

JUNE OUTREACH FOCUS - PWRDF & Canadian Indigenous Programs

The Primate's World Relief and Development organization (PWRDF) has been working with Indigenous people for over 20 years. In the past year the **Primate's World Relief and Development** organization has been invited to partner with six Canadian Indigenous communities. A broader description of these partnerships is posted on the Peace and Justice bulletin board in the hall. Projects close to home include:

1. PWRDF has partnered with the **Nuu-chan-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC)**, Vancouver Island, B.C since 2002 to develop and teach **the Nuu-chan-nulth Language and Culture Program** which supports community initiatives that contribute to the preservation of the NCN language and culture. There are currently over 600 active adult learners of the language and NCN language groups. The resources developed have been celebrated and showcased by the 14 NCN communities.

2. **Indigenous Youth Business Strategy Program** In 2016, PWRDF began supporting NEDC's Indigenous Youth Business Strategy Program. This program aims to provide Indigenous youth, under the age of 25, with access to a specific youth-oriented loan fund to assist them in starting a business, experience success, create jobs and develop wealth. The proposed project provides the opportunity to youth to break the cycle of dependency and to empower them to journey towards self-sufficiency.



3. Based on the Siksika First Nation in southern Alberta, **The First Nation Adult and Higher Education Consortium (FNAHEC)** develops courses on Cosmology, Blackfoot Epistemology and other Blackfoot Knowledge for online delivery. 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.
4. 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. 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.

In addition to these development projects, PWRDF has responded to emergencies like the BC Friendship Centre in Williams Lake and in many other ways in other communities following the 2017 wildfires.

June 11 - is the 10th anniversary of Canada's apology to Indian Residential School Survivors and June 21 is National Indigenous Peoples Day. Let us pray for Indigenous Peoples worldwide and the programs that support their healing and growth.