The Old Peoples Voices Speak of the Thunderbirds' Flight: Traditional Indigenous Values, a Holistic Framework for Child, Youth, and Family Programming and Accountability

December 8 – 10, 2017

Songhees Wellness Centre, 1100 Admirals Rd., Victoria, BC

Overview

This YouLEAD course, offered by the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) in partnership with Songhees First Nation, explores the importance of traditional Indigenous values and their role in healthy child and youth development. The course also explores how these values can be applied as a foundation for youth programming monitoring and evaluation to promote accountability.

This 3 day course will support participants to examine and to apply traditional Indigenous values and their role to sustain healthy, holistic human development over thousands of years. In 1974 Chief Dan George wrote, the choices we make, "will not be easy". The instructors, Bill White (Coast Salish - Xelimulh/Kasalid) and Dr. Philip Cook (Executive Director, IICRD and Associate faculty at Royal Roads University), will draw on their rich experience and collaboration in working with traditionally trained Elders in Canada, South Africa, Mexico and other locations to 'echo' traditional teachings on
human strengths and resilience to manage complex, contemporary problems such as family and community violence, HIV/AIDS, discrimination and extreme poverty.

The course will present a framework exploring Indigenous values and support participants to apply what Indigenous old people refer to as 'our way, our teachings' to challenges in their own lives as well as in the broader context of youth and community development. Finally, the course will help participants integrate teachings and values to assess and monitor community child, youth and family service programs and other community interventions. It is that process that gives strength for the Thunderbird, a traditional Coast Salish mythical being symbolizing transformation, the power to 'fly' and bring old and new energy together in innovative ways. Our old people referred to this process 'as being strong' and they had great faith we could do that.

Participants taking this course will receive IICRD credit through the YouLEAD program, and will have opportunities for further mentoring and support in applying course teachings in their communities or practice locations.

**Objectives**
- To provide an introduction and overview of Indigenous traditional values promoting healthy child and youth development and family well being
- Introduce a new approach to learning focused on traditional teachings and critical self reflection to apply these values in daily practice with children, youth and families
- Help participants develop monitoring tools that apply traditional values to monitoring community based child and youth programming

**Essential Readings/Resources**
1. The Flight of the Thunderbird: Applying traditional Indigenous values to contemporary global challenges
2. Every Word Has a Spirit, Elders booklet, Nanaimo District Secondary School

**Facilitators/Elders**

Chief Adam Dick/Kwaksistalla and Kim Recalma-Clutesi/Ogwilogwa
Two of the most culturally significant people we are likely to meet in our life time. Two award winning films, “Smoke From His Fire” and “Ancient Sea Gardens”. Chief Adam Dick was born to a dream, a premonition by his mother his teachers told him he would stand on top of the world. Both collaborated with the Commonwealth Games Opening Ceremonies 1994, based on his story of Creation. There is no other with as much formal training about Kwakwaka’wakw rites and ceremonies. Kim Recalma-Clutesi comes from one of our oldest and most significant modern political families on the coast. She was
trained as a child to listen to learn and to capture traditional teachings. She has a working knowledge of our rich heritage, traditions and knows how to apply these things in a modern day and time. With the ethnobotanist Dr. Nancy Turner, she is an accomplished writer. The ‘Joy’ in their lives has been know how to share our teachings, how to include others, how to let others know they belong. Adam and Kim have partnered with IICRD since the late 1990’s.

Willie Pierre and Leonita Rose Gray

Willie has applied teachings from his parents and grandparents involving birth preparations, becoming a boy – hunting, fishing, being clean, to protect the home and preparing for marriage. He is a multi-talented specialist in our world as he has been hired to prepare sites for construction which meant negotiating with the Ancestors, he is a spiritual healer. With his late mother Agnes Pierre, who worked with IICRD for many years, they conducted a healing retreat for 50 RCMP/Police members involved with the Missing and Murdered Women. Both he and Rose absolutely love the sharing and fun associated with travelling to Bone Games. They are both very active with Winter Dance Complex. There is great ‘Joy’ in their lives.

From her mother, Kay George, Rose learned the importance of being strong, alcohol free and learning the strength of our traditions. She applied that love to her work within our communities. Some of those activities included, Parenting Facilitator, Healthiest Babies, FASD, Drug and Alcohol Counselor, CHR, Summer Youth Program Coordinator, Support for Indian Residential School Survivors, HIV support group. She has 12 Certificates in each of these areas after graduation from high school in 1978. She has three sons and one daughter. She found love and happiness with Willie Pierre. There is joy in her life.

William White, Xelimux/Kasalid and Dr. Philip Cook

Bill White carries two traditional xwulmuxw names Kasalid and Xelimuml. His father died when he was five and was raised by a very strong traditional mother, Kay George. In the seventies when introduced to a friends’ mother she said, in Indian because of that great sadness he would be gifted and be stronger than most. He has worked with traditional elders since the seventies all the way up to his time at UVic as its’ Aboriginal Liaison Officer, 1993 - 2006. During that he was influenced by Agnes Pierre, Theresa Smith, Dr. Samuel Sam, Chief Adam Dick and Kim Recalma-Clutesi. From that period, the most significant collaboration around writing, research work with elders was with Dr. Philip Cook. This included at least four international trips to South Africa, Paris, Mexico City and Geneva Switzerland. He has been most interested in the application of the sacred for maintenance of protective health. Every day he is grateful to those Sulsalewh Elders who spent time with their teachings.
Dr. Philip Cook, originally of English-Scottish ancestry and born in Vancouver, BC, is the founder and Executive Director of the International Institute for Child Rights and Development (IICRD) and an Associate Professor at Royal Roads University (RRU). Since 1994, Dr. Cook has overseen the Institute’s growth as a centre of research excellence in linking children’s rights, protection and well being to broad issues of human development, human security and participatory governance across diverse cultures and situational contexts in Canada and in over 40 other countries. From his earliest work supporting the rights of children living with a disability in India to later partnerships with Indigenous peoples in Western Canada, Latin America, Asia and Africa, Philip has promoted the importance of bringing the balance and strength of age-old human wisdom together with the resilience of young peoples’ creativity, passion and new ideas. This emphasis on empathetic, evidence informed, engaged action has helped Philip and IICRD’s work strengthen the development of a “bottom up” community based approach to human rights, especially informing the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Philip is married to Michele Cook, IICRD Capacity Director. They have three children and make their home in Shingle Bay on Pender Island, BC.

Bill and Philip have worked together applying traditional Indigenous teachings to contemporary child, youth and family challenges for 25 years. The metaphor of the flight of the Thunderbird has inspired their work.

DAY 1 : Laying the Ground and Preparing to Fly - Understanding Traditional Indigenous Values and their Role in Human Well Being

Morning Session
Introduction
• Opening prayer – Hereditary Chief Adam Dick, Kwaksistala
• Welcome and Orientation
• Introductions
• Opening Remarks to award winning film, “Smoke from His Fire - Kim Recalma-Clutesi, Ogwilola.

Traditional Teachings
• Teachings from the Elders

Lunch (Eat and take some personal time – walk - journal – reflect)

Afternoon Session
Overview of the Values
• YouLEAD
• The Flight of the Thunderbird
• Participant Reflection

Understanding Self in Relation to Traditional Values
• The River Journey - Your Personal life story and values

Days Summary and Preparation for Day 2

DAY 2: The Thunderbird Taking Flight – Applying the Values in Personal and Professional Practice

Morning Session
Opening prayer

The Power of Prayer: Breathing Energy to Make the Values Fly

Applying Traditional Teachings in Practice with Young People and Families
• Examples of the Values in Practice (Canada, South Africa)

Lunch (Eat and take some personal time – walk - journal – reflect)

Applying Traditional Teachings in Partnerships with Elders and Young People
• Small group work
• Creative expression feedback

Days Summary and Preparation for Day 3

DAY 3: Learning about Coast Salish values and monitoring approaches with Elders and Young People

Morning Session
Opening prayer - participants

Coast Salish Teachings related to accountability to children and youth
• Leonita Rose Gray and Willie Pierre share their teachings and experience working with young people, and professionals under stress.

Lunch (Eat and take some personal time – walk - journal – reflect)
Afternoon Session
Introduction to Monitoring Using Traditional Values
- Monitoring framework for programs supporting children, youth and families using traditional teachings
- Group work applying the values to monitoring work with young people and families
- New Strategies

Conclusion
- Course summary
- Next steps – how you plan to use the values framework in future
- Course evaluation
- Presentation of certificates
- Closing Prayer