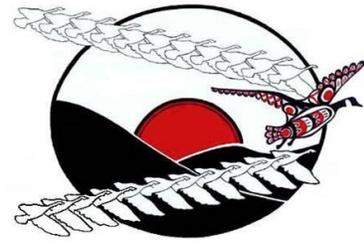


Elders Council Report to the Board of Directors September 2017



From: Marge White, Buzz Morrisette

Re: AGM Report

Date: September 22-23, 2017

Good Day to All,

This year's Elder report will be relatively short as our activities have been limited this year. We have been without a Coordinator so the focus has not been so much on our involvement within the Association. We are always thankful when Jamin can step back into an acting role.

I have been fortunate to continue in my role as the sitting Elder at BCAAFC Executive meetings. Gathering Our Voices held in Kelowna in March was again a success our two workshops "Elders Don't Bite" were well attended as usual. We had the honor of having Elders Jerry Olman and Winston W join our circle who shared their stories and their culture. Thanks go out to Karlee and Danielle from PAYC who spent the time with us and assisted with the handling of microphones. Of course special thanks always to Alex and Nella Nelson for their assistance in this workshop, Buzz and I are always grateful for their participation.

The Elders Room was full of activities we had many visitors in our room. I want to give special thanks to Lisa Mercure and to Leslie McGarry for all their work in the room. Leslie was the Elder and Youth Coordinator for a short while and Buzz and myself were sorry to see her leave, she was so culturally knowledgeable that even I learned a great deal from her. I am always thankful for Lisa for her continued support with the Elder Council. She was our first coordinator and continues to provide me with materials and support when needed.

There was an incident at GOV that the Elders wanted to correct in order to send a volunteer Elder home with good feelings. Alex Nelson sang a song and the Elder was blanketed to send her on her way with good memories of her involvement at GOV.

The Elders Gathering held in Campbell River this year was a success. Some Elders had the opportunity to go on a Helicopter ride to view the area. Unfortunately, Buzz did not join me at the Gathering choosing instead to stay home due to the fires that were taking place close to Kamloops. Brittany Morgan from the office accompanied me to the Gathering as it was her first time to attend I spent all of my time with her at the BCAAFC information table. There I was able to see many friends, relatives and associates from across the province.

Next year's Elder Gathering will be held in Cowichan. It was great to see that this year's King and Queen are the parents of an employee at the BCAAFC office.

I had the opportunity to sit as the Elder for the BC Centre of Excellence for Young Indigenous Leaders in April. I was extremely happy to see Danielle Sam and Shyla Elgie as participants. It is always rewarding to see our youth from PAYC and Friendship Centres broaden their Leadership skills. We can all recall how shy Danielle was and

to see how she blossomed at the end of her time as a PAYC leader was outstanding. It was also noticeable that Karlee also outgrew her shyness at the end of her tenure as a PAYC youth. Both young ladies have aged out of PAYC and all our good wishes go with them.

While I am talking about Youth I take this opportunity to congratulate Elijah Mack on his successful run for the Youth delegate to the NAFC board of Directors. For a young person just coming into the movement that was a great accomplishment and he got in unanimously. Elijah is from the Conayt Friendship Centre in Merritt.

The Aboriginal Non-Profit project concluded in April and it is my hope that Friendship Centres will implement the recommendations provided by the consultants in their final reports.

At the June BCAAFC Elders and PAYC dinner a special ceremony was held for Kyle Tutt when the Elders did a blanketing ceremony to give him strength during his grieving period for the loss of his father.

The NAFC Senate is involved with NAFC- PEKE and in April, I was invited along with Senator Vera from Ontario to participate in an Ethics Development Circle. The purpose of the Ethics Development is to set ethical guidelines that are culturally appropriate for Researchers that will be used at NAFC and for Friendship Centres who wish to adopt them. In the early fall a gathering of Elders, Senators and Youth will take place to discuss the draft ethics from these perspectives.

I was invited by the NAFC Aboriginal Youth Council to facilitate the Elders Don't Bite workshop at their AGM this year. It is always a great practice to invite Elders who are present to participate to share their stories and their culture during this presentation.

In conclusion I want to acknowledge the departure of Carl Mashon and Ron Rice long time employees of BCAAFC as well I want to give special thanks to outgoing BCAAFC Executive Council members Barb, Bruce and Cyndi, all of these individuals were dedicated and committed to the growth and development of the Association.

I want to thank the staff for their hard work and to all of you who open your doors to all people who require your assistance and services. Congratulations for another year of service to our people. This work and service is so important to the continued wellbeing of our people in our communities. It is a pleasure to serve on the Elders Council and we continue to extend our commitment and support to the Association.

Respectfully,
Marge White & Buzz Morissette - Elders Council