



THE NATIONAL ABORIGINAL ACHIEVEMENT FOUNDATION

# ANNUAL REPORT 2009-10



**Vision statement**  
Enriching Canada by Advancing  
Aboriginal Achievement



**Mission statement**  
The National Aboriginal Achievement  
Foundation's mission, working in partnership with  
Aboriginal, private and public sector stakeholders,  
is to promote, support and celebrate the achievement  
of Canada's Aboriginal Peoples.

**naaf.ca**

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Len Flett, Chair of the NAAF Board; Roberta Jamieson, NAAF President and CEO NAAF; and David Tuccaro, Vice-Chair of the NAAF Board

## Chair's Message

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) continues to positively impact the lives of our national family of First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth.

The success of each and every student in accomplishing their goals continues to fuel the passion that drives the Foundation to reach higher and dream of the day when every one of our young people will have access to the resources they so desperately need.

We must not lose sight of our focus and most valuable asset, our youth. With the graceful and competent stewardship of our CEO Roberta Jamieson that focus continues to be front and centre.

On behalf of the Board I would like to applaud and acknowledge the continued extraordinary work and commitment of our CEO Roberta Jamieson and the Foundation staff.

Scholarship and Bursary disbursement continues to break records, delivering more than \$5 million dollars to deserving applicants this past year. The Blueprint for the Future (BFF) career fairs successfully visited new communities bringing a message of hope and excitement about what education can do to change young peoples lives.

This year's 17th Annual National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) in Regina Saskatchewan wowed the sold out crowd at the Connexus Centre celebrating the lives and achievements of our 14 outstanding NAAA recipients. The beautifully filmed vignettes told the passionate stories while live musical performances and dance wove a tapestry of entertainment, concluding with a powerful performance from icon Buffy St. Marie.

On behalf of the entire Board of Directors, I invite you to review this year's annual report, please take the time to share our excitement about this past year's journey and enthusiasm for the challenge of the year to come.

**Leonard G. (Len) Flett**

Chair

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## CEO's Message

The Annual Report represents an opportunity to share not only successes laid out in numbers and deadlines, it allows us to share the vision and heart of the challenges the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) faces each day.

Through education we are empowered to think creatively of the ways and means by which we can reach out to our youth, engaging them and inspiring them to think about their futures now!

This past year the Blueprint for the Future (BFF) Career Fairs shared their optimism for the future in Thunder Bay, Ontario and Prince George, B.C. a first for these communities. They may have been smaller communities but the impact of BFF was far reaching in terms of access to youth and economic spinoffs for the immediate communities.

With more than \$5-million awarded in scholarships and bursaries this past year the Foundation continues to grow its dream of funding for all First Nations, Inuit and Métis youth who wish to continue their post secondary education. The challenge is monumental as the Foundation can only meet 27% of the funding needs requested by our applicants.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) continues to serve as the framework for the celebration of our outstanding 14 recipients each year. The Awards bring much needed attention and focus to the Foundations mandate and continuing challenges serving as a crossroads for corporate, private and public participation.

As we reflect on the past year we cast our eyes, hearts and minds toward the year to come. On behalf of the Foundation's Chair and Board I would like to express my thanks and gratitude to everyone who through generous donations and support or personal commitment continue to make the NAAF a cultural jewel and important component in making the lives of our youth richer through education and personal empowerment

**Roberta Jamieson**

President and CEO

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation



Two students enjoying the  
Prince George, B.C. Blueprint  
for the Future Career Fair



# WHAT IS NAAF?

**The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF)**

is a charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to deliver programs that provide the tools necessary for Aboriginal peoples, especially youth to achieve their potential. To date the Foundation has awarded more than \$37-million in scholarships and bursaries to more than 9,800 First Nations, Inuit and Métis students nationwide.



2010 National Aboriginal Achievement Award Recipient Madeleine Dion Stout at the annual Suncor Luncheon where award recipients have the opportunity to meet and speak with regional Aboriginal youth.





# HOW DO WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE?

**Supporting** dreams by providing scholarships and bursaries. To date, \$37-million has been distributed to 9,800 college and university students - more than any non-government agency in Canada.

**Empowering** students to plan for their futures through NAAF's program *Taking Pulse: Industry in the Classroom*. This public-private partnership is a unique way to engage secondary school students with career planning options in industry specific growth sectors.

**Motivating** youth to stay in school by connecting them with business and public sector leaders through

*Blueprint for the Future* Career Fairs featuring role models, workshops, and engaging presentations on employment opportunities.

**Financially supporting** First Nations, Inuit and Métis persons as they prepare and train for careers in the Oil and Gas Trades and Technology sector.

**Inspiring** Aboriginal Canadians by honouring and celebrating the contributions of incredible Aboriginal Achievers with the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, *the* highest honour bestowed by their own people.

**Engaging** urban Aboriginal youth through national roundtables. This series of collaborative roundtables is designed to engage at-risk youth and inform NAAF's future planning and programming.

**Reaching out to the community.** NAAF travelled to all points of Canada attending conferences, Annual General Membership meetings, seminars and youth education conferences spreading the word about NAAF, through its tradeshow booth, handouts, brochures, DVDs and one-on-one meetings.

NAAF scholarships and bursaries have been awarded to over 1300 recipients this past year from Moberly Lake, BC to Teslin, Yukon to Jonquiere, Quebec and all points in between. This is an example of where the much needed funds reach. For a complete list, see our Education Recipient list on the NAAF website.

Halifax, Yellowknife,  
Whitehorse, Iqaluit,  
Montreal, Toronto,  
Ottawa, Saskatoon,  
Thunder Bay, Prince  
George, Winnipeg,  
Calgary, Regina,  
Edmonton, Saskatoon,  
Vancouver, Victoria  
Moberly Lake, BC  
Janvier, AB  
Teslin, YK  
Kinuso, AB  
Black Diamond, AB  
West Bank, BC  
Saquenay, QC  
Hobbema, AB  
Wiwkemikong, ON  
Southwold, ON  
Ft. McMurray, AB  
Lethbridge, AB  
Welland, ON  
Sault Sainte Marie, ON  
Kamloops, BC  
Air Ronge, SK  
Scotland, ON  
Lloyd Minister, SK  
Sherbrooke, QC  
Golden, BC  
Wilsonville, ON  
Sherwood Park, AB  
Cranbrook, BC  
Niagara Falls, ON  
Toutes Aides, MB  
Maniwaki, QC  
St.Catherines, ON

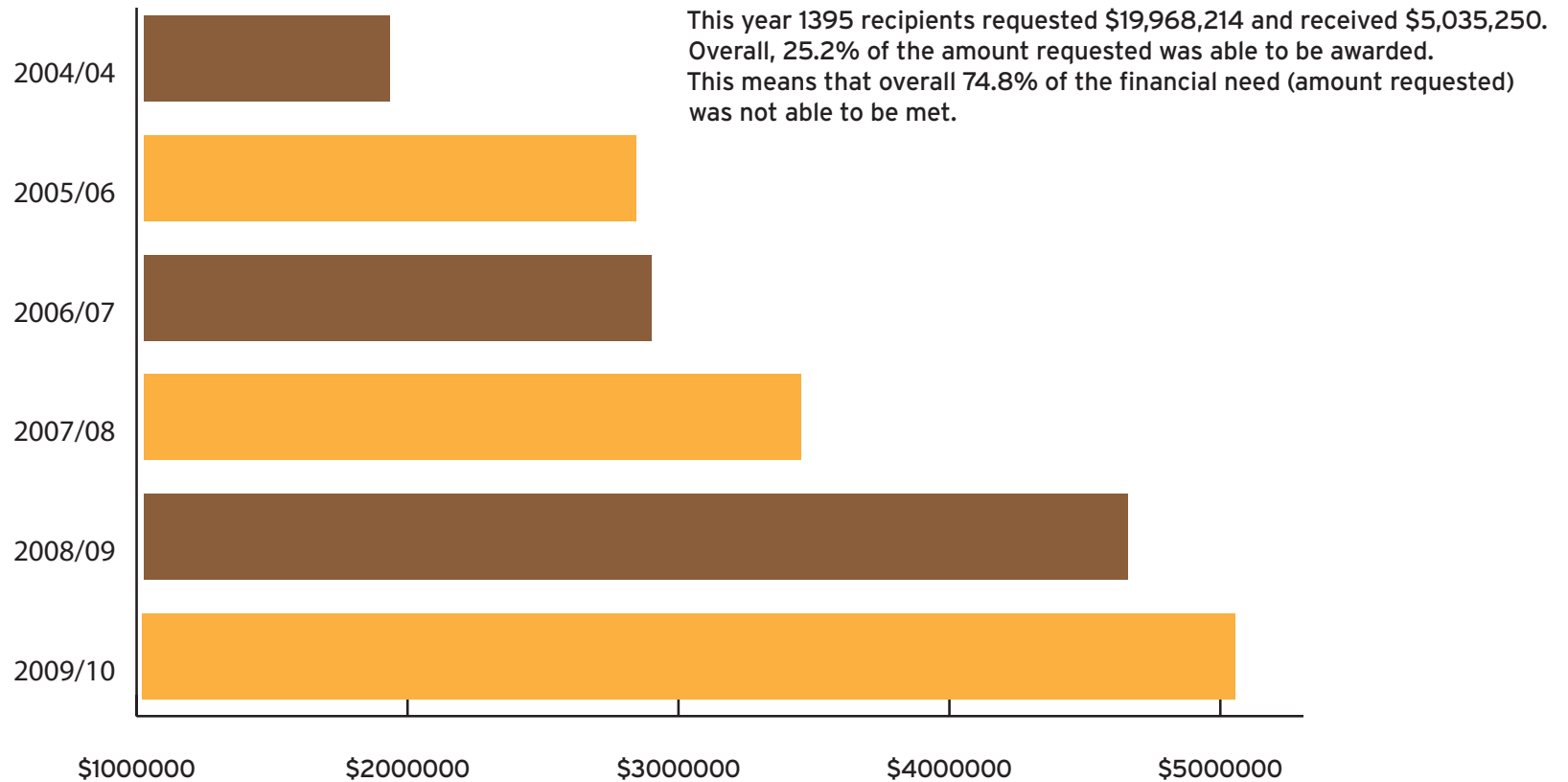
Fredericton, NB  
Jonquiere, QC  
Errington, BC  
Iqaluit, NU  
Kitchener, ON  
Fermont, QC  
Courtenay, BC  
Roblin, BC  
Dauphin, MB  
Montreal, QC  
Slave lake, AB  
Terrace, BC  
Prince Albert, SK  
Sudbury, ON  
Warman, SK  
Penetanguishene, ON  
Victoria, BC  
Beauval, SK  
Sidney, BC  
Thunder Bay, ON  
North Bay, ON  
Ponoka, AB  
Ste.Rose Dulac, MB  
Valleyview, AB  
Sooke, BC  
Kinistino, SK  
Meota, SK  
Chetwynd, BC  
Fort Saskatchewan, AB  
Kelowna, BC  
Cumberland, BC  
High Praire, AB  
Red Deer, AB  
Parry Sound, ON  
Birch Hills, SK





## Supporting dreams through Scholarships and Bursaries

Thanks to the generosity of numerous corporate and government partners and individual donors, NAAF disburses funds to Aboriginal youth across Canada, covering all disciplines in four funding categories: Fine Arts; Oil and Gas and Trades and Technology; Health Careers; and Post-Secondary Education.





"The NAAF bursary has contributed to my life in so many ways. Not only does it make my post-secondary education a reality, but the recognition from NAAF continues to motivate my dream of pursuing my education even farther and strive for Aboriginal excellence in health."

Karen Hall  
First Nation  
Dalhousie University,  
BSc Health Promotion



"Education is a tool for this generation that we can use to build the communities and nations our ancestors intended for us."

Kody Doxtater

Mohawk, Six Nations / Shawanaga  
1st Year, BSc Health Sciences  
University of Western Ontario

# WHO ARE OUR STUDENTS ?



'I haven't always thought I could do it, but I never gave up on my dream to become a doctor because it's my dream and it makes me happy. I say follow your dream and do what makes you happy and there is nothing that can hold you back. NAAF's health careers bursary helps alleviate the financial burden so there are no financial limits to achieving your dream.'

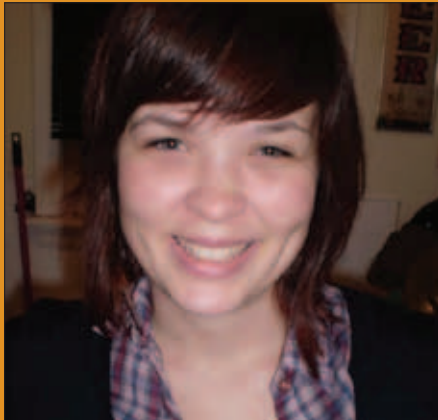
Latisha Hewton-Backfat

First Nation  
University of Alberta, Faculty of Medicine



During the 2009-2010 fiscal period NAAF funded students in a variety of fields including:

- 214** Registered nurses
- 39** PhDs
- 134** Masters level
- 50** Business & Commerce
- 62** Teachers
- 44** Social Workers
- 129** Doctors & Dentists
- 21** Engineers
- 105** Lawyers
- 70** Oil & Gas Trades
- 15** MBAs
- 15** Pharmacists



**Kristan  
Nelson**  
Métis, Alberta

"Having already completed an undergraduate degree, I have years of student loans that will continue to accumulate throughout my masters degree. I greatly appreciate any financial assistance as it helps me keep this debt load in check. It is important to not only demonstrate your commitment to academic success but also to your culture."



**Brad  
Pederson**  
Métis, Saskatchewan

"If you have this outlook on the situation you will be more motivated to look in as many places as it takes to get the desired funding. Apply for all scholarships that you are even remotely qualified for; you never know who else is applying."



**Suzanne  
Morrisette**  
Métis, Manitoba

"For the past five years the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has helped me to reach many of my set educational goals while also helping me to imagine new ones," says Suzanne.



**Dwayne  
Bird**  
First Nation, Manitoba

"The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation has helped so much with the costs involved with completing my education and being successful upon graduation this year. I would like to thank the sponsors for the extra boost of confidence and recognition for my hard work."





## Beth Kotierk

Inuit, Igloolik

Second year Sculpture/Installation student, Ontario College of Art and Design, Recipient of the Norval Morrisseau Fine Arts Bursary Award

"Your support and generosity has not only helped me continue my studies it's helped me develop greater confidence in the work that I produce. Qujannamiik!"



## Bryce O'Donnell

Métis, Manitoba

"Without the help of the NAAF, I would not be able to attend university as a full time student. Therefore, I would strongly urge students graduating this year to apply for a NAAF bursary."



## Damian Abrahams

First Nation, Alberta

"I am ever grateful for all your contributions these past years; NAAF has definitely helped me in the long run! Keep on investing in the future of our People!"



## Jaqueline Anaquod

First Nation, Saskatchewan

"As a fulltime student and single mother, I struggle to make ends meet; I am very appreciative of the monetary award that was given to me. I felt valued and honored to be recognized for my dedication to making a better life for myself and my daughter. This award has inspired me to work harder knowing that there are people out there who care about me and my dreams."







# Celebrating Excellence

Inspiring Aboriginal Canadians by honouring and celebrating the contributions of incredible Aboriginal Achievers with the National Aboriginal Achievement Awards, the highest honour bestowed by their own people.

The National Aboriginal Achievement Awards (NAAA) were established in 1993 to encourage and celebrate excellence in the Aboriginal community. The Awards recognize the outstanding career achievements of First Nations, Inuit and Métis people, in diverse occupations.

The NAAA promotes self-esteem and pride for the Aboriginal community and extends further to provide outstanding role models for Aboriginal youth. The Awards broadcast the success of individuals who have the discipline, drive and determination to set high standards and accomplish their goals.



"The award recipients were incredibly inspirational. I know that the 28 youth that were with us have returned home inspired and proud. And in the end - that's all I can ask for!"

**Cathy Glover**

Director, Stakeholder Relations  
and Community Investment

"Another successful and wonderful event! Well done! Weyerhaeuser appreciates the opportunity to participate in this event and is looking forward to the Edmonton event in 2011!"

**Noreen Schultz**

Alberta Community  
Relations Coordinator  
Weyerhaeuser

"It was fantastic! As usual, I got inspired by the recipients, and it's been my honour to be a part of it, and present the Youth Award."

**Lorne Cardinal,**  
actor

"I think it is really important to support this wonderful organization, because it recognizes our people, and recognizes the youth. It is important for our people to have acknowledgement, there is nothing more powerful than acknowledgement, and it's important to acknowledge our people."

**Douglas Cardinal,**

architect and NAAA Laureate

"I find this event very beneficial and I look forward to it every year. It inspires our youth, our young men and women."

**Grand Chief David Harper**

Manitoba Keewatinowi Okimakanak

"This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. I've learned anything is possible. I look forward to my life more - I'm very thankful that I was able to attend this celebration - everyone I met and heard about really inspired me. I hope my life brings me that great success.

Aboriginal Student

"I enjoyed it a lot. It was a lot of fun and hope I could come back again someday. Thanks for giving me this experience! I loved every part."

Aboriginal Student





# How do we inspire?

## **Building brighter futures**

By motivating and encouraging youth to stay in school through NAAF's Blueprint for the Future Career Fairs NAAF connects students with business and public sector leaders through its national career fair which features role models, workshops, and engaging presentations on employment opportunities.

Over its 14-year history 33,000 students have participated in Blueprint Career Fairs nationwide from Halifax and Vancouver, Yellowknife and Whitehorse to Saskatoon, Thunder Bay and Ottawa. This unique and dynamic opportunity has proven time and again its ability to get youth one step closer to fulfilling their dreams.

## **Engaging youth through the Awards**

NAAF through its Awards Gala offers a variety of engagement opportunities for Aboriginal youth

through its Gala Education Program. The Foundation hosts Education Day for high school students from the region and surrounding First Nation communities. The sessions provide an opportunity to witness a full rehearsal and discover the careers available to them.

There were 100 Aboriginal students from the University of Saskatchewan, First Nations University and the University of Regina who were involved in the 2010 Gala as seat fillers. They had the opportunity to meet the awards recipients and many of the country's most accomplished Aboriginal leaders through this program.

As with all Awards Gala productions training, mentoring and job shadow opportunities for Aboriginal students were available from Assistant Production Coordinator and backstage assistants to talent coordinators and stage directors.





Rodney Sheppard, President (Bruce Power), The Society of Energy Professionals; Roberta Jamieson, President and CEO NAAF; Grand Chief Stan Beardy, Nishnawbe-Aski Nation; Chris Bently, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



# Who are our Supporters?

NAAF is proud to partner with our private, public, corporate partners and our individual donors. NAAF salutes our generous supporters who make what we do possible; those who have been so supportive in the past and welcome our new sponsors for recognizing the merit and benefits of supporting aboriginal achievement.

## LEAD SUPPORTERS



## MAJOR SUPPORTERS



## 2010 Award Supporters

### Major Supporters:

#### CIBC

Government of Canada

BP Canada Energy Company

Vale

Government of Saskatchewan

Suncor Energy Foundation

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network  
(APTN)

Canwest

Nexen Inc.

Tribal Councils Investment Group  
of Manitoba Ltd.

Shell Canada Ltd.

BMO Capital Markets

Rio Tinto

Fort McKay Group of Companies

Air Canada

#### Lead Partners:

CIBC

Government of Canada

#### Private Sector Partners:

Aboriginal Peoples Television Network  
(APTN)

Canwest

Nexen Inc.

Suncor Energy Foundation

Fort McKay Group of Companies

Tribal Councils Investment Group of  
Manitoba Ltd.

Air Canada

BP Canada Energy Company

Casino Rama

Rio Tinto

SaskTel

Cameco Corporation

PotashCorp

Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life

Radisson Plaza Hotel Saskatchewan

Regina Leader Post & the Saskatoon

StarPhoenix

#### Public Sector Partners:

Human Resources and Skills Development  
Canada

Health Canada

Government of Saskatchewan & its Crown  
Corporations

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

Canadian Heritage

Aboriginal Business Canada

Canadian Forces

Canadian Northern Economic Development  
Agency

Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis  
and Non-Status Indians

Government of Nunavut

Government of the Northwest Territories

Government of Ontario

City of Regina

Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Parks Canada

Transport Canada

#### 2010 NAAA Ticket Sales:

Aboriginal & Northern Affairs Manitoba

Aboriginal Sport Circle

Academica

Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

Alexandra Nahwegahbow

Alliance Pipelines

AON Reed Stenhouse

Arctos & Bird

Ask Law

Assembly of First Nations

Association of Universities & Colleges of  
Canada

Atco Structures & Logistics

Bennett Dunlop Ford

BHP Billiton

Blackfoot Crossing Historical Park

Brett Fairbarin

Business Development Bank of Canada

Canadian Council for Aboriginal Business

Canadian Light Source

Canadian Museum for Human Rights

Catherine Knox

Comstock Canada Ltd.

Concentra Financial

Conexus Credit Union

ConocoPhillips Canada

Cree-Neskapi Commission

D. Darryl R. Peck, CFRE, CGE-RS

David Nahwegahbow

Delia Opekokew

Dianne Corbiere

Donald E. Worme, QC,IPC

Doug Henry

Dr. Marie Ann Battiste

Dr. Raoul McKay

Dr. Ron Martin

Edith Coultier

Edwards School of Business

Enbridge Inc.

Enerplus Resource Fund

Enterprise Saskatchewan

Farm Credit Canada

Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations

File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council

First Nations Bank of Canada

Fishing Lake First Nation

FN - Six Nations of the Grand River Territory

FN - Walpole Island

Fortis Alberta

Gowling Lafleur Henderson LLP

Greystone Managed Investments Inc.

H.J. Linnen & Associates

HerbalgenX

HP Enterprise Services

IBM Canada Ltd.

Imperial Oil Foundation

Indigenous Gaming Regulators Inc.

Indigenous Leadership Development  
Institute Inc.

Information Services Corporation of  
Saskatchewan

Irvin Kehewin & Roger Mc'Donnell

Joan Glode

Kawacatsose First Nation

Kelly Gossfeld

Kemsol Products Ltd.

Kenneth Atsenhuenton-Deer

Ledcor Group of Companies

Lynn Hall

Madeleine Dion Stout

Manito Ahbee Festival

Mark Stevenson

Meyers Norris Penny LLP

Monica Pinette

Morin's Taxi

Namerind Housing Corporation

Nation Talk

National Association of Friendship Centres

Native Access Program to Nursing/Medicine  
(NAPNM)

Neil Devitt

Neville Poy

Nipissing University

Norway House Cree Nation

Ontario Power Generation

Pasqua First Nation

Patricia Fehetey

Peace Hills Trust

Pepsi

RBC Royal Bank

Recipient - Skawennio Barnes

Recipient - William Commanda

Regina Police Service

Sakewewak Artists Collective Inc.

Saskatchewan Aboriginal Women's Circle  
Corporation

Saskatchewan Arts Board

Saskatchewan Indian Gaming Authority  
(SIGA)

Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technology

Saskatchewan Lotteries

Saskatchewan Resource Council

Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board

SaskEnergy

SaskMetis Economic Development  
Corporation (SMEDCO)

SaskPower  
SaskTel  
Savanna Energy Services Corp.  
Schriber Family Foundation  
Semaganis Worme Law Office  
Sheila Peters  
Shell Canada  
Siksika Nation  
Sodexo  
St. Eugene Golf Resort & Casino  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
Stockwoods LLP  
Summa Strategies Canada  
Synexe Consulting  
T.E. Investment Counsel Inc.  
Tamara Dion Stout  
TD Bank  
The Banff Centre  
The Co-operators  
The Hon. Eric William Robinson  
The Mosaic Company  
Tina Dion  
Tom Crane-Bear  
TransCanada  
Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada  
Tuccaro Inc. Group of Companies  
University of Alberta  
University of Manitoba  
University of Regina  
University of Saskatchewan Aboriginal Student Centre  
Westridge Construction Ltd.  
Weyerhaeuser

### Scholarship and Bursaries:

#### Corporate Partners

CIBC  
BP Canada Energy Company  
BMO Capital Markets  
Shell Canada Ltd.  
Imperial Oil Ltd.  
Suncor Energy Foundation

Petro-Canada  
Scotiabank  
Great-West Life, London Life and Canada Life  
Rio Tinto  
Canadian Medical Foundation  
HP Enterprises Services  
CN  
Investors Group Inc.  
TD Bank Financial Group  
Koskie Minsky LLP  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
National Association of Friendship Centres  
Syncrude Canada Ltd.

TransCanada

#### Government Partners

Health Canada  
Indian and Northern Affairs Canada  
Canadian Heritage  
Justice Canada

#### Trust and Endowment Partners

Ontario Aboriginal Partnerships Recognition Scholarship  
Desser music Scholarship Fund  
Aboriginal Veterans Scholarship Trust  
Diana Fowler Leblanc Aboriginal Social Work Scholarship  
George Blondin Aboriginal Scholarship  
The Royal Bank Award in Memory of Beth Hamilton Bell  
Canadian Bar Association of British Columbia  
The Northwest Company & Ian Sutherland  
Citibank Financial  
Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

### BFF Supporters:

#### Lead Partners

CIBC  
Government of Canada

#### Public Sector Partners

Canadian Heritage  
Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

Health Canada  
Human Resources and Skills Development Canada  
INAC  
Natural Resources Canada  
Office of the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians  
Parks Canada  
Transport Canada

#### Corporate Partners

Aboriginal Canada Portal  
Aboriginal Financial Officers Association of Canada  
Aboriginal Peoples Television Network  
AREVA Resources Canada Inc.  
Association of Canada Lands Surveyors  
Ball Media Corporation  
Cambrian College  
Casino Rama  
City of Saskatoon  
CN  
Concordia University  
Enterprise Saskatchewan  
Farm Credit Canada  
First Nations University of Canada  
First Nations, Métis & Community Education  
IBM Canada Ltd.  
Lakehead University  
Ministry of First Nations and Métis Relations  
Nexen Inc.  
Nishnawbe Aski Nation  
North Superior Workforce Planning Board  
Northern Ontario School of Medicine  
Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources  
Ontario Power Generation  
Oshki-Pimache-O-Win Education & Training Institute  
Rawlco Radio  
RBC Royal Bank  
Saskatchewan Energy and Resources  
Saskatchewan Gaming Corporation  
Saskatchewan Government Insurance  
Saskatchewan Health

Saskatchewan Institute of Applied Science and Technology  
Saskatchewan Liquor and Gaming  
Saskatchewan Social Services  
Saskatchewan Workers' Compensation Board  
SaskEnergy  
SaskPower  
SaskTel  
SaskWater  
Scotiabank  
Seneca College  
Society of Energy Professionals  
Stantec Consulting Ltd.  
TD Canada Trust  
The City of Thunder Bay  
TransCanada  
University of Lethbridge  
University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC)  
Wawatay Communications  
York University

### Taking Pulse:

Vale  
Astral Media  
BP Canada Energy Company  
Canwest  
Imperial Oil Ltd.  
Ontario Trillium Foundation

### New Partners 2009/2010:

Justice Canada  
Rio Tinto  
Canadian Medical Foundation  
De Beers Canada Inc.  
National Association of Friendship Centres  
Society of Energy Professionals  
PotashCorp  
Cameco Corporation





## **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Len G. Flett (Chair)  
David Gabriel Tuccaro  
(Vice Chair)  
Chief Petty Officer Debbie Eisan  
Lillian Hvatum-Brewster  
Cindy Kenny-Gilday  
Peter J. Lukasiewicz  
James Makokis  
Gerald McMaster  
Gordon R. Peeling  
Dr. Ronald T. Scrimshaw  
Bill Shead  
Mary Simon  
Ian Sutherland  
Jean Teillet  
Paul Tsaparis  
Cornelia Wieman, M.D

## **STAFF**

Roberta Jamieson  
President & Chief Executive Officer  
Tracy 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  
Monica Lister  
Executive Assistant  
to the Director of Education  
Tammy Martin  
Education Analyst

Jamie Monastyrski  
Director of Communications  
& Media

Ken Montour  
Development Associate, Operations

Carrie Montour  
NAAA Ticket Sales

Julie Monture  
Executive Assistant to the CEO

André Morriseau  
Secretariat

Darryl Peck  
Director of Strategic and Resource  
Development

Veronica Powless  
Administrative Assistant

Noella Steinhauer Ph.D  
Director of Education





## **Financial Statements**

National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

March 31, 2010



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## 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](http://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, 2010 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, 2010 and the results of its operations for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian generally accepted accounting principles.

A stylized, handwritten-style signature of "Grant Thornton LLP" in black ink.

Hamilton, Ontario  
June 16, 2010

Grant Thornton LLP  
Chartered Accountants  
Licensed Public Accountants

Audit • Tax • Advisory  
Grant Thornton LLP, A Canadian Member of Grant Thornton International Ltd

# National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## Statement of Financial Position

As at March 31

	2010	2009
<b>Assets</b>		
Current		
Cash	\$ -	\$ 439,760
Accounts receivable	1,682,245	1,163,206
Unbilled revenue	-	45,000
Prepaid expenses	57,584	37,932
	<u>1,739,829</u>	<u>1,685,898</u>
Investments (Note 3)	27,627,202	27,248,101
Capital assets (Note 4)	<u>63,394</u>	<u>24,343</u>
	<u>\$ 29,430,425</u>	<u>\$ 28,958,342</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Current		
Bank indebtedness	\$ 35,564	\$ -
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	1,534,997	1,567,605
Revenue received in advance	497,085	796,071
	<u>2,067,646</u>	<u>2,363,676</u>
<b>Fund Balances</b>		
Operating fund	1,780,193	1,460,442
Externally restricted	869,693	464,773
Restricted	<u>24,712,893</u>	<u>24,669,451</u>
	<u>27,362,779</u>	<u>26,594,666</u>
	<u>\$ 29,430,425</u>	<u>\$ 28,958,342</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

	2010	2009
<b>Revenue</b>		
National Aboriginal Achievement Awards	\$ 3,021,716	\$ 3,140,943
Education	5,423,974	4,984,731
Blueprint for the Future Career Fairs	733,434	775,233
Taking Pulse	665,423	877,544
	<b>9,844,547</b>	<b>9,778,451</b>
<b>Expenditures</b>		
National Aboriginal Achievement Awards	3,126,436	3,140,825
Education	1,309,133	1,149,355
Blueprint for the Future Career Fairs	785,049	775,233
Taking Pulse	683,401 8	77,544
	<b>5,904,019</b>	<b>5,942,957</b>
Excess of revenue over expenditures before awards and scholarships	<b>3,940,528</b>	3,835,494
Awards and scholarships (Note 6)	<b>4,226,547</b>	3,835,376
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue)	<b>(286,019)</b>	118
Operating fund balance, beginning of year	<b>1,460,442</b>	1,972,123
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	<b>605,770</b>	(511,799)
Operating fund balance, end of year	<b>\$ 1,780,193</b>	<b>\$ 1,460,442</b>

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, 2010

	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	Government of Canada Post-Secondary Scholarships	George Blondin Aboriginal Scholarship award
<b>Revenue</b>									
Investment income (loss)	\$ ( 44,436)	\$ (29,919)	\$ (2,324)	\$ (4,124)	\$ 559	\$ (4,429)	\$ 668	\$ 914,597	\$ 493
Donations	690	15,000		-	-	-	4,853	-	-
	(43,746)	(14,919)	(2,324)	(4,124)	559	(4,429)	5,521	914,597	493
<b>Expenditures</b>									
Awards and scholarships (Note 6)	-	-	-	-	650	-	-	685,000	2,140
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditure over revenue)	(43,746)	(14,919)	(2,324)	(4,124)	(91)	(4,429)	5,521	229,597	(1,647)
Fund balances, beginning of year	947,489	609,638	61,105	105,011	23,916	86,800	24,284	22,835,862	22,313
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	232,664	150,315	13,479	23,451	714	21,715	893	(188,118)	620
Fund balances, end of year	1,136,407	745,034	72,260	124,338	24,539	104,086	30,698	22,877,341	21,286
Comprised of:									
Endowed	1,150,000	761,821	72,158	126,500	23,250	105,392	30,698	22,000,000	21,286
Non-endowed	(13,593)	(16,787)	102	(2,162)	1,289	(1,306)	-	877,341	-
	\$ 1,136,407	\$ 745,034	\$ 72,260	\$ 124,338	\$ 24,539	\$ 104,086	\$ 30,698	\$ 22,877,341	\$ 21,286

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, 2010

	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		2010 Total	2009 Total		
Revenue														
Investment income	\$	531	\$	4,136	\$	1,258	\$	1,833	\$	2,066	\$	840,909	\$	748,786
Donations		-		10,209		-		-		16,000		46,752		198,577
		531		14,345		1,258		1,833		18,066		887,661		947,363
Expenditures														
Awards and scholarships (Note 6)		2,500		4,749		-		10,000		3,000		708,039		927,910
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue)		(1,969)		9,596		1,258		(8,167)		15,066		179,622		19,453
Fund balances, beginning of year		24,174		172,213		52,737		84,507		84,175		25,134,224		25,480,227
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments		666		5,455		1,619		2,290		2,977		268,740		(365,456)
Fund balances, end of year		22,871		187,264		55,614		78,630		102,218		25,582,586		25,134,224
Comprised of:														
Endowed		22,871		177,673		55,614		68,630		97,000		24,712,893		24,669,451
Non-endowed		-		9,591		-		10,000		5,218		869,693		464,773
	\$	22,871	\$	187,264	\$	55,614	\$	78,630	\$	102,218	\$	25,582,586	\$	25,134,224

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.



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## National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

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#### The Purpose of the Organization:

The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation (NAAF) is a nationally registered nonprofit 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 \$ 37-million in scholarships and bursaries to more than 9,800 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 33,000 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.

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#### 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.

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## National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

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#### 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 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.

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# **National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation**

## **Notes to the Financial Statements**

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

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### **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 to adhere to the financial instruments standards adopted. 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.



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## National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

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#### 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) New accounting standards

Effective April 1, 2009, the Foundation adopted the amendments to CICA 3862, Financial Instruments- Disclosures. Disclosures about fair value of financial instruments, requires the disclosure of the estimated fair value of financial instruments. The fair value of a financial instrument is the amount at which the instrument could be exchanged in a current transaction between willing parties, other than in a forced or liquidation sale. The Foundation's financial instruments are recorded at fair value or at amounts that approximate fair value in the financial instruments.

The amendments to CICA 3862- Financial Instruments- Disclosures, establish a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs to valuation techniques used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are as follows:

Level 1 - Inputs that reflect unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities that the Investment Manager has the ability to access at the measurement date.

Level 2 - Inputs other than quoted prices that are observable for the asset or liability either directly or indirectly, including inputs in markets that are not considered to be active.

Level 3 - Inputs that are unobservable. There is little if any market activity. Inputs into the determination of fair value require significant management judgment or estimation.

These amended disclosures are included in Note 8.

# National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

### 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, 2010, the amount drawn against the credit facility is \$ Nil (2009 - \$ Nil). The Foundation also has access to credit via a margin loan against the main operating investment account. A limit accommodation is in place up to the margin room available depending on the market value of the investments and the margin formula per security. As at March 31, 2010, the amount drawn down against the margin loan is \$ Nil (2009 - \$ Nil). The Foundation's cash balances were reduced to an overdraft position as at March 31, 2010 as a consequence of the existence of issued and outstanding cheques as at that date.

### 3. Investments

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>2010 Market</u>	<u>Cost</u>	<u>2009 Market</u>
Cash held with investment manager	\$ 939,818	<b>\$ 958,154</b>	\$ 4,959,752	\$ 4,934,571
Fixed income	3,500,000	<b>3,209,978</b>	17,129,566	17,562,949
Exchange traded funds	<u>23,068,122</u>	<u><b>23,459,070</b></u>	<u>5,935,000</u>	<u>4,750,581</u>
	<u>\$ 27,507,940</u>	<u><b>\$ 27,627,202</b></u>	<u>\$ 28,024,318</u>	<u>\$ 27,248,101</u>

As of March 31, 2010, the fixed income securities bear interest at various rates ranging from 3.0% to 4.45% with maturity dates between December 18, 2012 and December 18, 2013. cheques as at that date.

### 4. Capital assets

	<u>Cost</u>	<u>Accumulated Amortization</u>	<u>2010 Net Book Value</u>	<u>2009 Net Book Value</u>
Office furniture and equipment	<u>\$ 174,357</u>	<u>\$ 110,963</u>	<u><b>\$ 63,394</b></u>	<u>\$ 24,343</u>

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## National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

### Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

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#### 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:

2011	\$ 124,417
2012	98,466
2013	94,077
2014	89,823
2015	84,189
	<hr/>
	\$ 490,972

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.

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#### 6. Awards and scholarships

Awards and scholarships for the year ended March 31, 2010 amounted to \$ 4,934,586 (2009 - \$ 4,763,286). These expenditures have been made through the operating fund in the amount of \$ 4,226,547 (2009 - \$ 3,835,376) and the restricted funds in the amount of \$ 708,039 (2009 - \$ 927,910).

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#### 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 \$ 41,238 (2009 - \$ 25,033).

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#### 8. Financial instruments

##### (a) Fair value

The carrying values of accounts receivable, bank indebtedness, accounts payable and accrued liabilities approximate their fair values due to the relatively short term nature of these instruments. Investments are recorded at fair value and are all categorized in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

##### (b) Interest rate risk

Interest rate risk is the risk that arises from fluctuations in interest rates and the degree of volatility of these rates. The Foundation does not use derivative instruments to reduce its exposure to interest rate risk on the investments.



# National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## Notes to the Financial Statements

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

### 8. Financial instruments (continued)

#### (c) Liquidity risk

Liquidity risk is the risk that the Foundation cannot meet a demand for cash or fund obligations as they come due. Liquidity risk also includes the risk of not being able to liquidate assets in a timely manner at a reasonable price. Management manages liquidity risk and monitors the cash and funding needs on a daily basis.

#### (d) Market risk

Market risk is the potential for loss from changes in the value of financial instruments. The value of a financial instrument can be affected by changes in interest rates, foreign exchange rates, equity and commodity prices and credit spreads.

The Foundation is exposed to market risk in the investments as well as through non-trading activities.

Market risk in investment activities is managed by the management of the Foundation. Every investment transaction is guided by policy and regulatory limitations.

As at March 31, the Foundation's equity exposure was as follows:

	<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>	
	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>% of Total</b>	<b>Amount</b>
	<b>Fund</b>		<b>Fund</b>	
Equities	<b>40%</b>	<b>\$ 10,975,334</b>	<b>17%</b>	<b>\$ 4,750,581</b>

As at March 31, 2010, if the prices of securities had increased or decreased by 10%, the effect on the assets, with all other variables held constant, would be as follows:

<b>2010</b>		<b>2009</b>	
<b>Change in</b>	<b>Change in</b>	<b>Change in</b>	<b>Change in</b>
<b>Equity Prices</b>	<b>Exposure</b>	<b>Equity Prices</b>	<b>Exposure</b>
<b>+/- 10%</b>	<b>\$ 1,097,533</b>	<b>+/- 10%</b>	<b>\$ 475,058</b>

### 9. 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.



# National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation

## Statement of Operations and Changes in Fund Balances – Restricted Funds

For the Year Ended March 31, 2010

	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	2010 Total	2009 Total
Revenue							
Investment income	\$ 531	\$ 4,136	\$ 1,258	\$ 1,833	\$ 2,066	\$ 840,909	\$ 748,786
Donations	-10,209	-	-		16,000	46,752	198,577
	531	14,345	1,258	1,833	18,066	887,661	947,363
Expenditures							
Awards and scholarships (Note 6)	2,500	4,749	-	10,000	3,000	708,039	927,910
Excess of revenue over expenditures (expenditures over revenue)	(1,969)	9,596	1,258	(8,167)	15,066	179,622	19,453
Fund balances, beginning of year	24,174	172,213	52,737	84,507	84,175	25,134,224	25,480,227
Unrealized gain (loss) on investments	666	5,455	1,619	2,290	2,977	268,740	(365,456)
Fund balances, end of year	22,871	187,264	55,614	78,630	102,218	25,582,586	25,134,224
Comprised of:							
Endowed	22,871	177,673	55,614	68,630	97,000	24,712,893	24,669,451
Non-endowed	-	9,591	-	10,000	5,218	869,693	464,773
	\$ 22,871	\$ 187,264	\$ 55,614	\$ 78,630	\$ 102,218	\$ 25,582,586	\$ 25,134,224

See accompanying notes to the financial statements.