
Clare Freeman, *Interval House*

3:00	Nutrition Break	
3:15	Breakout Facilitated Discussion Sessions: <i>Addressing issues raised by panel</i>	Lead Facilitator: Joan Riggs, <i>Catalyst Research</i> Conference Participants: Identify action steps Prioritize action steps Identify resources
4:30	Closing	
6:00	Supper on your own	
Day 2	Wednesday, March 21	
7:30	Breakfast: Kaministiquia Room	
9:00	Opening Plenary Report Keynote Speakers: Advancing recognition of Indigenous women in Tribal/State and Federal Domestic Violence initiatives and legislation. Building partnerships. Question and Answer session to follow	Welcome: MC Sally Ledger Prayer: Elder Josephine Mandamin Report on Breakout Sessions: Joan Riggs Jacqueline Agtuca, Director of Public Policy, <i>Clan Star Inc.</i> Terri Henry, Principal Director, <i>Clan Star, Inc.</i>
9:15		
10:30	Nutrition Break	
10:45	Panel: Helping Communities to Change: The Role of Leadership	Dawn Harvard, <i>Ontario Native Women's Association</i> Chief Pamela Johnson, <i>Stanjikoming First Nation</i> Dave Martin, President, <i>Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres</i> Steven Martin, <i>Brothers In Spirit Campaign</i>
12:00	Lunch	
1:00	Showcase Presentation: Kanawayhitowin Campaign	Gloria Harris, <i>Marjorie House</i> Alex Zyganuk, <i>Parry Sound Friendship Centre</i>
1:30	Showcase Presentation: Gahnokwa Sra Men's Program	Dianne Beaver, <i>Ganohkwa Sra Shelter</i> Sakoieta' Widrick, <i>Ganohkwa Sra Shelter</i>
2:00	Breakout Facilitated Discussion Sessions: <i>Addressing issues raised by panel</i>	Lead Facilitator: Joan Riggs, <i>Catalyst Research</i> Conference Participants: Identify action steps Prioritize action steps Identify resources

2:30	Nutrition Break	
2:45	Discussion Sessions continue	
4:00	Closing	
6:00	Feast and Entertainment	Prayer: Elder Bill Messenger Comedian: Big Bear;
Day 3 Thursday, March 22		
7:30	Breakfast	
9:00	Special Presentations and Acknowledgements	MC: Sally Ledger
9:30	Presentation of findings Roll-up of discussion session	Joan Riggs, <i>Catalyst Research</i>
10:30	Nutrition Break	
10:45	Plenary Session: Where Do We Go From Here?	Dialogue on Next Steps
11:30	Closing Ceremonies	Gift Presentations: MC Sally Ledger Prayer: Elder Bill Messenger Traveling Song: Women's Drum Group
12:00	Summit Ends	

Appendix IV

Break-off Group Discussion Summary

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, ON
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



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Violence Summit Breakout Facilitated Discussion Summary:

The following is a caption of the participants' feedback from the facilitated breakout discussion groups, as collated, summarized and presented at Summit by Lead Facilitator, Joan Riggs.

Session # 1: Policy Focus Report Back

Policy Goal 1

Shift the paradigm in how policy and programs are created. Move from adapting policy, programs and tools that include Aboriginal-specific material to creating policy and programs that are Aboriginal-specific.

Specific Actions:

- a) Policy makers and civil service workers get cross-cultural training (education, justice, housing, community services).
- b) Ontario Domestic Violence Action Plan has an Aboriginal specific component and dedicated resources.
- c) Government consultation processes for policy development would be based on communities needs, and designed around Aboriginal protocols.
- d) As we start with the community at Stage 1, we would attend to the true needs of full participation with a good mind (recognize no-cost training, and create a feedback loop so the community decides).
- e) Address representation issues within the Aboriginal organizations (e.g. male/female representation).

Policy Goal 2

Create a comprehensive set of policies, services, and programs in Ontario around an Aboriginal approach to addressing family violence that is based on an Aboriginal way of being. All parts of the life cycle are considered, as is the diversity of Aboriginal people in those programs (on-reserve, rural, urban, and Métis).

Specific Actions:

- a) Reshape and reframe the AHWS approach to family violence, and increase the investment in family violence through AHWS.
- b) Expand the investment in healing programs, and create programs to unlearn learned behaviours and get at the root of what is "unhealthy".
- c) Invest in the healer's community: Elders, traditional healers, and traditional teachers.
- d) Strengthen pre- and post-shelter services (Aboriginal crisis services, Aboriginal women's helpline, translation services, holistic services, and a multi-disciplinary approach to delivery, employment, housing, etc.)
- e) Establish policies within Aboriginal organizations that are consistent with Aboriginal culture and teachings (e.g. include self-education and care as part of each job description).

- f) Coordinate an approach by Aboriginal organizations to address the needs of rural/urban/on-reserve and Métis.
- g) Create family focused strategies on education, intervention, and care.
- h) Create youth-specific and men's services.
- i) Use appropriate language in program delivery and policy.

Policy Goal 3

Ensure the extended family and community members are active in ending violence against Aboriginal women.

Specific Actions:

- a) Community is involved in prevention strategies and programs.
- b) Community is involved in intervention approaches.
- c) Remote communities are supported to address the current reality that there are no safe houses in remote communities.
- d) Each community member has an identified role in a Zero Tolerance Policy.
- e) Community leaders are involved in the supporting the strategy.

Policy Goal 4

Create a non-paternalistic, non-racist justice system.

Specific Actions:

- a) Training is provided for police officers on: different ways to address violence; Aboriginal people and violence; racism; working with sex trade workers; family dynamics in community; etc.
- b) Establish an Aboriginal Justice Strategy to address all aspects of the Justice system.
- c) Increase the Restorative Justice programs.
- d) Increase Aboriginal Partner Assault Response programs.
- e) Increase traditional ways of involvement in the court system.
- f) Ensure consistency in court-ordered programs for Aboriginal people so that they are treated in an Aboriginal way.

Policy Goal 5

Aboriginal women are viewed in the mainstream in their primary roles, and are no longer seen as victims.

Specific Actions:

- a) Create a marketing plan.

Policy Goal 6

Matrimonial real property rights are addressed.

Policy Goal 7

A resourced and comprehensive housing approach is in place that includes shelters, second-stage housing, and permanent housing for women who have experienced violence.

Specific Actions:

- a) Increase the investment in supportive housing.

Specific Program and Policy Changes

- Change the Child Welfare Policy, and address “who is Aboriginal?”.
- Address Bill C210 – Child and Family Services Act, and the changes to CAS.
- Create flee grants that factor in costs related to leaving rural and isolated communities.
- Address the delays in the Family Support Office.
- Support is provided to parents by the Ministry of Education to address bullying, and, in particular, targeted racial violence.

Session # 2: Community Capacity Report Back

The following capacities need to be strengthened:

- define violence in Aboriginal community, and name it in the community in order to reduce the denial
- understand cultural values and how they are to be practiced in day-to-day living
- use of healing methods
- program designs based on cultural teachings
- knowledge of self
- building and sustaining partnerships
- communicating and coordinating the work to be done
- creating and sustaining leadership
- negotiating the systems and players when addressing the issue.

Community Capacity Goal 1

- a) A family violence strategy that includes housing, employment, training, education, law enforcement, justice, social assistance, health and healing.
- b) Recognition that coordination is essential at every level of government, and within governments and communities, to ensure success.
- c) Annual re-visioning and realigning of the strategy.

Community Capacity Goal 2

Community leaders are actively leading in the work to end violence against Aboriginal women.

Specific Actions:

- a) Support positive leadership in women, men and youth.
- b) Actively address and name unhealthy leadership behaviour.
- c) Lead campaign to restore the community spirit.

Community Capacity Goal 3

A long-term, sustained funding base to address the range of services and programs needed to end violence against women.

Specific Actions:

- a) Communities generate their own revenue sources, and work towards self-sustained economic development models.
- b) Work toward a flexible government funding structure.
- c) Create funding formulas based on needs, and not number of people served.
- d) Create equitable funding between Aboriginal and mainstream organizations.

Community Capacity Goal 4

A community-based, cultural and holistic healing approach is used when addressing violence against Aboriginal women, where:

- community members are helpers;
- women are protected;
- men are held accountable and healing programs are available to them;
- the family is not disintegrated; and
- healing processes are in place for children.

Specific Actions:

- a) Continuum of care is the working model for ending the violence.
- b) Healing programs are at the centre of the model (healing for the individual, family, and community)
- c) A capacity-mapping process is used, that identifies all the skills and knowledge in the community that can be utilized.
- d) Innovative ways are used to involve community members to address the violence and to find their role in being part of the solution.
- e) Relationships, protocols, MOUs and service agreements are established that create culturally appropriate partnerships.
- f) Supports are in place to caregivers and helpers in the community.

Community Capacity Goal 5

Aboriginal organizations that strive to balance Aboriginal and Western approaches act as role models for the community.

Specific Actions:

- a) Staff is treated in a way which respects balance in the work environment.
- b) Training and ongoing development is provided to staff and community members to build capacity and knowledge.
- c) An integrated team approach and working partnerships are used.
- d) Appropriate ways to deal with conflict.
- e) A Code of Conduct is developed and followed.

Community Capacity Goal 6

Aboriginal women are seen in the mainstream and in the Aboriginal community in their primary roles, and are no longer viewed as victims.

Specific Actions:

- a) Develop a media strategy;
- b) Create more Aboriginal-controlled media; and
- c) Write the real stories of Aboriginal women (strengths, leaders, and contributions).

Specific Program Changes:

- Use the shelters for men.
- Address transportation issues for remote communities.
- Address second stage housing needs.
- Aboriginal knowledge is protected and not exploited by non-Aboriginal people.
- Better resourced fly-in court services.
- Better resourced and trained First Nations police.

Session # 3: Education Report Back

Education Goal 1

An ongoing, united education campaign teaches what violence is about, what healthy relationships look like, and opens up an ongoing dialogue about respectful relationships.

Create simple, immediate, and consistent messages that connect to Aboriginal ways of being and acknowledge colonialism, and the fact that “violence against women is not our way.” Messages and the tools are culturally- and healing- based.

Messages are positive, and blend current approaches with traditional teachings (e.g. “I am a kind man” connects to the grandfather teachings). Reinforce a prevention approach instead of a treatment or “after-the-fact” approach. Clear messages convey that “every one of us are leaders, and only we can end the violence.”

Specific Actions:

- a) Create a social marketing campaign (e.g. like MADD) that inundates the public and Aboriginal communities.
- b) Adapt current educational programs to the mainstream.
- c) Create our own programs aimed specifically at the Aboriginal community.

Education Goal 2

The communities are at the centre of creating, developing, and evaluating effective educational tools. The importance of the community process is stressed, and teaching and capacity-development is done in the process (e.g. the “Love you Give” video).

Specific Actions:

- a) Promote, evaluate and refine current educational programs (e.g. *Kanawayhitowin*, *Kiizaay Anishinabe Niin*, *Brothers in Spirit*, and the “*I am a Kind Man*” project)
- b) Actively address and name unhealthy leadership behaviour.
- c) Community works to create strategies that also identify heroes and mentors.
- d) Use the train-the-trainers model to build community capacity.

Education Goal 3

There are a broad range of educational tools being used to reach out to people and have them be part of the dialogue.

Specific Actions:

- a) Use theatre, visual aids, sharing stories, Power Point presentations, and other tools that speak to the audience we want to reach.
- b) Look at different ways of teaching for all age groups.

Education Goal 4

The schools and other forums teach children and youth what they need to know and understand, to be strong Aboriginal people and experience their own integrity.

Specific Actions:

- a) Ensure school curricula are culturally appropriate, and have accurate Aboriginal history and information.
- b) Children get education on: safety planning, dealing with feelings, learning to trust, identity, traditions, and dealing with conflict.
- c) Children get taught their own language, and have the opportunities to learn from the elders.
- d) Bullying is addressed in the schools (e.g. role-playing, and group problem-solving and learning)
- e) Strengthen the authority of Aboriginal school councils.
- f) Create private Aboriginal schools, First Nations high schools, and Aboriginal Alternative Schools

- g) Create land-based educational forums to connect with the land and the teachings.
- h) Hire more qualified Aboriginal teachers.

Education Goal 5

Create educational materials specifically for Youth.

Specific Actions:

- a) Youth are involved in the design and production of the educational materials.
- b) Media tools are used that are appropriate for youth (video, web, YouTube, and visual imagery)
- c) Create ways to connect youth with Elders.
- d) Use Aboriginal celebrities that youth can relate to, and would see as role models.
- e) Support rebound and bridge programs that connect youth to mentors, and to people who will be supporters in their lives.

Education Goal 6

Educate the Teachers.

Specific Actions:

- a) Community organizations do “lunch and learn” for teachers.
- b) Develop an Aboriginal Family Violence Curriculum.

Education Goal 7

Provide educational awareness training for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal politicians. Address residential school trauma and domestic violence. The program should encourage them to examine themselves and their belief systems, and to do their own healing.

Strengthen Aboriginal leaders so that they have the ability to reject government direction at times, and negotiate an “Aboriginal way” forward.

Specific Actions:

- a) Have mandatory leadership training for Aboriginal leaders (use the *Treaty 3 Maicatchewenin First Nation 8-week Program* as a model).

Education Goal 8

Establish mechanisms for educators in this field to be able to stay connected and coordinated.

Specific Actions:

- a) Establish a clearinghouse on educational tools and training. Make better use of, and invest in, the current one that exists: *Za Geh Do Wyn*

- b) Develop a List serve for leaders-for-change (start with people at the Summit).
- c) Establish a website.
- d) Make greater use of videoconferencing and video training.
- e) Maintain a speaker's bank.

Specific Program Changes:

- Create parenting courses based on a traditional curriculum.
- Create culturally appropriate assessment tool on Domestic Violence.
- Put in place a culturally appropriate Partner Assault Response Program.
- Ensure that there mainstream service allies to help women access services outside of the community that ensure safety and confidentiality.

Rethink the current DVAP strategy, to ensure that there are appropriate resources being streamed to Aboriginal people.

Appendix V

Evaluation Summary

Summit to End Violence Against Aboriginal Women

Thunder Bay, ON
March 20 – 22, 2007

Respectfully Submitted by:



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Participant Feedback Evaluation Summary

Listed below is the input received from the participants of the Summit. Overall the Summit was well received and appears to have empowered participants to become active within their community.

1. Were the objectives met?

- ◆ a : Yes (48)
- ◆ This has started the wheel to focus on your community needs and directives
- ◆ I believe objective (a) was met. I think there was much information to help inform objectives (b) and (c) but it will lay with the working group to put together a very informed action plan to affect these objectives.
- ◆ Somewhat. I'm not sure the steering committee has been created that can make the work at the summit real.
- ◆ A and b were definitely achieved, but unsure about c.
- ◆ a- happened, b- I don't know if it happened, c did not happen. It will take more than a conference to do this
- ◆ a- was met b - has not yet been established, c- not applicable to me , as I do not provide services to address Domestic Violence at community level.
- ◆ c - yes, example knowledge acquisition.
- ◆ great participation and work.
- ◆ I feel that we did some awesome work in the past 3 days. Good co-ordination was key. It would have been nice to see some more leaders.
- ◆ Many positive outcomes are now very attainable.
- ◆ We're well on our way!
- ◆ A good beginning.
- ◆ The establishment of the steering committee is yet to be finalized and resources to support our on-going work have to be identified.
- ◆ (AKA "many") yes, however, there are still many things to consider and that should be addressed and worked on.
- ◆ yes, and then some.
- ◆ I believe they were. I hope we meet again before 5 yrs.
- ◆ I believe there will be more community-based programming to prevent violence in my/our/everyone's communities.
- ◆ I believe the Summit was a success and all participants are going to leave with great goals in mind.
- ◆ A lot of ideas, recommendations that can be used were presented.
- ◆ I am so "very impressed" that the objectives were superceded! WAY TO GO TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED! We should feel proud of all the talent!
- ◆ Much was accomplished.
- ◆ Good start.
- ◆ Yes - absolutely. I look forward to seeing the steering committee up and running and the direction it takes.

2. What did you find most useful and appreciate about the summit?

- ◆ Joan's presentations, Sylvia's presentations, the Americans' presentations
- ◆ Wonderful speakers from both the States and Canada. Wonderful participants in each group and the conference in general.
- ◆ The opportunity to dialogue in small groups and hear other experiences.
- ◆ I found the Clan Star presentation to be very informative: re the struggles experienced by the presenters.
- ◆ The breakout sessions provided a great opportunity to meet people and strike relationships - and to get to some of the "real life" behind the presentations.
- ◆ The atmosphere was light and collegial - this really helped folks feel relaxed, speak-up, share experiences and ultimately form a more comprehensive Framework.
- ◆ Listening to all the speakers - their stories, knowing and realizing the important work ahead of all of us to end violence against women. Very good resource people.
- ◆ Liked the mix of plenary and group work. Panels were weak.
- ◆ I appreciated most the opportunity to meet others with the same objectives and doing the same work; the opportunity to build relationships, also, excellent facilitator.
- ◆ The information presented helped us to address the issues we needed to. The organization of everything was well thought out and it worked.
- ◆ The panels and speakers were excellent. Good info.
- ◆ Everyone given opportunity for input
- ◆ The opportunity to hear multiple perspectives from people who work at all levels - on and off reserve shelters, schools, youth, PTI's etc.- Get a more complete picture.
- ◆ Learned so much during the breakout sessions and enjoyed the process. The panels were also very interesting and informative.
- ◆ Learning! Participating Groups/ Activities. Being in a room with other people with the passion and love for our people. Panel. Having women/men from all over Ontario.
- ◆ The nice ladies from the US give me hope that ending Violence is possible.
- ◆ Information regarding ongoing initiatives and the ideas other service providers have to address violence against woman.
- ◆ Breakout sessions (brainstorming). Final Review.
- ◆ Organized, punctual, laughter and sharing and learning from other people. Presentations were good.
- ◆ Yes, many positive outcomes are now very attainable.
- ◆ Learning from others. Tremendous amount of knowledge, wisdom and experience with- the groups. eg: the sharing.
- ◆ The networking and opportunity to see what communities have developed and to see how much we've grown as F.N.'S and Urban F.N. Agencies.
- ◆ The networking of other service providers.
- ◆ Breakout groups were great and panels were very informative.
- ◆ Breakout Groups.
- ◆ Connecting/Networking. Learning what's already in place. Bringing the issue to the forefront.
- ◆ The presentation on the US Legislation. VAWA and learning their interpretation and application of sovereignty.
- ◆ The panel speakers were exceptional. They really kept the drive and determination amongst the women. Their information was useful and very impressive.
- ◆ Information and networking - good job. Loved the summary this morning.

- ◆ It was all very well developed and facilitated. Very well organized. Meeting new people.
- ◆ The different perspectives and methods that can be incorporated into planning our initiatives. Why re-invent the wheel.
- ◆ The information shared/presented. Networking, group work and the wrap up
- ◆ The personal stories from the panellists.
- ◆ The expertise of presenters and participants.
- ◆ Lots of ideas.
- ◆ The networking and learning from others.
- ◆ The process of getting answers from the participants.
- ◆ Small groups.
- ◆ I most appreciated the opportunity to meet so many thoughtful and engaged people involved in work with Aboriginal communities. It was a deep learning experience to be part of the ongoing dialogue and discussions generated by the conference.
- ◆ Joan Riggs was excellent in keeping the conference on track. Networking and very knowledgeable on the issue.
- ◆ The sharing of information. Very enlightening. Nice to see our community using some of the ideas that have been shared here.
- ◆ I loved the break -out sessions, in the smaller groups. We were all more interactive and all the info that was handed out about violence against women is a great tool of info to bring home.
- ◆ Openness to all including indigenous/non-aboriginal participants. Awareness, information sharing by presenters, etc.
- ◆ Reality of issues/ barriers presented. The fact that nothing was held back. Recommendations that were put forward in groups.
- ◆ The best practices were most useful. The Clan Star women were inspiring and Steve Martin was the one who moved me the most.
- ◆ To get to meet people from other places and have the same kind of outlook on these things.
- ◆ The speakers were all excellent. The break-out sessions were also excellent.
- ◆ Presenters. (Forum) Speakers.
- ◆ I most appreciated what a respectful environment it was and the Aboriginal Values, teachings and traditions that created this environment. I found the wisdom shared by spiritual leaders (ie) David Thomas to be most useful. Presence of Elders. Sisters in Spirit campaign.

3. What would you have liked to have seen improved about the Summit?

- ◆ The panels and the group work.
- ◆ Context of Nat'l Summit presented with more time to gain context of sessions more clearly, ahead of group discussions.
- ◆ The small group sessions were difficult: the notion of policy seemed to intimidate some of our colleagues.
- ◆ Federal representation from government.
- ◆ Question time for panel members.
- ◆ Attendance by Minister.
- ◆ Better conference co-ordination of speakers.

- ◆ Need for more policy thinking, and for a bit more directions in the questions we were expected to respond to.
- ◆ More interactive efforts - Too much time just listening.
- ◆ More youth and Elder participation for the next step.
- ◆ Participation by our Chiefs and more men involved and participating.
- ◆ At least a few women who have gone through the system - been the victim.
- ◆ At least 5 minutes more for each panel list. Question and answer session after each segment.
- ◆ Keep working ladies!
- ◆ More time for the presentations
- ◆ I am stumped by this question. Everything was okay and I don't know how it could have been done better.
- ◆ More movement.... very difficult to sit for such long periods of time. More involvement of Politic representatives, chiefs and ministers.
- ◆ See more males (chiefs , frontline workers) in the Women's Conference.
- ◆ To see more male involvement.
- ◆ Excellent learning experience.
- ◆ Time for presenters was too limited. Conference was so important, but there needs to be participation from government. Although topics heavy, conference was too short.
- ◆ Increase participation of youth - elders wherever possible.
- ◆ Maybe one or two people that are youths or people in the community that are not part or head of an organization or group.
- ◆ Presentations from the panellists could have been better focused.
- ◆ The summit's focus was mainly on First Nation Women. What about Métis citizens and Aboriginal Women living in urban settings??? The stats of Métis women who experience violence are the same, if not higher than First Nation women. MANY of the policies and solutions will NOT work in an urban setting. Aboriginal is all Aboriginal people and Not just people who live on reserve. We really need to consider this.
- ◆ The first day was information overload.
- ◆ More men and also added emphasis on ending "Abuse and Violent Behaviour" wherever it exists.
- ◆ Wish we could do this again.
- ◆ More community leaders.
- ◆ I think the break-out groups should have been changed for each session so that we could hear different views from all participants.
- ◆ Nothing, everything was great.
- ◆ More broad.
- ◆ Nothing.
- ◆ The opportunity for all the participants to be in the spotlight for a few minutes to tell their story of accomplishments with themselves and their communities.
- ◆ Panels too large - smaller. Specific questions for speakers to address. Leadership attendance and listening.
- ◆ I don't have suggestions for improvement, but it would have been nice if more women had been able to participate.
- ◆ More time for presenters to do their presentations.
- ◆ I think the summit was great. I would like to see leadership more in the fore front on this

movement. It would be great to meet annually.

- ◆ All of my intentions of the Summit were met, therefore I can't think of any improvements.
- ◆ Program available before event made available including agenda.
- ◆ More participation from Front Line Workers. More participation from leaders of all facets. Perhaps a breakdown in simple terms for groups as some were apprehensive to participate because of not understanding.
- ◆ More men, more chiefs, more government, more youth - separate circle for their valued input.
- ◆ There isn't too much you can improve on.
- ◆ More attendance/participation by decision-makers.
- ◆ Life experience speakers on abuse. More shelter workers to attend.
- ◆ The conference was fantastic - useful nothing needs improvement. Great format - small group work.
- ◆ re: hotel venue - no store on-site. Had to buy expensive tampons from gas station. Hotel should have a store on site for necessities..

4. Final Comments

- ◆ It was a really well organized, seamless summit. Great leadership and presentations.
- ◆ I liked the speakers that spoke from the heart, rather than using notes or power point. We need more male presence to create balance. Police to be more interested and active.
- ◆ It was an excellent Conference. Thank you for the invitation. Looking forward to being involved more.
- ◆ It was so nice to be here for the workshop.
- ◆ Thank you/Miigwetch Coordinators. Great wrap-up. Loved it - feel honoured to be part of the movement. I commit personally to doing whatever it takes to END VIOLENCE against our Aboriginal Women.
- ◆ Well organized - collaborative effort from two organizations very effective use of stuff from organizations, excellent food and use of resources.
- ◆ Great co-ordination for all volunteers and staff. Esp. Kari-logistics.
- ◆ As a young woman I am so grateful to have had this opportunity to participate here today with all of our great leaders and have learned so much. Thank You
- ◆ I am very naive at the fact of violence against native women. This was a huge eye opener for me. We believe as front line workers we make a change.
- ◆ Great job!
- ◆ Thank you very much for making a space for me.
- ◆ Follow up will be vital. Need to ensure government is also committed. Do this again.
- ◆ It would be nice to have a huge map on the wall that identifies where everyone is from. Great job to the organizers!
- ◆ It was good.
- ◆ Great job!
- ◆ I'd like to express my gratitude to Kari for the compassion she showed me while I was sick. I regret missing one day of the summit.
- ◆ I have an inner push to concentrate a lot more on violence than I have been. Addictions have been a large focus but violence is 99% of the time a factor in substance abuse.
- ◆ Very good summit. Information good. Keep the Front line workers at the table they know

what is going on.

- ◆ Was pleased to be invited. Good to meet the many dynamic women in this movement Miigwetch.
- ◆ Many thanks for all the good words, thoughts, prayers, people and plan of action. Niawenhko:wa
- ◆ Would like to see this group more connected and working with the programs like "I am a kind man"
- ◆ Very enjoyable and moving week. Very POWERFUL women were present. It was fantastic!!!
- ◆ Lets get going
- ◆ I found it very informative and would like to see one held in every Northern Community.
- ◆ Wonderful.
- ◆ Looking forward to making changes in the community and see how things implement.
- ◆ Aboriginal male leaders would learn and benefit from hearing the VOICES of Women and would certainly learn.
- ◆ The Hotel was nice but it was too isolated because some of us did not have vehicles here. Food was awesome Miigwetch.
- ◆ Start organizing Males Conference; Violence on Aboriginal Women.
- ◆ Excellent Facilitators.
- ◆ Very informative, very optimistic that movement will go forward and initially will be put into place to address, eliminate issues of violence against woman, children and families.
- ◆ Keep up the good work.
- ◆ Very pleased with the organization of conference. Looked after well.
- ◆ Well organized, very friendly people. Speakers were super. Beautiful job!
- ◆ The comedian was a wonderful addition to lighten a 'heart heavy' conference and help workers to achieve balance.
- ◆ Conference was well organized and kept on time. Cultural teachings from Elders at start of each day helping us to learn traditional roles so that we can incorporate them in our daily lives and share the teachings to effect change in my community.
- ◆ Enjoyed the 'healthful' snack and meals. Enjoyed the 'fire' that was set with Sylvia's presentation and the wrap up that changed each of us to continue working to avoid family violence.
- ◆ Wonderful - we need a way to keep together - to keep the momentum going.
- ◆ Great goals, setting and anticipating follow - up.
- ◆ Thank you for this opportunity it was an excellent gathering.
- ◆ Excellent summit - It was very positive and inspiring.
- ◆ Do not lose the momentum!
- ◆ Very much appreciated that I was able to attend this conference. I am pleased the missing and murdered Aboriginal Women were recognized and the story behind them very important to know this.
- ◆ Overall, an A++ Forum. It was a rich agenda but it had to be as a first step towards more focused action. Very, very good speakers and presenters - the subject areas were broad enough to ensure nothing of substance was left out.
- ◆ AHWS Shelter workers were not represented - may have offered good suggestions.
- ◆ Not many F.N. Chiefs - congratulations to the lone Chief for attending.
- ◆ One of the best conferences I've ever attended.

- ◆ Too much personal healing going on, not enough focus on the issues from a broad, big picture, strategic policy perspective.
- ◆ Good conference.