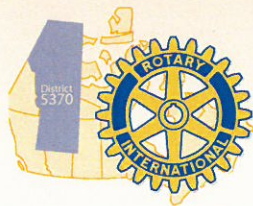




Rotary  
Aboriginal  
Partnership



Rotary International  
District 5370



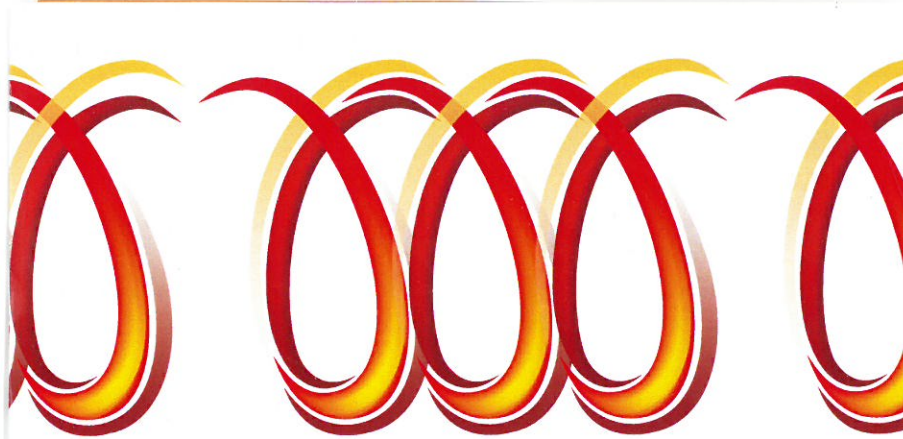
### **Background**

For some time now Rotarians in District 5370 have recognized that Aboriginal Canadians face enormous systemic barriers. These barriers can lead to high rates of poverty and the resultant, less than desirable living conditions and poor health. They can also lead to lower rates of education and higher rates of unemployment and crime.

The Aboriginal population is the youngest and fastest growing population in Alberta. At a time of low unemployment, Aboriginal people represent a large untapped employment resource. All this to say there is an excellent business case to be made for investing in Aboriginal Canadians.

Rotary has historically done amazing work internationally to assist people living in the conditions of underdeveloped





countries. Rotarians have indeed contributed to positive change throughout the world and we would like to replicate this here at home. Rotarians in District 5370 have been challenged by the district leadership to consider how each club in the district can address the needs of Aboriginal Canadians living in similar conditions by undertaking some initiative in collaboration with aboriginal people in its area to address such needs.

### **Mandate and Purpose**

The Rotary Aboriginal Initiative is a district wide interest in building partnerships with Aboriginal groups with the goal of supporting our local Aboriginal people close the gaps that have resulted from the systemic barriers.

The purpose is to raise awareness about the realities of Aboriginal people in our district and to support Aboriginal groups and agencies to build capacity within their communities.

### **Project Framework**

In keeping with the areas of focus of Rotary International all programs/projects undertaken by the clubs will address one or more of the following social issues facing Aboriginal people:

- Peace and conflict prevention/resolution (Reconciliation)
- Disease prevention and treatment
- Water and sanitation
- Maternal and child care
- Basic education and literacy
- Economic and community development



## **Organization**

### **District Wide Steering Committee**

A district-wide steering committee is being established to oversee this catalyst for change by encouraging individual clubs to find innovative ways to invest in the future of our communities by engaging and working with Aboriginal people.

The Committee will consist of Rotarians representing all parts of the District 5370, including rural and urban clubs. The District Governor, District Governor Elect, District Governor Nominee and the Director of District Services will serve as ex-officio members of the committee.

The work of this committee will be done in consultation with an Aboriginal Advisory Circle.

### **Aboriginal Advisory Circle**

The Advisory Circle will consist of Aboriginal Leaders from throughout the District. The Circle will meet with the District Wide Committee a minimum of two times per year and will be consulted in reviewing project initiatives. The Advisory Circle will also provide advice to the steering committee in relation to information designed to raise awareness about the importance of investing in Aboriginal people.



BC Government House & Rotary Literacy Project

## Measuring Impact

### Amongst Aboriginal communities

- Improved health
- Improved literacy and high school graduation rates
- Poverty reduction
- Improved living conditions
- Lower rates of incarceration
- Lower rates of recidivism (criminal activity and substance abuse)

### Amongst Rotarians

- Greater understanding of the historical trauma faced by Aboriginal Canadians
- Interest in pursuing new initiatives for and with Aboriginal people
- Inviting more Aboriginal persons to become actively involved in Rotary clubs
- Greater understanding of Aboriginal Culture and Spirituality



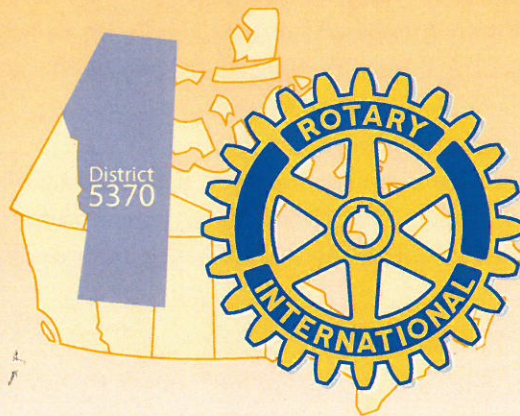
**Rotary  
Aboriginal  
Partnership**

**To learn more about  
this initiative or to  
get involved**

Contact: Jan Fox

Phone: (780) 819-1068

E-mail: [jan.fox@reachedmonton.ca](mailto:jan.fox@reachedmonton.ca)



**Rotary International District 5370**

District Office

16030 – 104 Avenue NW

Edmonton, Alberta T5P 0S3

Phone: 780-482-5370; Fax: 780-482-5300

[www.rotary5370.org](http://www.rotary5370.org)