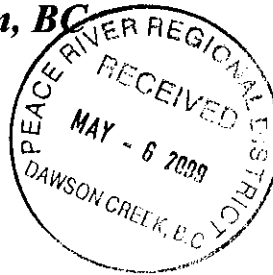


Consent

**RISING ABOVE**  
**First Peoples Helping First Peoples**  
**Regional Conference Fort St. John, BC**  
**March 5th-8th**



March 19, 2009

**CA-1**

Dear Peace River Regional District,

We would like to extend our sincerest gratitude to you. None of us knew for sure how this would turn out, but we knew that God wanted to answer the huge cry from so many of our First Nations people that are hurting. You took a chance along side of us, the Peace Uprising First Nations committee, to bring healing and reconciliation to our people.

Thanks be to God for making this conference exceed all of our expectations. Close to 300 people attended. The Rising Above team has never seen so many hurting people come forward to receive help from Jesus and from prayer partners and counselors. The sharing circles were very well attended and were a powerful release from guilt and shame for many. This conference also had the most qualified counselors on duty of any previous Rising Above conference since their beginnings in 1992.

Key Aboriginal leaders and counselors attended in order reproduce this ministry model in their own respective home villages.

Your contribution helped to raise \$42,000 so far and most of the expenses have been covered. Again, thank you so very much.

This was like the inauguration of a new day for our people. There will be much follow through needed and we are eager to follow our fearless leader to victory after victory one person at a time.

Please continue to keep us in your thoughts and prayers in the critical time ahead: that we, the Peace Uprising team, will keep the momentum going and see answers to desperate cries come to pass.

Jesus said this about your generosity:

**“And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward.”(Mt 10:42)**

Heavenly Father, we ask you to bless this Board of Directors and our whole region abundantly in these days to come for helping your little ones. Sincerely yours,

The Peace Uprising Committee working together with the Rising Above Abuse Counseling Agency

**PEACE UPRISING**  
PO Box 766 Taylor, BC V0C 2K0  
Registration: 250-794-7739 Phone: 250-263-5157 Fax: 1-866-445-2519  
info@peaceuprising.ca [www.peaceuprising.ca](http://www.peaceuprising.ca)

MAY 14 2009

Account  
FS & DM

# **RISING ABOVE**

## **First Peoples Helping First Peoples**

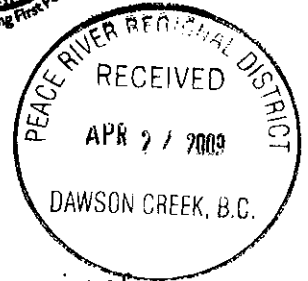
### **Regional Conference Fort St. John, BC**



**CA-1**

April 20, 2009

Peace River Regional District  
Box 810, 1981 Alaska Ave.  
Dawson Creek BC V1G4H8



To Whom It May Concern,

Mary is finally free to cry and release the pain that came from her abuse. Painful memories of years of neglect and abuse in foster care... being raped... losing her daughter to a drug and alcohol-induced stroke... all came up in a flood of tears at "Peace Uprising" the regional Rising Above Conference held in Fort St. John, March 5-8, where approximately 300 gathered to listen to First Nations leaders address their abuse issues.

Mary (not her real name), said she has never been to a conference that affected her so profoundly. She said that she was finally able to connect with her pain because of the transparency and honesty of the First Nations conference leaders, who shared from their own similar painful experiences. The conference also offered individual counseling by qualified, trained counselors for participants as well as sharing circles where participants could share their story and feel validated.

Mary's life is only one of many that were deeply impacted by the conference. Others testified: "I learned that it is ok to forgive people for what they have done to me." "Taught me how to face issues head on rather than run away or bury them in the sand." "Reaffirmed that I need God in my life, I can't heal myself without him. All the sessions helped to understand what I am going through and it's okay to feel the past, then let it go, give it to GOD." "It began a change within me, I thank God for this conference to confront some difficult issues."

As with all who have been hurt, Mary's life is likened to an iceberg. The visible issues- addictions, anger, suicide, depression- are symptoms of much greater, deeper, hidden issues of the heart- childhood wounds and deep longings that have never been met. Rising Above seeks to address and bring healing to those deeper issues of the heart. The vision is to see aboriginal people empowered by the Spirit to experience life, identity and purpose as God intended.

The conference was funded through donations from local First Nations communities, businesses, churches and registration fees. Approximately \$40,000 was received in donations. This event would not have been possible without partnerships like yours. We are extremely grateful to you for your contribution of \$2500.00. Any conference surplus funds will be directed towards several follow up initiatives already in the planning stages. Please consider participating in these activities that will focus on helping individuals process their healing and training First Nations leaders in counseling.

Sincerely,

Terry Martin  
Executive Director, Rising Above

MAY 14 2009

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