

**STRENGTHENING SUPPORT
FOR ABORIGINAL VICTIMS OF CRIME IN PETERBOROUGH**

June 25, 2009

Two Aboriginal organizations in Peterborough will benefit from grants provided to develop projects that help First Nations, Inuit and Métis victims of crime. Here's what people are saying:

"Both of these projects will give Aboriginal victims access to traditional healing methods to help with recovery. It is vital that Aboriginal communities have the tools they need to help victims rebuild trust in the community and start on the road to healing. These programs will help them do that."

— Brad Duguid, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

"First Nations, Inuit and Métis people in Peterborough now have access to specialized victims services that are rooted in their own culture and tradition. I know that these new programs will have a significant impact on the community and help Aboriginal victims in the healing process."

— Jeff Leal, MPP Peterborough

"This funding opportunity allows us to expand our program and further extend our outreach to victims of violence, and for this we are thankful. Our new healing space will increase our capacity and give us the opportunity to reach out and help victims in a way that recognizes our culture, traditions and the power of community in the healing process."

— Chief Laurie Carr, Hiawatha First Nation

"The wounds created by the residential school system have left deep scars and have caused long-term harm to Aboriginal people. This new project will provide significant benefits to Aboriginal victims. It is only by addressing the effects on all members of the community that we will be able to receive healing and move forward with a renewed sense of identity and purpose."

— Steve Wolff, President, Manito Healing Lodge