

# MFNAC

MANITOBA FIRST NATION ADDICTIONS COMMITTEE

FIRST ISSUE | MFNAC NEWSLETTER | 2007

## WELCOME TO THE MANITOBA FIRST NATION ADDICTIONS COMMITTEE FIRST !

We have a fresh new look and feel with our new logo, to this newsletter and our web site. Our new logo embraces **teaching, wholeness, growth, nourishment and potential.**

Inspired by the beauty of the spruce tree, with its deep roots, sturdy trunk and many branches, it represents the people and values of the Manitoba First Nation Addictions Committee. • **The circular shield represents protection and strength** \* **Surrounded by the four directions** • **The roots represent solid foundation for change** • **The branches represent the network of shared information and resources.** • **The tree represents, energy, healing and growth.**

Please visit our web site; [www.mfnac.ca](http://www.mfnac.ca) for information, resources and links. We welcome your feedback, and if you have information or links you would like to have posted on the web site please feel free to contact us.

## SOUTHEAST RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL SENDS NNADAP ADVISOR TO THE 2007 NATIONAL SUMMER INSTITUTE ON ADDICTIONS

Linda Grieve attended the Summer Institute in Stanhope, Prince Edward Island in July, 2007. This was the fifth annual summer institute. The institute was established to provide national training in order to build links between addiction services, mental health services and criminal justice systems. The Addictions Research Centre, Correctional Service Canada and the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse sponsored and collaborated with the Canadian Executive Council on Addiction to present the summer institute.

### The themes over the past years were:

- Evidence-based options for working with resistant clients

- Best practices in responding to Concurrent Disorders
- Mapping Change: Assessment and Treatment Planning
- Working Together – Partnerships along the Continuum of Service

This year's theme was Supporting Successes. Each participant was given time to speak about their successes in working with clients, as an addiction professional, or within their organizations. Linda shared the success of creating the Manitoba First Nation Addiction Committee's Community Addictions Specialist Orientation Manual. She stressed that the document was created by effectively using consultation, collaboration, time and patience.

The end result is a highly professional and useful document. Despite there being no other NNADAP workers in attendance from any region, the institute presented an excellent opportunity to learn what other agencies are focusing on in providing addiction services. Of note:

- Specialized women services
- Cultural relevant services
- Harm reduction models
- Stages of change model
- Continuum of services
- Linkages
- Case management
- Family involvement in intervention and treatment
- Evidence Based Models that work
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Motivational Enhancement Therapy
- Community Reinforcement and Family Training
- Behavioral Couples Therapy
- 12-Step facilitation
- Individual drug counseling
- Medications
- Methadone, anti-abuse prescriptions, disulfiram, etc.

A key-note speaker, Thomas McLellan offered theories that the current addiction service is not reaching as many people in need as it could because of inefficient systems: not meeting client's need, low level of counselor's abilities, lack of linkages to other services the client also requires.

The biggest eye-opener was on the high rate of turn-over in the addiction counseling positions and as a result the low rate of certified/qualified addiction counselors. The suggested response to the dilemma is the use of a Computer Assisted System for client assessment and referral (CASPAR). This computerized program provides case management and community linkages. In the end there would be a stronger agency linkage that will motivate and support clients – linking with diabetes programs, cancer care, nutritionists, community schools, justice systems, etc.” The presentation also suggested we need to adjust our work hours, location of offices in order to become more efficient in meeting the needs of the client. These ideas require a system change that values the client and their needs.

## OCT 9 07 APPLIED SUICIDE INTERVENTION SKILLS TRAINING WAS DELIVERED TO NINE LITTLE GRAND RAPIDS RESOURCE TEAM IN AUGUST 07.

Certified Trainers Linda Grieve and Amber Ratte of Southeast Resource Development Council delivered the training over a period of three days. There was a lot of hesitation from the resource workers to actually grapple with the topic of suicide because everyone in the community has been personally affected by suicide. At the end of the training, the participants were glad they took the training – despite the emotional drain they experienced. “It makes me feel stronger to deal with clients who may be seeking help with suicidal thoughts,” is an example of the thoughts shared in the evaluation of the workshop.

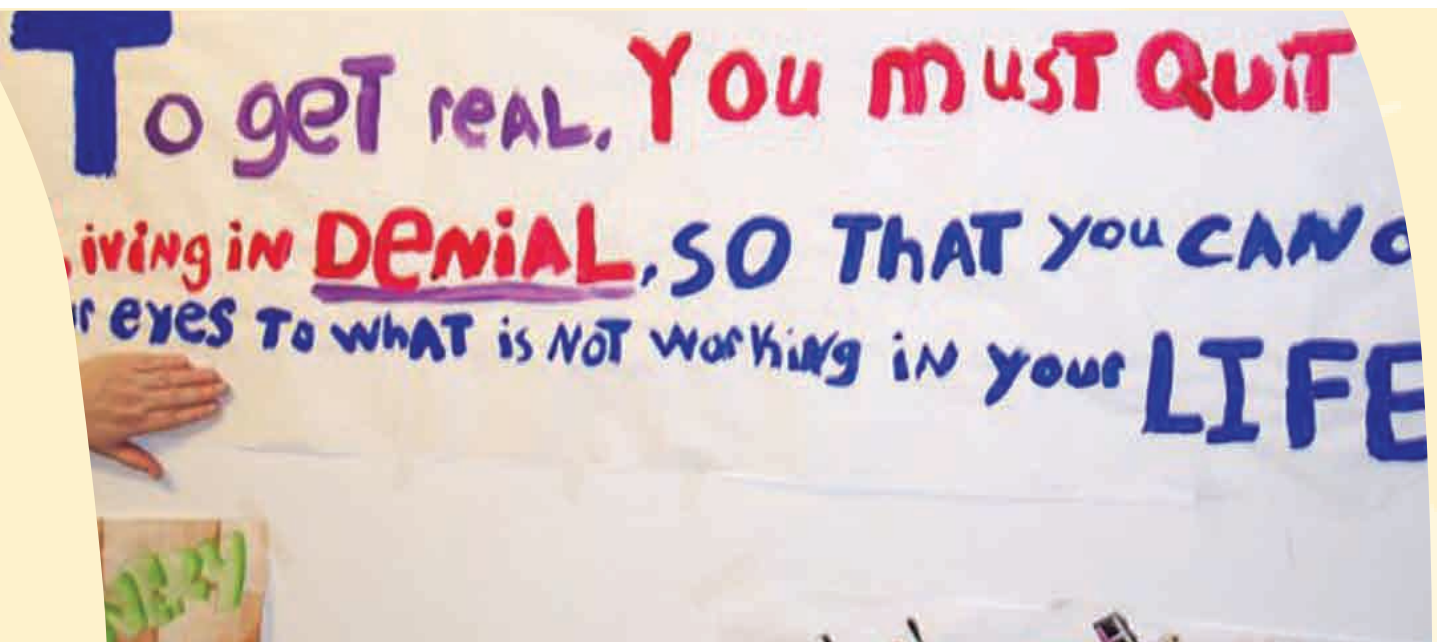


**OCTOBER 5, 2007  
WHISKYJACK TREATMENT CENTRE  
(WTC) IS DESIGNATED FOR ABORIGINAL  
YOUTH BETWEEN THE AGES OF 12 AND 17  
WITH VARYING AFFLICTIONS IN SOLVENT  
AND DRUG/ALCOHOL ABUSE.** WTC has three sixteen  
week intakes throughout the year, with intakes in January, May  
and September with alternating genders.

WTC is located two (2) kilometers west of Provincial highway junction #373 and #374. WTC is approximately seventy-five (75) kilometers north on Norway House, MB and fifty (50) kilometers west of Cross Lake, MB. WTC had a new intake as of September 04, 2007, for males between the ages of 12 to 17 years old. Completion of this program will be on December 20, 2007 with a new intake to follow for females on January 08, 2008. WTC is currently accepting female referrals for the upcoming intake of January 08, 2008.

**For more information on program content and to  
have general questions answered please call the centre  
at (204) 359- 8995 or fax to (204) 359-6497 or e-mail to  
warthurson@wtcentre.ca**





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**SOUTHEAST RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL IS A PILOT SITE FOR A FNIH FUNDED PROJECT TO SUPPORT WOMEN FROM ABSTAINING FROM ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS DURING PREGNANCY.**

The project is being delivered in six SERDC First Nations. The project is in the second year of funding and the workers have been trained and are now recruiting participants either through self-referrals or from agency referrals. The potential participants are screened to ensure they fit the criteria of the program. When it is determined that the woman fits the program requirements, they are hooked up with a support resource worker (P-Cap Worker) to assist the woman and her children. The P-Cap worker's role is to support the participant in accessing local resources to improve housing, relationships, parenting, education levels, lifestyle choices, and the woman's health. The project is a three year pilot. Linda Grieve, the manager of the program states; "It is anticipated that if the project demonstrates effectiveness in helping the women to make better lifestyle choices, and improve their living situation, the project will be extended."

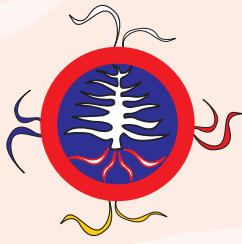
Already the women that are currently receiving service are feeling less isolated when trying to tackle some of the lifestyle issues they have been facing alone on a daily basis. The project provides numerous contacts – usually by home visits or phone calls each week. The P-Cap Worker prompts the participants to set life goals and helps them work towards those goals by setting do-able actions to reach those goals.

**WELCOME!!! BLOODVEIN HAS A NEW NNADAP WORKER.**

Her name is Valerie Green. She started on Sept 10, 2007. Her previous jobs has been mainly working in the nursing station in various positions: medical clerk, medical transportation assistant, security, and housekeeping. She was with NNADAP for 6 months on a job experience program last year. She liked it so much, that when a job opening came up –she applied and got it. Valerie likes meeting new people, playing sports, spending time with friends and family. Since she has started, AA meetings in the community are now running twice a week, and there is a Saturday afternoon women's group. Matilda Raven, the NNADAP Supervisor in Bloodvein has been on the job for 20 years and looks forward to working with Valerie.

**Photographs to the right: Top picture Matilda Raven, bottom picture Valerie Green.**





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From left to right is: **Dennis Sinclair** – Hollow Water NNADAP Community Addiction Specialist Coordinator, **Fabian Seymour** – Hollow Water Building Healthy Communities Recreation Director, **Robyn Hall** – Hollow Water Brighter Futures Worker, **Michelle Bushie** – Hollow Water Band Human Resources Officer, **Sharon Klyne** – Hollow Water Community Holistic Circle Healing Counsellor, **Burma Bushie** – Hollow Water Community Holistic Circle Healing Director, **Missing from photo: Ed Neveau** – Frontier School Division Wanipigow School Counsellor, **Marcel Hardisty** – Hollow Water NNADAP Community Addiction Specialist

## HOLLOW WATER COMMUNITY RESOURCE TEAM IS MEETING TO PLAN OUT A WEEK OF ADDICTION AWARENESS ACTIVITIES IN THEIR COMMUNITY.

Hollow Water Community Resource team is meeting to plan out a week of addiction awareness activities in their community. Addictions Awareness Week events for the week of Nov 18 – 24th, 2007. Their resource team is made up of workers from the school, Community Holistic Circle Healing program, NNADAP, BHF/BHC, and others. They will be presenting topics on Substance Abuse and Sexuality, Crystal Meth, What is Addiction?, Addiction and Lifeskills, and others! Their approach will be to present to the school students and community members using hands-on activities and games to help the participants to better remember and hopefully apply the messages of the presentations.

