

FROM HOPELESSNESS TO REBIRTH OF DAVIS INLET PEOPLE

The people of Canada's heart strings were pulled in January 1993 when they witnessed the people of Davis's Inlet being flashed on their T.V. screens.

On April 14, 1994, there is a celebration of a rebirth of a peoples. The graduation of 21 Innu counsellors from the Nechi Community Addictions Training Program being held in the community of Davis Inlet is another significant indicator on the road to recovery. One of the graduates is the new Chief Simeon Tshakapesh, who says, "Today's celebration proves we are accepting responsibility for the healing of our community. With this training we are equipped to deal with the social problems facing our people. The next step is for the two levels of government to enter into an agreement to implement the Seven Point Plan."

The counsellors, who have an average of 2 years sobriety, lead the way in the healing of our people. The Community Addictions Training Program is happening within the context of the whole picture. We wish to announce that our people are accepting personal responsibility to create environmental changes to improve the life style within the current situation.

The Innu leadership successfully negotiated a partnership with both the Federal and the Provincial Governments to fund the following developments within Davis:

1992, Adult population 168

- 91% of adult population was alcoholic in 1992
- 23% of adult population was in recovery
- 1994, 74% of adult population is in recovery

- There are two to three traditional sweat lodge ceremonies being held each week in Davis Inlet.
- There are three A.A. meeting being held each week.
- There are three women's support group meetings each week.

- Six new houses have been built since August 1993.

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- Fifty houses have been renovated since August 1993.
- The Band offices have been extensively renovated.
- The Innu Nation offices have been extensively renovated.
- The Alcohol program have obtained suitable offices.
- The Manishan/Matinin Youth Drop-in Centre was built.

- Fifty five people from Davis Inlet have been trained in carpentry since August 1993.

- Ten people from Davis Inlet are presently being trained as construction supervisors by the Labrador Community College.
- Seventeen people from Davis Inlet are graduating from the Nechi Community Addictions Training program. These same people will continue in the Nechi Family Violence Series and the Nechi Advanced Counselling Training.

- Five people are being trained by the Labrador Community College to work with youth a) Education Counsellor, b) Women's Intervention Counsellor, c) Early Childhood Education Worker, d) Recreation Coordinator, e)Assistant Recreation Coordinator.

- The number of people participating in the Outpost Program, including youth has been increasing over the last two years.

- For the past couple of years the community has elected people that are active in their own recovery program.

- Four native police constables have been trained in Mission, B.C.. There is another individual now being trained at the police academy.

- There is another Innu Community Service Worker working at the Department of Social Services.

- There is now a Healing Program Coordinator funded by Health Canada.

- There is also an additional Addictions Worker funded by Health Canada.
- Through Brighter Futures a suicide prevention coordinator is being funded as well as a visioning exercise.

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- Over a hundred people have attended treatment programs at Poundmaker's Lodge and other treatment facilities. An after care program was set up at Sango Bay for the people returning from treatment.
- The Department of Human Resource Development in partnership with the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs funded:
 - 1) Nechi Training Program
 - 2) Carpentry Training Program
 - 3) Youth Council Training
- Pathways funded the Carpentry Supervision Program.
- Health Canada is going to provide the Innu Nation Health Commission with funds to hire a therapist to travel to Davis Inlet one week per month.
- There are two fisheries guardians being trained.
- There is one Innu women being trained as a nurse.

The graduation and the above accomplishments reflect the **VISION, THE RESPONSIBILITY AND THE STRENGTH OF A PEOPLES REBIRTH.**

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