



The Ted Nolan Foundation Preparing tomorrow's aboriginal leaders today

We need your help

Many young First Nations people grow up in substandard housing... lacking self esteem... losing hope.

The Ted Nolan Foundation is a registered charity promoting healthy lifestyle choices for all aboriginal youth.

Raised on the Garden River Reserve near Sault Ste. Marie, Ted Nolan launched a stellar Junior and NHL hockey career as player and coach. For years, he ran First Nations hockey camps, became a motivational speaker and philanthropist.

In 2004, he started the Foundation, raising funds to improve education and make physical activity a part of a better future for aboriginal youth. Self-esteem is at the base of it all; his programs are interwoven with values inherent in First Nations' rich heritage.

The letter from Faith, a young Anishnaabe-kwe mother, who received a Rose Nolan Scholarship to complete her Bachelor of Science (Nursing) degree, begins to paint a human face on the challenges facing aboriginal youth...

"The scholarship eased some of the financial burdens of living in an urban city," she wrote. "Rose Nolan's story inspired me to complete my degree, knowing that learning is a life-long process. Rose Nolan has empowered me to be a strong and resilient Anishnaabe-kwe.

"I am proud to say that I graduated in May 2008 with a BScN degree in Nursing. I am currently working as a Registered Nurse at the Sudbury Regional Hospital in Sudbury, Ontario."

The Case

Anyone even vaguely familiar with aboriginal issues – including poor employment levels, frighteningly higher suicide rates and too often, third-world living conditions – can feel the weight of challenges faced by First Nations youth.

Consider the following:

- An Indian Affairs and Northern Development (DIAND) study comparing living conditions against a United Nations-develop index, ranked Canadian First Nations among third-world countries.
- First Nations people face significantly higher rates of diabetes, tuberculosis suicide, and HIV/Aids. For instance, suicide is among the leading causes of death for the 10 to 24 age group, with a rate estimated at five to six times that of non-aboriginal youth.
- Though most Aboriginal people are under age 25 – the workforce of tomorrow – about 70 per cent of on-reserve students will never complete secondary school. Unemployment rates are at least double those of non-aboriginal Canadians.

And despite federal DIAND budget, the average non-Aboriginal Canadian receives two and a half times greater services from all three levels of government.

Without education, there is little hope for First Nations youth. When hope dwindles, so does self-esteem and in combination, they sap the spirit.

With your help, we can increase post-secondary educational opportunities for aboriginal women. With your help, we can reach thousands of aboriginal youth with programs that motivate, teach leadership skills. Programs that foster pride and the will to succeed.

The need is great – urgent, even – and your contribution is critically important.

The leadership skills camp for aboriginal youth

We're now in discussions with a major corporate icon in Canada, leveraging its expertise in teaching leadership skills, to custom-design a novel program for First Nations youth. The first one is scheduled for Fall, 2009 at a site near Brantford and will bring 50 aboriginal youths aged 12 to 16 to an experience they will not soon forget.

For many of these youth, it will be the first time they've travelled much beyond their own Reserve. Some will arrive with supermarket bags bearing their clothing. All will arrive not knowing what to expect but understanding that they will be sharing new experiences – grasping new awareness – all among their own people.

Our goal is to top up their pride and self-esteem as aboriginal youth by basing all experiences – from the physical to the classroom – on the *Seven Grandfather Teachings*: Honesty, Respect, Wisdom, Bravery, Humility, Truth and Love.

They will revel in their history, meet and hear from aboriginal leaders – some of them celebrities – and enjoy field trips. One of those trips will be to another Reserve.

This is something unique and brand new for First Nations youth.

Rose Nolan Scholarship Fund

Named after his mother, Rose, who died tragically in 1981 after being hit by an impaired driver, Ted Nolan established this scholarship to help First Nations women achieve their educational and training goals, while maintaining strong community involvement. Each year, the Ted Nolan Foundation invites these women attending post-secondary educational institutions to apply for a \$4,000.00 bursary that will help them cover living expenses, tuition and books.

In 2008, seven women were awarded a bursary to help them continue their studies in a wide range of courses, including natural resources technology, speech language pathology, public administration and governance, nursing, economics, anthropology and sociology. Over the years, they have come from every province and territory.

In 2009, we aimed to award another seven bursaries and by spring, had already surpassed this goal.

The need is great. Your donation will help aboriginal women earn a higher education. It will also help many break the cycle of poverty and hopelessness and prepare the next generation to succeed.

Ted Nolan often talks about the deep impact his mother Rose had on his life and how hard her death hit him. It took him until 1994 to launch the scholarship fund honouring his mother – as wise as she was unschooled.

“My mother had a strong and profound influence on my family's life. We were guided, strengthened and encouraged by the importance and value she place on an education and contributing to our community.”

Rose Nolan's formal schooling went little beyond the primary grades but she was not one to stop learning and contributing to her community, the Garden River Reserve near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario. She represented Garden River on the local school board and was a Trustee on the Soo board of education.

Rose Nolan was also connected to Algoma University College's Shingwauk Institute, founded by and named for the great 19th century Anishinabek Chief.

Your donation is critical

Your contribution will help continue our critically important work with aboriginal youth across Canada. It will help break a long cycle of lost hope... lost opportunity.

With your help, we'll create a new model that will spark self-esteem and ambition among aboriginal youth, enabling them to take their rightful place in Canada. As contributors... As leaders...

TNF is uniquely positioned to meet these challenges head-on

Since 2004, the Ted Nolan Foundation has been at work establishing leadership programs for First Nations youth. The goal: encourage Aboriginal youth to pursue academic growth – combined with health-enhancing physical activity – for a better future.

But for Ted Nolan, born on the Garden River Reserve near Sault Ste. Marie, Ontario, it's more than just promoting healthy lifestyles. For Aboriginal youth, a critical component is self-esteem that embraces traditional values to complete the full circle of mind, body and spirit.

All that the foundation does – from its hockey camps to the Rose Nolan scholarships for Aboriginal women – are tied to a rich First Nations heritage that exemplifies the *Seven Grandfather Teachings*:

Honesty	Respect	Wisdom	Bravery
Humility	Truth	Love	

Growing up on reserve followed by a playing and coaching career achievements in the National Hockey League and Junior hockey makes Ted Nolan a natural when it comes to reaching Aboriginal youth. Each year, he motivates hundreds to draw upon their heritage for strength to achieve their rightful place in Canadian society.

As a hockey coach, motivational speaker and philanthropist, Ted Nolan is esteemed on and off the ice... on and off the reserve.

In aboriginal communities trust and respect are significant values and since more than 750,000 First Nations people live in 610-plus communities, Ted Nolan is uniquely positioned to build meaningful relationships between donor companies and these communities.

The Ted Nolan Foundation – background

The goal of the Foundation, a registered charity, is to establish programs in leadership that encourage aboriginal youth to combine education and physical activity to pursue a better future. To attain that goal, the Ted Nolan Foundation has reached deep into aboriginal heritage and fused the teachings of the Seven Grandfathers with the latest in training skills – all of it focused on a balance of mind, body and spirit – to foster healthy lifestyles.

The seed grew out of Ted's life experience, starting from his youth on the Garden River Reserve and continuing on through a storied hockey career as both player and coach. A partnership with the Assembly of First Nations, Bell Canada, Mission Equipment and Lakehead University spawned the Indigenous Hockey Program.

Work with the Southern First Nations Secretariat for the Little NHL and Brock University for its Leadership Learning Circle programs also contributed to the Foundation's goals.

In planning and designing TNF initiatives, Ted continues to scour the best skills training literature. He has also reviewed the foundation goals with First Nations organizations, government agencies, universities and colleges and members of the corporate community.

The need is urgent

We're counting on your help to deliver the resources that will positively impact the next generation of aboriginal leadership.

We need your help now so we can offer more widely, our distinctive program of prevention and mentoring to First Nations youth. Our programs focus strongly and effectively on empowering aboriginal youth to make healthy lifestyle choices that embrace the positive forces of mind, body and spirit.

When you support the Foundation, you also help support aboriginal community organizations that work closely with children.

The Ted Nolan Foundation approach is unique. It interlaces the traditions and wisdom of the Elders with best practices by corporate, educational, health, sports and recreation experts to convey a new way of thinking – a ray of hope – to aboriginal youth.

The Ted Nolan Foundation is a drum beat that brings hope to aboriginal youth and teaches them to be proud of their heritage and proud of who they are. For First Nations people across the continent, the drum is their “heartbeat.” That drum beat starts before birth and when sounded, it sets the pattern of existence.

It is why we cannot forget the past, because it informs the present and sets a path to the future. Together, these forces can bring new life to this generation.

What is necessary to achieve success

To achieve success, we need financial resources. This year, the Ted Nolan Foundation aims to raise \$300,000 to provide the programs that will break the back of apathy that is all too prevalent among aboriginal youth.

With self awareness and education comes self esteem – the absolutely essential ingredient required to achieve success.

Conclusion

At the August 2007 Three Fires Confederacy gathering at Garden River, there emerged several declarations. Because they relate strongly to the Ted Nolan Foundation aims, the following ones bear repeating...

- Our children are living vessels and it is our responsibility to protect, nurture and cultivate the knowledge of our ancestors for our children’s future.
- That in education, our children must have a way of learning that is based on Our Story, and our original ways of knowing and teachings.

This is why the Foundation was created.

This is why we seek your help.

Please contribute generously to help young aboriginal men and women take their proper place in Canada.