

ABORIGINAL HEALING AND WELLNESS STRATEGY



INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

BEST PRACTICES IN THE REDUCTION OF ABORIGINAL MEN'S VIOLENCE

INVITATION LIMITED TO

**CONSULTANTS IDENTIFIED BY THE RESEARCH AND EVALUATION
COMMITTEE**

Issue Date: Thursday December 7, 2006

Closing Date: ***Wednesday, December 13, 2006***

Closing Time: **4:00 p.m. (Toronto Time)**

INVITATION TO SUBMIT AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

BEST PRACTICES IN THE REDUCTION OF ABORIGINAL MEN'S VIOLENCE

1. CONTEXT

Over the last year, the Research and Evaluation Committee (REC) has reflected upon the question "How has the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy made a difference in supporting family healing and reducing family violence in Aboriginal communities in Ontario?"

The Joint Management Committee wants to measure the impact of the twelve years of AHWS service delivery in addressing family violence in Aboriginal communities. To date, the Research and Evaluation Committee has limited evidence of the impact of the Strategy in the reduction of Aboriginal family violence and supporting family healing.

In order to investigate the Strategy's impact in addressing Aboriginal family violence, the Research and Evaluation Committee will undertake a number of distinct research projects to investigate different aspects of family violence.

This project is one such project.

2. PURPOSE/SCOPE OF WORK

Why undertake a research project on the reduction of Aboriginal men's violence?

The Strategy was created to both anticipate and to respond to the needs of all community members, including those at risk of being violent and those who are abusers. Although violent behaviour is not restricted to one gender, men's violence is recognized as being more aggressive, frequent and severe. The perpetrators of family violence are more likely to be male and the victims of family violence tend to be women and children.

The REC is interested in understanding more about the programming being offered through the Strategy, what the programs are doing to help men in their healing process and if the programming is reducing the levels of family violence.

While this project is *not* a program evaluation and is not intended to evaluate any of the individual programs or their effectiveness, the findings of evaluations conducted by the AHWS sites may be examined to understand and document how AHWS programs know they have been effective and what success criteria they have used.

It is anticipated that this project will contribute to:

- an understanding of the lessons learned in the design and delivery of anti-violence programs and services for Aboriginal men;
- the identification of best practices in AHWS Aboriginal men's anti-violence programming;

- an analysis of the evidence that Aboriginal men's programming provided through the Strategy has made a difference in reducing Aboriginal men's violence and/or supports family healing;
- a better understanding of the range of AHWS-funded programs and services and how this compares with other anti-violence programs and services available to Aboriginal men provincially and nationally; and
- suggestions for changes to AHWS programming that will better support family healing and reduce Aboriginal men's violence.
- will facilitate the Committee's identification of further research.

The consultant hired will conduct research on: the 7 AHWS-funded projects that deliver anti-violence programs and services to Aboriginal men and other generally available anti-violence programs available to Aboriginal men both provincially and nationally. (See Appendix A for a list of projects). The consultant may choose to use survey and/or interviews to gather the information required from the AHWS projects.

Traditional Aboriginal and culture-based practices that are identified during this project will not be subjected to scientific-based evaluation as they are already deemed to be "best practices". These practices have endured from time immemorial and continue to be actively used by Aboriginal people. It is noted that the Traditional and culture-based best practices for addressing family violence may vary from community to community.

3. PURPOSE OF SUBMISSION:

Applicants are asked to submit an Expression of Interest to carry out the project as outlined in sections 6 & 7.

4. VALUE OF THE CONTRACT:

The project is anticipated to begin in January 2007 and end on or around March 16, 2007.

The value of the contract is negotiable up to a maximum of \$20,000.

5. APPLICANT QUALIFICATIONS:

This "*Invitation to Express Interest*" (Invitation) is a limited invitation to those companies/consultants identified by the Research and Evaluation Committee.

Knowledge of violence issues, Aboriginal family violence, respectful treatment of Indigenous knowledge, and experience working with Aboriginal communities is essential.

In addition, the proponent must possess a good understanding of and sensitivity to Aboriginal approaches to research and community development.

6. PROJECT INFORMATION:

The project will be divided into the following four stages:

STAGE 1: Planning

- The consultant will conduct an environmental scan of anti-violence programs and services available to Aboriginal men.
- Develop the research tools, consents etc. required to conduct the research with AHWS projects.
- The consultant will submit a research plan and draft materials. The consultant will revise the plan and materials to meet the requirements of the REC or its designate until the Committee provides approval to proceed with data collection.

STAGE 2: Data Collection

The consultant will:

- Engage project contacts (Executive Directors of AHWS-funded projects) and provide an overview of the research project.
- Work with project sites to identify potential research participants.
- Obtain the necessary informed consents.
- Administer the survey and/or carry out interviews with the key informants identified by the projects.

STAGE 3: Presentation of Findings, Analysis and Development of Recommendations

- Provide a draft report to the Committee.
- Present the findings and a preliminary analysis to the REC.
- Work in conjunction with the REC to finalize the analysis and develop recommendations.

STAGE 4: Wrap-Up

- Revise report based on feedback from the Committee and include recommendations.
- Submit final report to the REC.

7. DELIVERABLES

Milestone	Proposed Timeline	Payment Up to \$
1. Approval of the research plan which includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identification of research methodology chosen (survey only or survey +interviews) • Budget which details all costs including: professional fees, travel, materials, etc.. 	December 13, 2006	To be determined (TBD)
2. Submission and Approval of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an environmental scan of anti-violence programs available to Aboriginal men both provincially and nationally. <u>N.B.</u> The Committee has developed a resource document with contact information for Aboriginal specific programs across Canada that can be used by the successful candidate as a resource for the detailed scan. • Research tool(s) and consents. 	January 31, 2007	TBD
3. Submission of a draft report that contains: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Descriptions of AHWS projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ program model/services offered ○ key program elements ○ eligibility/accessibility ○ identification of evaluation methods used by the programs/services and/or the success criteria used. • Analysis of findings and discussion section which answers the following questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ whether or not Aboriginal men's programming offered through the Strategy has made a difference in reducing Aboriginal men's violence and/or supporting family healing. ○ how AHWS-funded programs and services compare with other anti-violence programs and services available to Aboriginal men. • Identification of lessons learned in AHWS program design and delivery. • Identification of AHWS best/promising practices in the reduction of Aboriginal men's violence. • Recommendations for program design/development, changes/enhancements, other areas for research. 	February 28, 2007	TBD
4. Presentation of the Findings and Preliminary Analysis to the Committee.	March 7, 2007	TBD
5. Work in conjunction with the REC to develop the analysis and final recommendations to be included in the final report.	March 7, 2007	TBD
6. Submission of Final Report to the Committee and return of raw data and reports/documents.	March 16, 2007	TBD

GENERAL REQUIREMENT	ADDITIONAL INFORMATION
4. SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNING OFFICIALS. Unsigned submissions will not be accepted.	

9. Consideration of Submissions by the Research and Evaluation Committee:

Expressions of Interest will be screened for completeness by the AHWS Secretariat Staff and a selection committee will review the submissions and recommend the hiring of successful applicant to the Research and Evaluation Committee.

In assessing expressions of interest, the Committee will consider the following factors:

- The work plan and methodology is well presented, complete and easy to understand.
 - The approach and methodology proposed by the consultant to provide the services are clearly documented.
 - The work plan is presented in a format where all tasks, responsibilities, milestones and timeframes are clearly articulated and assigned against the cost for the completion of the deliverable.
 - Previous experience:
 - Similar to the current project and within the last five years based on the C.V./resumé submitted;
 - Undertaking research projects based on the C.V./resumé submitted; and,
 - Working with Aboriginal communities.
 - The consultants' analytic and writing skills will also be evaluated based on the submitted writing sample.
 - Knowledge of subject matter in the following areas:
 - Aboriginal family violence; and
 - Aboriginal men's programming
 - The reasonableness of the costs.
- **Total of 10 Points**
- 5 points
 - 5 points
- **Total of 60 Points**
- 15 points
 - 15 points
 - 15 points
 - 15 points

➤ **Total of 25 Points**

- 10 Points
- 15 Points

➤ **Total of 5 Points**

GRAND TOTAL: 100 POINTS

10. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Interested and eligible applicants are invited to submit their expression of interest, no later than 4:00 p.m., (Toronto time), on **December 13, 2006**. Expressions of Interest should be sent to:

Policy and Research Team
Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy
880 Bay Street, 2nd floor,
Toronto, Ontario M7A 2B6

Phone: (416) 326-6905

Facsimile: (416) 326-7934

Applications received by the AHWS office after 4:00 p.m. on December 13, 2006 will not be accepted. Applications submitted after the closing date and time will not be eligible for consideration in this Invitation process.

A notice acknowledging receipt of the submission will be sent by the AHWS office.

11. CONDITIONS OF AWARD:

There will be well-defined contract provisions/restrictions established with regard to ownership and publication. Copyright in, and all information and material (called “Intellectual

Property Rights”) which is acquired by or prepared by the individual/s carrying out the work(s) remains the sole property of Ontario on behalf of the AHWS “Joint Management Committee”.

All project deliverables will be maintained by the AHWS Office. It is an expectation that all raw data, originals and copies of documents provided by the AHWS Office that have not been approved for public release will be returned upon completion/termination of the project. In addition, it is an expectation that the consultant will sign a confidentiality statement as part of the agreement and will observe relevant legislation with regards to privacy and protection of personal information.

An offer will be made in early January to the successful consultant. The successful applicant(s) will be required to sign a three party contract with Ontario and the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres setting out the terms and conditions underlying the receipt of funding.

12. RESOURCES:

The following documents will be made available to the consultant:

- An environmental scan of Aboriginal men's programs across Canada prepared by the Research and Evaluation Committee.
- Access to relevant research & evaluation reports or newsletters produced by the Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy.
- Access to the annual submission, participant count, client count, CBQ, quarterly tracking templates, and 2004 Performance Measures Report for those programs dealing with family violence.
- Internal Government of Ontario reports, bibliographies and assembled articles on men's anti-violence programming provided by the Ontario Women's Directorate.
- AHWS policies including:
 - AHWS Publications Policy
 - AHWS Indigenous Knowledge Policy
 - AHWS Conflict of Interest Policy
 - Any other relevant documentation.

The AHWS Secretariat will provide support to the consultant in answering questions concerning program requirements, expected program activities, outcomes and success indicators.

The terms of co-operation will be identified and outlined in the service contract.

13. CLARIFICATION:

For clarification of any of the requirements of this Invitation, please contact Roberta Pike, Policy and Research Coordinator at (416) 326-9546 or Joanne Meyer, Team Lead at (416) 326-1510.

APPENDIX A

The consultant hired to work on this project will be required to identify and research programs and services that address Aboriginal men's violence.

As a beginning, the Committee has identified the following programs to be included in the consultant's review. Information on most all of these programs can be accessed through a resource compilation of a number of men's treatment programs across Canada in the document link provided below.

Government of Ontario

- Partner Assault Program (PAR)

Other Aboriginal Programs

- Restorative Justice Programming in Grand Council Treaty # 3 area.
- Other community restorative justice programs and court diversion programming.
- PAR Program developed in Aboriginal communities:
 - United Chiefs and Councils of Manitoulin
- Biidaaban Community Healing Strategy, Mnjikaning
- Ma Mawi Wi Chi Itata Centre Inc., Winnipeg, Manitoba

http://www.phac-aspc.gc.ca/ncfv-cnivf/familyviolence/pdfs/2004Men_e.pdf

The following AHWS funded programs offer Aboriginal men's anti-violence programming:

Non-residential men's family violence programs:

1. Saho'nikonhn:ione (His mind, body and spirit has been healed). Ganohkwasra, Six Nations of the Grand River
2. Ie thi nisten:Ha lethi non ronh kawa, Akwesasne

Shelters/ Healing Lodges:

3. Onyota'a:ka Family Healing Lodge, Southwold (20 km south-west of London)
4. Kii-kee-wan-nii-kaan, Muncey

One-Worker/Other Projects:

5. Odawa Native Friendship Centre Community Wellness Worker
6. Noojmowin Teg Health Centre
7. Community Wellness Worker Program: Native Child and Family Services of Toronto / Ishkodewini Circle

APPENDIX B

Background

The Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy is a service delivery framework for addressing Aboriginal health and family violence. The Strategy defines family violence as:

“...consequent to colonization, forced assimilation, and cultural genocide, the learned negative, cumulative, multi-generational actions, values, beliefs, attitudes and behavioural patterns practiced by one or more people that weaken or destroy the harmony and well-being of an Aboriginal individual, family, extended family, community or nationhood”.

The Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy, in acknowledging the adverse impact of these influences on the healthy development of Aboriginal people along their individual Life Cycles and the associated inter-generational impacts on the structure and functioning of Aboriginal families and communities, has developed a different approach to addressing family violence.

This approach is documented in one of the AHWS foundational documents, *For Generations to Come: The Time is Now. A Strategy for Aboriginal Family Healing* produced by the Aboriginal Family Healing Joint Steering Committee in September 1993. The document known as the Aboriginal Family Healing Strategy notes that despite the existence of many provincial-wide approaches to family violence, mainstream approaches have been ineffective in slowing the rate of family violence in Aboriginal communities. The Family Healing Strategy offers a culturally appropriate approach to address violence within the Aboriginal community.

Highlights of the AHWS approach detailed within the document *For Generations to Come* include:

- Community-based service delivery. Communities must be empowered to design, implement and direct community-based solutions to community problems.
- Programming must provide integrated approaches to working on addressing family violence. A broad and linked range of initiatives allows for the maximum amount of community generated responses to family violence.
- As family violence is an inter-generational issue, initiatives must be directed to all stages of the Life Cycle to address the healing needs of all those directly or indirectly affected by family violence in order to heal for the benefit of generations to come.
- Education about the collective history and experiences of Aboriginal people and work on strengthening Aboriginal identity;
- Moving beyond the focus on physical safety, to offer wholistic interventions to also address emotional, mental and spiritual healing and well-being.
- Supporting the healing of the Aboriginal individual (both the abused and the abuser) within the context of family and community. The individual, family and community are inseparable.
- Justice strategies should be integrated into AHWS programming which:
 - Address violence through community based systems and processes;
 - Promote accountability of the offender to the family and community;
 - Are healing rather than punitive; and
 - Address racism and the experiences of Aboriginal people within the justice system.

In the summer of 2004, the Research and Evaluation Committee (REC) began a discussion about the AHWS mandate. The Committee confirmed that the concept of “family violence” as understood within the Aboriginal community is more comprehensive than the “violence against women” approach taken by the mainstream. The Strategy focuses on violence reduction for everyone (both genders and at every stage within the Life Cycle) through supporting the healing and building of healthy families and communities. Healing is viewed as a process/journey without time constraints. As healing occurs, individuals, families and communities move towards the ultimate goal of wellness.

Following this discussion the REC proposed that a re-framing of the AHWS mandate was required and the objective ‘to reduce violence’ would be better understood within the Strategy, as an effort “to support family healing”. In September 2004, JMC approved a change in the mandate from “reducing family violence” to “supporting family healing”.