



Monthly Update

To: Aboriginal organizations
From: APFA staff
Date: March 1, 2007
Re: **February update**

As of today, the Aboriginal Peoples Family Accord (APFA) is pleased to announce the addition of **Elaine Herbert** to our staff. The Bonaparte Indian Band member, who holds a Masters in Social Work, has been named as the **new APFA Director of Operations**.

"I'm looking forward to all the challenges this position brings. I believe we need to continue to move forward and let's get it done," said Herbert, the former Manager of Social Services with the Westbank First Nation.

Herbert will be working closely with Transition Coordinator Eliza Terbasket who says Herbert has an impressive resume. "Elaine brings an extensive list of skills to this position and we're all looking to move this process forward."

Herbert can be reached at our main number of 768-8475 or **toll free at 1-866-711-APFA (2732)**.

At their special meeting last month, the APFA Board of Directors, along with members of the Political Committee, met in Kelowna for an intensive strategic planning session. Facilitator Bob Breaker, of the Siksika Nation, brought forward the following agenda items;

- To formalize the establishment of the APFA
- Develop a Board of Directors policy and accountability framework
- Foster unity and partnerships
- Provide an Aboriginal Children's Agenda to ensure the coordination of service delivery
- Move to an interim authority

On the move to an interim authority, the APFA will be joining the Vancouver Island Aboriginal Transition Team (VIATT) and the Fraser Aboriginal Planning Committee. It's important to note, this move to interim authority would be using the Regional Authorities Act and is not new child welfare legislation.

The Interior Region is well represented on the Provincial Elders Advisory Council and Youth Advisory Council. These two groups will be called upon to guide the transformation process within the Ministry of Children & Family Development.

Okanagan Nation member **Lillian V. Allison of Cawston** is part of the nine-member Elders Council which is chaired by Audrey Lundquist of Prince Rupert. Other council members include Brenda Wesley of Vancouver, Hazelton's Lillian Jackson, Andrew Yellowback from Prince George, Mission's Doris Peters, Louisa Smith of Prince Rupert, Marjorie White and Bill White of New Westminster.

Interior residents on the 30-member Youth Advisory Council include;

Bryone Lane – Cranbrook
Cheryl McLeod – Merritt
Justina Stolz – Kelowna
Chantel Manjarrez - Penticton
Evelyn Travis – Vernon
John Canning – Kelowna

The Provincial Youth Advisory Council is chaired by Stan Williams of Vancouver.