

Pabineau First Nation, Alcohol & Drug Program was one of the award winning communities to host National Addictions Awareness Week 2008. This year theme was “living the good life.”

Here is a quote taken from NAAW funding committee as to why this community is deserving, “they (Pabineau) have been the best example to date, of a community vying for funding in the name of addictions awareness.” WOW... I must say that I am proud to have put this proposal together.

I want to thank everyone from Pabineau First Nation and surrounding communities who participated in NAAW event. I want to thank Chief, David Peter-Paul; MLA, Cheryl Lavoie; Mayor, Stephen Brunet; and MLA, Brian Kenny for taking the time from their busy schedules to attend our opening ceremony of NAAW. They all made a few opening remarks and comments about the importance of addictions. MLA, Cheryl Lavoie presented us with this beautiful wall plate “the Official Bird of New Brunswick - Black-Capped Chickadee”. It is in my office is anyone wants to check it out!

Addictions are a serious problem in our communities. It is my pleasure to assist in bringing awareness and healing to our community. National Addictions Awareness Week 2008 (NAAW) was held from November 16th to November 22nd. NAAW is a promotion of an addiction free lifestyle for communities, families, and individuals. This week activities were geared to take that step by means of sharing information and hands on activities of “living the good life.” We developed daily activities, such as Earth Walk, luncheons, various presentations, gatherings, and cultural teachings. Door prizes and refreshments were available for all guests and participants.

Participants’ feedback was very positive. This week activities and presentations were a reflection of our Community vision. **“taking a holistic approach to community development that is focused on the mental, physical, and spiritual well-being of our members and their families will assist us in our building social and economic strengths and stability through-out the Pabineau First Nation Community.”**

A special thanks to the Rising Sun Treatment Centre. To all the Staff and participants who traveled up from Eel Ground First Nation to hold in a talking circle information session. The talking circle was meaningful, successful, and very educational with the information shared.

It was a pleasant surprise to me that our MLA, Brian Kenny acknowledged my hard work and also stated the fact that we went to school together and sat side by side...it was a great feeling! For that I am grateful! In addition, it is fantastic to see that our generation is assisting our people. That is so cool!!!

In conclusion, we didn’t have a chance to honor our Elders or have a social evening with karaoke as planned on the final day of NAAW. The weather did not permit us to end on this note! Ole’ man winter decided to through a blanket of snow. Although, we decided to continue with the feast, we couldn’t let that food go to waste. We had Salmon, Moose road, Moose stew, turkey, potatoes, carrots, and Apple pie. All you can drink hot chocolate, tea, coffee, soda, and juice. We had a great turn out!

Our winners for the poster and placement contests are: River Caplin, Ava Sewell, and Savannah Simmons. Congratulations to a job well done!

The schedule of events is posted on the Pabineau First Nations website: <http://www.pabineaufirstnation.ca/> Administration / Health Center / Alcohol & Drug Prevention then go to NAAW schedule of events 2008 OR another locations on Pabineau’s website is “News” click on November news 2008.

A special thanks to all our volunteers! Thank you!

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