



Capacity Development within Anishinabek First Nations

**A Presentation to the Aboriginal
Financial Officers Association**

February 22, 2006

Background

- Union of Ontario Indians since 1949
- Political advocate & secretariat for 42 First Nations (population 46,000)
- 1995 mandate to restore jurisdiction
- 1998 formal negotiations with Canada
- “Sectoral” Agreements: Governance (AIP) & Education (Final Agreement)

Sectoral Negotiations

- Inherent Right Policy – Opportunities
 - Internal Consultations on Anishinabek agenda – Nation building
 - Recognition of First Nations' jurisdiction – Restoration of Jurisdiction (ROJ)
 - Specific improvements in education and governance-Niigan Ga Zhaamin
 - No limitations for future opportunities

Sectoral Negotiations

- Inherent Right Policy –Limitations
 - “Non negotiable” items:
 - Indian Status
 - Own Source Revenue
 - International Legal Obligations
 - Justice

Large Scale Negotiations

- Challenges:
 - 42 First Nations
 - Geographic Area: Sarnia to Thunder Bay; east to Ottawa Valley
 - Off-Reserve Membership
 - Consensus Building.

Large Scale Negotiations

- Challenges: Decision-Making Structure
 - 1) Anishinabek Nation Community Level
(General Consultation & Information)
 - 2) Chiefs' Committee on Governance
(Specific Issues & Direction)
 - 3) Anishinabek Nation Grand Council
(Critical Issues & Direction)

Large Scale Negotiations



Large Scale Negotiations

- Education Working Groups –
A Grassroots Process

- Education Governance
- Program and Services
- Finance
- Communications

Consultation Process

- Negotiations held in First Nations or urban centers with First Nation members
- Negotiations open to all First Nation community members and leadership
- Negotiations promoted and members encouraged to attend

Changing Federal Policy

- Dealing with evolving federal positions/policies
- Effecting change
- Negotiations v. political strategies
- Role of the media

Effecting Change in Federal Policy

- Our results:
 - Membership
 - Fiduciary Duty
 - Own Source Revenue
 - International Legal Obligations

Changing Climate

- Ontario's New Approach to Aboriginal Affairs
- New Federal Government Party
- Intergovernmental Forum
- First Nation – Federal Crown Political Accord
- Inherent Right Policy is 10+ years old

Opportunities

- Constitution Development: First Nation and Anishinabek Nation
- Anishinabek Education System
- Fiscal Relations: Studies, Models and Fiscal Transfer Agreement Development
- Community Consultations

Capacity Development

- In conjunction with negotiations
 - Education system
 - Appeal and Redress
 - First Nation Law Enforcement and Adjudication
 - Capacity Development Workshops

Capacity Development Workshops

- 2002 mandate by Chiefs Committee on Governance to start Capacity Development Workshops
- Chiefs Committee on Governance:
 - **9 Anishinabek Nation Chiefs**
 - **Grand Council Chief (ex-officio)**
 - **Commissioner on Governance**
 - **Education Portfolio Holder**

Goal of Capacity Development Project

- To build capacity within our First Nation communities in within the Anishinabek Nation as a whole in advance of the Education and Governance Final Agreements.

Capacity Development Advisory Committee

- Committee representatives of 43 Anishinabek First Nations created to determine key areas
- Chiefs Committee on Governance put forward nominations
- Six members plus one member of Chiefs Committee on Governance
- Developed list of 19 Key Areas for Capacity Development

Workshop Methodology

- Call for Proposals
- Review process by CDAC
- Aboriginal Workshop Facilitators for all workshops
- Workshops held within Anishinabek First Nations or urban centers with high First Nation population

2002-03 Workshops

- Separating Politics and Administration in First Nations
- Strategic Planning, Effective Evaluation and Quality Management
- Dispute Resolution Training
- Community Constitution Development

2003-04 Workshops

- Public Administration and Governance
- Separating Politics and Administration in First Nations
- Reading and Analysis of Financial Information
- Legal Issues and their Impact on First Nations
- Policies and Procedures Development
- Chief & Council Orientation

2004-05 Workshops

- By-law Development
- Human Resource Management
- Developing Budgets and Work Plans
- Communications
- Education Tuition Agreements

2005-06 Workshops

- Constitution Development
- Band Administrator Orientation
- Reading and Analysis of Financial Information



Workshop Participants

- Over 460 workshop participants in first 3 years:
 - **Anishinabek Nation Chiefs**
 - **Councilors**
 - **Band Administrators**
 - **Financial Officers**
 - **Education Directors**
 - **Other First Nation Directors and Administration Staff**

Next Steps...

- Continue development of Education and Governance Agreements
- Possible expansion to comprehensive negotiations
- Continued Capacity Development to support First Nation development

**Chi-Miigwetch to the
members of the
Aboriginal Financial Officers
Association**

QUESTIONS?