



Rebuilding Our Nations

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Nation rebuilding forums to provide First Nations with strategies to get started on the path to effective self-governance

The National Centre for First Nations Governance is launching a series of one-day governance forums on the “Seven Steps to Nation Rebuilding”. The forums will take place throughout the country with events in Saskatchewan, Ontario, Nova Scotia, Quebec and British Columbia.

The forums will include a keynote address from Satsan (Herb George), NCFNG president. “These forums offer First Nations leaders, youth and elders the unique opportunity to come together and learn about the steps necessary to achieving effective self-governance.”, says Satsan. “We look forward to presenting across the country this year and continuing our work with communities to take their nation rebuilding efforts further.”

Leaders from communities who have achieved success in the area of self-governance and nation rebuilding have been invited to share their stories. Young First Nation citizens are invited attend a youth session to learn how they can contribute to positive change in their communities.

The forums are designed to share information and lessons in relation to self-governance and nation rebuilding that NCFNG has learned through working in communities across Canada over the last several years.

The Centre suggests that nation rebuilding can start when community members and leaders are ready for change, understand what it means, and be fully prepared to support it. The goal is to develop governance that has the capacity to deliver the vision of community members and might include seeing children learning their language; being engaged in the economy and stewardship of traditional lands; governing according to customs and traditions; having true nation-to-nation relations; and seeing pride in their community.

SEVEN STEPS TO NATION REBUILDING

»»» Create a Movement for Change.

The Centre’s seven steps to nation rebuilding are:

- 1 Create a Movement for Change
- 2 Establish a Vision for the Future
- 3 Map Your Journey
- 4 Exercise Your Rights and Live Your Culture
- 5 Get Out of the *Indian Act*
- 6 Be a Real Government and Govern
- 7 Deliver the Goods

Brian Smith, Director of Operations for NCFNG concludes, “In essence, the end goal of these forums, and all of the work NCFNG undertakes is to support First Nations to build effective self-governance and ultimately a better future for their people.”

» read more: fngovernance.org/forums

regionalRoundup

ontario | Elders, Leadership and Youth Unite to Create a Vision for Mitaanjugamiing Nation's Future

Co-creating a community vision for self-governance was the objective of a workshop held near Fort Frances, Ontario. This event, which took place in the Mitaanjugamiing First Nation traditional Round house (Manidoo-Wiigiwam), effectively engaged over thirty youth, leadership and elders.

NCFNG was invited to assist this nation by hosting a Youth Engagement workshop in conjunction with a Leadership Essentials workshop. The purpose of jointly hosting these two workshops was to encourage the younger citizens to begin thinking about their potential future leadership roles. The leadership also wanted to educate the youth about the challenges that come along with positions of leadership. The elders and leadership acknowledged the youth for their high level of contribution over the two days.

The event was a great success and the youth expressed their sincere appreciation for the leadership's involvement participating side by side with them. NCFNG commends Mitaanjugamiing First Nation for taking the first steps toward engaging their young citizens in restoring their nation.

» fngovernance.org/news/mitaanjugamiing_0310.htm

atlantic | Membertou Engages Citizens in Journey to Self-Government

NCFNG has partnered with the Membertou Governance Committee to facilitate six nation rebuilding workshops and two community engagement sessions by March 31st, 2011.

Membertou decided to exercise their inherent rights in difference areas of governance and the Membertou Governance Committee met with NCFNG on several occasions last year to review and organize their approach. They are developing their own codes, laws, and systems that will be culturally appropriate to their people. Membertou determined that this process of law and code development must be a transparent process that includes youth, elders and all Membertou citizens.

On October 21st, NCFNG will facilitate the first official Membertou Governance Committee meeting where the members will have the opportunity to meet, organize and develop a code of conduct/ethics for the Committee.

» fngovernance.org/news/membertou_engages_citizens_1010.htm

quebec | NCFNG Quebec Office Optimistic about Rise of Young Leaders

The National Centre for First Nations Governance has relocated the Quebec regional office to Kahnawake, Quebec. Marcel Tessier from Indian Brook Nova Scotia joins the NCFNG team as the Quebec regional manager.

"When I look across this region, I am optimistic that the nation rebuilding landscape for our people is changing in Quebec. When speaking with nations, I have noticed there is a swing toward increased involvement in self-governance and preparation for the future." Tessier notes that nations such as the Abenacki, the Algonquin, the Cree, the Mig'maq, and Mohawk are recognizing the importance of engaging youth and preparing them for their future leadership roles within self-governing nations.

The Centre views grooming and building the capacity of young, emerging leaders to be crucial to nation rebuilding. NCFNG's Quebec region is excited about plans to engage the youth of Quebec and the communities they come from.

» fngovernance.org/news/quebec_optimistic_1010.htm

british columbia | Lessons from the Past Inspire Hope for the Future of Nation Rebuilding

Several indigenous youth from nations across British Columbia participated in a session held in Victoria BC about nation rebuilding and self-governance. Participants were from varying backgrounds ranging from university students to youth working in their communities.

The session was delivered by Satsan (Herb George), President of the National Centre for First Nations Governance. Satsan shared his experience and stories from the Delgamuukw-Gisday Wa case and reflected on the chaos faced by First Nations leaders in the seventies.

Youth learned about significant court cases, and the importance of getting back to the spirituality unique to First Nations. They also heard about four distinctive pillars that make First Nations who they are, including spirituality, history, sacred homelands, and language.

While Satsan acknowledged the past, he emphasized the current opportunities that First Nations people have for nation rebuilding and establishing effective self-governance for the future. He shared the unique work that the NCFNG has undertaken to assist communities across Canada with their self-governance efforts.

» fngovernance.org/news/bc_youth_0610.htm