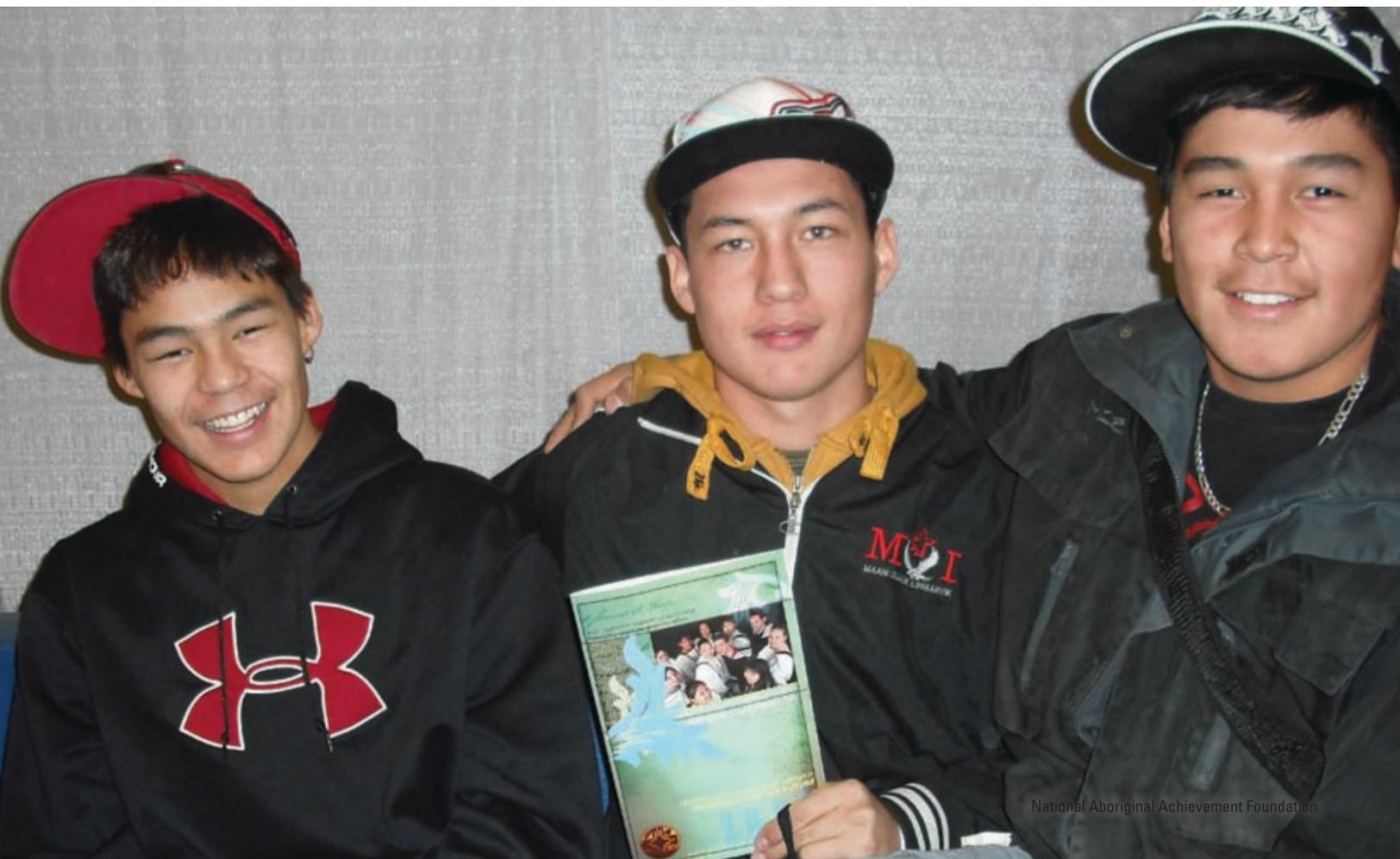


ANNUAL REPORT 2008/2009



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Message from the Chair | 1 |
| Message from the CEO | 2 |
| Achievement | 3 |
| Support | 4 |
| Outreach | 5 |
| Engagement | 6 |
| In The Classroom | 8 |
| Listening to Youth/Involving Youth | 9 |
| Opportunity | 10 |
| Employment | 11 |
| Celebration | 12 |
| Jury | 13 |
| 2009 NAAA Recipients | 14 |
| Student Recipients | 19 |
| Supporters | 22 |
| Board and Staff | 24 |
| Financials | 25 |





Message from the Chair Leonard G. (Len) Flett

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) continues to thrive into its 25th extraordinary year bringing with it the hopes, dreams and aspirations of all First Nations, Inuit and Métis people.

In these challenging economic times we recognize and appreciate the contributions of our numerous government and corporate sponsors who have maintained their generous support for the Foundation's work. Education is indeed the important bridge that will support the recovery while capturing the imagination and energy of our First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth.

On behalf of the Board I would like to salute the outstanding resolve and accomplishments of our CEO Roberta Jamieson and the Foundation staff this past year as they delivered a year of incredible pro-

ductivity while masterfully managing the bottom line. From a record-breaking year of scholarships and bursaries to our Blue Print for the Future (BFF) career fairs and Industry in the Classroom series the Foundation is truly a strong leader and resource for Aboriginal youth across Canada. We were also proud to celebrate the achievements of our 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Award Recipients in Winnipeg this past March. The accomplishments of our peoples as evidenced in the life stories of our recipients and through the talent showcased on stage brought the audience to their feet in adulation. And we

were once again able to share this event with all Canadians through the national broadcasts which followed. The feedback we have received about the show has been unprecedented and ecstatic!

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I invite you to review this year's annual report and thank you for yet another exemplary year and invite everyone to celebrate our first 25 years by looking optimistically toward our next 25.

Leonard G. (Len) Flett
Chair
National Aboriginal Achievement
Foundation

Message from the President and CEO



**Roberta Jamieson
President and
Chief Executive Officer
National Aboriginal
Achievement Foundation**

The Foundation is all about education - and providing the support, encouragement, and inspiration that motivates First Nation, Inuit and Métis youth to make extraordinary efforts to achieve their personal visions.

Each Annual Report is a statement on events in the year past, but it is also a harbinger for the year ahead.

This year – our 24th! – drew upon our full energies to meet the challenges of doing our regular work, of coping with impacts of a global economic crisis, expanding into new terrain and establishing new programming. Rather than leaving us exhausted, the Foundation’s success in these areas has caused us to feel re-energized, rededicated, and ready to continue our growth and advances. I would like to extend a congratulations and a thank you to all our NAAF staff and volunteers for such an outstanding year.

The amount of bursaries granted increased from \$3.4-million the previous year to more than \$4.6-million. The number of applications also increased by 38%, largely due to increased outreach. All those who support the Foundation can take great satisfaction in knowing of this additional support to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students.

At the same time, we must be conscious of the unmet needs – the Foundation can

only meet 27% of the amount needed by our applicants. We must redouble our efforts to encourage donations and endowments from individuals, corporations, governments, organizations and our own peoples.

Last year, with the assistance of new partners, the Foundation continued to expand its programming to support Aboriginal students in trades, particularly those related to the oil and gas industry.

The economic situation globally caused us formidable challenges. Some foundations were badly shaken by the crisis. However, I feel especially gratified to report that although we increased the amount of money we distributed. We operated diligently within our means.

In addition to our career fair in Winnipeg, a fair was held in Iqaluit, continuing our commitment to reach the North with our programs. We also increased our focus on Youth at Risk and held a round table in Winnipeg to engage youth directly in shaping and informing our work.

We have increased our outreach efforts, for the first time training selected recipi-

ents of bursaries as ambassadors to get the word out to others of the support that is available at the Foundation.

I add my voice to the Foundation’s Chair and Board in expressing my thanks and gratitude to individuals and officials who have moved their corporations and governments to make generous contributions to the Foundation.

The Foundation is all about education – and providing the support, encouragement, and inspiration that motivates First Nation, Inuit and Métis youth to make extraordinary efforts to achieve their personal visions, converting dreams to reality, putting their potential to work. We can take satisfaction in all that we do, finding new energies to tackle all which remains yet undone.

**Roberta Jamieson
President & CEO,
National Aboriginal Achievement
Foundation**

ACHIEVEMENT

For the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation it was a year of continued growth in the disbursement of scholarships and bursaries, new partnerships at a time in which the Foundation is marking its 24th year enriching Canada by advancing Aboriginal achievement.

For the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation it was a year of continued growth in the disbursement of scholarship and bursaries, new partnerships and a time in which the Foundation is marking its 24th year enriching Canada by advancing Aboriginal achievement.

The Foundation can attribute this success to the efforts of its many supporters as well as its continued accountability to its supporters, partners, the Aboriginal community and its benefactors.

It was a landmark year with over \$4.6-million disbursed to over 1300 First Nation, Inuit and Métis students nationwide. This year's results are confirmation that the Foundation is thriving, meeting its goals and helping hundreds of Aboriginal students either embark on a new educational journey, continue their quest for higher education or begin thinking about post-secondary education and careers.

Aboriginal people represent the fastest

growing demographic of the Canadian working-age population so their educational success has important implications for the country overall.

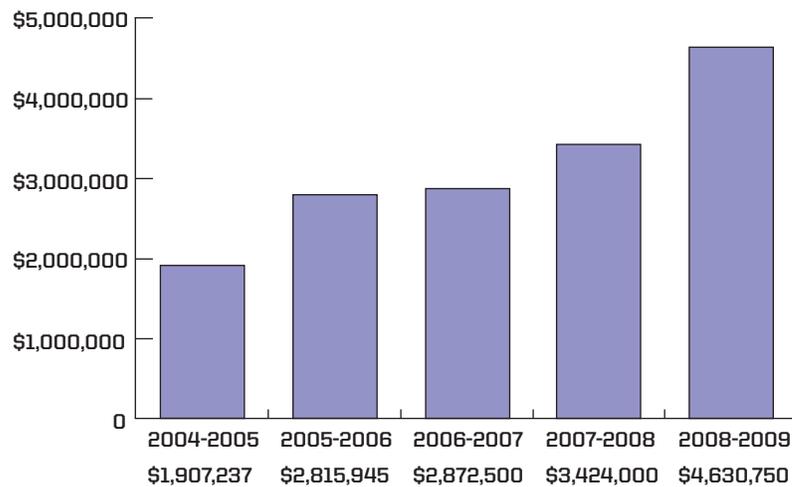
There are significant benefits for Ab-

to their non-Aboriginal counterparts. In addition, post-secondary education is associated with benefits related to earnings, health and well being, and positive levels of civic and community engagement.

This research indicates a number of significant barriers faced by Aboriginal people related to accessing post-secondary education. These barriers included: inadequate financial resources; weaknesses in academic preparation; lack of self-confidence and motivation; a lack of institutional understanding of Aboriginal culture at institutions and experiences of racism and exclusion; and an absence of role models who have post-secondary education experience. The Foundation is meeting these challenges supported by our generous partners and by strengthening

and expanding the existing programs we do deliver.

STEADY GROWTH BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP ALLOCATIONS OVER FIVE YEARS



original people and Aboriginal communities from higher rates of post-secondary education attainment. According to the 2006 Statistics Canada Census data Aboriginal people who held a university degree had employment rates comparable

SUPPORT

NAAF salutes our generous supporters who enable the Foundation to deliver on its vision of 'Enriching Canada by Advancing Aboriginal Achievement.'

NAAF salutes our generous supporters who enable the Foundation to deliver on its vision of Enriching Canada by Advancing Aboriginal Achievement.

While the weight of current economic events takes a toll on many, it is of particular importance that NAAF continues to recognize greatness in our community and that it inspires others-particularly First Nation, Inuit and Métis youth who require and deserve unwavering support in helping build their dreams.

Aboriginal people remain the fastest growing demographic in Canada. NAAF requires this ongoing support to strengthen our communities. NAAF recognizes this support as a solid investment in the future of Canada.



NAAF President and CEO Roberta Jamieson and Great-West Life Regional Director, Group Retirement Services, Dan Carpick, at the bursary announcement.



Edward Kennedy, President and CEO of the North West Company and Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO of the NAAF.

The Foundation is proud to welcome the following new supporters:



Increased awareness of the work NAAF does is due in part to our outreach efforts over the past year.

Multi-media played a larger part this past year in marketing the work NAAF does. From NAAF online banners and links on various national e-newsletter publications, to radio and television commercials, newspaper and magazine ads and promotional videos, NAAF is reaching out through the mediums. The e-newsletter created last year is a large part of the outreach – with over 4000 contacts subscribing to the e-newsletter it is an information tool that informs our supporters, students and partners on a monthly basis. The community is responding. For example, our Inuit nominations have risen by 100 percent and NAAF has seen a consistent increase (38%) in scholarship applications and nominations this year.

As part of Nominations 2009 outreach the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation produced Public Service Announcements (PSAs) for radio and television in English, French and Inuktitut with former recipients calling for 2009 nominations and distributed to radio stations across the country. NAAF also distributed 6,500 Inuktitut nomination forms across Nunavut as an insert in the Nunavut



newspapers.

NAAF attended more conferences and AGMs this year erecting a new full size tradeshow exhibit at various events.

NAAF's information exhibit was seen at Assembly of First Nations (AFN) annual AGM and the National Association of Friendship Centres AGM in Quebec City, the North American Indigenous Games

in Cowichan BC, the IBM Career Fair in Toronto, The Dreamcatcher Festival in Winnipeg, and conferences in The Pas, Brandon, Manitoba and Iqaluit, Nunavut.

Internally NAAF has streamlined our internal communications process implementing publishing and promotion calendars and a rehailed IT system network which translates into more efficient systems in place to meet the needs of increased student applications, additional outreach material and more time to respond to our students and supporters' requests.

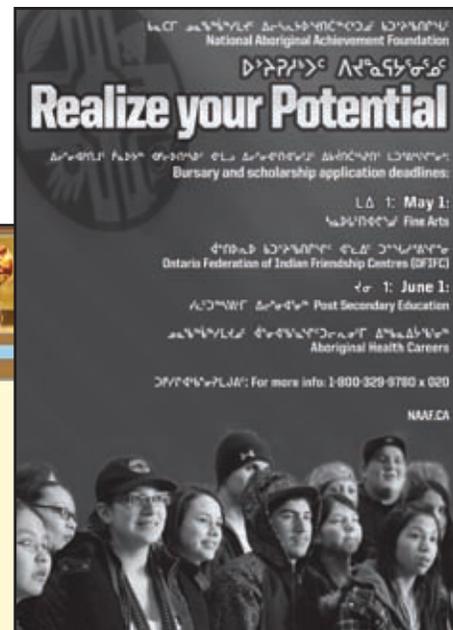
OUTREACH

NAAF is reaching out nationally in three languages, through various mediums and connecting with the community.



Print Ad

NAAF E-News



Print Ad

ENGAGEMENT

Aboriginal families and communities recognize the critical importance of post-secondary education (PSE) in ensuring a strong and prosperous future.

According to recent Statistics Canada Census research, Aboriginal youth are attending university and college in unprecedented numbers, and Aboriginal families and communities recognize the critical importance of post-secondary education (PSE) in ensuring a strong and prosperous future. At the same time, the PSE attainment rates of Aboriginal people remain below those of the overall Canadian population.

This recent data does show a steady increase since the 1980s in participation and completion of PSE among Aboriginal people. Nevertheless, Aboriginal people are still significantly less likely to attain a university degree than a college or trades diploma, and there remains a significant gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal PSE attainment rates overall.

These lower education rates are particularly significant given the demographics of the Aboriginal population. In the 2006 Census, the number of people who identified themselves as Aboriginal surpassed the one million mark, at 1,172,790.

The potential workforce is astounding with a growing need for qualified trained workers across Canada.

In 2004-05 NAAF provided \$1.9 million in scholarships and bursaries in contrast to 2008-09 in which we provided

\$4,630,750. This is impressive; however, NAAF can do more when the stats are seeing a 38% rise in applications this year alone and NAAF is only able to meet 27% of the needs of the students who applied. NAAF looks forward to meeting the needs of these students by increasing our scholarship funds.

NAAF's goal is to help students realize their dreams and aspirations to build brighter futures.

**Total Amount
Awarded in
2008/2009 :
\$4,630,750**



BURSARY AND SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM 2008-2009

| Education Program | Number of Recipients | Amount Requested | Amount Allocated |
|-------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Fine Arts | 67 | \$1,232,314 | \$147,200 |
| Health Careers | 457 | \$10,178,981 | \$2,506,800 |
| PSE | 752 | \$10,339,037 | \$1,854,050 |
| OGTT | 65 | \$273,610 | \$122,700 |
| Total | 1,341 | \$22,023,942 | \$4,630,750 |

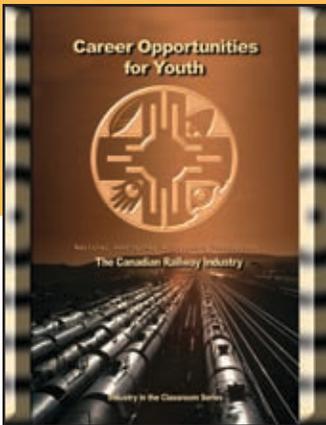


**The National
Aboriginal
Achievement
Foundation offers
financial awards to
First Nations (status
and non-status), Inuit
and Métis students
through four major
programs:**

- **The Fine Arts Bursary Awards Program** - post-secondary studies, personal development, training with a professional or at a non-accredited arts organization, in fields such as visual, performing, media, theatre, production, graphic and literary arts.
- **The Post-Secondary Education Bursary Awards Program** - for study in business, science, law, engineering, technical studies, computer science, education, social work and social sciences.
- **The Aboriginal Health Careers Program** - for study in health sciences such as medicine, nursing, dentistry, biology, physiotherapy, pharmacy, laboratory research and any other health field in which a study of hard sciences is a prerequisite.
- **The Oil & Gas Trades & Technology Bursary & Scholarship Program** - for study in areas such as general education diploma, applied diploma or degree programs in oil & gas trades & technology fields, academic upgrading or preparation, pre-trades training, apprenticeship education programs, and pre-employment training.

IN THE CLASSROOM

This past year the Industry in the Classroom Program expanded into the broadcasting sector with two new modules.

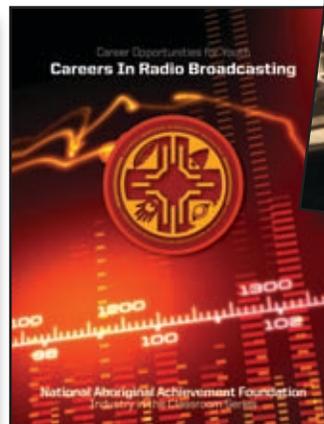
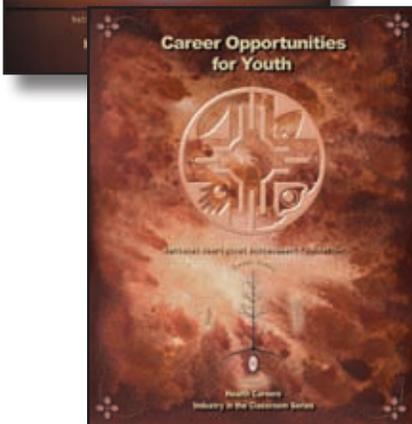
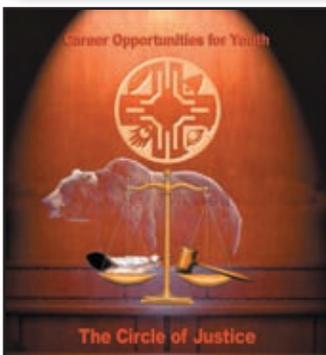
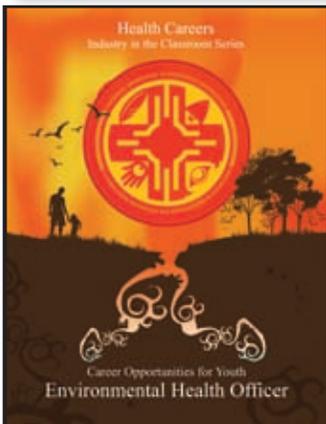


Industry in the Classroom is a series of 2.5 hour curriculum modules designed to increase awareness amongst Aboriginal youth about the various career opportunities in the Canadian workforce opening doors to employment. Through these curriculum modules students are recruited to careers in various industries, motivating them to stay in school.

NAAF has partnered with Canadian corporations, federal departments, national organizations, and other private sector companies to implement Industry in the Classroom. Aboriginal educators and youth participated in focus groups directing the curriculum's design.

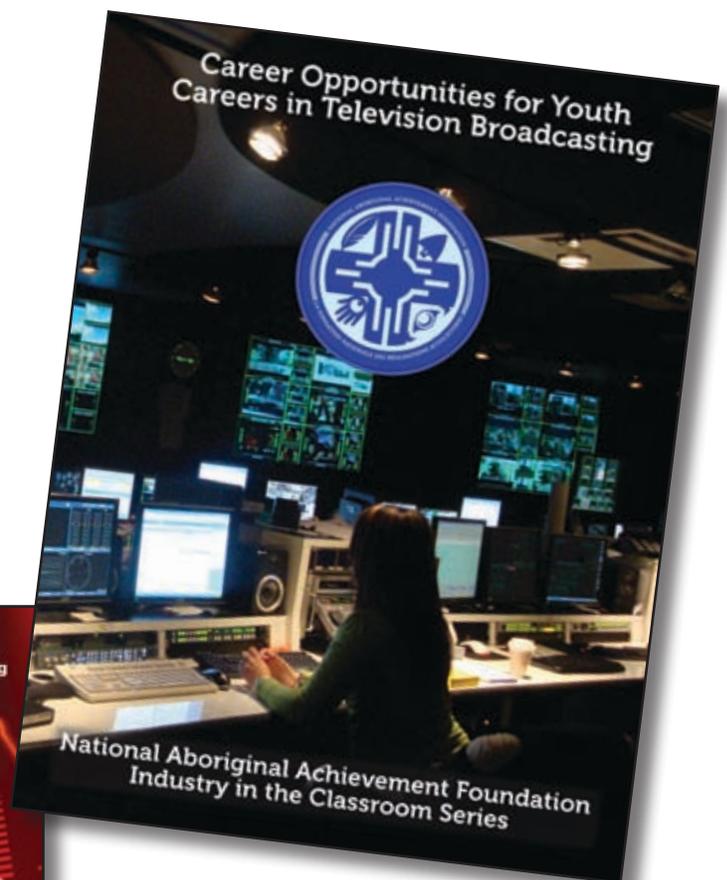
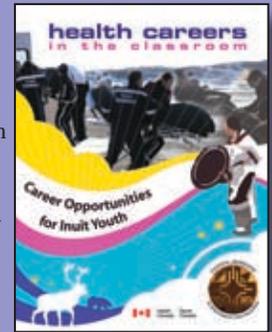
This past year the program expanded into the broadcasting sector with two new modules. The radio broadcasting module produced this past year with partner Astral Media Inc. highlights careers in the radio broadcasting sector. The television module produced with partner Canwest Inc. highlights careers in the TV broadcasting sector.

Other modules include Justice, Health, Railway, Transportation, Justice and Environmental Health Officer. Some modules were produced in French and Inuktitut.



Extending the Reach

As a way to extend the reach of ANAAF's popular Industry in the Classroom series, a Train the Trainer approach was developed in partnership with Health Canada. NAAF works with many provincial and territorial organizations nationally to train interested people as facilitators. Once the facilitators are trained they deliver the NAAF Health Careers in the Classroom to First Nations, Inuit and Métis students regionally in their areas. The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and Health Canada held four workshops in the following regions: Yukon, British Columbia and Quebec. In Quebec the workshops were held in English and in French.



LISTENING TO YOUTH

Urban Aboriginal Youth Round Table designed to engage at-risk youth and inform NAAF's future planning and programming.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has conducted collaborative roundtables with shareholders, laureates and scholarship recipients in the past to identify issues or gaps in the delivery of NAAF programs.

Last year NAAF conducted a one day At-Risk Urban Aboriginal Youth Round Table on March 4, 2009, in Winnipeg, Manitoba. The round table was designed to engage at-risk youth in a forum that would inform NAAF's future planning and programming. Most importantly, the session was designed to engage students in activities that would identify factors and issues that prevent at-risk youth from completing school.

A total of 25 Aboriginal students 12-17 years of age were invited to participate in the round table.

The session was very well received by the group providing a forum for students to share their experiences and identify factors that impact at-risk youth preventing them from completing high school.

The purpose of the At-Risk Aboriginal Youth Roundtable was to engage youth in discussion and activities that would identify the factors that impact at-risk youth and prevent them

from completing high school. These collaborative roundtables help inform future programming.



INVOLVING YOUTH

Several students who received a health scholarship from the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, were selected to participate in a national Health Poster series produced by NAAF and to be distributed this fall.

Successful scholarship students have been used in the past by NAAF to promote programs and initiatives. For instance, in order to reach as many students as possible, NAAF enlisted the help of students to assist in getting out the message about a new Métis bursary. These youth ambassadors attended a one day training session and were sent out to their respective provinces to deliver the message through their respective networks.

For the Health Careers Poster Series sponsored by Health Canada six students from across the country, studying in various health-related fields, travelled to Toronto on May 29 to take part in a photo shoot.

"The NAAF health bursary gave me the opportunity to focus solely on my education and perform to my greatest ability," said Daniss Rice, a graduate from the

Paramedic Program at Durham College and a member of Wasauksing First Nation in Ontario.

"Thank you for the Round Table discussion. The activities were fun and interesting. This opportunity was a good experience for me and the other youths."

- Cheyenne Johnson



"I think it was important for students to see successful First Nations People. It encouraged hope and pride to be successful ourselves ..."

Blueprint for the Future (BFF) is a series of national career fairs designed to attract First Nation, Inuit and Métis high school students to the wide array of potential careers available in all employment sectors. As Aboriginal youth are the fastest growing segment of the Canadian population, it is imperative that we continue to introduce First Nation, Inuit and Métis high school students to the world of career opportunities in Canada.

This past year NAAF held two successful career fairs in Iqaluit and Winnipeg. As part of the Foundation's commitment to the far north, the Iqaluit BFF was held at Inuksuk High School in Iqaluit Nunavut with schools attending from the Baffin region (Qikiqtani) which included Pangnirtung, Cape Dorset & Kimmirut. Students and their escorts travelled from across the massive region to Iqaluit. The event was hosted by Madeleine Allakariallak (Journalist) featuring entertainment and a traditional Inuk opening and closing ceremony. There were over 30 workshops in the areas of health, medicine, business, sciences, technology, finance, education, and manufacturing.

"It was awesome! It gave me so much more confidence to finish school..." said one student in Iqaluit.

The Winnipeg BFF held in January hosted a total of 60 workshops in the areas of health, medicine, business, sciences, technology, finance, education, and mining & exploration. With over 1500 participants, the seminar attendees received practical information on career options, educational requirements and current and future employment trends. The trade show at the

Winnipeg BFF had a total of 69 booths which allowed the students to interact with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal professionals and role models. Student participants from a total of 55 schools attended the Winnipeg BFF, with the majority being within the Province of Manitoba, with one school from British Columbia and one school from Northern Ontario.

Hosted by broadcaster and NAAF education scholarship recipient Shaneen

Robinson, the event featured hip-hop group Team RezOfficial and Juno winner Burnt Project 1.

In all over 32,000 students have participated in Blueprint Career Fairs nationwide from Halifax and Vancouver, Yellowknife and Whitehorse to Edmonton and Ottawa.

"I think it was important for students to see successful First Nations People. It encouraged hope and pride to be successful ourselves ..."

OPPORTUNITY

This past year NAAF held two successful career fairs in Iqaluit and Winnipeg.



EMPLOYMENT

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation is connecting employers with the fastest growing demographic in Canada through a dynamic and ever growing job board. NAAF partners have the opportunity to post jobs and connect with thousands of our students who have successfully received our education scholarships and bursaries.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) is connecting employers with the fastest growing demographic in Canada in a dynamic and ever growing job board.

NAAF partners and sponsors have the opportunity through a login and password to post jobs and connect with thousands of our students who have successfully received our education scholarships and bursaries.

This initiative furthers NAAF's commitment to providing educational, training and career opportunities to First Nation, Inuit and Métis students. This also allows our partners access to

trained and qualified students who are now the largest demographic in Canada

Calgary student and National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation bursary recipient, Christopher Fry was successful at securing a summer position at Imperial Oil, as a Land Analyst through the Foundation's Job Board.

Fry, a fifth year student at the University

of Calgary, said he heard about the Job Board through a NAAF email blast.

"I was excited to learn that there was a resource for Aboriginal students to access where we could find jobs related

to our educational experience," said Fry.

The Albertan, who is pursuing bachelor degrees in International Indigenous Studies and Commerce with a concentration in Energy Management, is looking forward to gaining valuable experience in Imperial Oil's Land Negotiations department this summer.

Janet Maaten, Imperial Oil's

Aboriginal Relations Manager said Imperial Oil is "very interested in connecting with Aboriginal students, supporting their academic pursuits through scholarships, and providing them with opportunities for employment."

"Since 2007, Imperial has supported 26 students through the Imperial Oil Scholarship program administered

by NAAF. In 2008, we were invited to participate in the Job Board. It's a simple and efficient way for us to link students to jobs posted on the Imperial Oil Careers website."

With new job postings appearing regularly on the Job Board, Fry said he would recommend the Job Board to students and recent graduates seeking employment.

"Many of the companies that post jobs are seeking qualified Aboriginal people to fill their positions, so it is important that people keep up to date on the opportunities out there and take the time to apply," said Fry.



"I was excited to learn that there was a resource for Aboriginal students to access where we could find jobs related to our educational experience."

CELEBRATION

Now entering its 17th year, the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards have become a Canadian institution.



The 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Award Recipients: pictured - Rev. Stan Cuthand; Gordon W. Prest; Adam Sioui; Cecil King; Candace Grier-Lowe; Carol Morin; Mervin J. Dewasha; Allan C. McLeod; Joan Glode; Delia Opekokew; Paul Okalik; Stephen J. Augustine; Melanie Jackson; Dennis Jackson; Chelsea Lavallée; Special Guests: CIBC President and CEO Gerry McCaughey, Chair of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Len Flett; Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians, The Honourable Chuck Strahl; Minister of Health, Leona Aglukkaq; and President and CEO of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, Roberta Jamieson.

In celebrating the accomplishments of Aboriginal people, The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) has become the premier Aboriginal cultural event in the country celebrating the career achievements of outstanding Aboriginal people.

The 16th NAAA celebration held this past year in Winnipeg was a moving, unforgettable theatrical experience and a great source of pride for all Canadians. The live event was followed by a post-gala reception attended by recipients, performers and invited audience, including corporate, government and Aboriginal leaders from across the country.

Since inception, the NAAA have recognized the accomplishments of 225 First Nations, Inuit and Métis People. The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards were established in 1993 as Canada's contribution to the United Nations' International Year and subsequently declared International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

Each year, the live event is taped for television and subsequently broadcast nationally enabling all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the heroes of the Aboriginal community. This year's broadcast

partners were Global and APTN.

The one and a half hour NAAA gala ceremony was aired on Saturday March 21, 2009 @ 8:00pm EST on Global and 10:00pm EST on APTN.

The evening brings together high profile members of Canada's corporate, political and Aboriginal communities, including Federal and Provincial Ministers, Presidents of some of Canada's largest companies and National Aboriginal leaders and regional Chiefs.

The NAAA have become a Canadian institution recognized by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike. The only awards system of its kind, the NAAA have broken stereotypes and created valuable role models for Aboriginal youth. The awards serve to inform Canadians of the strides that are being made by individuals with the discipline and determination to set high standards and reach their goals. They also feature and celebrate the rich history and contemporary reality of Aboriginal people set in the landscape of the host venue, in this case, Manitoba.

Executive Producer Roberta Jamieson, along with acclaimed producer, actor, writer Jennifer Podemski led the highly talented achievement awards

production team.

This year's theme was SPIRIT. Both the Cree and Ojibway people of the territory used this word to describe Manitoba. All elements of the show this year, from set design to performance, echoed this theme, reflecting the spirit of Manitoba's environment, landscape and unique perspectives of Métis, Inuit and First Nation cultures.

With the help of our illustrious hosts Adam Beach and Tina Keeper, the audience in attendance and across Canada enjoyed a diverse range of performances from blues singer George Leach, west-coast songstress Janet Panic, Manitoba superstars Eagle & Hawk, performing with members of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra and show closers The Asham Stompers, a high energy Jig and Square Dance group. The Métis Fiddle Quartet, Canada's most unique and versatile young musical groups renowned for their mastery of traditional Canadian Métis fiddle music and The Summer Bear Dance Troupe made up of Ojibway, Cree, Assiniboine and Sioux dancers also performed rounding off the entertainment with an infusion of traditional dance.

Jury for the 2009 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards

Boyd Wesley Benjamin

Youth Award (2008)
Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nation
Old Crow, Yukon

Hon. Pearl Calahasen

Public Service Award (2004)
Métis
Alberta

Andrea Dykstra

Youth Award (2006)
M'ikmaw, Pictou Landing First Nation
Nova Scotia

Sharon Firth

Sports Award (2005)
Gwich'in First Nation
Northwest Territories

Joe Handley

Politics Award (2008)
Métis
Saskatchewan

Sylvia Maracle

Public Service Award (2008)
Mohawk
Tyendinaga Mohawk Territories

Dr. Jeff Reading, MSc. PhD

Health Award (2008)
Mohawk, Tyendinaga

Photos Top: Mel Benson, Member of the Suncor Energy Board of Directors and Chair of the Environment, Health and Safety Committee, recipient Cecil King, and Premier of Nunavut Eva Aariak

Middle: Manitoba Métis Federation, President, David Chartrand, recipient Candace Grier Lowe, and Member of Parliament for the riding of Winnipeg South, Rod Bruinooge

Bottom: Adam Beach and Tina Keeper, hosts of the 2009 Awards



2009 RECIPIENTS



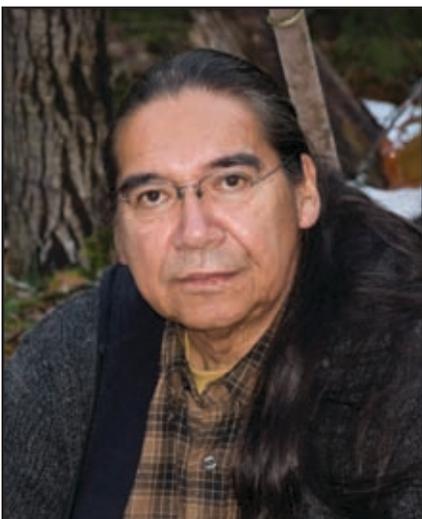
The Rev. Stan Cuthand - (Plains Cree, Saskatchewan) Lifetime Achievement Award

Stan Cuthand saw in the church an opportunity to get a higher education, to be of service to his people, and a means of bridging cultural and language barriers. He seized that opportunity and it became his life. Throughout his life Rev. Cuthand's command of the Cree language acted to facilitate change and engage Cree-speaking peoples in decision making processes both large and small. Working in his early years as an interpreter for Elders and Chiefs at meetings with Indian Affairs, his advocacy has spanned decades, highlighted by his involvement drafting the first constitution of the Federation of Saskatchewan Indians. The first person to teach Cree at the University level, Rev. Cuthand has translated the speeches of Big Bear and Poundmaker, and contributed to the curriculum of First Nations and History departments.



Dr. Paul Okalik - (Inuk, Nunavut) Politics

Paul Okalik's journey has been a long and important one. Returning to school as a mature student he went on to become the Premier of Nunavut's first government and was re-elected for a second term in 2004. Overseeing the coming of a new age for the Inuit of Northeastern Canada, Okalik facilitated Nunavut's transformation with its consensus based governance system, which has run smoothly since its inception in 1999. Vigorously working to protect the language of his people, Okalik brings over 20 years of negotiation experience to his post. Earning an Honours PHD of Law from Carlton University in 1999, Okalik is also the first Inuk lawyer in the history of both Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.



Stephen J. Augustine - (Mi'kmaq, New Brunswick) Culture, Heritage & Spirituality

Hereditary Chief on the Mi'kmaq Grand Council and by Elders' training since an early age, Stephen J. Augustine has a thorough command of traditional practices, his language and the history of his people. He was among the first to bring Aboriginal perspectives into a National Institution and is presently Curator of Ethnology for Eastern Maritimes at the Canadian Museum of Civilization. Using his wealth of traditionally based knowledge combined with a Masters degree, Augustine has worked extensively with the United Nations programs on development and the environment, and had also been teaching at Carleton University in Ottawa.

2009 RECIPIENTS



Adam Sioui - (Huron-Wendat, Quebec) Sports

As a member of the Canadian Olympic Swim team, he competed in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. A member of the Canadian National Swim Team since 1999, Mr. Sioui holds the Canadian record in 200m Butterfly as well as setting several Canadian National Age Group records and a Canadian relay record. Mr. Sioui is a contributing writer for Swim News magazine as well. A regular speaker at celebrity events and fundraisers he also worked as part of a volunteer group that visited hospitalized children and school children emphasizing the importance of exercise in their lives.



Allan C. McLeod - (Cree & Ojibway, Manitoba) Business & Commerce

President and CEO of Tribal Councils Investment Group of Manitoba (TCIG), and named one of "Canada's Top 40 Under 40," entrepreneur Allan C. McLeod comes from humble beginnings. As a student, he persuaded a bank to approve a mortgage for his first real estate purchase, a property he still owns today. Allan began his career with TCIG in an entry level, management trainee position. He rose quickly to the position of President and CEO, where he remains today. Sales increased 631% from 10 years ago and TCIG has returned nearly \$17 million in dividends to the Tribal Councils, a cumulative return of nearly a thousand times more on initial investment. As the President and CEO of TCIG, Allan also ensures that the TCIG and the Charitable Foundation contribute to activities that benefit the community at large.



Chelsea Lavallee - (Métis, St. Ambroise, Manitoba) Special Youth Award

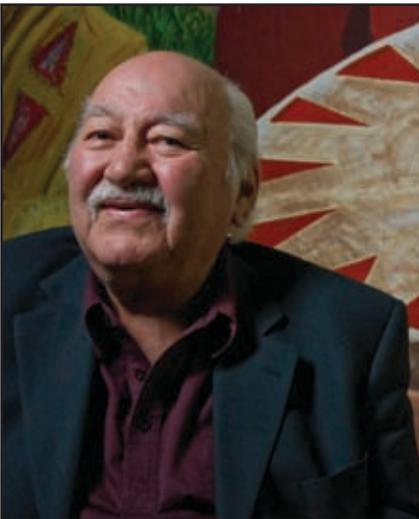
A grade 12 student from St. Ambroise Manitoba, avid volunteer and master of the Red River Jig, Chelsea Lavallée is a young and accomplished promoter of all things Métis. Member of the St. Ambroise Youth Steppers Square Dance Team, she uses dance as a means of cultural promotion across the province of Manitoba, helping her to win Métis Miss Teen Manitoba in 2005. Asked to share her life story in 2006 at the 38th Annual MMF General Assembly, Lavallée's Métis upbringing has helped her earn a 2006 National Métis Youth Role Model Award, 2006/2007 National Aboriginal Role Model Award and a 2007 Manitoba Aboriginal Youth Achievement Award.

2009 RECIPIENTS



**Joan Glode - (Acadia Band, Nova Scotia)
Public Service**

Protecting Aboriginal children is Joan Glode's life's work. As one of the first Aboriginal women in Canada to receive a graduate degree in social work, Joan Glode has harnessed her passions for children and the Mi'kmaw community to develop one of the most highly respected child welfare agencies in the nation. Mi'kmaw Family and Children's Services of Nova Scotia has grown to become a multi-million dollar funded organization, giving it the ability to reach out and foster projects that target each and every one of the 13 Mi'kmaw bands in Nova Scotia.



**Dr. Cecil King - (Wiwemikong First Nation, Ontario)
Education**

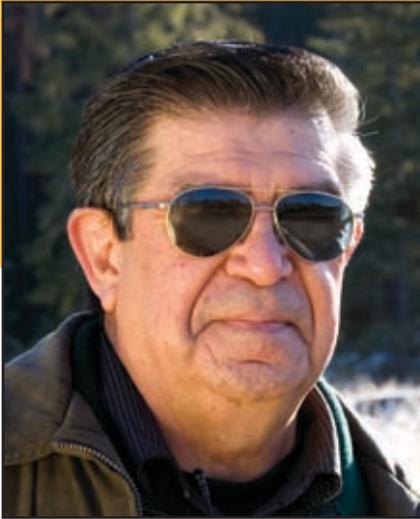
A lifelong educator, Cecil King has fought hard to see his belief that First Nations children need not sacrifice their culture and teachings in school begin to come to fruition. Retired Professor Emeritus of Queens University, King became Dean of the Saskatoon Campus of the First Nations University of Canada. He currently works as a resident Elder, teaching Ojibwe and writing and translating Ojibwe texts.



**Candace Grier-Lowe - (Norway House Cree Nation, Manitoba)
Health**

Candace Grier-Lowe chose not to listen to her high school counselor who recommended she not go to university. Instead she became a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine. Since graduating in 2005, becoming one of the few Aboriginals in the world to achieve this lofty goal, she has charted a new path as a role model. Dr. Grier-Lowe has since become the first successful candidate to be accepted into the only combined Veterinary Dentistry Residency and Masters Degree in Veterinary Science offered in the world.

2009 RECIPIENTS



Gordon W. Prest - (Sto:lo First Nation, British Columbia) Environment & Natural Resources

Using his life experience as a tool for change, Gordon Prest is a modern day keeper of the land. Working as an advisor and negotiator in the British Columbia forestry industry for over 45 years he now focuses on community economic development and capacity building projects for First Nations communities. Prest was formerly an instructor at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology, and helped establish the University of British Columbia Faculty Of Forestry's Aboriginal Initiative in 1994.



Delia Opekokew - (Canoe Lake Cree Nation, Saskatchewan) Law & Justice

Delia Opekokew was 8 years old before she learned English, making her current private law practice in Toronto a testament to her ability to adapt. Meshing urban lawyer and scholar with tradition, Delia has used her upbringing to ground her work as she furthers the cause of justice for Aboriginal people, and the civil liberties and human rights for all Canadians. Representing Dudley George's family, fighting for the compensation and redress of First Nations land claims as well as First Nations war veterans, Opekokew's work speaks for itself in its scope for change.



Carol Morin - (Cree/Chipewyan, Saskatchewan) Media & Communication

Voice of the North, award-winning-journalist Carol Morin is best known as a television host on three major broadcast networks, CBC, CTV and APTN. Becoming the first Aboriginal woman to anchor a national news broadcast in Canada on CBC NewsWorld, Morin has helped make First Nations peoples of Canada more prominent and visible to the general public. As an avid drummer, visual artist and writer, Morin uses these forms of expression to build connections with her culture and her community.

2009 RECIPIENTS



**Dennis Jackson - (Peter Ballantyne Cree Nation, Saskatchewan)
Arts (Shared)**

Using broadcast media as a means for not only culture and language retention, but rejuvenation, Dennis Jackson is the Gemini Award winning Producer and President of Wapos Bay Productions. Specializing in children's animated television programs that showcase Aboriginal peoples and their stories; Wapos Bay is leaving waves of change in its wake, netting a 2007 Gemini for 'Best Children's or Youth Fiction Program or Series.'



**Melanie Jackson - (Saulteaux, Sakimay First Nation, Saskatchewan)
Arts (Shared)**

Writer, Director, and Editor of animation projects and documentaries for Dark Thunder Productions, Melanie Jackson is breaking ground for a new generation of storytellers. Contributing to different productions such as Voices of Aboriginal Youth, Ekospi Namew - At the Time of the Sturgeon, and the 2007 Gemini Award winning Wapos Bay, Jackson's natural storytelling talents are creating valuable outlets for First Nations narratives and dialogue.



**Mervin Dewasha - (Wahta Mohawk Territory, Ontario)
Technology & Trades**

Giving back and leading by example, Mervin J. Dewasha's long career with INAC as the Director of Engineering was a driving force to improve the quality of services to First Nations communities. Presently he is the CEO of Neegan Burnside Ltd. Responsible for operations, management, business development and mentoring new staff of this Aboriginal owned engineering and environmental consulting service, Mr. Dewasha developed the practice of employing First Nation people within his workforce and apprenticeship programs. In 1999 and 2001 he developed the National Aboriginal Career Symposium to showcase various educational, employment and trades opportunities in science, math and careers open to Aboriginal youth.

A CROSS-SECTION OF 2008/2009 STUDENTS THAT NAAF IS SUPPORTING



Christopher Lafontaine (Métis) SK.

Third year of a four year Bachelor of Business Administration program at First Nations University

"I consider NAAF to be one of the reasons why I have made the decision to pursue my education and try to be as diverse in my skill set... I want to be a part of the significant change for Aboriginal peoples in my own province."



Melanie Lumsden, Inuit,

Completing the final year of a four year Bachelor of Arts program in Political Science at the Université du Quebec a Montréal

"I firmly believe that my experience in the community allows me to realize at which point my urban Native identity is present in my academic choices, my motivation and my personality."



Charlotte Satink (First Nations), SK.

Third year of a four year Bachelor of Science in Business Management degree program at the University of Phoenix

"Perseverance is my best friend... I don't give up and thrive when challenged."



Carolyn Brown (First Nations), B.C.

Final year of a two year Masters of Economics program at Concordia University

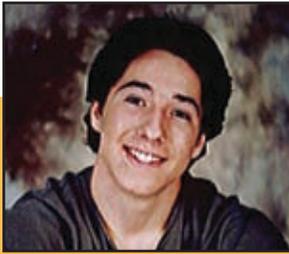
"I am strongly committed to making a contribution to the eventual economic and social successes of the First Nations communities in Canada."



Barbara Ednie (Métis), MB.

Third year of a four year Bachelor of Social Work Degree program at the University of Manitoba

"I have chosen this area of study as I have a deep passionate desire to put back resources into my community, and create a future that provides my descendants with the ability to have a voice... social work is my passion."



Jonathan Dutcher (First Nations), NB

Second year of a three year Bachelor of Music at St. Francis Xavier University

“My passion for music continues to grow over the years with every new concept and instrument that I learn about. Wanting to become the greatest full rounded musician that I can be has become my main aspiration, driving me to seek out new ways to express myself musically.”



Angie Bruce (Métis), MB

Final year of a two year Masters of Business Administration program at the University of Manitoba

“How are we as First Nations, Inuit and Metis people going to move toward health and prosperity unless we are able to control our own destiny and support our people through culturally appropriate healing methods, services and programs?”



Ruth Ladouceur (First Nations), ON

First year of a four year Honours Bachelor of Arts in Communication Studies program at Laurentian University

“Personally, I see the completion of university as long overdue and just as with high school students, is a means of rounding out one stage of life and transitioning into another.”



Nyla Innuksuk (Inuit), Nunavut

Fourth and final year of a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Filmmaking at Ryerson University in Toronto

“The focus of most of my films is on inter-racial communications and truthful representation of minority cultures. The plight of the Inuit youth motivate much of my research and subject matter.”



Michelle Fletcher (Métis), AB.

Third year of a four year Bachelor of Engineering program at the University of Calgary

“I am a minority within my field not only because I am Metis but because I am a woman as well. I therefore believe I can help any one else realize that they can reach any goal that they put their mind to as long as they are willing to work hard to achieve what they want.”



Mary Leia Sowdluapik Cunningham, Inuit,

Continuing in the second year of a four year Doctor of Veterinary Medicine program at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan

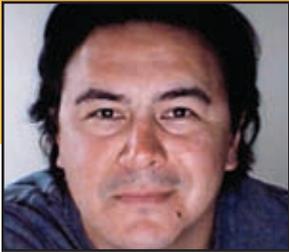
“I plan on returning to Nunavut as the first ever Inuit doctor so that I may open a much needed small animal veterinarian clinic.”



Trevor Cameron (Métis), AB

Final year of a four year Bachelor of Science program in Engineering at the University of Calgary

"I believe we should all do our best to prepare the minds that are to follow us... I would like to think that working my way into the faculty might inspire young individuals...to strive for a higher education, and influence those around them to do the same."



James Cutfeet (First Nations), ON

Third year of a four year Medical program at the Northern Ontario School of Medicine

"Becoming a doctor is a long journey, one that starts years before medical school. It is a journey fraught with many challenges and struggles... I am thankful that an organization, such as the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation, exists to offer peer support and financial aide to students like myself."



Noria Deacon (Métis), YT

First year of a five year Bachelor of Arts program at Malaspina University-College

"I am passionate about becoming a teacher... Children are a very important part of the future and I want to help them develop."



Thomas Benjoe (First Nations), SK.

Fourth year of a five year Bachelor of Business Administration program at the First Nations University of Canada

"Business has now become my life and I will continuously try to find a way to create opportunities for First Nation people so that we can build a sustainable future for future generations."



Chantal Fiola (Métis), MB.

Third year of a four year Doctor of Philosophy Indigenous Studies program at Trent University

"My goal in life is to discover and nurture my gifts and skills and dedicate myself to serving my people and my communities in any way that I can."



Sandra Demcheson, Inuit,

Completing the final year of a two year Human Services Diploma program at Arctic College

"I want to share my skills by teaching people Inuktitut and give out information to all Nunavut communities on behalf of the Department of Justice."

SUPPORTERS



Supporters

Aboriginal Books Canada
Aboriginal Business Canada
Aboriginal Centre of Winnipeg Inc.
Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce
Aboriginal Leadership Institute Inc.
Agilent Technologies Inc.
Aikins, MacAulay & Thorvaldson LLP
All Nations Print Ltd.
Allan Donovan Law Corporation
Allan McLeod
Alyssa Tran
Andy Popko
Angel Entertainment
Anishinaabe Child & Family Services
Anna K. Fung
AON Reed Stenhouse Ltd.
Arctic Co-operatives Limited
Ardith Walkem
ARTIS Reit
Assembly of First Nations
Assembly of Manitoba Chiefs
Association of Canada Lands Surveyors
ATCO Frontec
Audcomp Computer Systems
Baffin Regional Chamber of Commerce
Baffinland Iron Mines Corporation
Barbara L. Whitcraft
Beverly O'Neil

Bill Shead
Boyd Benjamin
Bruce Chwartacki
Business Development Bank of Canada
Canada Council for the Arts
Canada Millennium Scholarship Foundation
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation
Canada Safeway Ltd.
Canadian Bar Association - British Columbia Branch
Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business
Canadian Energy Pipeline Association
Canadian Forces
Canadian Heritage
Canadian Museum of Civilization
Canadian Museum of Human Rights
CancerCare Manitoba
Candace Grier-Lowe
CANDO - Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers
Carol Morin
Casino Rama
Catherine Blackstock
Cecil King
Celeste McKay Consulting
Chaslenn Gillanders
Chelsea Lavallee
Christiane Cote

Cindy Blackstock
Citibank Canada
City of Winnipeg
Clinton Davis
CN
Comstock Canada Ltd.
Congress of Aboriginal Peoples
Cree-Neskapi Commission
Cynthia Callison & Darwin Hanna
Darlene Prosser
Darryl Peck
De Beers Canada Inc.
Delia Opekokew Barrister & Solicitor
Dennis and Melanie Jackson
Destination Winnipeg
Devlen Gailus Barristers & Solicitors
Direct Focus
DOMO
Douglas Regehr
Dr. Marie Battiste, Dr. James Youngblood
Henderson, Ms. Annie Battiste
Dr. Neville Poy
EDS an HP Company
Edward L. Wilson
Elaine A. Watson
Elijah Harper
Enbridge Inc.
EnCana

SUPPORTERS

Engineers Canada
ESI Canada
First Air
First Canadian Health Management Corporation
First Nations Bank of Canada
Fort McKay Group of Companies
Fortis Alberta
Fortis Canada
Frank Iacobucci
Frito Lay Canada
G.W. Wasden Fishing Co. Ltd.
Gale Creek Fishing Ltd.
Gary Gauthier
George N. Hungerford
Ginger Lerner
Gordon Prest
Grant Thornton LLP
Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life Health Canada
Hewlett-Packard (Canada) Co.
Hill Dewar Vincent
Honourable Joe Handley
Hudbay Minerals Inc.
Hugh Munro Construction
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada
Huron Wendat First Nation
Ian Sutherland
IBM Canada
Imperial Oil
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
Investors Group
Jacques Whitford Ltd.
Jane Tyler
Jeannelle Savona
Jennifer Conkie Law Corporation
Joan Glode
Joe Handley
Jonathan Northpeigan
Joseph Garrison
Julie Darnay
Kakivak Association
Karen Smith
Koskie Minsky LLP
Ledcor CMI Ltd.
Lee Schmidt
Leslie Twovoice
Little Pine First Nation
Lorne Keeper
Lorne Lachance
Lyse Cantin
Madeleine Gordon
Maggie Likavec
Magnolia Unka
Manitoba Blue Cross
Manitoba Film & Sound
Manitoba First Nation Education Resource Centre
Manitoba Keewatinowi Okinakanak Inc. (MKO)
Manitoba Lotteries Corporation
Manitoba Métis Federation
Maria Morellato
Me-Dian Credit Union
Mel Balfour
Mel Chartrand
Mervin Dewasha
Métis Fiddler Quartet
Meyers Norris Penny
Michelle Hopkin
Mikmaw Kina'motnewey
Mining Association of Canada
Mona Park
Monique Simard
Musqueam Indian Band
Nancy Smith
National Aboriginal Health Organization
National Association of Friendship Centres
National Bank Financial
National Defence, Directorate of Human Rights
Native Spirit Fisheries Ltd.
Native Women's Association of Canada
Nexcy Inc.
NorthwesTel
Norway House Cree Nation
Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians
Olga Kauilchuk
Ontario Power Generation
Oster, Hostin & Harcourt LLP
Outcrop Communications Ltd.
Parks Canada
Pat Mandy
Patte McDonald
Paul Okalik
Peace Hills Trust
Pepsi QTG Canada
Perimeter Aviation Ltd.
Peter Ramsay
Peter W. Hutchins
Petro-Canada
Pitblado LLP
Power Corporation of Canada
Prairie Rose School District
Precambrian Wholesale Ltd.
Progressive Construction Ltd.
Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada
Province of Manitoba
R. Howard Webster Foundation
RBC Foundation
Red River College
Red River Indian Friendship Centre
Rev. Stan Cuthand
Rio Tinto
Roberta Jamieson
Ronald MacIsaac
Ronne A. Heming
Royal Alberta Museum
SAIT Polytechnic
Samantha Snyder
San Gold Corporation
Sandra Volk
Scotiabank
Sechelt Indian Band
Serad Holdings Limited
Sheila Burns
Six Nations of the Grand River Territory
Sodexo (Manitoba)
Sodexo (Quebec)
Sophia M. Nishimoto
South Beach Casino & Resort
Southern Chiefs Organization
St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino
Stephen Augustine
Strategic Alliance of Broadcasters for Aboriginal Reflection (SABAR)
Susan Riley
Syncrude Canada Ltd.
T.E. Investment Counsel Inc.
Tachane Foundation Inc.
Talisman Energy
TD Bank Financial Group
The Fairmont Winnipeg
The North West Company
The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres
Timothy Timberg
TransCanada Pipelines Ltd.
Transport Canada
Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba
Tsawwassen First Nation
Tuccaro Inc. Group of Companies
Union of Nova Scotia Indians
University College Of The North
University of British Columbia
University of Manitoba
University of Winnipeg
Valerie Webster
Vancouver Community College
Venture Law Corp.
Victoria McQuilkin
W.W. Lyall D. Knott Q.C.
Walpole Island First Nation District Secondary School
Wandabi Wakita
Watson Parojcic Financial
West Point Grey Academy
Winnipeg Regional Health Authority
Workers Compensation Board of Manitoba

BOARD AND STAFF

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS



NAAF Board 2008 - (top left) - Gordon R. Peeling, Gerald McMaster, Peter J. Lukasiewicz, Bernd Christmas, Dr. Cornelia Wieman, Dave Tuccaro, Dr. Ronald T. Scrimshaw, Ian Sutherland, James Makokis, (front left) Chief Petty Officer Debbie Eisan, (seated) Jean Teillet, Leonard G. Flett (Chair), Cindy Kenny Gilday, William (Bill) Shead, Lillian Hyatum-Brewster (missing) Paul Tsaparis, Mary Simon

Staff

Roberta Jamieson
President & Chief Executive Officer

Tracey Anderson
Taking Pulse Researcher – Trainer

Julie Barney
Communications Coordinator

Suzanne Bradley
Taking Pulse Coordinator

Vicky Clarke
Finance & Technology Officer

Thomas Darnay
Director of Finance & Administration

Fran Garlow
Accounts Payable / Office
Administrator

Rachel Hill
Education Analyst

Val Hill
Administrative Clerk

Tammy Martin
Education Analyst

Jamie Monastyrski
Director of Communications & Media

Ken Montour
Administrative Assistant

Carrie Montour
NAAA Ticket Sales

Julie Monture
Executive Assistant to the CEO

André Morriseau
Secretariat

Veronica Powless
Administrative Assistant

Robin Sutherland
Graphic Designer

Noella Steinhauer Ph.D
Director of Education



Auditors' Report

Grant Thornton LLP
Standard Life Centre
1040 - 120 King Street W
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4V2

T (905) 525-1930
F (905) 527-4413
www.GrantThornton.ca

To the Board of Directors of

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

We have audited the statement of financial position of the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation as at March 31, 2009 and the statements of operations and changes in fund balances for the operating and restricted funds for the year then ended. These financial statements are the responsibility of the Foundation's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we plan and perform an audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation.

In our opinion, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Foundation as at March 31, 2009 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

Grant Thornton LLP

Hamilton, Ontario
June 15, 2009

Grant Thornton LLP
Chartered Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31 2009 2008

Assets

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Current | | |
| Cash | \$ 439,760 | \$ 165,723 |
| Accounts receivable | 1,163,206 | 1,274,846 |
| Unbilled revenue | 45,000 | - |
| Prepaid expenses | <u>37,932</u> | <u>47,499</u> |
| | 1,685,898 | 1,488,068 |
| Investments (Note 3) | 27,248,101 | 26,906,717 |
| Capital assets (Note 4) | <u>24,343</u> | <u>26,278</u> |
| | <u>\$ 28,958,342</u> | <u>\$ 28,421,063</u> |

Liabilities

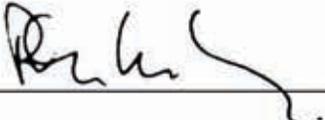
| | | |
|------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Current | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | \$ 1,567,605 | \$ 847,359 |
| Revenue received in advance | <u>796,071</u> | <u>121,354</u> |
| | <u>2,363,676</u> | <u>968,713</u> |

Fund Balances

| | | |
|-----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Operating fund | 1,460,442 | 1,972,123 |
| Externally restricted | 464,773 | 1,031,859 |
| Restricted | <u>24,669,451</u> | <u>24,448,368</u> |
| | <u>26,594,666</u> | <u>27,452,350</u> |
| | <u>\$ 28,958,342</u> | <u>\$ 28,421,063</u> |

Commitments (Note 5)

On behalf of the Board

| | |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|  _____ Director |  _____ Director |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation
Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balance –
Operating Fund

| For the Year Ended March 31 | 2009 | 2008 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Revenue | | |
| National Aboriginal Achievement Awards | \$ 3,140,943 | \$ 3,017,303 |
| Education | 4,984,731 | 3,390,929 |
| Blueprint for the Future Career Fairs | 775,233 | 650,499 |
| Taking Pulse | <u>877,544</u> | <u>345,978</u> |
| | <u>9,778,451</u> | <u>7,404,709</u> |
| Expenditures | | |
| National Aboriginal Achievement Awards | 3,140,825 | 3,388,517 |
| Education | 1,149,355 | 816,749 |
| Blueprint for the Future Career Fairs | 775,233 | 650,548 |
| Taking Pulse | <u>877,544</u> | <u>346,098</u> |
| | <u>5,942,957</u> | <u>5,201,912</u> |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures before awards and scholarships | 3,835,494 | 2,202,797 |
| Awards and scholarships (Note 6) | <u>3,835,376</u> | <u>2,574,230</u> |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue) | 118 | (371,433) |
| Operating fund balance, beginning of year | 1,972,123 | 2,378,995 |
| Unrealized loss on investments | <u>(511,799)</u> | <u>(35,439)</u> |
| Operating fund balance, end of year | <u>\$ 1,460,442</u> | <u>\$ 1,972,123</u> |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances – Restricted Funds

For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

| | Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust | Diana Fowler LeBlanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship | Desser Music Scholarship Fund | Royal Bank Award in Memory of Beth Hamilton Bell | Citibank Canada Award for Aboriginal Students | Ontario Aboriginal Partnerships Recognition Award | Roberta Jamieson | TransCanada Pipelines Aboriginal Scholarships | Government of Canada Post-Secondary Scholarships |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|
| Revenue | | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | \$ 26,769 | \$ 17,983 | \$ 1,500 | \$ 3,236 | \$ 652 | \$ 2,706 | \$ 656 | \$ - | \$ 685,701 |
| Donations | 1,077 | 15,000 | - | - | - | - | 11,431 | - | - |
| | 27,846 | 32,983 | 1,500 | 3,236 | 652 | 2,706 | 12,087 | - | 685,701 |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | | |
| Awards and scholarships (Note 6) | 50,200 | 54,600 | 2,400 | 1,250 | 800 | 5,500 | - | 25,592 | 775,000 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue) | (22,354) | (21,617) | (900) | 1,986 | (148) | (2,794) | 12,087 | (25,592) | (89,299) |
| Fund balances, beginning of year | 1,205,593 | 785,482 | 76,226 | 127,794 | 24,064 | 111,820 | 12,197 | 25,592 | 22,839,424 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | (235,750) | (154,227) | (14,221) | (24,769) | - | (22,226) | - | - | 85,737 |
| Fund balances, end of year | 947,489 | 609,638 | 61,105 | 105,011 | 23,916 | 86,800 | 24,284 | - | 22,835,862 |
| Comprised of: | | | | | | | | | |
| Endowed | 1,150,000 | 746,821 | 72,158 | 126,500 | 23,916 | 105,392 | 24,284 | - | 22,000,000 |
| Non-endowed | (202,511) | (137,183) | (11,053) | (21,489) | - | (18,592) | - | - | 835,862 |
| | \$ 947,489 | \$ 609,638 | \$ 61,105 | \$ 105,011 | \$ 23,916 | \$ 86,800 | \$ 24,284 | \$ - | \$ 22,835,862 |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

4

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances – Restricted Funds

For the Year Ended March 31, 2009

| | George Blondin Aboriginal Scholarship Award | Koskie Minsky LLP Scholarship Award | The Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia's Aboriginal Scholarship Trust | Michael McKinnon | Ontario Federation Of Indian Friendship Centres Bursary Awards Program | Northwest Company/Ian Sutherland Scholarship Bursary Award | 2009 Total | 2008 Total |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| Revenue | | | | | | | | |
| Investment income | \$ 612 | \$ 653 | \$ 4,363 | \$ 1,424 | \$ 2,356 | \$ 175 | \$ 748,786 | \$ 898,327 |
| Donations | 500 | - | 86,569 | - | - | 84,000 | 198,577 | 293,395 |
| | 1,112 | 653 | 90,932 | 1,424 | 2,356 | 84,175 | 947,363 | 1,191,722 |
| Expenditures | | | | | | | | |
| Awards and scholarships (Note 6) | 2,568 | - | - | - | 10,000 | - | 927,910 | 880,400 |
| Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue) | (1,456) | 653 | 90,932 | 1,424 | (7,644) | 84,175 | 19,453 | 311,322 |
| Fund balances, beginning of year | 23,769 | 23,521 | 81,281 | 51,313 | 92,151 | - | 25,480,227 | 25,032,427 |
| Unrealized gain (loss) on investments | - | - | - | - | - | - | (365,456) | 136,478 |
| Fund balances, end of year | 22,313 | 24,174 | 172,213 | 52,737 | 84,507 | 84,175 | 25,134,224 | 25,480,227 |
| Comprised of: | | | | | | | | |
| Endowed | 20,173 | 21,499 | 167,464 | 52,737 | 74,507 | 84,000 | 24,669,451 | 24,448,368 |
| Non-endowed | 2,140 | 2,675 | 4,749 | - | 10,000 | 175 | 464,773 | 1,031,859 |
| | \$ 22,313 | \$ 24,174 | \$ 172,213 | \$ 52,737 | \$ 84,507 | \$ 84,175 | \$ 25,134,224 | \$ 25,480,227 |

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.

5

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended March 31, 2009

The Purpose of the Organization:

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) is a nationally registered non-profit organization dedicated to raising funds to deliver programs that provide the tools necessary for Aboriginal peoples, especially youth to achieve their potential. Since 1985 the Foundation through its Education Program has awarded more than \$32-million in scholarships and bursaries to more than 8,400 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students nationwide. NAAF's key initiatives include: The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) a national annual broadcast celebrating 14 achievers in a multitude of career areas including a special youth award and an award for lifetime achievement; Taking Pulse joins NAAF with industry to present career options in specific growth sectors through a series of short documentaries and supporting curriculum materials with the aim of recruiting First Nations, Inuit & Métis youth; and Blueprint for the Future (BFF) a series of one-day career fairs that motivate and inspire First Nations, Inuit and Métis high school students with valuable resources and information on career opportunities. Over 30,000 students have attended these exciting youth oriented events to date nationwide. The Foundation is the largest provider of scholarships and bursaries to Aboriginal students outside the Government of Canada.

1. Significant accounting policies

(a) Fund accounting

The Foundation follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

The operating fund reports unrestricted resources to the Foundation.

The Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust Fund is an externally restricted fund established in November, 1996. The Government of Canada ("Canada") granted \$ 1,150,000 to the Foundation to be held in a separate trust fund for the specific purpose of establishing the Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust ("AVST") Fund. Scholarships are to be awarded to Aboriginal students engaged in programs of study of two or more years in duration at the post-secondary level in accordance with the Foundation's policies for the scholarship trust funds, as determined by its Board of Directors from time to time.

The Diana Fowler LeBlanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted fund established in 1998 through the efforts of Her Excellency, Mrs. Diana Fowler LeBlanc. The fund will enable Aboriginal students to pursue post-secondary studies in all areas of social work at recognized universities and colleges across Canada.

The Desser Music Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted fund established in 2000. The fund will enable Aboriginal students to pursue an undergraduate degree preferably in musical studies at recognized universities and colleges across Canada.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended March 31, 2009

1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

The Royal Bank Award in Memory of Beth Hamilton Bell Trust Fund is an externally restricted fund established in 1998 with an initial contribution of \$ 126,500. Following two years of growth, the interest income of the fund is to be used to award scholarships to Aboriginal students meeting certain criteria.

The Citibank Canada Award for Aboriginal Students is an externally restricted fund established in 2007 with an initial contribution of \$ 25,000. The income earned on the fund is to be used to provide Aboriginal students studying in the fields of Commerce and Business financial assistance in accordance with the Agreement and the Foundation's policies.

The Ontario Aboriginal Partnerships Recognition Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted fund established in 2000. The Ontario Native Affairs Secretariat granted \$ 100,000 to the Foundation to be kept in a separate trust fund. The interest income of the fund is to be used to award scholarships to Aboriginal students pursuing studies at Ontario post-secondary institutions in business, science and/or technology.

The TransCanada Pipelines Scholarship Trust Fund is an externally restricted fund established on April 1, 2001 to provide scholarships to Aboriginal students entering Engineering, Business/Commerce, Law, Sciences, Environmental Studies, Technology and Communications. By mutual agreement this fund was dissolved and the remaining funds were transferred to the Oil and Gas Aboriginal Trades and Technology Bursaries and Scholarships Program.

The Government of Canada Trust Fund was created to provide perpetual annual financial support to the Foundation's Education Program. This fund has specific investment guidelines. The revenues generated through the investment of the grant are to be used by the Foundation to provide bursaries and scholarships to Aboriginal post-secondary students. The first allocation of \$ 12 million was received and invested by the Foundation in December, 2003. The first scholarships resulting from revenue generated by the endowment were disbursed in fiscal 2006. The second allocation of \$ 10 million was received and invested by the Foundation in April, 2007.

The George Blondin Aboriginal Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted fund established on July 10, 2007 to provide scholarships and bursaries to Status Indians originating from the North West Territories who are enrolled in post-secondary education programs (college or university) across all disciplines and degrees.

The Koskie Minsky LLP Scholarship Fund is an externally restricted Fund established on November 28, 2007 to provide scholarships and bursaries to First Nations, Inuit and Métis individuals pursuing post-secondary studies in Law in Canada at a recognized Law School.

The Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia's Aboriginal Scholarship Trust Fund was established on May 1, 2007 to provide scholarships to people of Aboriginal descent to assist them to pursue first year studies at either the Faculty of Law of the University of British Columbia or the University of Victoria.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended March 31, 2009

1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres Endowment Fund is an externally restricted fund established on July 12, 2007 to provide bursaries to mature Aboriginal women with dependent children residing in urban settings who are enrolled, or will be enrolled, in post-secondary studies or training and development programs.

The North West Company/Ian Sutherland Endowment Fund is an externally restricted fund established on December 1, 2008 to provide bursaries and scholarships to Aboriginal students who are enrolled in accredited college and university business administration or retail related programs, with a preference to Finance and/or Retail students.

(b) Revenue recognition

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund.

Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the operating fund in the year received or receivable if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributions for endowment are recognized as revenue in the applicable restricted fund. Investment income earned on restricted resources is recognized as revenue of the applicable restricted fund.

Other investment income is recognized as revenue of the operating fund.

(c) Investments

Investments are recorded at market value effective for 2008 to adhere to the new financial instruments standards adopted, which do not require retroactive application. Investment income from the fixed income securities is accrued as earned. Investment income from equities and mutual funds are recognized when realized.

(d) Use of estimates

The preparation of the financial statements requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenditures during the year. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

(e) Capital assets

Capital assets are recorded at cost. Amortization is provided on a straight-line basis over three years.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended March 31, 2009

1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

(f) Fair values of financial instruments

Financial instruments classified as held-for-trading are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in the statement of operations. Financial assets classified as held-to-maturity or as loans and receivables and financial liabilities not classified as held-for-trading are measured at amortized cost. Available-for-sale financial assets are measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in the statement of changes in fund balances.

The Foundation has classified its financial instruments as follows:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cash and cash equivalents | Held-for-trading |
| Receivables | Loans and receivables |
| Investments | Available-for-sale |
| Payables and accruals | Other liabilities |

(g) Future accounting standards

Effective April 1, 2009, the accounting and disclosure requirements of the CICA's two new accounting standards, Section 3862, Financial Instruments – Disclosures, and Section 3863, Financial Instruments – Presentation, will be required to be implemented by the Foundation. The new guidance is not expected to have a material effect on the financial position of the Foundation.

2. Bank indebtedness

The Foundation has an operating line of credit of \$ 750,000, increasing to \$ 1,000,000 for the period January 1 to April 30 annually, bearing interest at the prime rate. As security, the Foundation has provided a general assignment of all assets. As at March 31, 2009, the amount drawn against the credit facility is \$ Nil (2008 - \$ Nil).

3. Investments

| | <u>Cost</u> | <u>2009 Market</u> | <u>Cost</u> | <u>2008 Market</u> |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| Cash held with investment manager | \$ 4,959,752 | \$ 4,934,571 | \$ 1,303,423 | \$ 1,309,614 |
| Fixed income | 17,129,566 | 17,562,949 | 19,344,451 | 19,628,798 |
| Mutual funds | <u>5,935,000</u> | <u>4,750,581</u> | <u>6,157,804</u> | <u>5,968,305</u> |
| | <u>\$ 28,024,318</u> | <u>\$ 27,248,101</u> | <u>\$ 26,805,678</u> | <u>\$ 26,906,717</u> |

As of March 31, 2009, the fixed income securities bear interest at various rates ranging from 2.2% to 5.5% with maturity dates between April 20, 2009 and December 3, 2014.

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year ended March 31, 2009

| 4. Capital assets | | | <u>2009</u> | <u>2008</u> |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| | <u>Cost</u> | <u>Accumulated Amortization</u> | <u>Net Book Value</u> | <u>Net Book Value</u> |
| Office furniture and equipment | \$ 93,956 | \$ 69,613 | \$ 24,343 | \$ 26,278 |

5. Commitments

The Foundation has leased office space and other equipment under operating leases. Future minimum lease payments, exclusive of maintenance and realty taxes under the leases, are as follows:

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 2010 | \$ 155,658 |
| 2011 | 145,081 |
| 2012 | 140,302 |
| 2013 | 136,689 |
| 2014 | <u>132,631</u> |
| | <u>\$ 710,361</u> |

In relation to these leases, the Foundation has agreed to indemnify the landlord against losses occurring on the leased premises, which may arise out of a breach of the lease agreement.

6. Awards and scholarships

Awards and scholarships for the year ended March 31, 2009 amounted to \$ 4,763,286 (2008 - \$ 3,454,630). These expenditures have been made through the operating fund in the amount of \$ 3,835,376 (2008 - \$ 2,574,230) and the restricted funds in the amount of \$ 927,910 (2008 - \$ 880,400).

7. Pension agreement

The Foundation participates in a defined contribution pension plan with eligible employees. The Foundation matches contributions up to a maximum of 6% of individual employee gross earnings. A financial institution administers the pension assets. During the year, the Foundation incurred pension expenses totaling \$ 25,033 (2008 - \$ 34,997).

8. Statement of cash flows

A statement of cash flows has not been presented as in the opinion of management it would not provide any additional meaningful information.