

Introducing ...



**HAMILTON
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION**

For Hamilton, For Ever

Background on HCF

- Ontario's oldest community foundation
- Like all community foundations, HCF has three principal roles:
 1. **Receiving gifts from generous citizens;**
 2. **Making grants.** Last year, HCF approved \$6.1 million in grants to charitable organizations;
 3. **Community leadership.** We bring people and resources together to address Hamilton's most pressing issues including reducing poverty, improving life in Hamilton's neighbourhoods and protecting the environment.

HCF Community Leadership Initiatives

- **Tackling Poverty Together II: Building Strong Communities:** a five-year, \$5 million commitment to poverty prevention and reduction with a focus on improving the quality of life in Hamilton's low-income neighbourhoods
- **Hamilton Roundtable on Poverty Reduction:** spearheaded by HCF and the City of Hamilton and launched in March 2007, "HRPR" brings together leaders across multiple sectors to focus of "making Hamilton the best place to raise a child"
- **Protecting Our Environment Together (POET) Initiative:** environmental program provides grants to increase citizen engagement in environmental projects

The Aboriginal Community in Hamilton

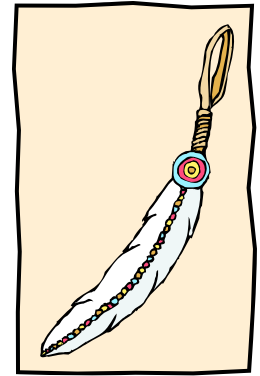
- The largest absolute numbers living in Ontario
- In Hamilton, the Aboriginal population is shown as 7,625 (1.5% of the population)
- Aboriginal community estimates actual population is approximately 17,000 – resistance to self-identification for census
- Population growing at a rate much faster than non-Aboriginal (from 1996-2001 grew by 22% compared to 3% for non-Aboriginal)
- The Six Nations Reserve is located 25 kms outside of Hamilton and has the largest population of all First Nations in Canada

Issues Identified by the Aboriginal Community

Aboriginal people are disproportionately over represented over a range of social well-being indicators:

- Poverty rates
- Unemployment rates
- High drop out rates and low post-secondary education rates
- Determinants of health – life expectancy
- Involvement with the correctional system and child welfare system
- Addictions
- Homelessness and core housing need

Hamilton Executive Directors Aboriginal Coalition (HEDAC)



- Only urban Aboriginal leadership coalition of its kind in the province
- HEDAC represents urban Aboriginal model where the coalition identify priorities and all Aboriginal organizations move in the same direction to meet established goals
- Involves 12 Aboriginal organizations and 1 Resource Agency

The Journey to NYA:WEH

- 2002 interest expressed by HCF donor in how to support Aboriginal youth
- HCF commissioned report on Aboriginal youth including demographics/existing programs & services/gaps and priorities/a review of programs outside of Hamilton/range of options for HCF consideration
- Convening of Aboriginal leaders and both school boards

Journey to NYA:WEH (con't)

- Grant to HEDAC to develop a program proposal – resulted in report that formed the basis of the proposal
- Helped draft an organizational structure for decision-making and partnership agreement
- 3 year grant awarded to establish program in 2 schools
- Program completed in 2006 with further 3 year grant approved

Lessons learned by HCF

- Beneficiaries need to define the issue
- Importance of written contract
- Leadership and champions are critical
- Capacity issues addressed
- Knowledge is strategic asset
- Importance of convening role

Lessons learned from NYA:WEH organizers

- Fertile ground and champions make program flourish
- Need for communication, community education, capacity support, data tracking/analysis system, dedicated space
- Include support for the necessities of life
- Take risks and think creatively
- Celebrate