

## **THE ANGLICAN COUNCIL OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES (ACIP) AND THE OFFICE OF THE NATIONAL INDIGENOUS ANGLICAN BISHOP**

Following the protocol of previous and more recent General Synods, members of ACIP and the other partners (selected by ACIP) will be assigned to sit at the Diocesan Tables as the Indigenous Partners to General Synod 2013. The Indigenous partners will participate in all of the proceedings of General Synod. They will have voice in the proceedings of Plenary but are not accorded voting privileges in matters relating to decisions vis a vis Resolutions or Motions. ACIP cordially extends an invitation to Members of General Synod, Partners, visitors and observers to come to the ACIP Hospitality Room to relax and visit with us when General Synod is not in session.

During this Triennium, several events, and transitions have occurred that are significant and key moments for the shaping of Indigenous Ministries. First of all, Ms. Donna Bomberry retired from her Staff Position as the Indigenous Ministries Coordinator. Donna Bomberry served ACIP and Indigenous Ministries with distinction and her dedication has indeed blessed and benefitted this particular ministry at the National, Diocesan, and local context of the Church's ministry relative to Indigenous ministries.

A Selection Committee was tasked by ACIP to advertise the vacant Indigenous Ministries Coordinator's position. There was a very good response from prospective applicants and all the applicants were interviewed by the Selection Committee after the interviewing process, the Rev. Canon Ginny (Virginia) Doctor (Mohawk) from the Diocese of Alaska was offered the position and she graciously accepted the posting. ACIP and the Indigenous Program office are very pleased with her appointment and have already begun a very good working relationship. The gifts and talents she brings to Indigenous Ministries in Canada will certainly bless and enhance our common life.

It was with much regret that ACIP accepted the withdrawal of the Reverend Gloria Moses as Co-chair and a Letter of Release was sent to Gloria and added a note of gratitude for her valuable contributions to the work of ACIP. The Reverend Norman Casey was elected as the Co-chair and his election was consented to unanimously and has been serving with merit.

Under the leadership of the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop (NIAB), Bishop Mark MacDonald has been supportive and continues to encourage and engage ACIP in its work of: (i) redefining the role of Indigenous Anglicans in the Church, (ii) developing indigenous forms of church governance and decision making, and (iii) exploring ways for indigenous congregations to move or make transitions towards self-sufficiency.

The concept and merits of an Elders and a Youth Council was discussed at the February 2010 ACIP meeting. Shortly thereafter, these Councils were formed and later met jointly at the Carey Center in Vancouver in May 2012. As we journey towards self-determination within the Anglican Church of Canada, the elders and youth councils are a reflection of the deep enduring values of Indigenous life and, in most of our communities, a critical part of governance, spiritual discernment, and consensus building. These two groups often work and meet together, assisting the NIAB, ACIP, and Ministries in their decision-making and action.

During this Triennium, a major piece of work coming out of GS 2010 and the adoption of Canon 22, was the Amendments to this Canon that are being brought forward to General Synod 2013 for ratification.

From the previous General Synod, the subsequent work that needed to be completed was, namely, to answer the three questions which GWG asked Sacred Circle to answer ( how will members of ACIP be selected in the future, how will members of Sacred Circle be selected in the future, and how will future NIABs be selected?). The response to the three questions are vital and foundational to defining and articulating the amendments to Canon 22. With ACIP's consent, Bishop Mark MacDonald (NIAB) and Archdeacon Sidney Black (ACIP Co-chair) were designated to work together with GWG in articulating the amendments to Canon 22. Sacred Circle 2012, held in Pinawa, Manitoba, reviewed the Amendments to Canon 22, and after much discussion in plenary, unanimously accepted the document.

The Council of Indigenous Peoples, in its current Terms of Reference consists of 20 members selected from Indigenous, Metis and Inuit Anglican communities. ACIP reports to the Council of General Synod (CoGS) and to General Synod. The ACIP Co-chairs as Partners to CoGS have vote at these meetings. ACIP has worked within the General Synod's Priorities and Practices of Vision 2019 and the 5 Marks of Mission. The Council also supports the Office of Indigenous Ministry by offering advice and input to the various projects being carried forth. These include: Indigenous Catechist Training, Healing Circles and Indigenous Healthy Pathways, The Suicide Prevention Program, and the Indigenous Urban Network. A copy of the work plan for the Office of the National Indigenous Bishop is attached. (This was last updated on April 17, 2013)

Members from ACIP are appointed to work on the following Committees, Working Groups, Boards and issues such as:

- Partners in Mission – Eco-Justice,
- Anti-Racism Working Group,
- Council of General Synod,
- CoGS Planning and Agenda Team,
- Governance Working Group,
- Vision 2019 Implementation Group,
- Primate's World Relief and Development Fund,
- Winter Talk – The Episcopal Church Indigenous Ministries,
- Indigenous Theological Training Institute,
- First Peoples Theological Journal,
- Truth & Reconciliation Commission National Gatherings,
- Anglican Indigenous Network

A major event for ACIP in the triennium was the Seventh Sacred Circle: "Walking the Dream," held in Pinawa, Manitoba. Over 225 people attended from Canada and three other countries, Cuba, Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the United States. These partners offered valuable reflection and support on the life of the circle and what God is calling us to do. The Primate and several Church House staff also attended. Please see the following for a glimpse of the Seventh Sacred Circle:

<http://portal.sliderocket.com/CMYBR/810B7183-C57C-425E-92B2-D18B9F579999>

In September 2011 the Co-Chairs of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples (ACIP) and ACIP's Governance Working Group invited their Members and other Indigenous church leaders from across

northern Canada to a consultation in Mississauga, Ontario. This consultation discussed The National Indigenous Ministry that General Synod 2010 enacted as Canon XXII to determine the structure, the membership, and the selection processes for:

- the National Indigenous Anglican Bishop,
- the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples, and
- the Anglican Indigenous Sacred Circle.

The consultation participants clarified the topics and issues using small circle discussion groups and in plenary sessions they quickly came to a common vision for moving forward the self-determining Indigenous ministry (church) in Canada. A statement called *The Mississauga Declaration* was developed for the church. The Declaration recognizes that our people are still in crisis spiritually, economically and socially. It also recognizes that “we” have to take action to improve the quality of the lives’ of our people. In essence the Mississauga Declaration calls us to reclaim the ministry for the people of the land:

*“We know God is calling our peoples through our Elders’ Vision to renewal and restoration. With respect for our various traditional ways of living we hear God’s call to our peoples to unite as the renewed and restored peoples upon the Land. We will begin, today, to live towards a vision of ministry to Indigenous peoples throughout our native lands, many of us know as Turtle Island. We commit to plan and pray towards a full expression of God’s truth and love among the People of the Land. We call upon our partners in the Anglican Church and beyond to join us in the fulfillment of this calling.”*

ACIP will have a brochure available at the General Assembly that answers frequently asked questions regarding the Mississauga Declaration.

Finally, the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous Ministries Program Office heartily thank and express our sincerest gratitude to Lisa Barry, Senior Producer and the Anglican Video Crew of Becky Boucher and Scott Brown for their dedication, sensitivity and awareness of the Sacred Circle, history, journey and stories.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Venerable Sidney Black, ACIP Co-Chair

The Rev. Norman Casey, ACIP Co-Chair