

Annual Report 2014-15



CANADIANS FOR A
NEW PARTNERSHIP



CANADIANS FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

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Tania Budgell – pgs 2, 8, 11-13, 15, 20, 22,
M. Simon portrait

Val Courtois – front / back cover, pg
opposite inside front cover, pg opposite
Message from the President, pgs 4 & 18

Rosalie Favell – S. Kakfwi portrait

iStock – pgs 5, 21

Unknown – T. Brodhead portrait

Our Logo

A tree is a powerful image of growth. Truth can plant the seeds of awareness and understanding and from these roots grow the power of reconciliation. The roots also suggest that the story of how Canada came to be is very much rooted in history, and out of these roots can grow a more positive story for all if it includes First Nations, Métis and Inuit in a truthful, respectful way. The seven roots, branches and colours of the logo reference the seven traditional teachings – wisdom, truth, honesty, love, humility, courage and respect.

Mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and equality form the vision and structural foundation of reconciliation among the Original peoples and Canadians. Each of us is a beam, a chord, a joist. Together, we can create stories and inheritances with braided roots that bloom from shared land, branch out into sky – and flourish for generations.

by Courtney Powless, Onkwehonwe with roots from the Bay of Quinte, with inspiration from a quote by the Great Peacemaker in White Roots of Peace (Wallace): "Hold fast to friends, for in union there is strength; welcome the stranger and give him shelter, for he may become a prop to your house; bury your hates and let them be forgotten, for if old stories are to be revived there can never be an end to war."

A person is walking away from the camera on a dirt trail through a mountainous landscape. The foreground is filled with green and yellow shrubs. In the background, there are dark, rugged mountains under a blue sky with some clouds. A large, semi-transparent blue rounded rectangle is overlaid on the upper half of the image, containing white text.

Mission

We will establish and support a broad-based, inclusive leadership initiative to engage Canadians in dialogue and relationship building aimed at building a new partnership between First Peoples and other Canadians.

Vision

Towards a better, stronger Canada: building a new partnership between First Peoples and all Canadians so that together we can build the strong economy and values-based society that will benefit this and future generations.





Message from the President and Founder

Together we are stronger

This is an important time in Canadian society. Years of slow progress has fostered a willingness among individuals and institutions to be involved in reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. There is a growing appreciation that Indigenous perspectives and knowledge are not just part of the past and that Canadian values are deeply rooted in the cultures of the numerous distinct Indigenous nations of this country. And there is recognition that the substantial contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis to the economy have the potential to be even greater.

How can we accelerate this progress? By working together. Recently I was asked to speak about Aboriginal engagement at the Mawe Wicshitowin Conference in Saskatoon. One of the messages I shared with the audience was how working together is the way to be strong – and this approach is at the heart of Canadians For a New Partnership. Our remarkable team of Indigenous and non-Indigenous leadership is listening, sharing, and collaborating with those already on the journey or those just taking the first steps towards reconciliation and understanding. And the collective approach taken by those many individuals and organizations already on the journey is leading to positive outcomes.

I am optimistic about the future, but the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada is unbalanced and it will not right itself. We must maintain and continue to build upon the momentum that has been gained already. There is far too much at stake – including the well-being of the generations that will come after us.

We have a lot of hard work ahead of us, but as we tear down old barriers, build new bridges and find ways to work together, we will grow stronger. That strength is what will enable all of us – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – to prosper and succeed. And real progress can be made if the recent commitment to change this country coming from the highest levels is implemented and if the growing energy and support for reconciliation continues.

Sincerely,

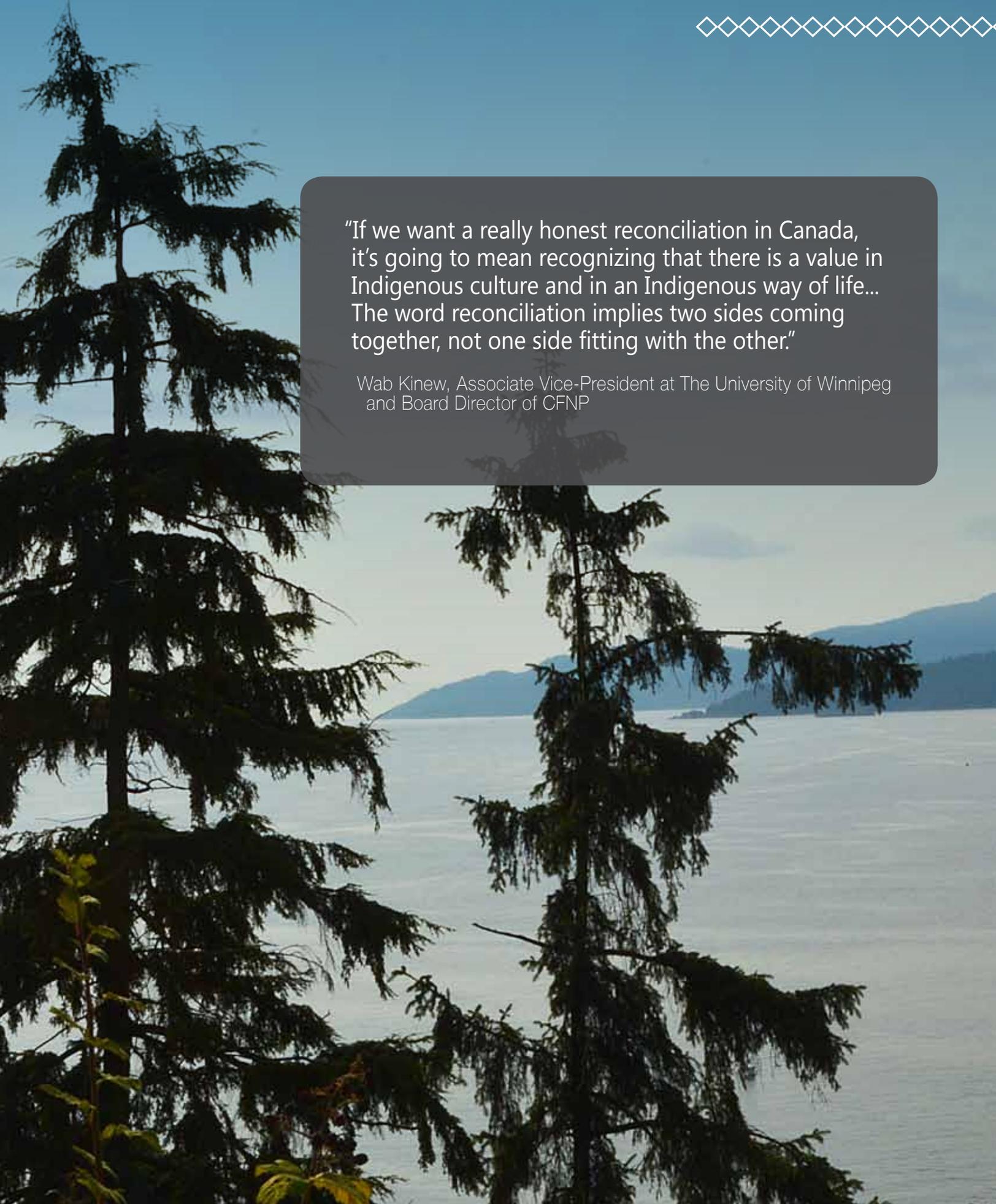
Stephen Kakfwi
President and CEO

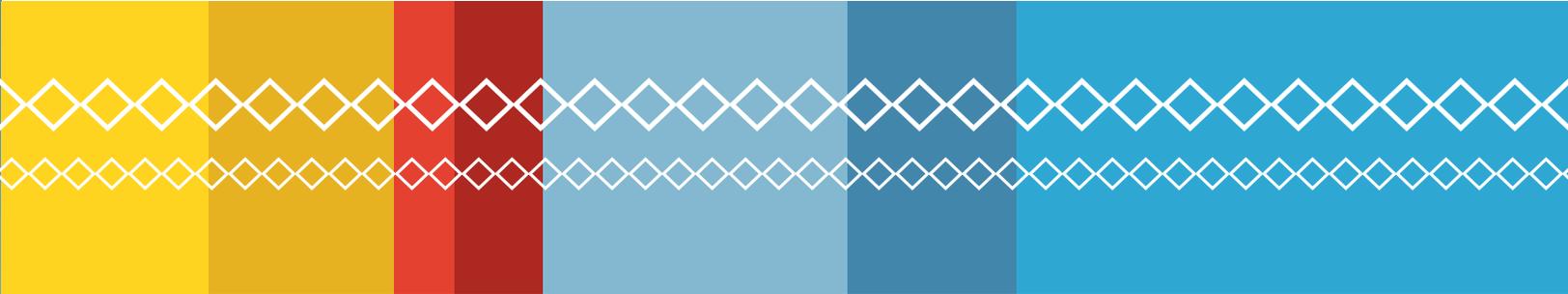
November 2015



“If we want a really honest reconciliation in Canada, it’s going to mean recognizing that there is a value in Indigenous culture and in an Indigenous way of life... The word reconciliation implies two sides coming together, not one side fitting with the other.”

Wab Kinew, Associate Vice-President at The University of Winnipeg and Board Director of CFNP





Message from the Executive



Join the reconciliation movement

It has been just over a year since the founding members of Canadians For a New Partnership came together to discuss how to take action on the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. During that brief time, and despite operating primarily with volunteers on a very modest budget, there has been interest in our work and we are already establishing partnerships with those involved in (or interested in joining) the reconciliation movement.



What motivates people to join a social movement? It takes a commitment by individuals to contribute to something bigger than themselves, a determination to make things better, and the willingness to step up and take action. And no matter how diverse the perspectives of the individuals within the movement may be, they must work as a team if they are to succeed in reaching their shared goal.

Social movements have tackled formidable issues – issues far too great for individuals to successfully address on their own. And reconciliation is certainly one of the most complex and urgent issues affecting all Canadians right now. Yes, there are many people and organizations already committed to building a respectful and fair partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. But more of us need to get involved.

Canadians For a New Partnership is using its strengths to support the reconciliation movement and we challenge all people who have not yet joined to reach out and listen, share, and learn. When we bridge the distances between the many different Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities within Canada – youth, families, faith groups, professionals, businesses, government, new Canadians, and others – we will create a society that is stronger and more culturally and economically rich.

Sincerely,

Tim Brodhead
Co-Chair

Mary Simon
Co-Chair

November 2015



"We believe we can create hope and a venue for all Canadians to try to work together, try to understand each another a little more so we can make some measured progress, so that our grandchildren, 50 years from now are not going to be facing the same problems."

Stephen Kakfwi, President and CEO
of CFNP



About Us

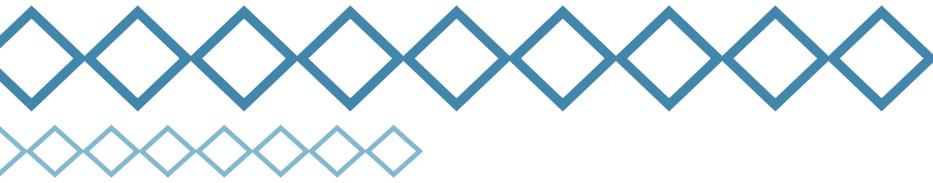
The relationship between Indigenous peoples and Canada has reached another possible turning point. Our nation is confronting and recognizing the cruel history of assimilation policies – particularly through the work and reporting of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. We would like to ensure that this latest opportunity to achieve reconciliation is not squandered. Over the last generation much progress has been made but considerable work and commitment are needed to create a society where equality, harmony and mutual respect are widespread.

This registered charity is the result of the vision and determination of founder and President Stephen Kakfwi, former Premier of the Northwest Territories, and past President of the NWT Dene Nation. In 2013 he was inspired by his children to take action following the emergence of the Idle No More movement. He brought together a number of prominent Indigenous and non-Indigenous people to chart a new way forward – and Canadians For a New Partnership was born.

Launched on September 4, 2014, CFNP believes that Canada can have a strong economy and values-based society that benefits present and future generations of Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. This principle is shared by a growing number of Canadians from all walks of life, including faith communities, youth, businesses, academia, new Canadians, and public servants.

We are growing a large social movement, not a large organization. In 2014-15, CFNP had a small and dedicated team of three staff (Stephen Kakfwi, part-time President and CEO; Michael Laughton, Administrative Officer; and Tania Budgell, Communications Officer) and Board Directors, Melody Morrison and Scott Serson generously contributed significant volunteer time to provide operational and organizational management.





Directors and Members

We have in our all-volunteer membership many of Canada's exceptional leaders (established and emerging), and gain from their collective wisdom, experience, and energy. Our leadership is selected for their demonstrated commitment to reconciliation and represent the diversity of Canada.

Directors / Members

Tim Brodhead – Co-Chair
Mary Simon – Co-Chair
Tony Belcourt
John Kim Bell
Elder Maria Campbell
Rt. Hon. Joe Clark
Charles Coffey
Elder Dave Courchene
Hon. Yvon Dumont
Sheila Fraser
Allan Gregg
Hon. Frank Iacobucci

Thomas Anguti Johnston
Wab Kinew
Nina Larsson
Rt. Hon. Paul Martin
Ovide Mercredi
Melody Morrison
Miles Richardson
Shelagh Rogers
Scott Serson
Sheila Watt-Cloutier
Munsamy Shunnumugam Naidoo
(*posthumously*)

Members

Kostas Andrikopoulos
Don Barraclough
Eugene Boulanger
Carole Chouinard
Phil Fontaine
Allison Fisher
Whit Fraser
Guy Freedman
Udlu Hanson
Elijah Harper (*posthumously*)
Ismo Heikkila
Jesse Hirsh
Larry Innes
Her Excellency, Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean
Karen Joseph
Dr. Robert Joseph

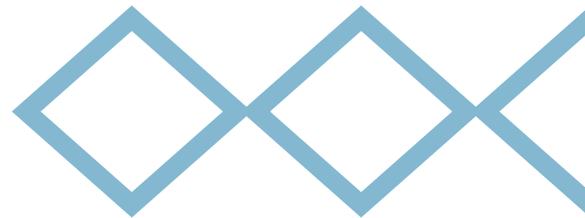
Stephen Kakfwi
Kyla Kakfwi Scott
Tina Keeper
Fred Kelly
David MacDonald
Mandee McDonald
Jeremy McKay
Ted Moses
Deneze Nakehk'o
Heather Lynn Nakehk'o
Dr. Philip Oxhorn
Dave Porter
Bob Rae
James Scott
Chelsea Vowel

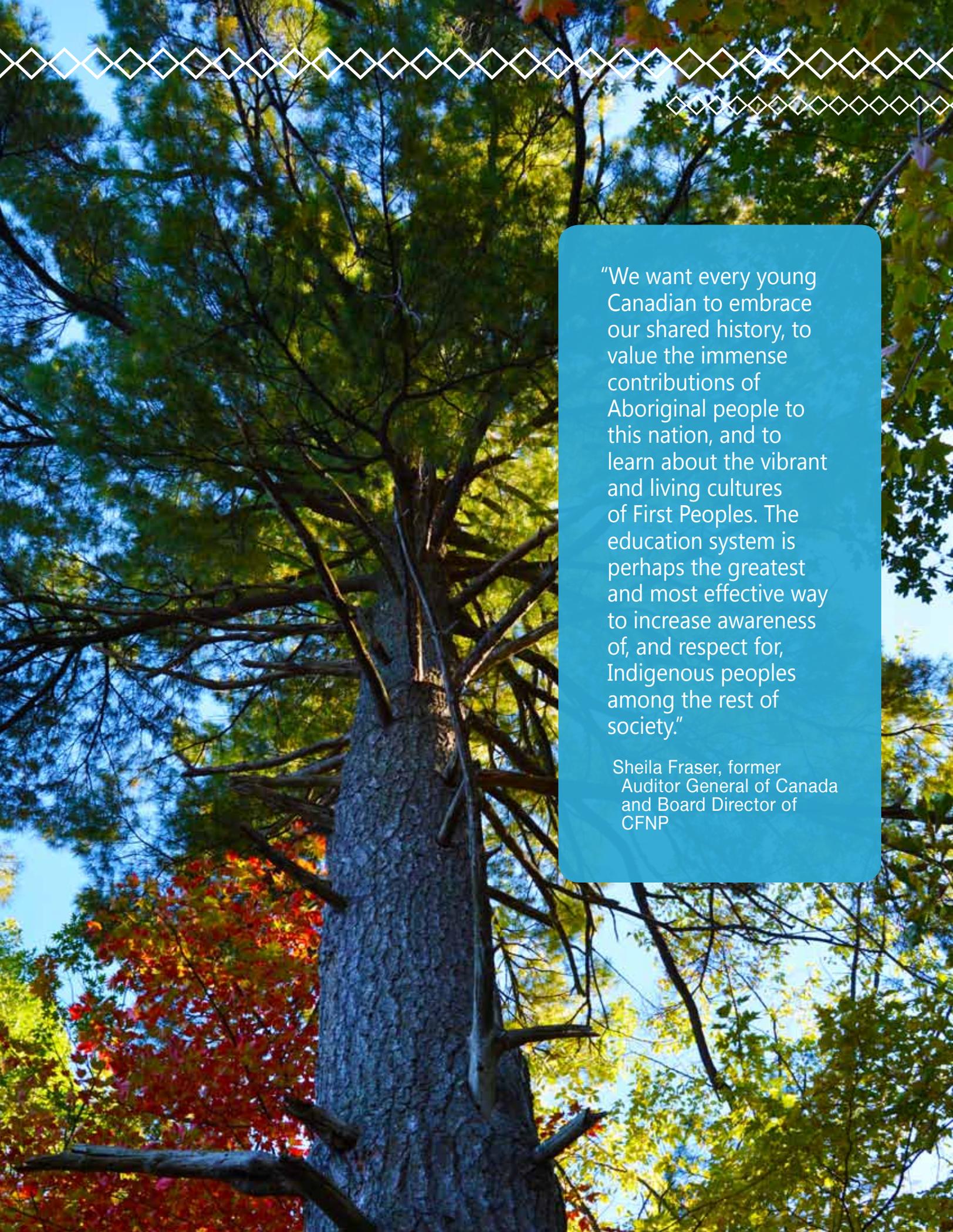
Launch

On September 4th, 2014, CFNP launched with an opening ceremony, press conference and gathering. Each of these was well attended by many media organizations (please visit our website at www.cfnp.ca to read articles about our launch).

Held at the Canadian Museum of History, the opening ceremony was attended by four Elders – representative of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and the Algonquin territory – many of our Members, and the general public. Following a news conference at the National Press Theatre, a gathering was held at the Wabano Centre for Aboriginal Health that was emceed by CFNP Board Director Shelagh Rogers with speeches by CFNP President Stephen Kakfwi, Truth and Reconciliation Commissioner Dr. Marie Wilson, Interim Assembly of First Nations National Chief Ghislain Picard, and CFNP Board Director Tony Belcourt.

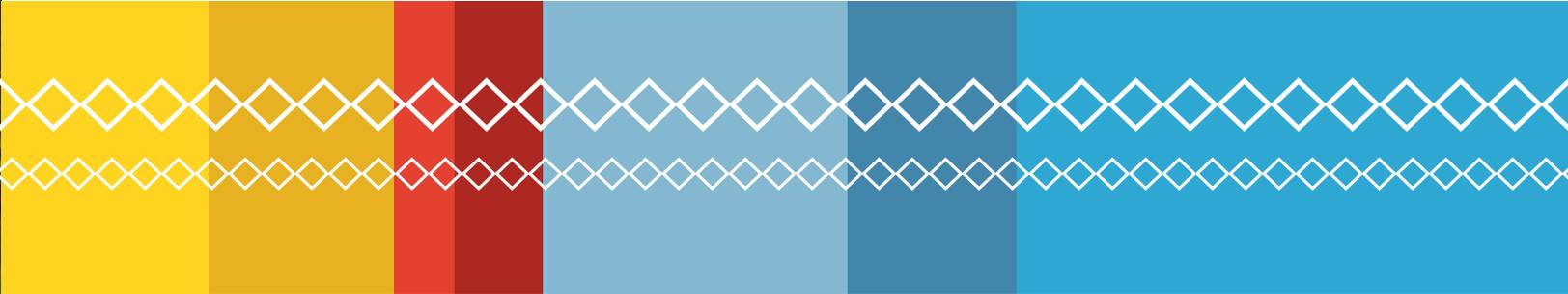
The launch would not have been possible without the tremendous support of several individuals and organizations. We offer our thanks to The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation, NationTalk, Sean Durkan, Jesse Hirsh, First Peoples Group, Guy Freedman and others for their generous financial and in-kind contributions.





"We want every young Canadian to embrace our shared history, to value the immense contributions of Aboriginal people to this nation, and to learn about the vibrant and living cultures of First Peoples. The education system is perhaps the greatest and most effective way to increase awareness of, and respect for, Indigenous peoples among the rest of society."

Sheila Fraser, former
Auditor General of Canada
and Board Director of
CFNP



Our Work

We believe that efforts – no matter how well intentioned – to improve the health, education and welfare of Indigenous peoples are destined to the same failures of the past unless we build a new Nation-to-Nation relationship and restore the trust that has been eroded by a litany of historic wrongs. Put simply, Canadians For a New Partnership has started by engaging Canadians in dialogue about the relationship between First Peoples and others in Canada. This conversation must honestly acknowledge our shared past and present circumstances, and we believe that by doing so, a foundation of trust and hope can be established.

The role of CFNP is to influence and motivate Canadians to work toward a new and respectful alliance, to catalyze partnerships, to support the education of Canadians about our history, and to celebrate the numerous achievements being made by Indigenous communities and individuals.

We are:

- bringing together leaders, new audiences and resources to talk about the importance and need for a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples;
- inspiring new ideas, partnerships and commitments in education, health, business and communities by inspiring ideas and facilitating new partnerships among stakeholders; and
- amplifying and advancing a growing conviction among Canadians that the time for constructive, forward-moving action is now.

There are many individuals and organizations working towards improving the social and economic circumstances of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. It is important to state that we do not want to duplicate the important and considerable work being done by others but wish to support those efforts, add our voice to the conversation, listen to others, and share ideas and solutions.

In 2014-15 we established a national charitable organization with multiple activities including developing partnerships, promoting the signing of a declaration, supporting curricula reform, operating a speakers bureau, and raising awareness of the findings of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.



Partnerships

CFNP's mandate is about constructive relationship building between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians. That is why our core work is to reach out to, connect, or link those who are already involved and encourage those who are starting the journey towards reconciliation to take the next steps. In our first year we've seen first-hand that there are many Canadians – Indigenous and non-Indigenous – from coast-to-coast-to-coast who are challenging present circumstances, who are working on reconciliation, and who are committed to developing collaborative relationships.

CFNP has already established partnerships with several organizations whose activities and objectives strongly align with our mission, and we are now working on joint projects and developing stronger ties.

- Engage Nova Scotia and Treaty Education Nova Scotia welcomed CFNP to be a partner for their A New Partnership: Building Relationship Through Education event scheduled for November 15-16, 2015 in Halifax, NS.
- CFNP is extremely grateful to The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation and the Indigenous Leadership Initiative of the International Boreal Conservation Campaign for their encouragement, involvement and support. We are excited to be partners (along with the Winnipeg Boldness Project and the Circle on Philanthropy) in the Indigenous Innovation Summit being hosted by the National Association of Friendship Centres and The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation on November 18-20, 2015 in Winnipeg.
- CFNP is a partner with The Environics Institute and five other organizations on a public opinion survey on Aboriginal issues in Canada that will be undertaken in late 2015 or early 2016.
- CFNP has partnered with the National Centre for Truth and Reconciliation (NCTR) on the Pathways to Reconciliation conference scheduled for June 15-18, 2016.
- Partners in Confederation is organizing an event to take place in the Fall of 2016 titled Sharing the Land, Sharing the Future that is focused on the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, and the 20th anniversary of the release of its final report. CFNP is a member of the organizing committee with the Institute on Governance, the NCTR, and others.

Already we have met with many Indigenous and non-Indigenous individuals and organizations. The nature of these connections includes participation in speaker events, consultations, networking, information sharing, and establishment of informal and formal relationships. In addition to the partnerships listed above, some of the groups that we met with in 2014-15 include: 150Alliance; 4Rs; Association of Universities and Colleges Canada; Canadian Council of Chief Executives; Community Foundations of Canada; Ecumenical Working Group; First Nations Child & Family Caring Society of Canada; Institute on Governance; Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami; KAIROS Canada; Legacy of

Hope Foundation; Rideau Hall Foundation; Reconciliation Canada; Rotary HIP; Truth and Reconciliation Commission; and The Walrus. We look forward to growing our network and talking with others in 2015-16 and beyond.

Declaration

In September 2014 we launched a Declaration where individuals pledge to build a new partnership between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples based on respect and equality. A data analysis undertaken in August 2015 of the 4,600+ signatures demonstrated that support for the Declaration exists broadly in the entire country and across urban, rural, and northern locations. This reinforces what we believe – that there is widespread support and interest in reconciliation throughout Canada. See the end of this document for the complete Declaration text.

Education reform

One of our goals is to contribute to the efforts being made to ensure changes in our education systems are made at all levels (including colleges and universities). We want every young Canadian to embrace our shared history, to value the immense contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis, and to learn about the vibrant and living cultures of First Peoples. Education environments that welcome Indigenous points of view and respect the unique needs of Indigenous students must also be created.



CFNP Board Director, Sheila Fraser, during a discussion hosted by Issues That Matter



Several of the Calls to Action published by the TRC in June 2015 address reconciliation through education. CFNP is playing a role in this area by leveraging its influential leadership to raise awareness and encourage provinces and territories to enhance their school curriculum to improve or add the history and culture of Indigenous peoples as well as the legacy of residential schools. By doing this, Indigenous student success rates will increase and non-Aboriginal students will benefit by learning about Indigenous history, culture and perspectives. Already we have met with the Premiers of Manitoba and Ontario to discuss public school education reform and in November 2015 we were asked by the TRC to continue undertaking activities in this area.

Speakers Bureau

In our first year, our experienced and knowledgeable members – all volunteers – have spoken at over two dozen events across the country to share our vision and to offer Canadians a compelling rationale for sustaining momentum for relationship building and collaboration. We focused our participation at forums that addressed reconciliation, partnerships between Indigenous peoples and all Canadians, and the TRC Calls to Action. We have reached diverse audiences such as youth and students, economic developers, new Canadians and policymakers, and have promoted respect for Indigenous cultures and highlighted the enormous opportunities for all that are made possible through reconciliation.

Summaries of a small selection of the speaking engagements CFNP participated in during 2014-15 follow.

University of Manitoba

Several CFNP Directors and Members (Stephen Kakfwi, Ovide Mercredi, Phil Fontaine, Elder Dave Courchene, and the Rt. Hon. Joe Clark) participated in a highly successful University of Manitoba event that brought together Indigenous and non-Indigenous students and faculty in January 2015.

NS@30

Nunavut Sivuniksavut is a leadership program based in Ottawa for Inuit youth from Nunavut. CFNP Co-Chair Mary Simon and Board Director Sheila Fraser spoke at an education-focused conference attended by several hundred delegates that was held in April to celebrate the program's 30th anniversary.



CFNP Board Director, Sheila Fraser, speaks to NS@30 delegates



Canada 2020

In April, Co-Chair Mary Simon spoke at this event that focused on Aboriginal peoples and economic development (video available at <https://vimeo.com/126542182>). The conference was webcast live and attendees included policy makers and leaders from various sectors such as government and business. Other speakers and panelists included the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin and Assembly of First Nations National Chief, Perry Bellegarde.



Mary Simon, Co-Chair for CFNP, speaks at Canada2020

Bickford Centre

It is important to raise awareness about the past and present relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada among new Canadians. In June, CFNP Board Director Charles Coffey and Member Don Barraclough co-presented to a large group of ESL students in Toronto where they discussed history, common misconceptions, social justice, and the need for reconciliation.

Retired Heads of Mission Association (RHOMA)

CFNP Director, Sheila Fraser, and CFNP Communications Officer, Tania Budgell, spoke to the members of RHOMA (former Canadian Ambassadors, High Commissioners and Consuls General) in September. This is one example of the many organizations that are educating their members about reconciliation and who are interested in learning more about CFNP's mission and the relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada.

Other speaker hosts included:

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- Ban Righ Centre at Queen's University
- Colleges and Institutes Canada
- Dawson College
- Odell Aboriginal Colloquium
- Social Impact Investment Taskforce established by the G8



Declaration video stills



Stephen Kakfwi, President and CEO



Her Excellency, Rt. Hon. Michaëlle Jean, Member of CFNP



Chelsea Vowel, Member of CFNP

Communications

During this year, Canadians For a New Partnership established several communications tools, including launch of English and French websites and social media accounts (YouTube, Instagram, Facebook, and Twitter).

Informing the public about our activities and our mission is critical to our work. Much effort has been made to grow our outreach and awareness efforts. This includes: creation of four informational videos (available online); ongoing updates and enhancements to our website; increasing online content that celebrates successes by First Nations, Inuit and Métis communities and individuals; sharing developments in Indigenous / non-Indigenous partnerships and other information of interest to our audience; promotion of events in which CFNP is a partner; and other activities.

With the increasing awareness of residential schools and interest in relationship building, people are looking for ways to learn more about Indigenous people, our shared concerns, and our different perspectives. On our website we have made available links to the growing body of information by Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples including news articles, research, historical documents, and videos. In addition to our online presence, we have, and will continue to, explore and consider other communication and promotional opportunities. Looking forward, we will continue to grow our outreach and awareness efforts.

Emerging leaders

The issues we and others are addressing are significant and will not be resolved quickly – that is why we are planning for long-term success by supporting and partnering with emerging leaders, particularly Indigenous youth. By including youth members in the decision making of CFNP and by also offering to mentor them we are helping prepare the generations of tomorrow to lead while immediately benefitting and learning from their knowledge, experience, and insights.



Truth and Reconciliation Commission / Reconciliation

The well-known inequities faced by Indigenous peoples are rooted in our history and cannot be resolved until we understand and reconcile to right those wrongs. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission has furthered and brought national attention to this journey and it has reminded us that all Canadians are responsible for reconciliation.

During the closing event of the TRC in June, Canadians For a New Partnership was inducted as an institutional Honorary Witness. By receiving this honour, we, along with many others, are committed to uphold the responsibility and duty to continue the work of ongoing reconciliation.

At every opportunity CFNP has been informing Canadians of the TRC recommendations and encouraging citizens to read the Commission's Executive Summary and the Final Report. By doing so they will learn and better understand the history and legacy of residential schools, and begin to understand how our past, present and future are interwoven. We also continue to encourage Canadians from coast-to-coast-to-coast to initiate, participate in and support concrete acts of reconciliation and meaningful and productive partnerships, wherever and however they can.



Stephen Kakfwi (R), with Commissioners Dr. Marie Wilson and Wilton Littlechild during CFNP Honorary Witness induction

Administration and Finances

Administration

In addition to undertaking a broad range of programs, strategically planning for the future, supporting our leadership, and keeping stakeholders informed of important developments, among other activities, CFNP established the foundational structure of our organization. This included development of bylaws, establishment of committees, and registration as a national charitable organization. Additionally, communications elements were created - a logo was produced, English and French language websites launched, and informational videos were recorded.

Founding Partners

As our name indicates, our purpose is to support existing partnerships and to encourage the establishment of new ones. A special recognition is extended to the following supporters as our founding partners. We are proud to be working with them and look forward to making progress on our shared goals and objectives.

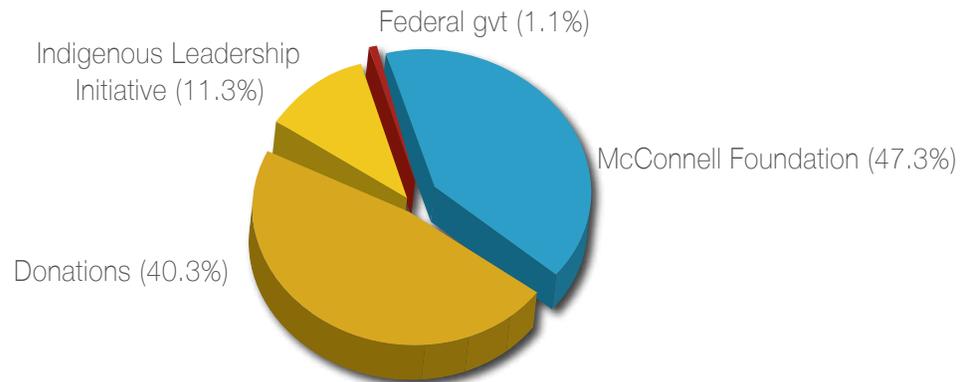
- The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation
- Indigenous Leadership Initiative of the International Boreal Conservation Campaign
- Royal Bank of Canada
- Carole Chouinard, Partner at Gowlings
- First Peoples Group
- Government of the Northwest Territories
- Institute on Governance
- McGill University
- NationTalk
- T.E. Wealth
- The Walter and Duncan Gordon Foundation

Finances*

November 2014 - October 2015

Income

Federal government (HST/GST refund)	\$	4,218.00
Donations	\$	157,690.79
The J.W. McConnell Family Foundation	\$	185,000.00
Indigenous Leadership Initiative of the International Boreal Conservation Campaign	\$	44,247.50
	Sub Total	\$ 391,156.29



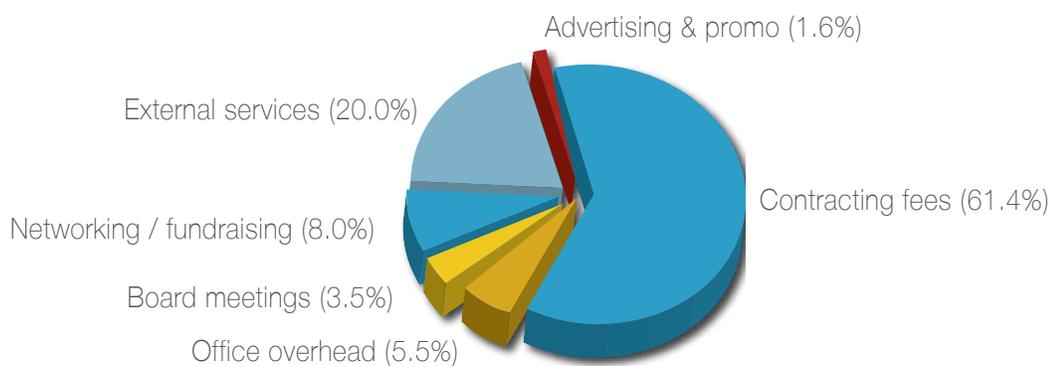
* Subject to audit



Expenses

Advertising and promotion	\$ 5,016.93
CFNP contracting fees (staff costs)	\$ 191,917.91
Office overhead	\$ 17,237.40
Board meetings	\$ 10,824.70
Networking / fundraising (travel)	\$ 24,808.36
External professional services	\$ 62,593.26
Sub Total	\$ 312,398.56

Income over expenses \$ 78,757.73



Donors

We are immensely thankful for the numerous donations (financial and in-kind) made to CFNP by organizations and individuals from across Canada. To each of these foundations, companies, and individuals – thank you.





“Now is the time to embrace reconciliation and partnership alongside First Peoples. Let us pull our nation out of the shadows of injustice onto a luminous path. This is not a fantasy – it’s a collective responsibility.”

Her Excellency, Rt.
Hon. Michaëlle
Jean, Secretary
General of La
Francophonie and
Member of CFNP

Moving Forward

In 2014-15 we dedicated significant time and resources to complete an issue audit, consultations with stakeholders, strategy development, and identification of what resources are needed to successfully take action.

As a result, we have developed a three-year plan that is bold and comprehensive. Centered around four program areas – Cultivate, Connect, Communicate and Celebrate – it outlines how we will contribute to the growing call for a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada, build on the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and celebrate and highlight the successes of First Peoples and Indigenous / non-Indigenous partnerships. It is a structured strategy that reinforces our early directions and includes the activities listed below.

Cultivate

- Connect a network of individuals and groups working towards reconciliation and the implementation of the TRC Calls to Action, share information, and participate in shared development projects
- Take part in targeted, strategic, sectoral-based speaking engagements and other discussion opportunities

Connect

- Encourage enhancement of curriculum to reflect Indigenous history, culture and knowledge, and the legacy of Indian Residential Schools
- Convene roundtables to promote the exchange of ideas, perspectives and solutions
- Identify, engage and offer mentoring to a new generation of leaders, and take the opportunity to learn from these Indigenous and non-Indigenous youth members

Communicate

- Growing awareness and support for a better Indigenous / non-Indigenous relationship among the general public
- Foster innovative ideas, network building and partnerships through stakeholder dialogue and disseminate solutions and wise practices
- Encourage interest in, and support of, the CFNP Declaration

Celebrate

- Celebrate successes and share our mandate and activities via an informative website and an active presence on social media



"A shared understanding is the foundation on which we will build a better tomorrow for all generations to come."

Chelsea Vowel, Member of CFNP

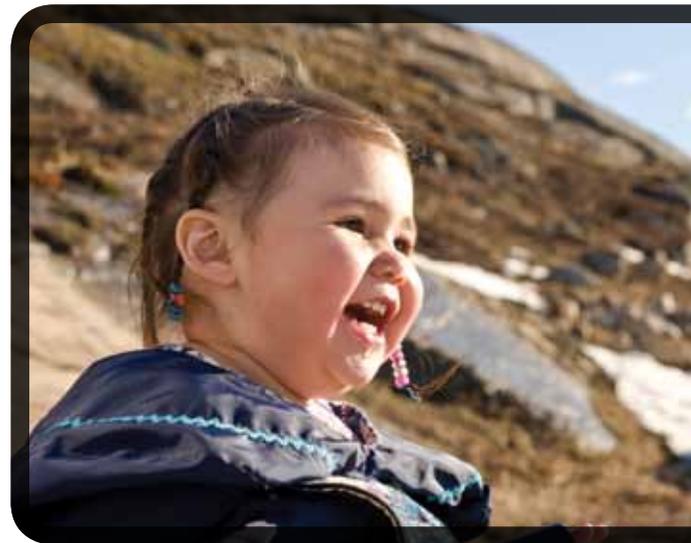


Conclusion

Canada is at a defining moment

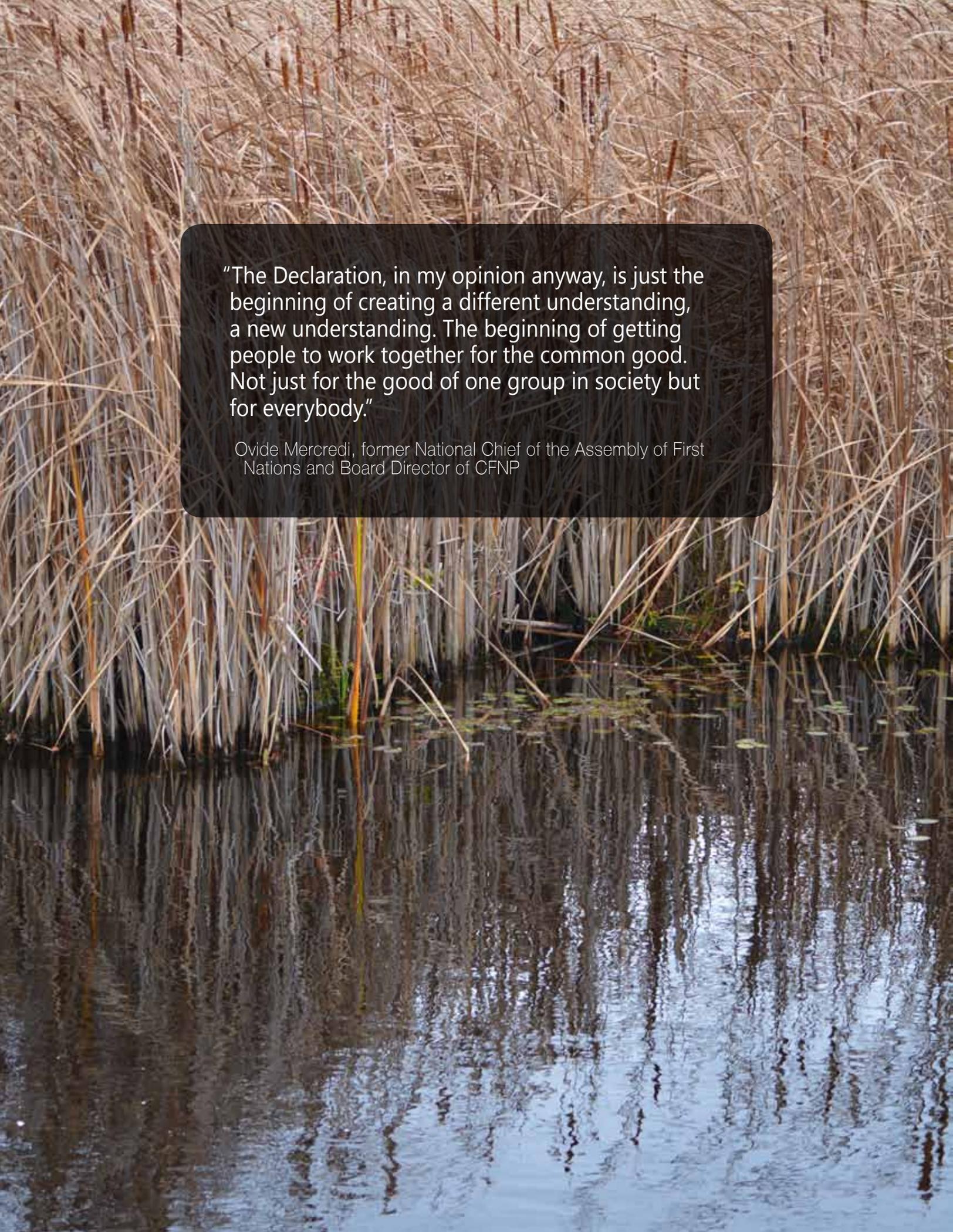
This country is confronting and acknowledging the cruel history and legacy of assimilation policies. Exposing the truth of the residential school system by survivors via the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, seeing the disproportionate levels of poverty and lower education rates, and wide support of the call for an inquiry into missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls are only a few examples. The problems facing us are many and great but they are not beyond resolution.

Change has already started. We are seeing unprecedented numbers of Indigenous / non-Indigenous partnerships and other relationship-building initiatives. The issues we face are increasingly being understood as 'our' problems, not 'Aboriginal' problems. And there is a growing view in Canada that real and lasting positive change is not only possible, but is necessary. There are innovative ideas, a new energy, and a deep resolve to find a co-operative and productive way forward. Today, together, Indigenous peoples and all Canadians have an opportunity to create a future that is better than today.



We know that our vision is ambitious and that success will not come easily. As Justice Sinclair has said during the release of the TRC recommendations, "...we have described for you a mountain. We have shown you the path to the top. We call upon you to do the climbing." In its first year CFNP started along that path. In coming years we pledge to engage a growing number of Canadians on that challenging but essential climb toward a brighter more inclusive future. We invite you to join us.

We've only started and hope that you will join us and help build a better, stronger Canada.



"The Declaration, in my opinion anyway, is just the beginning of creating a different understanding, a new understanding. The beginning of getting people to work together for the common good. Not just for the good of one group in society but for everybody."

Ovide Mercredi, former National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations and Board Director of CFNP

CANADIANS FOR A NEW PARTNERSHIP

Declaration

We the undersigned declare our resolve to build a new partnership between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples of this country – a partnership based on the principles of mutual respect, peaceful co-existence and equality; one that will be built by restoring trust and respecting Aboriginal and Treaty rights. Today we invite all Canadians to join us as we set out to write a new chapter in the evolution of our nation.

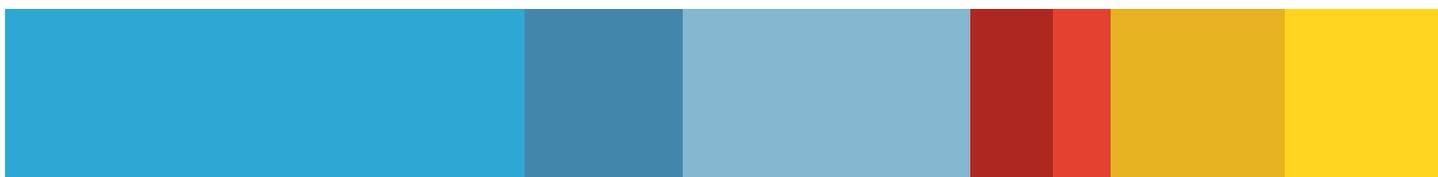
For over four centuries we have shared the same land, water and air that form one of the most bountiful and prosperous countries in the world. In this way Indigenous and non-Indigenous people are bound together in an inseparable bond. But not all have shared equally in the same rights, freedoms and benefits that should flow from inhabiting this magnificent land.

For too long our relations have been marked by misunderstanding, betrayal and neglect. While the sins of the past can never be erased, by acknowledging Aboriginal and Treaty rights and forging a new partnership we can stop the cycle of negativity that past wrongs have wrought on the generations that followed. We cannot allow future goodwill to be smothered by the exhaustion of historic failure. Therefore, by signing this Declaration, we pledge to build a future that is positive, healthy, productive and meaningful for the generations to come.



Our purpose is uncomplicated: it is to make things better; to bring a new energy and reconciliation to the project of building a better Canada; to solve, through a commitment of good will and widespread attestation, what has for decades eluded dealmakers, negotiators and people of earnest intent. We must embrace the notion of partnership fully and place it at the very heart of our endeavours. Then, and only then, will we enjoy a foundation of trust sturdy enough to overcome the shame of historic harm and contemporary injustices and realize future possibility.

To be equals in truth as well as intent we must reconcile historical wrongs by acknowledging the Treaty and Aboriginal rights of Canada's First Peoples. Aboriginal communities also must have the tools to strengthen their institutions, culture and traditions in accordance with these rights and their aspirations and needs. This is the wellspring, which will empower Aboriginal communities to shape and govern the policies and practices that affect their people, land and resources.



This new partnership will be built on values that hold, as their basis, the equality and right to dignity for all. Indigenous and non-Indigenous people will come together in solidarity built on shared responsibility and co-operation. This we understand is central to Indigenous culture as much as it lies at the heart of the Canadian federation.

The New Partnership is neither deluded about past challenges nor deflated about present circumstances. We believe that hope must be created with the establishment of new trust and enthusiasm. This is the fundamental ambition of the New Partnership. By joining us – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike – together in this public Declaration we shall seek to create an atmosphere where paralysis becomes unacceptable and where a broad, engaged public insists upon progress.

That is why we, a group of Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, are coming together to hold a national dialogue and to reach out to all Canadians. We call on legislators, corporate leaders, labour and all civil society organizations to share in a new approach and our belief in a better Canada. We ask Canadians to join us in signing this Declaration and to go forward on a path that will rebuild trust, remedy a broken relationship and lead to a new partnership.

Signature

First and Last Name¹

City/Prov.

Date

- Please add my name to the online list of signatories of the Declaration.
- Yes, I want to stay connected! Please add me to the CFNP e-mail list.²

E-mail

¹ CFNP respects your privacy. We will not sell or otherwise distribute your contact information.
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Go to www.cfnp.ca/declaration to sign online.

How to submit by mail or e-mail



Mail:
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291 Dalhousie St., Ste 203
Ottawa, ON K1N 7E5



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admin@cfnp.ca

Please consider making a donation to Canadians For a New Partnership (charitable # 825656630RR0001). By contributing, you will help build a new relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. All donors from Canada will receive a tax receipt.

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To learn more about us, or to find helpful links to organizations, projects or research related to reconciliation, please visit our website.

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