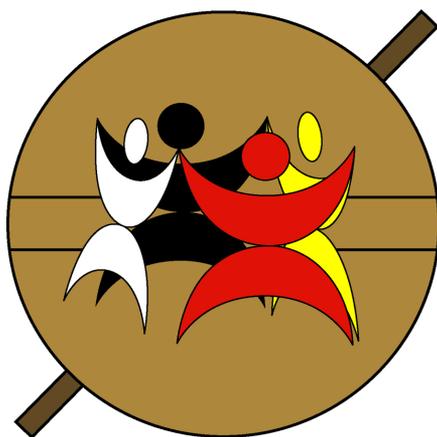

Returning to Spirit

Residential School Reconciliation Inc.



Annual Report

2010-2011

Report to the Community

Vision

We are a community of leaders committed to generating reconciliation between Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals regarding the Indian Residential School legacy in Canada.

Mission Statement

We design and deliver workshops and training programs for reconciliation within the context of residential school issues that have negatively impacted First Nations People, Religious communities and Canadian society in general.

Our focus is on moving people forward through the principles of personal empowerment. This defines all our work, including coaching sessions and consulting, which are designed to support individuals, families, organizations and whole communities to move forward in life.

Our work goes beyond healing. It provides conditions for transformation in personal, family, community, and organizational life.

Board of Directors

Joanne Martell, Chairperson
Bishop Gary Gordon, Co-Chairperson
Bishop Gerry Wiesner omi, Director
Sister Rita Bisson pm, Treasurer
Norman Opekokew, Director
Jack Anawak, Director
Dennis Sinclair, Director

Sister Veronica Dunne, Director (to Feb 2011)
Elise Charland, Elder & Director



Board Chair and Executive Director's Message

Greetings!

This fiscal year has seen a lot of developments for RTS moving forward with the mission of reconciliation. Our core funding from CCEPIRSS was restored. This means completion of the reconciliation process continues to increase and serve as the basis for the new conversations and partnerships into the future.

We are deeply grateful to the board and members of CCEPRISS for their support which ensures we continue to offer this transformational process to more communities across Canada.

Other highlights include: Introduction of a Four Chiefs Model for organization operations (Communications; Training; Fund Development and Admin/Organization) in April 2010, with the intention to develop and implement the model by March 31, 2012.

In December 2010, a community gathering was held which realigned us with our intention to create a community of leaders to ensure reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal peoples specific to the Indian Residential School legacy in Canada.

We also completed an Opportunities Assessment with RTS community members (December 2010) and identified areas of development for the coming years. This will serve as a map for moving forward.

We look forward to another year of sharing this life altering work.



Anne Taylor MSW RSW
Executive Director



Joanne Martell
Board of Directors, Chair



Report to the Community

5-Day Workshops

During the 2010/2011 year, we continued to send forth two teams, one Aboriginal and one Non-Aboriginal, to deliver the 5-Day Workshops in communities across Western Canada.

From April 1, 2010 to March 31, 2011, eight non-Aboriginal workshops were delivered from Winnipeg to Vancouver Island. During the same period, fifteen Aboriginal workshops were delivered across Western Canada.

One of the highlights of the 2010/2011 year was the pilot of a weekend edition of the 5-Day workshop. Partnering with ACE (Aboriginal Circle of Educators) in Winnipeg, we held concurrent weekend workshops for Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal participants. With three weeks between the two weekends, both participants and trainers were astounded at the transformation present!

We also piloted the "Being at Peace" 5-day process designed for elders (Aboriginal pilot in Hollow Water, MB—April 2010).

Aboriginal and Non-Aboriginal teams are delivering the 5-Day workshop consistently and with increasingly strong feedback about the transformational experience of participants.

We continue to receive an increasing number of requests for additional workshops! Communities are clear that the 5-Day workshop profoundly transforms the lives of individuals and their families.

This first phase of the RTS Reconciliation process continues to provide a solid foundation and preparation for "coming together" and creating new possibilities for our future together!

This workshop has made a difference in my life, by teaching me how to release the burdens I have been carrying throughout my life, and how to forgive and accept. Also to find the spirit of myself.

*Barb Lepine, Fort Smith, NT
5-Day Workshop*



Report to the Community

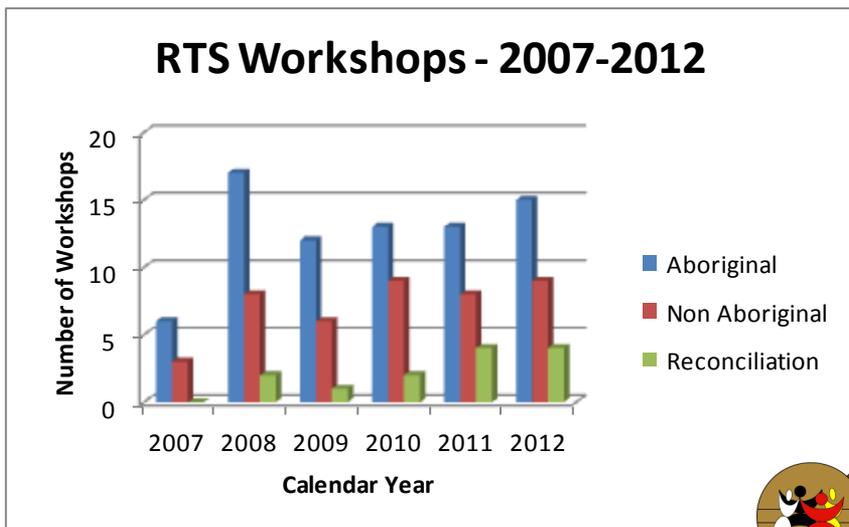
Reconciliation Workshops

Reconciliation between Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal peoples around the Residential School legacy is our focus and mission. During the 2010/2011 year, three reconciliations were held in Winnipeg, Yellowknife and Prince George.

The Reconciliation in Yellowknife, in January 2011, was particularly significant, as it was the first time that the Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal teams had delivered the Reconciliation workshop independent of on-site coaching from Marc Pizandawatc. The telephone coaching provided was invaluable, as always.

The Yellowknife workshop was significant in another way as Returning to Spirit was first piloted there in 2001 at Trapper's Lake. It was inspiring to return to the birthplace of Returning to Spirit and deliver a powerful Reconciliation in the North.

These developments create the opening for increased accessibility and delivery of the RTS Reconciliation process across Canada in the future.



Report to the Community

Testimonials from the Reconciliation Workshops

This workshop help to not be stuck in my story. It has helped me to accept what I cannot change, to take responsibility for me and not to blame for what has happened. To be able to forgive and be at peace with myself. I want to know who is Evelyn really and be free to express myself and not be a door mat. I am a beautiful person who is able to communicate in a respectful manner.

Evelyn Marlowe, Lutsel K'e, NT

This is a life changing experience. I happen to think that Residential School, sexual abuse or any form of child abuse is Canada's holocaust and we should do whatever it takes to make sure that it never ever happens again. This workshop has opened up possibilities or how the world should be. It is how I envision building the Kingdom.

Monica Loomis, Norman Wells, NT

This workshop have really open me up and letting go of the pain I have been carrying. I can able to go home and confront to my brother-in-law what he has been doing to me.

I have able to forgive of the things that I have been holding within my heart. I feel a lot better and full of laughter.

Shirley Smith, Hollow Water First Nation, MB

This workshop was truly a life giving experience, it really opened up a new vision and relationship for me as a non-Aboriginal person. To understand the cultural values of the natives.

Also, this workshop has challenged me to make myself available and present for reconciliation and creating a new path to better future.

I am grateful to the team of trainers and I recommend that this workshop should be highly be promoted by the government and the Church. There is a new possibilities in it. Thank you.

Fr. Augustine Ezediniru, Sagnkeen (Ft. Alexander), MB



Report to the Community

Trainer Development Program

With the restoration of our core funding, the RTS trainer development program was able to move forward with high intentionality and focus this year.

Marc Pizandawac continues to lead the Trainer Development Program. Trainings for the Reconciliation & 5-Day workshops; Seminar Series, 5and delivery skill enhancement were completed.

Training and coaching was also completed for the Being at Peace (elder workshop) and the weekend edition pilots. This will now be available and offered in the coming years, based on community requests and needs.

Regionally focused training, specific to the Seminar Series was offered in Prince George and Winnipeg area (Seminar Leaders Development Program). This created opportunity to pilot a "block" delivery of the Seminar Series in Prince George and develop seminar leaders in the community. The "block" delivery has created opportunities for increased accessibility of the Seminar Series at the community level.

Trainer Development continues to be focused on capacity building with the view to establish and develop community based delivery of the RTS process.

The week has been WOW for me, I have a deeper awareness of my core belief, I see how much it has been in my life, and how my concept of fear has really stopped me. This week I started expressing myself, not being so cheap, and I see how I need to show up even more. I understand the work deeper its really hitting home for me.

*Terry Lynn Luggi-Sabo, Prince George BC
Seminar Leaders Development Program*

This process has shaken me up a lot! I see how my fears have been stopping me for the past 50 years. I also see how i can move with the fear there, and that it doesn't have to stop me.



*Darlene Dick, Ahousaht BC
Seminar Leaders Development Program*

Report to the Community

Seminar Series

The RTS Seminar Series (follow-up to the 5-Day Workshop) was offered in 7 communities (Winnipeg , Prince George , Hollow Water FN, Water Hen FN, Saskatoon, and St Theresa Point) during this fiscal period. Participants are able to deepen their understanding and integration of the RTS principals, with intention to bring this to their families, communities and life.

We piloted a combined Seminar Series (Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal participants) in Prince George from May to September 2010. The Seminar Series was also delivered in "blocks" in Prince George (two or three seminars per day).

We identified regional bases in Manitoba; Saskatchewan and British Columbia for Seminar Series development.

The Seminar Series continues to be an important response to participant requests for follow-up and as an important part of the Trainer Development Process.

We intend to partner with communities to take steps towards offering the Seminar Series and creating capacity to deliver RTS regionally. This involves addressing challenges related to geography, funding and Trainer Development.

The RTS Seminar Series has given me a new outlook on my future. My family life has improved, especially with my husband as I am more assertive and loving in our relationship.

My friends have noticed the increase of confidence I have and how I react less to the negative - i.e. - more proactive than reactive.

God has surely noticed that I am expressing more prayers of gratitude and thanksgiving!

*Carol Maynard, Winnipeg, MB
Seminar Series Participant*



Report to the Community

Communication

We continue to distribute a quarterly newsletter which receives rave reviews from recipients and ensures that we are in regular communication with participants and stakeholders of RTS.

We completed the process of developing a new website, thanks to funding from the Calgary Foundation. The website has also been well received. It remains in development and we are always looking for feedback on how it can get even better!

We revised our brochure to better express our mission and distributed it widely during the summer of 2010

Other communication documents have been revised and developed to guide workshop hosting, promotion and collaboration with communities.

Website

A comprehensive website introducing RTS was launched towards the end of this fiscal year - Funding for the design, development and implementation of the website was secured from the Calgary Foundation. We are very grateful for this support in developing the website into an important communication tool for the next fiscal year and beyond.

Presentations

We continue to speak about Returning to Spirit wherever we get the chance. In January, CBC Radio North interviewed several participants from the Yellowknife Reconciliation.

Presentations were also made at the Cannexus Conference in Ottawa in January as well as the IANE Conference in Saskatoon in February.



Report to the Community

Fund Development

Our Fund Development Director worked with the Fund Development Team to identify different potential funding sources for communities

While funding is tight in the current economic climate, we did secure project-based funding for a revised website that will allow us to update it more efficiently and to get the word out to people across Canada!

Communities are increasingly contributing more to the overall costs of delivering a workshop. This is a significant development in this fiscal period and will be an important aspect of establishing sustainability.

A comprehensive fund development plan is in place, guided by our Fund Development Team and Director. The focus for the next fiscal year will be on identifying and securing core funding to carry us forward beyond CCEPIRSS funding.

We secured funding for the development of a project focused on community based youth leadership development. Communities most often express concerns and requests to offer the RTS project with youth.

A "Living and Expressing Reconciliation" event is scheduled for May 8, 2011 at Norwood Hotel in Winnipeg, MB. Our intention is to generate annual special events in other regions going forward.

Donors

Miigwetch Thank you, Merci, Mahsi cho!! to all of our Donors! Support from our donors allows us to continue to support Reconciliation between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples across Canada.



THANK YOU!!

Report to the Community

Community Partnerships

We are always pleased to partner with communities in creating possibilities into the future. Our community partnership with the Diocese of Prince George has strengthened through this fiscal year. There are many possibilities opening up to develop a strong, local team of Aboriginal and Non Aboriginal trainers who can deliver the Seminar Series, and ultimately the 5-Day workshop, in the Prince George area.

Our partnership with the community of Hollow Water in Manitoba, continues to produce many openings for individuals, and the community as a whole.

We also have ongoing partnerships with the Diocese of Victoria and the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Partnerships are also being developed with communities on Vancouver Island (Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht), in Nunavut and in Winnipeg with the Aboriginal Circle of Educators (ACE).

The Seminar Series continues to be one focus of our partnerships with communities and our Trainer Development Program.

Four aboriginal communities and one aboriginal organization (ACE) paid the full costs of their 5-Day workshops this year.

Volunteers

Miigwetch Thank you, Merci, Mahsi cho!! to all of our Volunteers! Wherever you are, whatever you do... we couldn't do it without you. We have volunteers in host communities. We have volunteers who help plan and organize Special Events. We have volunteers organizing and leading Seminar Series. We have volunteers organizing mail-outs of our newsletter. We have volunteers sharing the work of RTS in countless ways!

THANK YOU!!



Our Funders

Core Funding

We are grateful to CCEPIRSS (Canadian Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential School Settlement) for their ongoing support of the mission of Returning to Spirit. Without their support, we would not be able to further Reconciliation around the Indian Residential School Legacy.



We are also indebted to the Counseling Foundation of Canada for their continued support of Returning to Spirit. Their initial funding commitment of 3 years was extended for a further two years, and their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Project-Based Funding

We are grateful to an anonymous donor organization, who are strong supporters of our mission of reconciling Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. They unfailingly support our requests for project-based funding, and were one of the primary funders for the Fund Development Director position.

We are grateful to the Calgary Foundation, for supporting our mission by supporting our website redevelopment application. With their support, we were able to redesign our website, make it more user friendly, and allowing for online workshop registration.



Our Donors—2010-2011

50,000+

CCEPIRSS
The Counseling Foundation

Anonymous Donor

10,000+

The Calgary Foundation

500+

Ursuline Religious
Sisters of St. Ann

Diocese of Prince George
Anne Taylor

20+

Fernwood Publishing
Joanne Martell
Sisters of the Presentation
Ni-Gann Training

Lillian Seymour
Jacques Lafrance
Filles de la Croix
United Way

Gifts of In-Kind

Oblates of Mary Immaculate
Missionary Oblate Sisters

Diocese of Pr. George
Kateri Parish, Winnipeg



Financial Report—2010-2011

Overview

The 2010/11 fiscal year has been a time of great development and huge strides forward.

With the solid and significant financial support from CCEPIRSS we have been able to move forward with increasing delivery of the RTS Reconciliation process in Canada. We were able to focus and expand our Trainer Development Program—with outcomes of increased capacity and delivery of the reconciliation process. We were able to expand support for our Seminar Series program, which can require trainers to travel significant distances to offer the follow-up process in the community.

We are grateful to Sister Ann Thomson's estate for contributions towards the Seminar Series. Donations from RTS family/alumni also contribute to RTS development and sustainability.

Funding from the Counseling Foundation of Canada contributed to the Trainer Development Program, as well as infrastructure development.

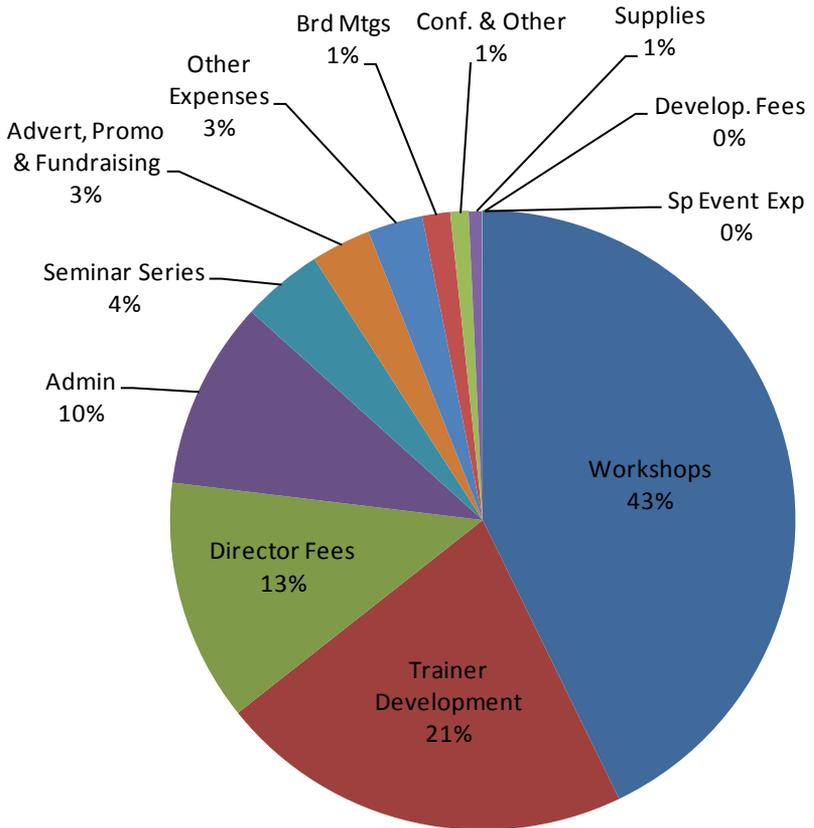
We continue to apply for grants and develop strategic partnerships which support delivery of the RTS program and pilot new initiatives (weekend workshop pilot). Community partnerships remain a vital part of the RTS mission. Increased funding contributions, in-kind and voluntary contributions are critical to the sustainability of RTS.

Workshop delivery, seminar series and trainer development remain the priority in our budget (68.4%), with all other aspects directly supporting the fulfillment of the RTS mission.

We are pleased to acknowledge the continued support of CCEPIRSS into the coming fiscal year. We are also pleased to have secured funding from an anonymous donor which will support the development of the Youth Leadership Development Program. We remain committed to generating sustainability for RTS.



Expenditures—2010-2011



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Donations

We are committed to achieving financial sustainability, and part of that is developing grass-roots financial support. We are a registered non-profit charity and all donations will receive a tax receipt. Please consider contributing to the mission of Reconciliation in this way. Your donation will help us!

Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact the Calgary Office if you are interested in learning more about the ways in which you can contribute to the mission of Reconciliation.

Hosting a Workshop

Please contact the Calgary Office if you would like to bring Returning to Spirit to your community!

Communications/Promotional



Please contact the Calgary Office if you would like to receive promotional information for Returning to Spirit!