PWRDF Canadian Indigenous Program
Current Projects
2017
Nuu-chan-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)

Nuu-chan-nulth Language and Culture Program (NLCP)
On Vancouver Island, B.C. the Nuu-chan-nulth Language and Culture Program supports community initiatives that contribute to the preservation of the NCN language and culture.

To date, approximately 91 resource items have been developed as a direct result of NLCP funding. The Facebook group called “I want to learn the Nuu-chan-nulth Language” now has over 1,300 members. There are currently over 600 active adult learners of the language and NCN language groups and initiatives are on the rise including on social media. Furthermore, the resources developed have been celebrated and showcased by the 14 NCN communities.

PWRDF has partnered with the Nuu-chan-nulth Economic Development Corporation since 2002 to carry out this program.

Indigenous Youth Business Strategy Program
In 2016, PWRDF began supporting NEDC’s Indigenous Youth Business Strategy Program. This program aims to provide Indigenous youth with access to a specific youth-oriented loan fund to assist them in starting a business, experience success, create jobs and develop wealth. By applying for a micro-loan young people can learn valuable skills like budgeting and marketing, develop increased confidence, and they can even start building their future career.

Indigenous (First Nations status and non-status, Métis and Inuit) youth under the age of 25 make up almost half of the Indigenous population in Canada. Consultation processes have confirmed that Indigenous youth face some of the most challenging statistics in our country from low graduation rates, high teen pregnancy, high suicide rates, and increased health challenges. The proposed project provides the opportunity to youth to break the cycle of dependency and to empower them to journey towards self-sufficiency.

The First Nation Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC)
Based on the Siksika First Nation in southern Alberta, the First Nation Adult and Higher Education Consortium develops courses on Cosmology, Blackfoot Epistemology and other Blackfoot Knowledge for online delivery. These courses contribute to Blackfoot people’s understanding of their origins, culture, and language and to developing positive self-concepts. Blackfoot knowledge is not otherwise readily available except through local oral histories facilitated by instructors who are called Knowledge Keepers and ceremonial bundle holders.

The students who took the on-line courses, or are currently enrolled on-site, expressed their gratitude for learning about their history and regaining some of
their traditional Indigenous knowledge. Indeed, a reawakening is happening amongst Blackfoot youth. For instance, some are joining cultural and ceremonial groups and ensuring the revival of these ancestral traditions for, by and with their communities.

In 2016 1,100 individuals participated in various training sessions and workshops offered by FNAHEC and a cumulative total of 7,800 people have been exposed to the program and teachings of FNAHEC. The local community and regional government educational authorities have recognized FNAHEC as a point of reference in terms of Indigenous language, curriculum development, and traditional knowledge.

**Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa Language and Cultural Centre (KORLCC)**

Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa Language and Cultural Centre works to preserve and strengthen the Kanien'keha language and increase community access to culturally relevant programs and cultural workshops that promote, reinforce and increase the transmission of cultural knowledge, history and traditions. KORLCC has been in operation at Kahnawake Mohawk Territory, Québec since 1978.

KORLCC recruits and supports local artists, language educators and translators, Indigenous scholars and community language and cultural advocates to carry out their various language and cultural education programs. These programs are documented via digital archive or photos. The use of the community’s local cable network and all social media allows KORRLC to create and increase community access to their diverse language and cultural education programs. The program reached 2,000 total beneficiaries. In addition, these programs, which include the Tóta Tánon Ohkwári puppet show (now in its 13th season), are viewed by school children and community school students, and broadcast on the local cable network to a community of 8,000 people.

**Pikangikum First Nation Water Project Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Water)**

Since 2014 PWRDF has been working in coordination with Pimatisiwin Nipi, the Pikangikum Working Group (PWG) and the Pikangikum First Nation community to ensure clean and safe water, as well as wastewater systems to a growing number of homes in Pikangikum First Nation in Northwestern Ontario.

The second phase of the project is currently being carried out by implementing partner Habitat for Humanity Manitoba. Completed by the end of 2017, this phase will bring the total number of homes in the community with clean water to twenty. PWRDF’s response to further water needs in Pikangikum and other Indigenous communities are under discussion.
This collaborative program is also supported by the National Youth Project, an initiative that engages young Anglicans and Lutherans. The current NYP is the “Right to Water” which is focussed on the limited access to clean water in Indigenous communities across Canada.

**Indigenous Maternal Health and Midwifery Program**

Since 2015 PWRDF has been working in collaboration with three national Indigenous organizations and three universities to develop an Indigenous maternal health initiative. These are:

- **Mexico**: Kinal Antzetik, a long-time PWRDF partner based in Mexico City in collaboration with the Universidad Autonoma de Guerrero
- **Peru**: Chirapaq, Centro de Culturas Indigenas del Peru, in collaboration with the Universidad Nacional San Cristobal of Huamanga, Ayacucho
- **Canada**: The National Aboriginal Council of Midwives (NAMC) in collaboration with the Ryerson Aboriginal Students Centre at Ryerson University, Toronto

The initiative seeks to disseminate midwifery knowledge, expertise and experience and to share best practices through Indigenous communities in Canada and Latin America. In 2016 those involved began developing an Indigenous midwifery core curriculum based on input from locally developed curricula in Nunavik, Manitoba and Ontario.
PWRDF - OVER 20 YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP WITH INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

Language and Culture:
Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC): Port Alberni, British Columbia;
First Nations Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC): Siksika, Alberta;
Kanien'kehaka Onkwawén:na Raotitiohkwa (KOR): Kahnawake, Quebec;
Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute (WWN): New Aiyansh, British Columbia;
The Confederacy of Mainland Mi’kmaq (CMM): Truro, Nova Scotia;
Mi’kmak College Institute (MCI): Cape Breton, Nova Scotia;

Youth Capacity Development Program:
Nishnawbe Aski Nation (NAN): Thunder Bay, Ontario;
Ermineskin Special Project Youth Program (young offenders): Hobbema, Alberta;
First Nations Technical Institute: Tyendinaga, Ontario;
Dogrib Treaty 11 Council – Tlicho Nation: Rae Edzo, Northwest Territories
The Chief Jimmy Bruneau Regional High School: Rae Edzo, Northwest Territories;

Women Empowerment Program:
Nats’enel Dene Society: Fort Simpson, Northwest Territories;
Neyaashiing Aboriginal Women’s Project: Cape Croker, Ontario;
Northern Aboriginal Iskwewak (Cree women): Thompson, Manitoba

Health and Wellness Program:
Kainai ARBI/FAS Committee: Tsuu T’ina, Alberta;
2-Spirited People of the First Nations: Toronto, Ontario;
Hamilton Native Women Centre: Hamilton, Ontario

Indigenous Rights Education and Awareness:
Cross Lake First Nation, Manitoba;
Six Nations International Development Agency (SNIDA): Ohsweken, Ontario
The Jake Thomas Learning Centre, Ontario: Ohsweken, Ontario
Redwire Native Youth Media Society: Vancouver, Ontario

Micro-Finance Initiatives:
Two Rivers Community Development Corporation: Six Nations Grand River, Ohsweken, Ontario;

Strategic Collaborations with:
Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP): Toronto, Ontario

Inter-Indigenous Partnerships and Exchange:
Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC): Port Alberni, British Columbia;
First Nations Adult & Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC): Siksika, Alberta;
Mi’kmak College Institute (MCI): Cape Breton, Nova Scotia;
Wilp Wilxo’oskwhl Nisga’a Institute (WWN: New Aiyansh British Columbia