



Monthly Update

To: Aboriginal organizations

From: APFA staff

Date: Aug. 31, 2007

Re: **August update**

The Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord (APFA) **Board of Directors** and **Political Committee** met with Ministry of Children & Family Development (MCFD) **Deputy Minister Lesley du Toit** in the Okanagan on Saturday, Aug. 25.

Some of the issues discussed were clarity around the regionalization process, budget concerns and the need to speak with one voice. CEO Elaine Herbert stressed the APFA's Early Childhood Development and Mental Health teams are involved in service planning, as opposed to service delivery, which builds capacity within Aboriginal communities. APFA Community Linkage Manager Allan Weselowski, Early Childhood Development Planner Sue Sterling and Mental Health Manager Janice Murphy gave overviews on their respective departments.

APFA Board Vice Chair Marg Ahdemar provided an update in how the Community Table in her zone was functioning. "Community Tables are a key piece to community development up in the Cariboo. I cannot stress enough the importance of Allan's team working with communities."

The deputy minister was receptive to the concerns raised and requested additional documentation from APFA staff.

The APFA's **2007 Annual Report** is on its way back from the printers. When the APFA sets up a display booth at community events, the Annual Report ranks second among most popular communication items.

"One of the APFA values is accountability and giving Aboriginal communities a user-friendly overview of our activities during the past fiscal year works towards that end," said APFA Communications Coordinator Dan Odenbach. "We produce our annual report in smaller numbers than our quarterly newsletters due to the size of the document. However, this year's annual report will join the previous three as printable versions on our website."

This year's annual report is 20-pages long and will be mailed out to individuals on the APFA mailing list, Aboriginal organizations, Ministry staff, MLAs, MPs, the APFA Board of Directors and APFA Political Committee members.

Dates have been confirmed with the Native American Institute to hold the popular **Wraparound Training** sessions in the Okanagan and Lillooet-Lytton-Merritt Zones in October. The two American facilitators, who help put Aboriginal challenges into perspective, will split the four-days of training into two sessions.

The Lillooet-Lytton-Merritt Zone training will take place at the **Julianne Hall** in Lillooet on Oct. 9-10 and 22-23 while the Okanagan Zone training is slated for the **Manteo Resort** in Kelowna on Oct. 11-12 and 24-25.

Contact APFA Administrative Assistant Cheryl Stump toll free at **1-866-711-APFA** (2732) for more information or to register.