

VOICES



Governance Best Practice Report Now Available



Together with the National Centre for First Nations Governance (NCFNG), NRT has released the Governance Best Practice Report. The report provides an overview of the strategies, techniques, procedures and processes that First Nations can

employ to establish effective governance. It includes case studies of successful governance best practices already being implemented by a number of First Nations.

The Governance Report is one of five best practice studies commissioned by NRT. Other reports to be released this fall are: Comprehensive Community Planning, Environmental Assessments, Consultation and Accommodation, and Land Use Planning. All five reports serve as models whereby First Nations can determine for themselves how the principles provided in the reports can be applied in their own communities.

The Best Practice Reports will be posted on the NRT website for free download as they are released this fall.

Regional Engagement Sessions

Coming your way soon, NRT will be visiting a community near you. See page 2 for details.

Inside

Message from the CEO	page 2
Engagement Dates & Locations	page 2
Annual Report / Languages	page 3
Education Grants	page 3
Capacity Direct Support	page 4

Message from the CEO



When NRT was founded in 2006, we visited 11 communities around the Province to determine the top needs and priorities of BC First Nation people.

The feedback we received resulted in our first ever Strategic Plan

and set the course for NRTs overall direction for the past three years. Our current investment policy, spending strategy and funding initiatives are all based on stakeholder feedback we received in 2006.

This fall, NRT will conduct a second round of Regional Engagement Sessions. We'll be visiting 10 regions in October and November to share our progress and to once again gather feedback about our strategic direction. We want to hear from First Nation leaders and members throughout BC; we want to ensure that our strategic priorities are in alignment with your community needs.

I encourage all who are able to come out to a session near you. This is your opportunity to tell us how you'd like NRT to direct our resources over the next few years – what types of initiatives you would like us to support, and how you feel NRT should manage the fund.

We have chosen 10 communities to visit this year that we feel will allow participation from all regions of the Province. For those who can't make it out in person to a session, we will have a survey posted on the NRT website. Simply go to www.newrelationshiptrust.com, click on survey and fill it out online. Your opinion will be recorded and included in the final report. I hope to see you at a Regional Engagement Meeting this fall!

Respectfully,



Cliff Fregin, CEO

Engagement Dates and Locations

Prince George	13-Oct-09	Ramada Hotel
Fort St. John	15-Oct-09	Quality Inn Northern Grand
Williams Lake	20-Oct-09	Overlander Hotel Convention Centre
Kamloops	22-Oct-09	Chief Louie Centre Assembly Hall
Cranbrook	26-Oct-09	St. Eugene Resort
Campbell River	29-Oct-09	Quinsam Hall
Victoria	3-Nov-09	Victoria Native Friendship Centre
Vancouver	5-Nov-09	Tsleil-Waututh Community Centre
Prince Rupert	10-Nov-09	Nisga'a Hall
Terrace	12-Nov-09	Kitsumkalum Hall

For more information:

www.newrelationshiptrust.ca/regional-engagements-fall-2009



2009 Annual Report: Focus on Languages



NRT's 2008/09 Annual Report is now available. Printed copies were sent to all communities in early September and an electronic version is posted on the NRT website.

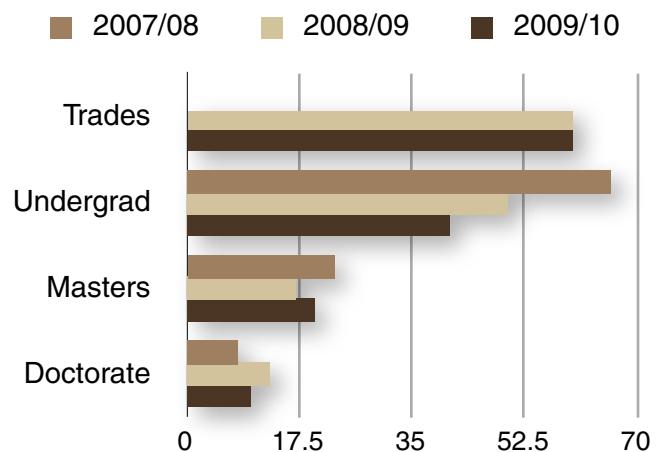
The theme of the year's report is languages. BC is home to 32 First Nation languages and multiple dialects, and virtually all of them are endangered. Working in partnership with the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Council (FPHLCC), NRT supported six distinct language initiatives last year. We funded initiatives to archive languages, train language teachers, and support immersion and mentorship programs.



In the 2008/09 Annual Report, you can read about three communities that are participating in FirstVoices, a unique initiative funded by NRT and administered by FPHLCC that uses the latest in digital technology to create online archives of indigenous languages. We visited the communities of Sliammon, Nisga'a and Ehattesaht / Nuchatlaht to learn about the work they are doing to preserve their languages for future generations.

Education Support Continues

Scholarships and bursaries for the 2009/10 school year have now been awarded, with \$750,000 going out in support to 158 students. This initiative, now in its third year, has helped more than 400 post-secondary students to date.



Nicola Campbell, a member of the Lower Nicola Indian Band, received a scholarship to support her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing at UBC. Nicola, who has been writing since the age of eight, has already published two award-winning children's books and a number of poems. She writes about First Nations culture, history, teachings and her own experience as a First Nations woman.

"I can't thank NRT enough for the \$10,000 scholarship!" said Nicola. "It makes a world of difference to me and took a huge weight off of my shoulders. I am so happy and excited to be returning to UBC this fall to complete my MFA. My goal is to write and publish more children's stories, a novel and a book of poetry. Kukwsteyp!"

Another round of scholarship and bursary funding will be announced in Spring 2010. Watch the NRT website (programs pages) for details.

Capacity Support Helps 40+ Communities



NRT's Capacity Direct Support initiative has received an overwhelming response, with applications from more than 55 communities for the 2009/10 funding year. The Direct Support initiative was piloted in 2008/09, when we supported 45 projects with a total of \$750,000 in grants. Some of the projects supported last year were:

- Musqueam Indian Band received funds to complete their Draft Land Use Plan and accompanying Governance Policy Package.
- Nlaka'pamux Nation Tribal Council used funds to create a centralized Land Referrals database so members can share information and track referrals.
- Kaska Dena Council used funding to develop curriculum materials, draft policies, and workshops to address mineral development in the Kaska territory.
- Shuswap Nation Tribal Council put funds toward their land use planning, including creation of a base map of Secwepemc territory and involving youth in their planning process.

NRT Capacity Initiatives Coordinator Geordan Clark is in the process of selecting recipients for this year's funding. \$1 million is available, and we expect to fund approximately 40 projects.

One challenge Geordan faces is ensuring that the funds get to the communities that need them most. Some First Nation communities lack the capacity to prepare applications and proposals, and therefore are often left out when it comes to opportunities like this one. NRT is working to resolve this challenge; in the selection process we are looking for communities where support is most needed and we have attempted to create an application process that is not overly demanding.



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Mission

Investing in First Nation governments in British Columbia to support their authority and jurisdiction.

Vision

A better British Columbia where First Nations have efficient and effective governments, vibrant cultures and languages, social justice, and economic prosperity.