



# YSAC UPDATE

A bi annual publication of the Canadian Youth Solvent Addiction Committee

November 2007

Volume 1, Number 2

## In This Issue

- Celebrating Success
- New YSAC Chairperson
- Opal Fuel
- Ka Na Chi Hih in Thailand
- Brain Research
- Spotlight on CJAY

## Sites of Interest

Our Website  
CCSA Website  
NNAPF Website

## The Centres Websites

Charles J Andrew  
Ka Na Chi Hih  
Nimkee  
Nupigawagan  
Nenqayni

## Inhalants In the News

New research on the link between sniffing and suicidal behavior

## Celebrating Success

2007 marked the tenth year of operation for several of the YSAC centres. Its hard to believe an entire decade has passed since the initial call for proposals was launched and construction of the centres started. The decade passed has brought many wonderful opportunities for the centres to learn and grow. Several centres celebrated this milestone including White Buffalo who hosted a community Round Dance on June 16, 2007. Nenqayni who hosted a double 25 years in adult services and 10 years in youth inhalant treatment on September 28, 2007, and Nimkee where the highlight of the ten year celebration was the Creation of a Sacred Bundle entrusted to the Board of Directors, otherwise referred to as the "Governance Bundle" The Governance bundle was put together based on the "Creation Story" of the Anishinabe and Iroquois peoples.

The Bundle was assembled through Feast and prayer by the Directors as each of them spoke for a specific article in the bundle in the presence of the membership of the corporation, community partners, NNHC staff and youth. On September 7, 2007, the Sacred Bundle was opened in Traditional Ceremony and the spirit of the Bundle was again feasted and spoken for in the presence of the community and NNHC membership as a start to the Annual General Meeting. Other events to celebrate the ten year anniversary occurred throughout the year and included: the first ever staff retreat, community based intervention & prevention activities and a change to our publications to recognize NNHC's establishment in 1996.



Antoine Archie welcomes guests

## New YSAC Chairperson

On July 12, 2007 YSAC said goodbye to our long time Chairperson Carol Hopkins as she moved to a new position as the Executive Director of NNAPF. Carol's move is on a two year secondment while Sharon Clarke attends an educational leave. YSAC wishes them both well as they travel their new paths. An election was held and long time YSAC member Antoine Archie was elected to Chair our group. Antoine's permanent job is as the Executive Director of Nenqayni in Williams Lake, BC. Antoine brings with him a long history of leadership in the political and more than twelve years in the health care arena. We welcome our new Chairperson.

## Opal - A non sniffable fuel

Opal fuel is a variety of low-aromatic petrol developed in 2005 by **British Petroleum**, Australia in an attempt to combat the rising use of gasoline (petrol) as an inhalant in remote indigenous Australian communities. The formulation of opal removes all the "sniffable" ingredients while retaining all functionality and increasing environmental friendliness. The Australian Government subsidizes Opal's provision in remote communities. In May 2007 a Canadian delegation, including YSAC visited Australia to research the use of this fuel and its possible application in Canada. A working group based in Labrador has been established and work continues on addressing the scientific end of production, distribution and viability in Canada.

Australian  
Research- brain  
function  
recoverable with  
treatment.

### Contact Us

ysac@shaw.ca

---

## Leading Thunderbird Lodge- Officially Opens



Leading Thunderbird Lodge held its official grand opening on Friday, September 14, 2007. A pipe ceremony marked the beginning of the ceremonies, followed by greetings from dignitaries representing: the Federal government, the Provincial government, First Nations and Inuit Health Branch, Federation of Saskatchewan Indian Nations, File Hills Qu'Appelle Tribal Council and Touchwood Agency Tribal Council.

An honour song was preformed by Elk's Whistle drum group after Elder Gabe Crow-Buffalo cut the ribbon. Befittingly, it was Elder Crow-Buffalo who bestowed his Indian name "Leading Thunderbird" to the new residential youth treatment facility. Approximately 150 guests from as far as British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba and Ottawa were in attendance to enjoy the ceremonies, tours, and luncheon offered by Leading Thunderbird Lodge in the picturesque Qu'Appelle Valley.

---

## NIDA Forum

For the second year in a row YSAC was invited and funded to present at the **National Institute of Drug Abuse** International forum for Researchers in Inhalant Abuse. The forum was held in June 2007, in Quebec City. The event is held for the purpose of bringing worldwide attention to the huge gaps in inhalant research as it relates to prevention, intervention and effective treatment models. Every year there is a focus on new brain research. The YSAC presentation details the history of residential treatment in Canada, the growing pains, and the successes we have been able to show in treatment retention, inhalant reduction, community growth and client educational outcomes.

---

## Ka Na Chi Hih in Thailand

On November 23, 2007 a long time staff member of Ka Na Chi Hih Solvent Abuse Treatment Centre will take his knowledge and skills to Thailand to participate in an exchange with the Drug and Alcohol Recovery Education network (DARE)

The trip will take place near the Thai- Burma border, and will involve sharing everything from residential treatment models to community intervention ideas. The trip will conclude on December 1, 2007 Derek will share his experience with the staff of Ka Na Chi Hih upon his return. The story was featured in the Wawatay Aboriginal newspaper in October, you can read the full story online at <http://www.wawataynews.ca/node/12249>

## Our Meeting and Training Calendar

The following meeting list includes all general YSAC meetings and YSAC facilitated trainings. If you would like to be on a mailing list for notifications of training events please email [ysac@shaw.ca](mailto:ysac@shaw.ca)

Date	Meeting/Course	Location
July 10-12, 2007	YSAC Meeting 1	London, Ontario
Sept 10-14, 2007	Emotional Intelligence L 1	Cedar Lodge, SK
Nov 6-8, 2007	YSAC Meeting 2	Ottawa, Ontario,
Oct 24-26, 2007	Resiliency	Cedar Lodge, SK
Dec 11-13, 2007	Research Methods and Data Base Development	Cedar Lodge, SK
Jan 7-11, 2008	Emotional Intelligence L2	Cedar Lodge, SK
Feb 5-7, 2008	YSAC Meeting 3	Vancouver, BC
March 6-8, 2008	Clinical Supervision	Cedar Lodge

## Focus On: Charles J Andrew

The Charles J Andrew Youth Treatment Centre is dedicated to providing a holistic treatment program for the clients. One program component that is utilized with great success is the “Nutshimit” program. Nutshimit is an Innu term meaning “The Bush” where time is spent out on the land.

During the Nutshimit Program experienced staff practices traditional customs and values such as, hunting, trapping, cleaning the game, making fire and basic outdoor survival skills. This program is a year-round component, during the summer transportation to the land occurs by boat and in the winter by snowmobile.

The Nutshimit Program is an ideal way for the clients to reconnect with the land and learn healthy ways of survival and also become aware of how their ancestors survived. The Charles J Andrew Youth Treatment Centre is familiar with the many Aboriginal groups of Canada. During our Nutshimit we take into consideration all of the different aboriginal groups and practice their varied customs.



## NNAPF Workforce Survey

The National native Partnership Foundation ( NNAPF) is conducting a survey on Human Resource and workforce related issues that effect the treatment and prevention workers. The results of the survey will inform future initiatives related to certification, compensation and workforce retention. The survey(s) are now available online. The Internet address for the surveys is <http://survey.nnapf.org>.

Once on site please use the following passwords:

Treatment Directors Survey: **directors2007**

Counsellors/Community, Addictions/Wellness Workers Survey: **Workers2007**.

---

## YSAC Findings Mirror New Brain Research

For a decade YSAC and its individual centres have been reporting outcomes from formal educational testing that suggested that the “brain damage” and pessimistic treatment outlook often noted in chronic inhalant users may not be as conclusive as once thought. Clients in various centres have been able to record outcomes as high as 1.5 grade levels progress in four to six months of treatment. In addition to that we have anecdotal stories of clients who were wheelchair bound regaining the ability to walk. In an effort to try to capture this success without the benefit of medical research dollars, we began testing clients at pre and post intervals using a hand eye foot coordination machine (Valpar), this tool, though not designed for scientific research further confirmed clients improved drastically in this area. There are now some scientific studies backing up what we have always believed. Dr Sheree Cairney Menzies School of Health Research, Australia and Dr Steven Dewey of Brookhaven Laboratory, USA have both published reports about brain function recovery. This of course does not change our belief that the prevention message should always include warnings about the physical dangers and risk of brain function loss, however, it gives credibility to our treatment message that youth can succeed in treatment., and that we need to look at the treatment episode with optimism about the outcome and respect for the need for formal education settings within the treatment centres. Youth can only progress if we give them every possibility to do so.

---

## Congratulations

- To the young men of Ka Na Chi Hih Centre who recently had some of their photographic artistic work featured in a gallery exhibition at the Thunder Bay Art Gallery. The exhibition ran from June 8 through July 1, 2007

---

## Dates to Note:

Watch for YSAC at CCSA's second annual **Issues of Substance** (November 25 through 28), in Edmonton) where a Nenqayni staff member will be presenting on Aftercare Interventions.

---

## Upcoming Centre Intakes:

	<b>Age, Gender</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>Intake date</b>
<b>Whiskyjack</b>	12-17, female	Manitoba	January 7, 2008
<b>Nimkee Nupigawagan</b>	12-17, male	Ontario	January, 2008
<b>Charles J Andrew</b>	11-17, male	Labrador	January 7, 2008
<b>Leading Thunderbird Lodge</b>	12-17 Co ed	Saskatchewan	January 8, 2008
<b>White Buffalo Treatment Centre</b>	12-17 female	Saskatchewan	January 7, 2008
<b>Nenqayni Treatment Centre</b>	12-17 female	British Columbia	January 3, 2008