



Monthly Update

To: Aboriginal organizations
From: APFA staff
Date: Jan. 31, 2008
Re: **January update**

The First Nations Leadership Council promoted unity and moving forward at the '**Indigenous Child at the Centre Chief's Forum**' in Vancouver last week. In the Leadership wrap-up, Grand Chief Stewart Phillip fought back emotions as he told his story of growing up in the non-aboriginal world and being separated from his culture. "The responsibility we have is enormous. **We can only do this if we walk together,**" said Stewart who, in his opening comments, stated the need to put children ahead of politics and personal agendas.

Grand Chief Ed John said having almost half of the provinces chiefs represented at the forum was a positive. "**We need to stand with each other.**"

Political Chief Robert Shintah agreed for the call to unity. "Let's fight for this together." Shintah earlier stated, "If we don't stick to what we're doing, there's going to be a lot more Jordans." Shintah was referring to First Nations boy from northern Manitoba who was born with severe medical problems and spent two years in hospital while federal and provincial governments argued over who should pay for his at-home care. He died, in hospital, before ever spending a day in his family's home. **Jordan's Principle** states that governments must help the child first and figure out who pays the bills later. Premier Gordon Campbell attended the forum and announced his government's commitment to Jordan's Principle.

The **Wraparound Training** continues to be a hit across the Interior. With only two zones left, APFA Administrative Assistant Cheryl Stump says the response from family services providers continues to be strong. "In the Shuswap, all 40 seats have been filled. In some cases, people have heard positives about the training and are willing to travel out of their zone to take it. We still have about 30 seats left in the Kootenays," said Cheryl.

The two remaining sessions, facilitated by the Native American Training Institute, are at the Foster's Convention Centre in Kamloops Feb. 12-15 and at Selkirk College's MIR Centre in Castlegar from March 4-7. For further information, or to register, contact Cheryl at 1-866-711-APFA or email her at: cstump@apfabc.org

As part of the Interior Region's Early **Childhood Development (ECD) Coalition Network**, the APFA ECD department will accept a regional Premier's Award from Premier Gordon Campbell on Wednesday, Feb. 6 in Kamloops.

"The Interior Region is the only region in the province to have an ECD Coalition Network. Its goal is to strengthen existing relationships and to forge new ones for the betterment of our children and families," said APFA ECD Senior Planner Sue Sterling.

Check out the new **Promotions link** on the APFA website at: apfaBC.org

"There's a place where you can sign up for our newsletter, fill out a survey and have your name entered to win one of our popular travel blankets or an attractive folding chair. Either of these promotional gifts would come in handy at any outdoor event," said APFA Communication Coordinator Dan Odenbach.