



# RETURNING TO SPIRIT

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## SEMINAR SERIES

The long awaited RTS Seminar Series is now being implemented! At the January Trainer Development in Morley, Alberta, trainers became familiar with the first six seminars. Further training in the last five seminars will take place in early May in Hollow Water, MB.

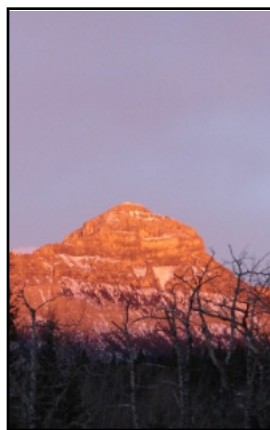
The Seminar Series serves a two-fold purpose. Many participants who have completed the RTS workshop have asked for something that would serve as a follow-up. The Seminar Series is that follow-up, helping participants to deepen their understanding of the philosophy and principles of RTS, and helping them to continue the process of creating breakthroughs in their

lives. A second purpose is to provide the RTS trainer body with more experiential practice in delivering the work of RTS. As Marc has said, "If you can deliver the Seminar Series, you can deliver the Workshop".

By implementing the Seminar Series in their communities, RTS trainers are creating their future as workshop trainers!

The Seminar Series has already begun in Hollow Water with 17 participants. Seminar series are also planned in the near future for Prince George, BC, Winnipeg, MB and Thunderchild, SK.

Additional Seminar Series will be offered in the Fall of



Morning light at Nakoda Lodge, Morley, AB

2008 (Queen's House, Saskatoon) and again in early 2009 (Prince George, Hollow Water).

If you get a chance, sign up for the Seminar Series or just come sit in on a Seminar or two

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- *Seminar Series is up and running!*
- *Sri Lanka wants RTS*
- *Ecumenical Workshop a great experience*
- *FunD Development takes the next step*

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## SRI LANKA

Word of the power of RTS has certainly spread far! At a gathering of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate in Rome, RTS was mentioned in conversation.

The RTS office subsequently received a request from the Oblates to deliver

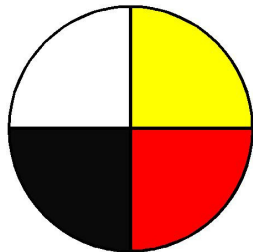
the RTS workshop to the Task Force for Peace in Sri Lanka.

There are ethnic clashes in Sri Lanka between the minority Tamils and the majority Sinhalese. The Oblate community in Sri Lanka includes both ethnic groups

and there is tension within the community.

RTS has been asked to enter to discussions about providing the reconciliation process & training to the Task Force for Peace. Planning is still in the early stages. Stay tuned for more information!

## FOUR CHIEFS MODEL OF LEADERSHIP



Medicine Wheel

In January, Marc introduced the trainer body to a leadership model that he used in his thesis (based on the Medicine Wheel).

The model is based on the leadership exhibited by Chief Sitting Bull in the late 1800s. Sitting Bull surrounded himself with capable leaders who personified different, but indispensable strengths: Gall, Crazy Horse, Red Cloud and Four Horns.

Gall—intelligent, controlled, systematic, structured planner, organizer, methodical

Crazy Horse—Mystic vision-

ary, charismatic, inspiring, creative, idealist

Red Cloud—Strategist, organized, analytical, logical, rational, reasoned, factual

Four Horns—Emotionally sensitive, personable, honourable, trusting, expressive

Each of us relates most strongly to one of the four chiefs. And yet, each of us is called to draw on the gifts of the other chiefs present in the people around us. A Four Horns, in associating with the other chiefs, contributes his/her gifts to the others & at the same time draws on their gifts

and talents, thereby expanding his/her capacity for great leadership. For it is only in making others great that we ourselves achieve greatness.

We have yet to fully unfold how the Four Chiefs model of leadership will impact our way of being. One thing that has become clear is that we need to be more intentional and aware of the leadership aspects of trainers.

A balance of all four styles of leadership is necessary and is something that we are creating as we move forward into the future.

## ECUMENICAL CHURCH WORKSHOP—EDMONTON

The first RTS Ecumenical Workshop, Part II, was held at Star of the North Retreat Center, in St. Albert, Alberta, March 3-7, 2008. The idea of an Ecumenical Workshop started in conversation with Cecile Fausak & Marc Pizandawac, was spoken into the future by a variety of people... and was created! The host coordinator was Bishop Gerard Pettipas, OMI, R.C. Archbishop of Grouard-McLennan. There were 22 participants from across Canada: BC (Prince George, Cranbrook Parksville), AB (Edmonton; Calgary, Wabasca, McLennan), Southend, SK; Yellowknife, NT; Onanole, MB; Winnipeg, MB; Sackville, NB. Five Christian denominations were represented: Presbyterian, Men-

nonite, Anglican, United and Roman Catholic. The team was comprised of 8 co-trainers from: Victoria, BC; Prince George, BC; Calgary, AB; Meadow Lake, SK; Winnipeg, MB, and of Master Trainer Marc Pizandawac from Calgary.

Following is a sample of what the participants said about their experience:

*It has helped me to realize how I distort reality and the price I have to pay for it. It has given me tools to remove the obstacles so that I can truly be who I am.*

*I now see both sides of the Residential School story — the Church and the First Nations — a real eye opener.*

*It has shown how to chart a path of integrity — authenticity.*

*I have attended many workshops in my lifetime, and each has provided some insights. But this one stands out in my mind for its clarity and honest evaluation of human dynamics and how to counter destructive attitudes.*

*This workshop transforms lives both experienced through the week (others' sharing) & through my own personal experience.*

Our thanks are extended to Archbishop Pettipas for agreeing to be the Host Coordinator and to Star of the North for their great hospitality. Thanks to the participants for their active and genuine participation! Also, a special thank you to Marc Pizandawac for sharing his God-given gifts with us through the RTS Program.

I NOW SEE BOTH SIDES OF THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL STORY—THE CHURCH AND THE FIRST NATIONS—A REAL EYE OPENER!

## TRAINER DEVELOPMENT—JANUARY 2008

Our 5th Annual Trainer Development Program was held Jan 6-19, 2008 at Morley, AB.

Nine new trainers joined the trainer body for a total of 36 in attendance at the training.

This year, the trainer body was introduced to the Seminar Series, an 11 module follow-up to the RTS Workshops. Trainers became familiar with and practiced the first 6 seminars, and will receive training in the remaining

modules in early May in Hollow Water, MB.

Four workshop trainers were certified: Robyn Hall, Cecilia Opekokew, Dennis Chartrand and Anne Taylor. They join Peter Flett, Mike Flett, François Paradis, Ann Thomson and Lea Boutin to form the certified trainer teams for Part 1 and 2 workshops.

Nine seminar trainers were also certified: Marilyn Sinclair, Gisele Bauche, Tarianne de Yonker, Norman Ope-

kokew, Sharon Klyne, Dave Fortin, Lisa Raven, Elvier Brunel and Olive Halpin.

In addition, we were able to schedule workshops (Part 1 & 2) for many of the communities on our waiting list. We anticipate doing almost three times as many workshops in 2008 as we did in 2007.

With every workshop that we complete, we are moving forward with our vision, creating energy... and more and more people are signing up as trainers.

### Trainer Development—January 2008—Morley, AB



Anne Taylor, Dennis Chartrand, Cecilia Opekokew and Robyn Hall are certified as RTS Workshop Trainers Level 1.



Gisele Bauche, Norman Opekokew, Marilyn Sinclair, Sharon Klyne & Tarianne de Yonker—some of the newly certified seminar leaders.

## RTS—ONLINE FORUM

Returning to Spirit website ([www.returningtospirit.org](http://www.returningtospirit.org)) has received a new addition, an online forum for trainers!

The forum is a great communication tool through which RTS trainers can surface and discuss different topics. Some of the hot discussion topics at the moment are how we are living the work, how we can

enhance trainer development and leadership and how the four chiefs model is unfolding in our lives.

Recently introduced topics include discussing the RTS Training and Standards manual and the RTS Workshop Trainer's Manual.

Since the forum was introduced in mid-February, we

have had 19 trainers sign up and begin to enter the conversation. And that's what the forum is, a great place to have a conversation!

Are you contributing to the conversation? Creating a future of possibilities? The more people who enter the conversation, the greater the pool of gifts & talents and ideas! Join us now!

## RTS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dear Members of RTS,

RE: RTS Board requirements and Selections



Master Trainer  
Marc Pizandawac

At the January 2008 meeting of the RTS Board of Directors, we discussed the expansion of Board members and the selection process going forward.

The founding Board was selected at a meeting of the RTS stakeholder groups: Aboriginal Host Communities, Religious Host Communities, Ni-Gann Training Group, the Group of 41 Catholic Entities as well as members of the CACR in December 2006, in Edmonton, Alberta. The founding Board members were:

**Cecilia Opekokew - Chairperson**  
**Dave Fortin - Secretary**  
**Bishop Gary Gordon**  
**Sister Veronica Dunne**  
**Sister Patricia Laliberte**

**Anne Taylor** and **Marc Pizandawac** are Executive Directors of RTS and are not Board Members and therefore have no voting privileges. Anne brings concerns and issues regarding the administration and management of the RTS organization to the Board. Marc provides training reports to the Board.

**Sister Rita Bisson** replaced Sister Patricia who stepped down in May 07 for health reasons.

In July 2007, at a meeting of the RTS trainer body in Winnipeg, **Norman Opekokew** was named as a possible candidate for the Board, which was approved by the members present at that meeting. Upon further consultation and reflection, we realized that it was not ideal to have familial relations on the Board. Norman will therefore not be an active Board member. He will serve as the Seminar Series Advisor to the Board, with no voting privileges.

**Blaine Favel** was recommended by Sr. Rita Bisson and brings to the Board his expertise as a former Chief and Lawyer. He will also serve as advisor to the Board. **Elise Charland** was selected by the Board to serve as the Elder Advisor for this year.

We are seeking to increase the Board membership and are asking for recommendations for two additional people to serve on the Board. Potential Board members must meet the following conditions:

- be 18 years of age or older
- be of sound mind
- be an individual (that is, not a business or corporate entity)
- not be a bankrupt

In addition, potential active Board members should:

- be committed to the principles of RTS;
- have completed or be willing to complete the 5-day workshop
- have time to commit to the development of this organization;
- be willing to uphold the integrity and accountability of Returning to Spirit Inc.

We await your input and suggestions!

Yours in Spirit,

Cecilia Opekokew, Chairperson

THE FUTURE IS  
NOT SOME PLACE  
WE ARE GOING,  
BUT ONE WE ARE  
CREATING. THE  
PATHS ARE NOT TO  
BE FOUND BUT  
MADE. AND THE  
ACTIVITY OF  
MAKING THEM  
CHANGES BOTH  
THE MAKER AND  
THEIR  
DESTINATION.  
JOHN SCHAAR

## FUND DEVELOPMENT

For RTS to move forward in creating the future, we are committed to creating a FunD Development plan that will create a sustainable future.

Current funding supports workshop delivery, trainer development, organizational development and introduction of the seminar series.

The creation of a FunD Development Plan comes out of the recognition that we need ongoing and long-term sources of support to expand

into the future.

In moving forward in that direction, we have engaged the services of Ross W. March & Associates to assist us. With their expertise, knowledge and advice, we see a future in which we can maximize our fundraising potential and find long-term, sustainable revenue growth opportunities.

One of the first steps in this process is an audit and review of RTS by Ross W. March &

Associates. As part of their review, they will be contacting trainers, board members, current & potential funders, levels of government and potential corporate sponsors.

Deb Muldoon and Anne Taylor are working closely with Ross W. Marsh & Associates and are in the process of organizing a FunD Development team to implement the FunD Development Plan that will result from the audit & review process.

WHEN YOU DO  
THINGS FROM  
YOUR SOUL,  
YOU FEEL  
A RIVER  
MOVING IN YOU,  
A JOY.  
JALALUDDIN  
RUMI

## CONTEGRITY LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

On March 20, Gail Cantor of Contegrity Program Designs Inc, joined 22 trainers for a 1.5 hour conference call.

The purpose of the conference call was to identify what is preventing the trainers from being powerful leaders and how we shift out of that into a space in which we can lead reconciliation power-

fully.

Some of the things that keep us from leading powerfully are the sense that we are not good enough, don't know enough and that we don't believe in ourselves (e.g. our stories)

We need to let go of that story and lead reconciliation

in every aspect of our lives, wherever we live, work and play. We lead by leading. We lead by serving the spirit of reconciliation. The secret to leading this work is to be created by the spirit of reconciliation.

What are you waiting for? Step forward and play the game!!

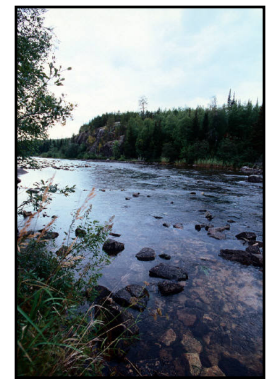
## ORGANIZATIONAL TEAM

Our Organizational Team continues to grow and develop. In light of the Four Chiefs Model of Leadership, we have worked hard to ensure that our organizational team reflects the gifts and strengths of all Four Chiefs. By ensuring that all Four Chiefs are represented, we are forming a stronger, more creative, more efficient organizational team!

Anne Taylor—Four Horns  
Deb Muldoon—Red Cloud  
Olive Halpin—Red Cloud  
Lisa Raven—Crazy Horse  
Gigi Jakobs—Gall  
Val Taylor—Red Cloud

Anne Taylor is the Executive Director of Administration. Deb is the most recent member of the team and assists Anne and manages the Calgary office. Val is our keeper of databases. Olive manages the Winnipeg RTS office,

coordinates Part II workshops and is keeper of all documents. Gigi coordinates FunD Development, proposal & grant submissions, oversees promotional material (e.g. newsletter, brochure) and is exploring avenues of ongoing evaluations of workshop participants. Lisa Raven coordinates Part I workshops, serves as our community liaison and develops community partnerships.



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Thanks to Olive Halpin, Cecilia Opekokew, Val Taylor, Lisa Raven, Gigi Jakobs and Anne Taylor for contributions & photos in this edition.



Returning to Spirit (RTS) is a non-profit organization that designs and delivers workshops and training programs for reconciliation within the context of residential school issues that have negatively impacted First Nations People, Religious communities and Canadian society in general.

Our focus is on moving people forward through the principles of personal empowerment. This defines all our work, including coaching sessions and consulting, which are designed to support individuals, families, organizations and whole communities to move forward in life.

Our work goes beyond healing. It provides conditions for transformation in personal, family, community, and organizational life.

## HOLLOW WATER SEMINAR SERIES

Hollow Water is the first out of the gate in offering the Seminar Series.

Two weeks before starting the seminar series, six co-trainers clarified who the team would be and used the new trainer guide to decide on respective roles and responsibilities. (Co-trainers are from Hollow Water and Winnipeg: Lisa Raven, Robyn Hall, Sharon Klyne, Dennis Chartrand, Marilyn & Dennis Sinclair. Val Taylor joined the team on the first night to help deliver the seminars).

We chose a head trainer who would be responsible for the first three seminars, and then someone else would be chosen. The team was clear that we were taking on a bigger game, and that it would require much more than we were presently giving. The

declaration was made.

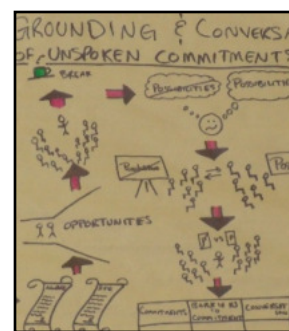
The team got together three times in the two weeks prior to the seminar. The first meeting was to discuss the participant callout. We had a list of 83 people to get in contact with and the list was split between the trainers. Trainers understood what needed to be communicated and what they would be responsible for presenting. Our next meeting was to update registrations, discuss concerns, complete one role play and start handling the details. We had another meeting the day before the seminar, to finalize the callout, room responsibilities, complete role play. On the morning of the seminar, we cleaned and prepared the room (public hall) then back to the office where we started the ride with a conference briefing with Marc,

where we had the opportunity to “get off our stuff” and let go of what was in the way.

What a night! We were thrilled with the number of participants who showed up. At first we got a little nervous when only six had shown up, but then two by two people started walking in the door.

We made it clear to the participants our commitment to the process and also that we weren’t there as “experts” who had all the answers, but as partners wanting to create the seminar series with them.

There was a definite energy that was created in the community, something shifted for people. The partnership was created, and people are inspired to be a part of that. The opportunity is to keep



Creative mapping of Seminar Series—Module2.

A SECRET FORMULA FOR FINDING (INDEED CREATING) PEACE, HARMONY, AND HAPPINESS UPON THE EARTH—  
 SERVE LIFE FIRST, IN EVERYTHING YOU THINK AND SAY AND DO.  
 NEALE DONALD WALSCH