



The Aboriginal Healing Foundation | Fondation autochtone de guérison

275 Slater Street, Suite 900 | Ottawa, Ontario K1P 5H9

275, rue Slater, pièce 900 | Ottawa (Ontario) K1P 5H9

Telephone/Téléphone: (613) 237-4441 | Toll-free/Sans frais: (888) 725-8886

Facsimile/Bélinographe: (613) 237-4442 | Website/Site web: <http://www.ahf.ca>

ABORIGINAL HEALING FOUNDATION CLOSES AFTER 16 YEARS OF OPERATION

(OTTAWA, Ontario, September 30, 2014) – The Aboriginal Healing Foundation’s Board of Directors announced today the AHF has been dissolved, bringing an end to sixteen years of operation.

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation was created on March 31, 1998 and provided \$350 million by the federal government of Canada to encourage and support community-developed, community-delivered and culturally-based initiatives addressing the intergenerational effects of abuses suffered in the Indian Residential School System.

Exhaustively evaluated throughout its mandate, the Aboriginal Healing Foundation consistently received positive third-party assessments. A December 2009 final evaluation, conducted by DPRA Canada in Association with T.K Gussman Associates, was published by Indian Affairs and Northern Development and recommended that “the Government of Canada should consider continued support for the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, at least until the Settlement Agreement compensation process and commemorative initiatives are completed.”

“As Aboriginal people, we have every reason to be proud of what we’ve accomplished,” AHF President Georges Erasmus said this week. “The work of healing and reconciliation is by no means complete. But the past years show us what we can do by working together, and so I urge the public to support survivors by supporting this work of healing and reconciliation.”

The Aboriginal Healing Foundation received a further \$40 million in the 2005 federal budget. In 2007, the Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement provided \$125 million, extending the AHF’s original mandate by five years, to 2014. On March 30, 2010, AHF contribution agreements ended for 134 community projects. After this date, the AHF maintained a core, nation-wide network of Healing Centres, completed its internationally-recognized research agenda, published extensively on reconciliation issues, fulfilled its reporting requirements, and carried out the winding-down of its operations. The AHF provided \$537,146,681 to communities, operating entirely out of interest generated by the \$515 million received from government.

In August, the AHF released *Full Circle: the Aboriginal Healing Foundation & the Unfinished Work of Hope, Healing & Reconciliation*. This book tells the story of the Foundation and of related initiatives, including the historic Indian Residential Schools Settlement Agreement.

-30-

For more information please contact: Wayne K. Spear (647) 882-1965, wayne.k.spear@gmail.com.

Our mission is to provide resources which will promote reconciliation and encourage and support Aboriginal people and their communities in building and reinforcing sustainable healing processes that address the legacy of physical, sexual, mental, cultural, and spiritual abuses in the residential school system, including intergenerational impacts.