

Gigmanag 2006

Christmas is soon upon us and I would like to extend a very warm holiday greetings to everyone. As we take a moment to reflect on the year past, we must realize that our organization has gone through a great deal of change. With the New Year brings new ideas, new initiatives and new direction for our organization.

As you are aware, we were provided direction to close our shelter facilities until a sustainable plan can be put in place for both ongoing operation and debt reduction. We have been seeking assistance from various levels of Government and a core group of volunteers from our community have established a Shelters Task Force.

Earlier in November, 16 delegates from our community attended the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples Annual General Assembly in Ottawa. During a key note address by the Honorable Jim Prentice, Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs and the Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non Status delegates were advised of the Government's commitment to working with the CAP affiliates in addressing various needs such as organizational capacity building. Although we have not been fully versed in the logistical details, we are very pleased and hope to see positive outcomes.

In mid November, we were advised that our diabetes program will be funded for an additional three years. Our program will see some new additions; however, we will ensure that the food co-op, wellness sessions and other popular initiatives will continue. I urge you to contact Kim Gallant for details regarding upcoming events.

Our most recent staffing addition is in the Hep'd Up on Life program. Shayne Stanger joins our team as the program coordinator. We are very lucky to have him and his experience on board and are confident that he will ensure the success of this program. We have also been lucky enough to have Irene Hainer join us for an eight week job shadowing. She has been enrolled in a program called Career Bridges and will spend her time at the Council learning a bit about an administrative assistant does.

Attached you will find a Christmas Events Schedule. We encourage everyone to come and celebrate the season with family and friends. If you require additional information on any of our events please contact us.

In closing, I wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

Jamie Gallant
President and Chief