



# Indigenews

A Publication of Indigenous Pathways

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Volume 1 Issue 1



## Our New Umbrella: Maximizing Time and Resources

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Paths that Indigenous people take toward a desired destination; ways Indigenous people take to journey towards true north on the compass; trails that lead us to good places. Indigenous Pathways!

That's the new umbrella under which the three ministries – My People, iEmergence, and NAIITS will now gather – Indigenous Pathways. You may recall that several years ago now we formed a partnership between these three ministries to increase our effectiveness and to share resources. Over the course of the past couple of years, the cooperative relationship grew to the point that we felt the obvious next step was to create a single umbrella under which we could meet.

Now this doesn't mean that My People, or NAIITS, or iEmergence cease to exist as individual ministry entities—quite the opposite. Each continues to offer the programs and ministry focus that brought them into existence—and that you've come to expect. And, each of them will continue to utilize their respective names and logos to reference the programs that they offer. However, effective June 30, 2014 we will all exist under the umbrella of a single legal entity, known as Indigenous Pathways, with a single board of directors.

It's really an incredible opportunity to capitalize further on what we have already discovered to be a mutually beneficial relationship. We work well together, we play well together, and we enjoy what each other brings to the ministry with Indigenous peoples. What better way to utilize time and resources than to share one administrative structure?

In the months ahead we will be updating you on the transition – but do not worry, we will continue to offer the very best of your favourite ministries and programs to Indigenous peoples in Canada, the USA, and in Indigenous communities in the Philippines, Northeast India, Australia, and New Zealand.

Thanks so very much for your continued support as we expand our reach and increase our impact for God's kingdom.

~Terry & Bev LeBlanc,  
Executive Director,  
Indigenous Pathways



*"I'm glad to be a part of team with Indigenous colleagues serving their own people. Indigenous Pathways – A faith based organization desiring to develop the full capacity of Indigenous people. The IP team has a level of empathy, passion and experience that is making a difference in peoples lives and communities in Canada, US, Australia and other places in the world.*

~Karen Ward



*"Indigenous pathways- three avenues of great ministry. I believe in what NAIITS is all about as they inspire learning, studying and thinking in ways that are so desperately needed. iEmergence is doing radical work coming from the energy of youth bringing important new insights from fresh minds in touch with today's and yesterdays' culture and mind set. My People has many years of experience in walking with Indigenous communities dealing with the impact of colonization, residential and social crises. Indigenous pathways, a powerful balance between radical thinking and radical doing."*

~Rick & Linda Martin



Academics, Annual  
Journal and Symposiums



# An Indigenous Learning Community

Find out more

[www.naiits.org](http://www.naiits.org)

Tina\* approached me very enthusiastically, a big smile on her face! In her hand she held a small cloth pouch, which she held firmly but gently. I had not seen Tina for two or three years but her smile was unforgettable.

"Thank you," she said. "Your teaching made it possible for me and my mom – and now my daughter to walk well after Jesus without forsaking who Jesus made us to be."

Several years ago that I spoke at a small church in southern Ontario about the struggle that many people in the Native North American community were having around culture and faith. As you will know, it's an old message that we have been sharing for many years: Jesus wants to redeem us entirely – including our cultural contexts. Trish, along with her mother and young daughter, had been in attendance that day. You could tell by her expression that the message I was sharing was entirely new to her, yet very welcome. As the evening was coming to an end I recall her describing the struggle on the reserve between those who believed one must entirely forsake Christianity in order to be Native and those who believed one must entirely forsake being Native in order to be Christian.



Just when you wonder, "Are we making a difference?" God sends someone along who has been impacted by the work that we do to let us know, "Yes, you are making a difference."

I thank God for Tina and her family. There were more who came with Tina to the conference that I spoke at recently, and they were there because Tina had said, "These people talk about Jesus in a different way – a way that brings us life and affirmation."

Thanks for your continued partnership in the gospel – a gospel that brings fullness of life to every facet of life for those who will seek first the kingdom of God.

Blessings friends.

~Terry LeBlanc, Director NAIITS

\* Not her real name! :-)



**NAIITS Symposium**  
June 5-7, 2014  
**George Fox Seminary**  
**Newberg, OR**  
*"Indigenous Reality:  
Moving beyond Colonial and  
Post-Colonial Conversations"*  
office@naiits.com  
Phone: 1.647.400.0940

Now, here it was several years later and yet another conference at which I was speaking. As the session ended, Tina approached me with a small pouch from which she took a folded cloth. This, she began to unwrap. Finally, with great care, she drew from the folds of the cloth a small beautifully formed Eagle feather which she presented to me.

Nestooak Training and  
Inenimowin Circle



# My People

Find out more

[www.mypeopleinternational.com](http://www.mypeopleinternational.com)

Recently I was speaking at an Aboriginal Awareness Week at Briercrest College and Seminary. While I was there I was given an opportunity to interact with several Aboriginal students. One of these students was keen about ministry. So I asked the young man "What is your vision?" He laughed: "I have lots of visions." I said, "No, really, What's your vision?" He said "Do you want to hear my joke or do you really want to hear?"

"No, straight up. What do you want? What do you want to see happen?"

"Sovereignty!" he said. "I want to see freedom. This was our land and I want to see freedom. That is why I work on the street. I see our people homeless. That is not were they were meant to be."

At this point tears were running down his face. His brother who was sitting there listening was suddenly transported to this whole other place. This is the Plains Cree that I remember. They are still there. This passion for freedom, it's still here. It's still alive.

If we are going to share the good news of the Gospel in a way that calls for transformation it must go to the deepest level, the heart language of the people. First Nations people long for freedom from the legacy of residential schools, freedom from the legacy of broken homes, freedom from the legacy of oppression. Jesus wants to set people free to be who He created them to be. Aboriginal awareness programs and other such events help create space for people to be who God made them to be. **My People** is empowering schools, churches, and individuals to create space for the Indigenous people of Canada and the United States to be who God made them to be. *We need you to travel with us on this journey. Thanks so much for your partnership.*

~ Ray Aldred, Director: My People



# Inenimowin Circle

May 18-22, 2014

Big Fork, MT

For more information

contact Wes and Summer Graham

wessummergraham@gmail.com

406-470-4126



Look forward to  
our next issue  
with a report on  
the recent Truth  
and  
Reconciliation  
Commission in  
Edmonton, AB

*"Indigenous Pathways is more than a name or title. These two words a) immediately recognize the proud and noble First People of the land, and b) speak to the common ground we all share during the journey of life."*

Karen Bursma

*"I see Indigenous Pathways as the hub of a wheel with My People, NAIITS and iEmergence as spokes, functioning together to give balance to that wheel."*

~Tom Bursma



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If you would like removed from the list, email us "REMOVE FROM INDIGENEWS"

If we don't hear from you, you will continue to enjoy Indigenews as a hardcopy in your mailbox. Thanks so much for your faithful support and prayers!

*"What a humbling privilege to serve within Indigenous Pathways; alongside of so many experts in their field of work effective all over the world, passionate for presenting*

*Christ in a clear and relevant way, and deeply committed to loving others just as our Creator intended."*

~Wes and Summer Graham



## Upcoming Conferences and Training Events...

### Board of Directors

- ~ Cheryl Bear, Carrier Sekani, Musician, Pastor
- ~ Cornelius Buller, German CDN Self-employed
- ~ Casey Church, Pottawotomi, Pastor, Albuquerque Native Fellowship
- ~ Adrian Jacobs, Cayuga,
- ~ Wendy Peterson, Sect'y, Metis, Faculty, Providence Seminary
- ~ Shari Russell, Treas., Saulteaux, Corps Officer, Salvation Army
- ~ Andrea Smith, Cherokee, Faculty, U of C Riverside
- ~ Randy Woodley, Keetowah, Faculty, George Fox Seminary

### Staff & Associates

- ~ Ray and Elaine Aldred (Cree)
- ~ Tiara Bacon (Philipina)
- ~ Tom and Karen Bursma (Euro-American)
- ~ Laurie Conway (Euro-American)
- ~ Celine & Hector Bastien Genest (Huron/French Canadian)
- ~ Wes & Summer Graham (Euro-American)
- ~ Matt LeBlanc, (Mi'kmaq/Acadian)
- ~ Terry and Bev LeBlanc (Mi'kmaq/Acadian)
- ~ Dan & Jeanine Lowe LeBlanc (Irish American/Mi'kmaq/Acadian)
- ~ Rick and Linda Martin (Cree)
- ~ Michelle Nieviadomy (Cree)
- ~ Tim & Yin Mooi Stime (Norwegian & Malaysian)
- ~ Karen & Jeff Ward (Euro-Canadian)

- ◇ May 2-4, *Crisis, Trauma and Suicide Intervention Conference*, Sioux Lookout, Ontario (Martins: teaching, counseling and music)
- ◇ May 5 - 9, *Yonge Street Mission*, Toronto, Ontario. (Terry teaching)
- ◇ May 10 - 23, *Appreciative Inquiry*, New Zealand and NAIITS meetings in Australia (Terry teaching)
- ◇ May 18-22. *Inenimowin Circle Training*. Big Fork, MT. (Aldreds, Martins, Grahams, Stimes)
- ◇ May 25-27, NAIITS is co-sponsoring the CHEC (Christian Higher Education Canada) conference
- ◇ June 4-7, *Rising Above Abuse Conference*, Prince Rupert, British Columbia (Rick: counseling & music) (Linda attending NAIITS)
- ◇ June 2-4 *NAIITS board meetings*, Newport, Oregon. (NAIITS)
- ◇ June 5-7, *NAIITS 11th Annual Symposium*, Newberg, Oregon. (NAIITS and various MP staff)
- ◇ June 18-22, *Sojourners, "The Summit: World Change through Faith & Justice,"* New York. (Terry speaking)
- ◇ June 23-27, *CDN School of Peacebuilding*, CMU in Winnipeg, Manitoba. (Terry teaching)
- ◇ July 12 - 19, *Summer Day Camp*. Wahgoshig FN. (Bursmas)
- ◇ July 17-20, *Ministry Outreach*, Churchill, Manitoba. (Aldreds and Martins)
- ◇ July 20 - 26, *Summer Day Camp*. Magnetawan FN. (Bursmas)
- ◇ July 25-27, *Ministry Outreach*, Weagamow Lake, Ontario (Martins)
- ◇ July 27 - Aug 2, *Summer Day Camp*, Shawanaga FN. (Bursmas)
- ◇ August 1-5, *Kids Culture Camp*, Sundre, Alberta. (various staff)
- ◇ Aug 9 - Aug 16, *Summer Day Camp*. Henvey Inlet FN. (Bursmas)

### Ongoing Events:

- ◇ Tuesday Nights. *Sacred Way Discipleship Training*. Browning, MT. (Wes & Summer)
- ◇ Thursday Nights. *Men's Talking Circle*. Browning, MT (Wes)
- ◇ Ongoing counseling at Sandy-Saulteaux Healing Center, Beausejour, Manitoba. - A continued follow-up from the Trauma and Crisis Training. (Martins)

### Praises and Specific Prayer Needs...

- ◇ For the staff in leading Inenimowin Circle in May and for the Spirit to speak specifically to all the participants and continue their healing from abuse, grief, and various pain.
- ◇ For the needed volunteers for Kids' Culture Camp, July 31– Orientation, Camp - August 1-5.
- ◇ Tim & Vivien Stime are thankful to Creator for the birth of a healthy granddaughter born April 24 to daughter-in-law Evelyn and son Bjorn.

Indigenous Pathways—The Message of Jesus in Context  
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*Business Offices*

**Phone, Fax, email and website**

Ph 780-727-4522  
Fax 866.624.4868  
office@mypeopleinternational.com  
office@naiits.com  
[www.mypeopleinternational.com](http://www.mypeopleinternational.com)  
[www.iemergence.org](http://www.iemergence.org)  
[www.naiits.com](http://www.naiits.com)

**Note**

**Address  
Change**

P.O. Box 181  
Carlisle, ON  
L0R 1H0  
Canada

P.O. Box 130061  
St. Paul, MN 55113-0001  
USA

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Find out more.  
[www.iemergence.org](http://www.iemergence.org)

It was a very long beginning but iEmergence started to take shape almost 6 years ago now. Many journeys had been made around the globe to sit with our extended global Indigenous family and share life, stories and dreams together. The time had come for Indigenous youth to ask, “What is it that we want to contribute to this growing global Indigenous community, and how are we to support each other in understanding our Creator-given identity and purpose?” The answer to those questions was iEmergence – its vision and focus to create pathways for youth and young adults around the globe, enabling them to rediscover the gifts and treasures that Creator had placed in them and their people.

As a part of our vision we saw the overwhelming need for our youth and elders to reconnect, to rebuild their tradition of honor and respect for each other and the unique roles that we play in community. We began to call this idea “generational flow.” The term simply referred to the understanding that our elders hold the knowledge and wisdom of our people that will firmly root us in our history and identity. While at the same time, we as the next generations have a unique role and understanding on how to see our culture expressed in a modern context without losing the values and worldview of our ancestors. It is a flow between the generations. As an organization, iEmergence decided to model this idea.

We are excited to be one of three ministry “divisions” under the new Indigenous Pathways umbrella; continuing to learn with our elders and mentors in NAIITS and My People. The relationship we have together has added so much to each of our three ministry areas. We are looking forward to this new banner taking us to even greater places, being able to see more lives impacted with the great story of our Creator and his Son Jesus.

*“Tying our three entities together under Indigenous Pathways, with the variety of foci and ministries we’re involved with makes great sense. We and those we work with—as well as you, our supporters—will be even more encouraged as you see them all working together for one common purpose.”*

~ Tim Stime



Thank you for all of your support throughout the years! We greatly anticipate more years journeying together.

~ Matt LeBlanc, Director, iEmergence

