

The National Indigenous Ministry
of The Anglican Church of Canada

May 2011 Report for the Anglican Indigenous Network

The Indigenous Peoples of Turtle Island (the Americas), continue to be threatened by the environmental degradation and the climate crisis. Traditional forms of life, like subsistence hunting, are seriously compromised. The larger society has a difficult time understanding the living relationship of the Peoples of the Land with the Land.

The Anglican Council of Indigenous People's Governance Working Group has begun their task to develop the canonical structure for our national, self-determining ministry for Canon XXII: The *National Indigenous Ministry* at General Synod with details for selection and memberships for:

1. The Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP),
2. The Anglican Indigenous Sacred Circle (Sacred Circle), and
3. The National Indigenous Anglican Bishop (NIAB).

Following the 2010 General Synod's Act in support of Canon XXII, the Working Group met again and it became apparent to them that they were entering an important and critical conversation about governance issues. They commissioned Bishop Mark MacDonald (NIAB) to write a concept paper on Indigenous Governance using points outlined in their weekend discussion. It was also hoped that this document would help us relate our discussion of governance to the spiritual and theological concepts that has guided our spiritual movement in recent years and also provide a way to connect these matters to the hopes of our People for renewal and restoration including aboriginal values into practice and the traditions of our people. Critical areas addressed are:

- A spiritual framework for Indigenous authority and jurisdiction, our way of life,
- To continue in the implementation of a national Council of Elders, Area Missions, and a national Youth Council,
- Integration of the Council of the North into Aboriginal jurisdiction, our way of life,
- Larger principles and ideas for integration and understanding of aboriginal authority with other Indigenous Groups (ie. churches).

Our discussion continues through the development of Area Missions and in our national Governance Consultation in the Fall of 2011. We hope to further test the structures and do further visioning about governance. Work will continue as ACIP will seek support for the national structure at the next Sacred Circle in 2013 before bringing it to General Synod in 2013. It is our vision that the new Area Missions and Dioceses will come together as a 5th Provincial Synod in Canada for Indigenous Ministry.

We are very pleased to now have two ACIP members as **voting members on the Council of General Synod**, they are Archdeacon Sidney Black and The Rev. Norm Casey who are our Co-Chairs. We are also pleased to see that Sidney Black is serving as an Officer of General Synod. This is truly an opportunity for our Indigenous Ministry to expand in knowledge and experience in the governance of the Anglican Church.

Non Stipendiary Indigenous Ministry continues to be a compelling problem that falls in the lap of the Council of the North Bishops and the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples. Bishop Mark has convened meetings to identify the information needed to develop a strategy to bring to the House of Bishops and for fundraising assistance from Resources for Mission.

Urban Indigenous Ministry Network gathered the end of October 2010 at the Vancouver School of Theology. Thirteen ministry leaders from the United States and Canada gathered for a weekend to review historical survey of urban indigenous ministries, spiritual care, becoming and laying the foundation for an urban spiritual movement, what we can do locally and to help each other. Their wish is to gather again in Minneapolis in October 2011.

Canadians have participated in the publishing of the *First Peoples Theology Journals* with the Indigenous Theological Training Institute. ITTI has released two publications in 2010. A Special Edition for the Oklahoma IV 2010 Consultation: *Remembrance, Recognition, Reconciliation, Reclamation* came out in May and the second publication *God is Still Red: The Theological Legacy of Vine Deloria, Jr.* came out in August 2010.

Also, Indigenous Ministries will be seeking retired priests to serve as **volunteers for Northern Church communities to provide Christmas and Easter** Eucharistic services. Protocols are being developed and discussed, and seeking funds through Resources for Mission in support for travel.

Indigenous Ministries has been part of the Anglican Planning Group with Relationships and the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund sponsoring four people from the north to participate in the **2011 Ecumenical Conference on Mining Building Alliances between Church Leaders from the South and North** in Toronto at New College, U of T, this May. Poor Indigenous communities in the Global South and North are disproportionately negatively affected by the mining and other extraction operations and their rights have been systematically denied for generations. Bishop Mark will also be participating.

A Disciple's Prayer Book will be revised this Spring and Bishop Mark will be working with the Indigenous Theological Training Institute in this work. It is hoped that the revisions will enable the translations into many Indigenous languages in North America and the Network.

With the assistance of Human Resources, Indigenous Ministries has begun its search for an **Indigenous Ministries Coordinator** to take up this role in August or September 2011. Donna Bomberry has carried out this work for fifteen years and will take early retirement at the end of June. ACIP held a dinner party in her honour on the final evening of our February meeting.

Respectfully submitted by,

Donna Bomberry, Indigenous Ministries Coordinator

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