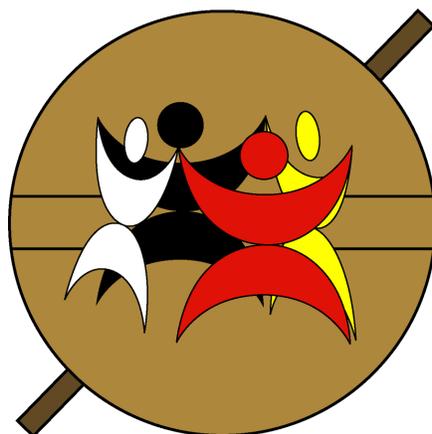

Returning to Spirit
Residential School Reconciliation Inc.



Annual Report
2009-2010

Report to the Community

Vision

We are a community of leaders committed to generating reconciliation between Aboriginals and Non-Aboriginals regarding the Indian Residential School legacy in Canada.

Mission Statement

We design and deliver 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.

Board of Directors

Joanne Martell, Chairperson
Bishop Gary Gordon, Co-Chairperson
Bishop Gerry Wiesner omi, Director
Sister Rita Bisson pm, Treasurer
Norman Opekokew, Director
Jack Anawak, Director
Dennis Sinclair, Director
Sister Veronica Dunne, Director
Elise Charland, Elder



President and Executive Director's Message

Greetings,

Our 2009/2010 year was challenging and successful! Through it all, we kept a conversation of possibilities always in the forefront. In May 2009, we learned that our core funding through CCEPIRSS was stuck. We are grateful to report that with much support from the individual entities within CCEPRISS, we were able to maintain our programs, and continue to move forward. By the end of the 2009/2010 fiscal year, our core funding had been unstuck, and we are now well-situated for the next few years.

We are keenly aware that our future depends on developing financial sustainability. During the 2009/2010 year, we held a Special Event in Winnipeg, MB to raise our profile and make connections within the community. We have hired a Fund Development Director to support us in seeking other sources of core & project-based funding.

A highlight of the 2009/2010 year was the Strategic Design process that we began in the Fall of 2009. Through the process we got clearer that our mission and our focus is Reconciliation. We are not a healing program, although healing does occur. Our focus is reconciliation regarding the Indian Residential School legacy. With our eye on that mandate, we identified eight key areas to develop in order that we can continue to move forward with our mission

In Partnership,



Anne Taylor MSW RSW
Executive Director



Joanne Martell
Board of Directors
Chairperson



Report to the Community

5-Day Workshops

During the 2009/2010 year, we continued to send forth two teams, one Aboriginal and one Non-Aboriginal, to deliver the 5-Day Workshops in communities across Western Canada.

From April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010, seven non-Aboriginal workshops were delivered from Yellowknife to Vancouver Island to Prince George to Winnipeg. During the same period, eleven Aboriginal workshops were delivered across Western Canada.

The two teams have made huge strides in the last year. They continue to receive telephone coaching from Marc Pizandawac (Founder of RTS) during the workshops, and occasional on-site visits, which always prove to be immensely useful!

We continue to receive an increasing number of requests for additional workshops! Communities are clear that the 5-Day workshop profoundly transforms the lives of individuals and their families.

Reconciliation Workshops

With a strengthened connection with our primary mission of reconciliation, we are committed to increasing the number of Reconciliation workshops! During the 2009/2010 year, two reconciliations were held, one in Prince George and one in Saskatoon.

We are also clear that the Reconciliation process requires that certain conditions be met in order to ensure its integrity and fulfillment of our mission. Aboriginals wish to reconcile with representatives of the Church, and that means bishops, priests, deacons and other religious. We are committed to ensuring that each Reconciliation always has a certain number of clergy and religious in attendance to ensure the integrity of the process and that this opportunity continues to exist.



The power of the Reconciliation workshop is best expressed in the words of participants.

Report to the Community

Testimonials from the Reconciliation Workshop

It made me realize that I can change/alter my way of thinking, in terms of myself and others.

It has brought new understanding towards the Catholic Church. That "priests and nuns" are human beings and not aliens as I have thought for so many years. That one can have communication without yelling to be heard! There can be communication without blame, judgement nor hate.

I am now able to look at the Western Culture with new eyes and appreciation for the different races. I am empowered at peace and filled with awe at the workshop and myself. Awesome!!

Marie- Lucie Uviluq, Cambridge Bay, NU

This workshop made a difference in my life – doing completion with elders and other First Nation without being hurt. I was listened, I was accepted. This workshop gave me joy, peace to be able to share at a deep level with First Nation People. A greater awareness of my need to help my sisters to let go of past hurts. Arrange for more healing workshops.

Sr. Léa Archambault, St. Boniface, MB

Trainer Development Program

Our Trainer Development Program was most impacted by the disruption in our core funding. Our training program was put on hold for much of the 2009/2010 year. We did hold an intensive training for four core team trainers (two from each team), to move them forward in delivering the Reconciliation workshop. Out of that training, the teams were able to take on much of the delivery of the initial two days of the Reconciliation workshop.

A Seminar Series Training was held in May 2009 with participants from British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Manitoba and Nunavut.



Report to the Community

Seminar Series

The Seminar Series, an 11-session follow-up to the 5-Day Workshop continues to be delivered in various locations across Western Canada. Winnipeg and Prince George, in particular, continue to repeat the Seminar Series year after year. A strong team of trainers in each location continues to benefit in delivering the Seminar Series.

There is a strong desire in many communities to bring the Seminar Series to their areas. Without local RTS trainers, however, this is often a challenge.

The community of Ft. St. James began the process of arranging to participate in an accelerated Seminar Series, which would be the first stepping stone for participants to then become trainers of the Seminar Series!

It is always inspiring to work with communities in creating a future of possibilities where none existed before!

Communication

We continue to distribute a quarterly newsletter which receives rave reviews from recipients.

We began the process of developing a new website (to be completed in the 2010/2011 year), for which we received funding from the Calgary Foundation.

We revised our brochure to reflect the clarity reached through the Strategic Design process. We plan to distribute it during the summer of 2010

Other documents have been revised and developed for workshop



Report to the Community

Fund Development

We acquired the services of a Fund Development Director in the 2009/2010 year, and created a Fund Development Team.

While funding is tight in the current economic climate, we did secure project-based funding for an Aboriginal Clergy workshop in November 2010, a workshop that was delivered by a combined team of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal trainers. We also secured funding for a revised website that will allow us to update it more efficiently and to get the word out to people across Canada!

Communities are contributing more to the costs of hosting a workshop.

Community Partnerships

We are always pleased to partner with communities in creating possibilities into the future. Our community partnership with the Diocese of Prince George has strengthened through this fiscal year. There are many possibilities opening up to develop a strong, local team of Aboriginal trainers who can deliver the Seminar Series, and ultimately the 5-Day workshop, in the Prince George Diocese.

Our partnership with the community of Hollow Water in Manitoba, continues to produce many openings for individuals, and the community as a whole.

We also have ongoing partnerships with the Diocese of Victoria and the Diocese of Mackenzie-Fort Smith. Partnerships are also being developed with communities on Vancouver Island (Ahousaht, Tla-o-qui-aht), in Nunavut and the Aboriginal Circle of Educators (ACE) in Winnipeg.

The Seminar Series continues to be the focus of our partnerships



Our Funders

Core Funding

We are grateful to CCEPIRSS (Canadian Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential School Settlement) for their ongoing support of the mission of Returning to Spirit. Without their support, we would not be able to further Reconciliation around the Indian Residential School Legacy.

We wish to extend a heartfelt thank-you to each one of the religious entities within CCEPIRSS, particularly those who responded so generously during our funding crisis.

We are also indebted to the Counseling Foundation of Canada for their continued support of Returning to Spirit. Their initial funding commitment of 3 years was extended for a further two years, and their generosity is greatly appreciated.

Project-Based Funding

We are grateful to an anonymous donor organization, who are strong supporters of our mission of reconciling Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals. They unfailingly support our requests for project-based funding, and were one of the primary funders for the Fund Development Director position.

We are grateful to the United Church of Canada, for supporting our mission through project-based grants. With their support, we were able to offer the Aboriginal Ministers workshop in November 2009.



Our Donors—2009-2010

50,000+

CCEPIRSS	Sisters of Charity of Providence
Counseling Fdn of Canada	Anonymous Donor
Sisters of St. Ann	

10,000+

Sisters of St. Joseph	Diocese of Kamloops
United Church of Canada	Diocese of Victoria
Soeurs de la Charité St. Hyacin- the	Calgary Foundation

500+

Soeurs de la Charité d'Ottawa	Sisters of Instruction of the
Archdiocese of Vancouver	Child Jesus

20+

Diocese of Churchill-Hudson's Bay	Sr. Ann Thomson ssa
Roman Catholic Missions—St. Rose du Lac	Society of Sacred Heart
Anne Taylor	Congregation de Soeurs Mar- istes
Jeanne Stevenson	Mary Bretecher
Elizabeth Attel Consulting	Gigi Jakobs
	A. Watts

Gifts of In-Kind

Oblates of Mary Immaculate	Diocese of Pr. George
Missionary Oblate Sisters	Kateri Parish, Winnipeg



Financial Report—2009-2010

Overview

Our 2009/2010 fiscal year was challenging. In the first quarter, we learned that our primary core finding through CCEPRISS (Canadian Catholic Entities Party to the Indian Residential School Settlement) had become “stuck”. It remained stuck until the end of the fiscal year (March 31, 2010).

Through good financial management, we had amassed a small reserve fund which helped to carry us through the lean months. We drastically reduced our training budget to cut expenditures. Our director’s fees were voluntarily reduced for the duration of the funding crisis.

We wrote letters to all of the Catholic Entities (dioceses, religious orders) that were members of CCEPRISS asking for their help during this time. Many responded very generously and we are very grateful for their support, without which, we would not have been able to carry forward with our mission of reconciliation.

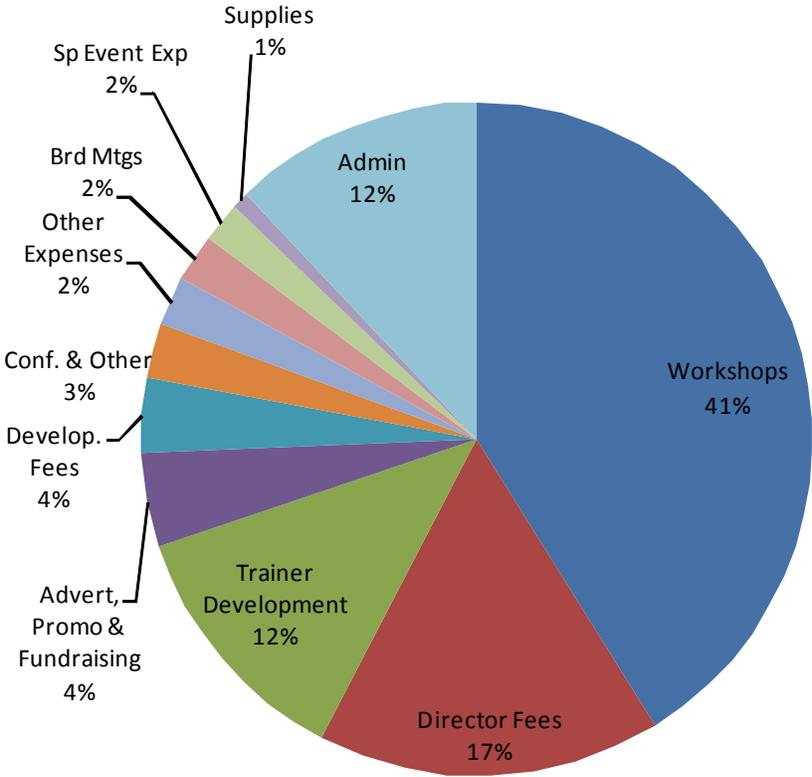
We also applied for several grants (United Church, Counseling Foundation of Canada, Calgary Foundation) which have supported a variety of initiatives including an Aboriginal Ministers workshop and a revamped website

Over half of our budget (53%) directly supports the delivery of the workshops, and the training of the trainers. The Trainer Development budget (12%) was significantly reduced this year due to the financial crisis.

We are happy to announce that our CCEPRISS funding resumed on April 1, 2010 and that we have a two year commitment with them. We are also very clear that Fund Development is one of our major priorities in order to achieve financial sustainability.



Expenditures - 2009-2010



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Donations

We are committed to achieving financial sustainability, and part of that is developing grass-roots financial support. We are a registered non-profit charity and all donations will receive a tax receipt. Please consider contributing to the mission of Reconciliation in this way. Your donation will help us!

Volunteer Opportunities

Please contact the Winnipeg Office if you are interested in learning more about the ways in which you can contribute to the mission of Reconciliation.

Hosting a Workshop

Please contact the Winnipeg Office if you would like to bring Returning to Spirit to your community!

Communications/Promotional



Please contact the Winnipeg Office if you would like to receive promotional information for Returning to Spirit!