



Monthly Update

To: Aboriginal organizations
From: APFA staff
Date: May 1, 2007
Re: **April update**

The Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord (APFA) is in the process of wrapping up the fourth of its five zone gatherings across the Interior. Yesterday and today, a 'Creating a Community Table' Gathering is taking place at the Merritt Civic Centre where representatives from across the Lillooet/Lytton/Merritt zone are discussing next steps in moving towards a community table. Community Tables will be your voice in how family services will unfold in your area. Earlier this month, APFA Gatherings took place in Castlegar for the Kootenay Zone and in Westbank for the Okanagan Zone.

"I'm very happy in how the zones are coming together. In the Cariboo/Chilcotin Zone, they're having their second table meeting on May fourth. Their final report is done and we're now looking at a terms of reference for the group," said APFA Community Linkage Manager Allan Weselowski. "In the Kootenays, their final report is in progress and in the Okanagan, which just completed, there was lots of representation."

The first round of Community Table Gatherings wrap up in **Kamloops, at Chief Louis Centre, 355 Yellowhead Hwy, May 16-17**. Shuswap Zone Community Table Coordinator Grace Howse is looking forward to taking another step in her area.

"This will start preliminary discussions around establishing a community table in this area," said Howse.

For more information, or to register, contact Howse at **819-2738**/email GHowse@apfaBC.org or call **Cheryl Stump** toll-free at **1-866-711-APFA** (2732).

The Secwepemc Nation, along with the APFA and Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD), co-hosted the '**Empowering Our Youth**' Conference at the Chief Louis Centre on April 24-25. "The turnout was about 70 youth. That was good. It was youth from the surrounding on-reserve communities and that's good for us in this zone," said Community Table Coordinator Grace Howse.

Community Linkage Manager Allan Weselowski was also impressed by the turnout and participation. "Everybody was well-behaved and liked the fact that it was very interactive," said Weselowski. "In that zone, they're looking at making it an annual event."

The **Okanagan Zone** will host their '**Empowering Our Communities**' Youth Conference, at the **En'owkin Centre**, located on the Penticton Indian Band, on **May 15-16**. For more information or to register, contact Community Table Coordinator **Bob McCuaig at 826-APFA** (2732) or **Cheryl Stump** toll-free at **1-866-711-APFA** (2732).

At a meeting with APFA Director of Operations Elaine Herbert on April 27 in Vernon, MCFD Minister Tom Christensen expressed interest in attending an upcoming APFA Political Committee meeting.

The APFA hosted a Wraparound training at Quaaout Lodge which was well-received. The training promotes bringing the family together and wrapping services around the family – almost as a form of one-stop shopping. The second Wraparound training goes May 8-10 at Quaaout. However, due to the positive response, additional Wraparound training sessions may be scheduled for this summer.