

Aboriginal Awareness Session

Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

Background

Since 1993, Four Winds & Associates, an Aboriginal owned company, has dedicated its services to building and enhancing relationships between Aboriginal communities, government, and industry.

We are committed to assisting Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities, organizations and individuals develop the appropriate tools, resources and expertise required to meet the mutual and respective goals and objectives of both groups.

Our goal is to assist Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities and organizations achieve success through relationship and capacity building.

Four Winds and Associates has provided numerous workshops in the areas of Aboriginal awareness, organizational, community, social and economic development.

We recognize that both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities possess specific skills and knowledge that can be brought together to enhance both groups culturally, socially, and economically.



Our Goal

- *Provide an understanding of diversity of culture and language, socio-economic status, history and current issues facing Aboriginal people*
- *Provide an opportunity to appreciate the history, values, customs, beliefs and aspirations of Aboriginal people.*
- *Explore community relation and communication issues and methods for addressing these issues appropriately and effectively.*
- *Identifying and developing strategies to create a more culturally friendly environment.*
- *Alleviate fears and misconceptions regarding the commitment to Aboriginal initiatives.*
- *Provide a safe environment where participants feel comfortable and supported in asking questions.*
- *Use a variety of instruction methods such as lectures, group activities, interaction, and visual aids suitable for effective delivery.*

The Process

The Four Winds Aboriginal Awareness Session was developed to provide Government, Industry and Aboriginal communities with the appropriate tools, resources and techniques critical in breaking down barriers and creating understanding between each other in order to build a strong foundation for a cooperative and harmonious working relationship.

To help further this multi-level awareness, Four Winds and Associates researches and gathers socio-economic data to ensure the information provided at each session is accurate, timely, regionally sensitive and appropriate.

Focused primarily toward building awareness, the session will be flexible and adaptable to local Aboriginal cultures, ensuring that participants are provided with information relevant to their respective areas.

In addition to providing information on Aboriginal people and communities, the session will positively encourage participants to explore their own assumptions and beliefs of Aboriginal people.

Session Overview

A **Aboriginal People** – An overview of Aboriginal people nationally, provincially and regionally, identifying key organizations, communities, people and resources. A definition of First Nation, Metis, Inuit, Non-Status, Bill C-31 and Urban Aboriginals will be provided.

Aboriginal Customs, Values and Beliefs – (Historical and Contemporary Perspectives) this component will provide insight into how Aboriginal values and beliefs were nearly lost with the advent of residential schools, and the outlawing of spiritual practices and the resurgence of these traditions within the Aboriginal community. We will discuss but not practice the culture and traditions.

Strategies to Building Relationships and Developing Approaches - An overview of the Aboriginal Strategies, relationship practices as they relate to Aboriginal people and to identify gaps that may exist and what effects these have on understanding and improving relationships.

Dispelling the Myths – Presents the myths and facts and allows for open discussion on the misconceptions about Aboriginal people.

Session Agenda:

- Living and Working Together
- Aboriginal People – The Different Legal Standings
- Aboriginal Issues & Trends
- Dispelling the Myths
- Distinctions between Aboriginal People
 - What is Culture
 - Impacts of Culture
- Guidelines for Communicating Across Cultures
- Perspectives - Individual, Government, Industry, Aboriginal Community
- Aboriginal Prospects / Working Together

The theme of the Four Winds session is Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow and speaks to understanding the past in order to work within present situations and build a positive future.

To best meet the needs of the participants and to ensure that the use of time is both efficient and effective, session participants will be asked to complete some preliminary groundwork prior to the session.

Pre-Participation Assessment; Prior to the session, participants will be provided with a pre-participation assessment form. The information gathered through the questionnaire will be used to identify subject areas, is-

issues and concerns that require further discussion during the session in order to meet each participant's needs.

Furthering their knowledge base: Participants will be given a list of suggested websites to become more informed about the successes, issues and current affairs of First Nation, Metis, Inuit and Non-Status people and organizations.

Interactive Group Activities: with the new found knowledge participants will discuss probable solutions for the issues identified in the pre-assessment questionnaire, as well as the concerns identified by the group participants will explore how to prepare for meaningful outcomes and a group definition of success.

A resource kit will be provided to each participant providing a snap shot of the First Nation, Metis, Inuit and Non-Status people and the "Good Communication – Consultation Handbook"..

Areas of Focus

Aboriginal Awareness - Provide an opportunity to appreciate the history, values, customs, beliefs and aspirations. Create practical ideas on how to develop and nurture on-going and effective relationships.

Aboriginal/Corporate Awareness – Increase the Aboriginal participation in the Alberta Economy. Discuss the importance and value of corporate learning, networking and professional development

Building Relationships / Building Partnerships – Economic partnerships provides the opportunity to achieve mutual goals, self-reliance, independence and stability by exploring economic development / employment opportunities.

Contact:

For more information or booking a session please contact Dan Martel at:
Ph: 780.982.1912, Fax: 780.962-3493
Email Dan@aboriginalawareness.com

