

HEALING OUR SPIRIT WORLDWIDE 5TH GATHERING

Post-Gathering Survey

Healing Our Spirit Worldwide

Edmonton, Alberta, Canada



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2007

Introduction

The purpose of this study is to ascertain the quantity and nature of the national and international connections that were made by participants of Healing Our Spirit Worldwide: The Fifth Gathering. The guiding research questions for this study were as follows:

- ◇ *What networks have been established as a result of HOSW 5?*
- ◇ *What is the nature of these networks?*
- ◇ *Are there concrete plans to complete work (projects, joint initiatives, program sharing and exchanges, joint publications) that have resulted from connections made at HOSW5?*
- ◇ *What type of support do participants want to strengthen these connections (such as newsletters, websites)?*
- ◇ *Are participants planning to attend HOSW 6 in 2010?*

The following report provides information regarding how and what data was collected, the analysis of the findings (based upon the research questions posed above) as well the presentation of the data that was collected (including as many quotes captured from the surveys as possible).

Method and Sample

The first task in this survey was to ascertain the total number of gathering registrations that were recorded which would provide the population total of the sample. All of the remaining registration data was therefore entered on to the on-line registrations database (including >600 registrations that were taken during the conference); the total number of participants at HOSW5 was 1898. Of those registrations, there were 1368 participants who had provided an email contact, 109 participants with no email, but with a phone contact, 3 participants with only an address and a remaining 418 with no contact information at all.

Next, a survey instrument was devised and circulated to the International Indigenous Council (IIC) for Healing Our Spirit Worldwide for feedback. Revisions were made based on this feedback, and the instrument was tested internally. The survey was then sent to all 1368 email contacts; there were

groups of participants, however, that were registered under one email address and a total of 64 were returned undeliverable. The tables below demonstrate the characteristics and size of the sample of completed surveys.

Respondents	Number
Male	48
Female	66
Unsure	2
Total	n=116

Country	Number of Surveys Distributed	Number of Surveys Completed	Response Rate
Australia	111	14	12%
Canada	969	69	7%
New Zealand	70	27	39%
USA	154	6	0.04%
Total	1304	n=116	9%

Findings

The data collected in this survey indicates that participants at the conference did make meaningful, useful connections with other individuals during the conference. This is evidenced by 79% of the respondents reporting that they important connections; 47% of attendees established both work and friendship connections; although the separation of these two groups is, at times, difficult, as friends were identified as work resources and colleagues became friends. Work related connections (27%) were reported to result in information sharing, while friendship connections (18%) were created around reconnecting with old friends and extended family members, as well as establishing new relationships. Further, 60% indicated that the connections they formed were individual ones, 31% indicated connections formed with organizations and 13% indicated connections formed with groups. The definition of group in this survey surrounds the delegations from Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world who people connected with as a whole. Finally, 33% of respondents stated that they had plans to complete work with individuals they connected with at the gathering; almost one half of these plans are related to program sharing and exchange which involves the exchange of best practices.

Based on these findings, it is logical to conclude that professional and personal relationships were built and reinforced at the HOSW5 gathering; these relationships can be described as networks (between individuals, agencies or communities) that promote the sharing and transference of knowledge and best practices internationally about common issues. In addition, these relationships appear to have formed based upon a 'common struggle' regarding issues that Indigenous people face globally and have resulted in concrete outcomes, including the sharing of information at the conference, the exchange of program knowledge after the conference, as well as plan to exchange staff and materials in the future.

Respondents also clearly require support in maintaining and strengthening these important relationships. The majority of the respondents (49%) have not made concrete plans to complete work with other conference attendees, citing a lack of time, money/resources included as reasons. In the survey, 65% of respondents said that they required support indicating they have a desire to maintain the connections that were made; the most common forms of support chosen were participant newsletter

(27%) and a website to promote dialogue (23%).

Finally, respondents were generally enthusiastic about attending the next conference; 86% of respondents want to attend, even if they cannot due to financial or work constraints. Of the 109 respondents, 59% indicated that they will be attending HOSW in 2010. For the remaining 41%, the most common reason given for not being able to attend was funding or lack of, and the secondary reason was for work related issues. However the most frequent response from all the participants was that the conference was an incredibly positive experience and that they would be very excited to attend again.

Data Presentation

Question One: Do you feel you have made important connections from your experience at HOSW?

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 112

Yes: 89

No: 18

Of the 112 individuals that responded to this question, 79% of the respondents felt that they created great connections that they still maintain. 16% responded that they did not form strong connections though this seemed tied to the amount of time that they had at the conference. Those that were only able to attend small portions of the conference were unable to maintain connections beyond the five days of the conference; whereas those who attended the full conference and were greatly involved seemed to benefit the most from their experience. The five people, who stated that they formed reconnections, developed those with work colleagues or friends that they met again at the conference.

“The HOSW was an opportunity for us network and to get our websites known and used as well as an opportunity to create new partnerships.”

“The potential was certainly there and I did meet some wonderful new friends. However, as the sponsoring agency, I spent a large part of the conference volunteering in various capacities and didn't get to attend many plenaries or network. I suspect that this will be different at the next one.”

“Yes, I met so many interesting and wonderful people at HOSW 2006 who were an inspiration to me. I have sent e-mails to some of the people that I met at the conference from overseas but have not received any info back. I have also sent a couple of copies (book) of a project we [did] at our organization to their addresses.”

“I connected with members of the group I presented with. I spoke briefly to some of the Maoris that were there and wished there was a way of connecting with them more. I met distant relatives from my reserve in Ontario. We spent some time together and exchanged phone numbers and addresses.”

"I did not participate in any of the extra curricular events so did not have an opportunity to make 'connections.' (My grandmother died that week and my focus was on that life event)"

"YES!! I made very important connections professionally and personally my experience at HOSW. Unfortunately, it is not until you leave your country of origin that you appreciate what you have, attending the conference in Edmonton last year, is what happened to me."

"I did not make any new connections as a result of this gathering. The opportunity to reconnect with colleagues was beneficial though."

"Yes, many new connections"

"Unfortunately, I didn't feel that I made any real connections to others. Not for trying, mind you. I attended on my own time, however, all the information was to the type of field that I am in."

"I made some great connections to other organizations in the same area as myself."

"I feel all connections are important, including the ones that I made at HOSW."

"Yes I made contact with many of the Diabetic presenters as this is my field of work. Unfortunately I lost one of my luggage bags which contained a lot of the presentation data I attended so have no addresses to make contact with these people again. I remember one man was from a group which had a ribbon of life symbol. Another talked about Cora's garden and getting back to the natural diet of the First Nation Aboriginal People...I work as a Diabetes Nurse Educator here in N.Z. amongst the Maori people of my area, I really enjoy the work and find it very challenging but rewarding in the end. As with all indigenous people throughout the world we Maori people have a high statistics of Diabetes."

"I enjoyed the conference very much I would very much like to go again but I did not like where the conference took place."

"Yes I feel I connected from this experience at HOSW."

"I'm going to say No to this question, but only because the word, "connections" means that I have stayed in contact with the people that I met there at HOSW and this is not the case."

"I wish I had more time getting to know more people from the Conference. I was only at the conference for two days and I would have liked to attend the whole celebration.

"The contacts made at the HOSW 5th gathering are very very important to me. I met a number of very good contacts that I have kept in touch with. I am hoping to host some of these people in the future, and I hope to visit them in time."

"I have made important connections since the fifth gathering such as using some of the materials from the workshops in my community."

"Yes! I did make important connections from my experience at HOSW as it gave me the chance to see how people on the other side of the world live and work, because we all face very similar issues in relation to Society and Government and Legislative change to your country and community. I have never traveled outside of Australia before and I love meeting new people. To me just obtaining a passport to leave the country was a very big step for me on its own. Each and every culture that attended HOSW made everyone welcome and sharing skills and knowledge is what I strive for especially meeting people from around the world."

"Yes, I strongly feel that I had made important connections from my experience at HOSW."

"Yes I met people but none who I have followed up with – or they with me"

"Great and important connections"

"Most certainly have made connections that will prove to be important, although haven't followed through with those contacts as yet...."

"Actually, I already had a large number of connections, and the conference was an opportunity to renew those connections. Somewhat; ran into people I knew; made some excellent connections while there, but unfortunately, due to life/work/kid busy-ness, have not maintained connections."

"Actually I have not made any contact with or have been contacted by any contacts I made at the conference."

"Yes, I made some good connections."

"I do feel I made some important connections."

"I feel that from my meeting with various people that I had met in Australia that was a good experience to see them all again."

"Yes, it was a wonderful experience."

"Yes, I have made important connections from participating at the HOSW in Edmonton."

"I did make some connections but I probably strengthened existing connections that I already had in Australia. Although I did reconnect with a woman that I had met at the New Zealand HOS conference. Connections made were with people from Manitoba – people I knew from when I lived there. Connections were also made with staff from other regions. "

"Yes I have made many new friends from around the world, caught up with old, some new friends I have kept in contact with to bounce cultural ideas back and forth."

"Yes, I wish to make more in the future."

"Yes, I don't know about the word important, I was asked to come in someone else's stead when he could not make it at the last minute, I am not a conference goer, I find that there are too many "professional conference attenders"

"Yes, I am still in touch with some of the attendees."

"Although I enjoyed the gathering I cannot say that I made any significant new connections. [I] spent most of my time with my working group which is actually a group of individuals from across Canada."

"Yes, however, I wish that I had more informal time to talk with others that were here from other countries."

"I made great and important connections at HOSW. It was the best international Aboriginal Gathering that I have ever attended."

"No, however it was a wonderful and rich experience"

"I felt I did make good connections from my experience at HOSW. Our group of Aussies just went out and said hello to just about everyone both in and out of the conference."

"Yes I did make an important connection at this 5th HOSW gathering held in Edmonton, Alberta and couldn't have asked for better weather too at the time. I loved the way all the countries had booths setup with all sort of information and books out on the tables for anyone to gather to take back to their own communities or country and answer any questions or concerns with a smile too."

"Yes it was the most amazing experience for me culturally."

"No new ones I have applied since leaving the conference. Just solidified existing relations."

"Yes absolutely in every possible way. I made some very spiritual connections at the sweat lodges that I participated in every night."

"Yes I do. I feel I reconnected with old friends and made new ones. I also learned a lot."

"Yes, I met a lot of interesting people and went to see some great workshops"

"I met a lot of nice people but no real connections"

"Not as much as I would have liked to. There was just too much to do and not enough time to do it. But now that I know how these events operate I will be sure to use my time productively."

Question 2: If yes, what is the nature of the connection that was made? I.e. Work, friendship....

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 98

Work related: 30

Friendship: 18

Friendship & Family: 2

Both Friendship and Work: 46

Unclear response: 4

47% of attendees established both work and friendship connections, friends served as resources and colleagues became friends. The work related connections (27%) resulted in information sharing and the strengthening of an indigenous knowledge network. The friendship connections (18%) were created around reconnecting with old friends and establishing new relationships, around this there was family reconnection among extended family that took place at the conference.

“Mostly friendship based, although some was work based (connecting with fellow NCSA staff). “

“The connections made related to our work and involved seeing individuals and groups that we have worked with as well as new groups.
Work connections: such getting further information and resources from the various workshops and the exhibitions stalls. Also met new friends, which was great. “

“I did make a couple of new friends that I keep in contact with over the internet.”

“It was valuable to meet people from different cultures around the world whose communities face the same challenges and hopes that our community deals with. I connected with others who are in projects in ecology and health, especially with the youth of our areas.”

“I work as a Diabetes Educator in our organization and was following up with these groups to see how they address issues around diabetes.
Friendships: I saw old friends that I haven't seen for a long time. Family: I met distant relatives from my reserve.”

“Work contacts regarding Aboriginal healing programs available to families I work with. I made contact with an Aboriginal Linguist for work.”

"Indigenous professional networks across the world. Connection to other cultures and their base which identifies who they are.
Work, partnerships and lifelong friendships"

"Attending this conference was a life changing experience that had a profound effect on me. I made connections professionally with people from across Canada, US and into the South Pacific and I also reaffirmed my connections with people from Aotearoa. I made connections with people on a personal level that will last for my lifetime."

"Work and friendship and renewed friendships"

"I did connect with one young woman, who grew up in Ontario, 2 1/2 hours from where I live. She is attending-secondary in Ottawa. I attempted to hook her up with a friend of mine who could be a resource for her."

"I made some connections with other substance abuse treatment centres - my interest is in evaluation and research, and it was an exciting opportunity to learn what other centres were doing.
Friendship; connection to Elders who speak of commonly shared values, worldviews, attitudes, etc.; a general feeling of well-being that Indigenous Peoples across the earth are becoming visible and standing strong for what we believe."

"I made mostly friendship connections, but also one connection which has been very valuable for my research project on community in a First Nation community in Quebec".

"I would be very interested to make more work contacts it would be most interesting to work amongst the First Nation People in the Diabetes field!! It is such a complex and silent killer of our people if they don't find out in time."

"I thought meeting all the inspirational people ~ was so nice...you need that sometimes to kick start your motivation & other attributes that you have."

"The connection is through work."

"I formed new friendships, added to my list of resources for work and increased my network of supports."

"I have made some new friends that I have exchanged a few brief emails with and who have ordered some of my publications and printed material related to

my presentation, but no one has stayed in contact with me. I did however meet many of my old friends and agency representatives for whom I have worked in the past...making presentations, conducting workshops, etc.”

“Work, which started with a friendly meeting while another participant and I were gazing at the fabulous full moon”.

“There were some useful workshops that I attended that I did bring back to my community and resources that were useful in helping some of the troubles that my community has”.

“In terms of work, I was impressed with the excellent information from presenters; I shared information with my colleagues and supervisors.”

“Both! I am still in touch with 2 people. One woman lives in Nunavut and the other woman is from New Zealand. The woman from New Zealand is coming to British Columbia (where I live) to work for a year and I am planning on visiting Mabel in Nunavut by next spring. “

“The people that I met gave good information that I could use for work. I also met some old friends that I have not seen in ages and was able to reconnect with them. “

“Made some new friends, met some relations, had some opportunity to meet other care givers in the problem gambling addictions field. I have made contacts on many different levels: friends, work-friends, combinations of the two.”

“It was good to catch up on a friend that attended Deakin University as an international student plus it was relevant to the work I do here in my community also in contact with a few people that had met over there”

“HOSW was meeting the different people and sharing our work experiences and gaining new friendships. Also bringing back to our communities new ideas on how we may be able work with our clients differently and run different programs.”

“For me, the connection of meeting people from the different countries that are working towards healing for our indigenous people's has given me the strength and energy to keep doing what I need to do in my work for the better of our people.. I have also developed both a working relationship and friendship connection, and keeping in contact with a few people via email.”

“Don't know”

“Renewed old connections with long lost friends and family members; was also an opportunity to network with work colleagues who live in different cities”

“Friendship at present, and commonality with the music business...which is very healing for me... I'm sure the Hawaii and New Zealand contacts will be helpful in the near future....”

“The connection within myself learning from others worldwide & friendship.”

“I made a number of work related connections in the areas of health, education and cultural. My 9 year old grandson, who attended the conference with me, made a personal connection with a lady from Australia and he and Lynne have become pen pals.....so, a great learning for him as well.”

“The group from Hawaii was very nice and invited us to the 2010 gathering in Hawaii. This experience has opened my mind to the value of NNADAP there support and the committee members' work, excellent good job. “

“Meeting people from other countries who have similar problems that we have in Nunavut, especially suicide.”

“Work related resources: the conference gave me greater awareness and connection with Alberta Drug and Alcohol Commission /services/resources. I also brought back healing material from Poundmaker Lodge, healing from the Residential school trauma, several of the videos that were taped (keynote speakers)/lectures. I work in mental health so tended to focus on material relevant to my work-setting, which is mainstream; we do provide services to some First Nations/Métis peoples.”

“Yes, work related exchanged cards and I made some new friends as well.”
“Work, friendship.... More work related around different work shops we have attended at the conference.”

“Work, friendship.... These were related as well as friendships made during my overseas studies in Australia. It was not at aHOSW conference.”

“The connection was meeting many new people from all over the country including our own country.”

"I gained a wealth of information for work from not only the lectures and plenary sessions, but I experienced a great deal of kindness and knowledge sharing with many great individuals that I have been corresponding with regularly. I consider them friends.

We have gained much from participating with HOSW. The connections have included personal connections and work-related connections...both have been very beneficial."

"More work related connections as these are people that I don't see socially but that's probably because of distance."

"As a result of connecting with people from Manitoba were that they were able to refer people from their province to our organization. Working with people from other regions was terrific – gave me a bigger picture of the organization."

"Made many new friends, and received a lot of business cards and have tried to keep in touch."

"Meeting old friends, making a few new friends, individual Elders, since they are more my age, more one on one kinds of connections. It was a little too large in size to see a lot."

"Both work and mentoring. I have a student whom I am working with to get him networked."

"Work, very thought provoking sessions I made connections with others to bring their information into the community that I work. I would have liked to have more time to make friends though....."

"The connections I made were for work and for friendship."

"Both friendships that will last a lifetime, reconnections to friends made before and potential work opportunities work, general networking, friendships, and reacquainting with past contacts"

"I did make one very fruitful contact for a project I worked on with an art therapist based in BC. I have worked with him on the Qauma Mobile Treatment Project, which provides healing/counselling to former students of residential schools. The conference helped me see the larger picture on colonization and how residential schools. As a young person who is a couple generations away from the major traumatic events that happened 20-50 years

ago I didn't have much information and experience to be able to imagine what the affects of residential school has had on individuals who attended them and even those that were systematically forced from a nomadic life to a settlement life in Inuit communities. I had a sense of empowerment knowing that Inuit and Indians were not the only people working to restore principles and morals that lead to a healthier life from meeting and hear about what the Aborigines in Australia are doing and what has been done to them or what has been done to Indians and Africans in the US."

"I was a bit lucky because I have a friend who is native Canadian living in Adelaide, South Australia and she told me before I left of what to expect and what to do. She even mentioned about giving the Elders gifts. I think that the major connection that I made was with the native Canadians and their culture. The smoking ceremonies and the sweat lodges were really incredible and I loved looking at the tepees. After the conference closed, Colin Campbell (NCSA) took our group on a guided tour of the Rockies; this was just a scenic adventure. Later we went to Allen Benson and Patti's place for a BBQ I would like to take this opportunity to thank NCSA now for their hospitality that they showed to us by giving us use of their vehicle and a driver to show us your very beautiful country."

"It was great to know that other people around the world are all working towards a goal to heal our people and how some of the other countries are years ahead of us in their our success stories towards healing and the part and the connection or networking within their own country helping each other out instead of trying to fight over funding.
It was so great to experience the passion of all the cultures.
Networking, possible partnerships, very useful material to use in program, and friendships"

"I met one of the presenters who spoke about social problems, high rate of sexual abuse going on in his community. As a result of his presentation Pauktuutit is undertaking a wellness initiative by developing a 'Community Healing Circle Model' in Nunavik.
Work wise I made some good connections and of course great friendships formed."

"Professional, new connections with peers and communities"

"Work related and bonding with friends. Met a lot of people from many parts of the country and other countries. Seen people I knew from other places, so exchanged information with each other."

"It was a fantastic experience all around! I reconnected with many people I had met throughout my years working in several regions of Canada and I met some wonderful people from other countries. Both of these connections have proved to be very useful in my work as a Mental Health Therapist - I have drawn on the presentations and materials given; used stories I learned at the conference; and had email contact with people who have more experience than I on some issues that affect us all. So, the nature is friends, professionally, and personally!"

"Friendship mainly, though I have lost contact with most of them
Work and friendship. I met a lot of people in the same line of work as me"

"Work, Video production, opportunities. Mainly work related, video producers, being able to connect with people doing the work we are, people who want to buy videos"

"Firstly on a friendship basis because of our indigenous backgrounds but have potential in resulting in work also."

"I have made great personal and work connections. Following HOSW, I was employed by the sponsor organization (ALAC NZ) as their project manager for community action and youth portfolio on a 3 month contract."

"The connections I did make were purely on a friendship basis that discussed similar issues, struggles and how we can overcome them together."

"I met some lovely people there and they were so friendly I was amazed they even invited us to stay with them and took us to the Rocky Mountains."

"A number of collegial contacts were made and I have since made contact again with these people."

"Connections made or remade were mainly of a friendship basis."

"I made some valuable connections at HOSW with the international leadership group."

"The connections were of friendship nature and I would rather keep it at a personal level and get the healing strength that I need."

Question 3: Do you mind sharing what organization, group or individual you made the connection with?

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 85

(Allowed for multiple responses)

Organization: 27

Group: 12

Individual(s): 55

Unsure: 9

Of the 91 responses that were given, 60% indicated that the connections they formed were individual ones, 31% indicated connections formed with organizations and 13% indicated connections formed with groups. The definition of group in this survey surrounds the delegations from Australia, New Zealand and other parts of the world who people connected with as a whole.

“I was able to reconnect with people I hadn't seen in a while. There was a huge comradery that developed with NCSA staff who were volunteering together. I was also able to talk to participants about their experiences. Spent some time connecting with the IIC. I spent some time talking with the Logistics Coordinator for Hawaii - the Troubleshooting and things that can be avoided in Hawaii. Discussing and learning the teachings of the canoes.”

“Given the role I played at HOSW, the only people I really made a connection with were other HOSW staff and volunteers. Specifically, IIC Staff Robin Scott, Racquel Fraser, and Kelly Wood. [At the] conference I have met a few people from Hawaii who will be involved in the next conference. Hardy and his accounting staff.”

“They work for the Australian government in the Aboriginal Health sector (I can't remember the exact name of the department).”

“I have communicated with the other authors who submitted papers to the Pimatisiwin Journal, especially Onaje Muid, and his discussion of Historical Trauma, with Dr. Maria Yellow Horse Braveheart on So the People May Live. Also in Diabetes Education, with LeMyra DeBruyn and Dawn Satterfield at CDC. Many others who I met and will treasure their spirit. I also received positive comments and emails from people who attended my session that gave me wonderful feedback and thanks.”

"One of the sessions I went to really interested me, so I said I would follow-up when I returned home, I sent a copy of our book to them, in which they replied to thank me for contacting them and sending them the book. The group was from "The University of Oklahoma" Health Sciences Centre, Department of Health Promotions, the contact was Carson Henderson. Their work has been with the American Indian and Alaska Native elders with diabetes, doing research about their thoughts and feelings about it. Because we worked with elders in our community on diabetes I thought we could somehow trade info. I will give them a bit of time to read the book first, and then do a follow-up."

"I connected with 3 people who had a display and table at the craft and arts room at the conference. These were friends that I haven't seen for a long time."

"University of New Mexico at Gallup, Diabetes Program"

"An individual – Billy Joe Laboucan"

"No.Nga Manga Puriri."

"I connected with a person from a Northern Band in Alberta - Adam Laboucan and we were trying to do workshops together. I met the wonderful family from New Zealand (Maori) and also even got to see members of my own Band/ family that I haven't seen in a very long time. I was involved in the youth track planning committee - so all the people and the organizations they represent (I just can't think them off the top of my head!). The contingent Hawaii - particularly Nainoa Thompson - he was an inspirational speaker. The Aotearoa contingent - I think there was approximately 300 from Aotearoa"

"Indigenous Elders and Youth Council, Indigenous Studies Programme (McMaster U), individual Elders"

"Youth groups in Australia."

"Tsow-tun-le-lum treatment centre, Poundmakers Lodge, Round Lake treatment centre"

“Elders from Canada and around the world, an Australian woman working with Stolen Generations, a presenter who spoke about the connection to restoration of culture and its context, a colleague from Sudbury ON who works with Cambrian College, a cousin who is now working with Lakehead University education department, many Maori who spoke with me about their cultural practices and how they got their culture addressed in health care and education.”

“In regards of the professional connection, her name is Sousan Abadian. She was a speaker at the last conference in Edmonton. The name of her presentation was "Cultural Healing: When Cultural Renewal is Reparative and "When it is Toxic". I quoted some material of her presentation in my master thesis on community healing in an Atikamekw community, in Quebec.”

“Other contacts I made I still keep in touch with by mail and we exchange photo's etc. some lovely ladies...Denise Lonechild, Kim Atcheynum, Jo Lynn Swark a lady I have never been able to make contact with was a lovely person who helped me when I was not well her name was Val Spirig and I also made contact with people from Hawaii...I did mail a lady who is a Doctor there.”

“I thought the Australian dancing for healing workshop...I loved it just learning about how others deal with stress and their healing, culture wise.”

“a) Nations Technical Institute, b) Northern Arizona University”

“Rob Papin, the mothers from centers etc“

“I can't say there is any one particular organization/individual I am staying connected to, but in terms of work, because of my work at our local hospital here, I shared information/brochures: Tikanga Recommended Best Practice Policy, Auckland District Health Board; Spiritual Wellness in Mainstream Health, R.Naida Glavish JP, New Zealand; Fighting Disease with Fruit, Dr. Raymond Jones; and I have shared stories about the whole experience in general organization wide, especially about Healing through Song, Food as Medicine, and I like talking but the different performers during entertainment evenings. It was such a wonderful conference throughout. I'm happy I went to that conference. It was my first, and it won't be my last!”

“I am not 100% sure of their organizations. Mabel is Inuit and works in a government office and Tataroa is Mauri and has been working in the hospital as a cultural advocate.”

“Community based organizations“

"No, mostly NNADAP workers and Tx Ctr staff."

"Carolyn Kualii (individual), Rod Jefferies (IIC), Naida Glavich (New Zealand), Patu Sigley (New Zealand), Kiri Maxwell (New Zealand), Ray Ropata (New Zealand), Racquel Fraser (organizer), Pua Aiu (Hawaii), and others."

"Presenters Susana Mangisi & Ana Tuinukuafe New Zealand- Restoring Balance- The Use of Symbol and Metaphor in South Pacific (Tongan) Counselling and Healing Trauma. The Maori people still maintain a strong sense of belonging especially through spirit and culture. My colleagues and friends include: Elsie Kruger, Rod Kanutski, Anishnawbe Programming & Services, Children's Centre, Thunder Bay. I was in contact with 3 others but have lost the contact."

"One important connection was with an American academic, Sousan Abadian from Boston who later shared papers with me and I used them for work and in my personal life"

"Barry, and Maggie, on the Board.... People in Kahnawake.... Musicians from Edmonton contact with Jared Sowan already... Raeline Councillor, Australia"

"Hawaii's committee workers for 2010 gathering and the people from New Zealand, a young woman sat with us and shared some the history of her people, we joke about our people at one time being flesh eaters (cambial). "

"I made many connections and friends, I can't remember but some were from AFN"

"Connections that were renewed included those with band government; MSB, Health Canada; individuals from NWT and BC."

"Staff from Poundmaker, mental health/consumer and staff member from New Zealand."

"Well you know I don't remember already it's been so long. But I do have cards. Since my work is related to Traditional Healing I spoke to a lady from B.C., they have fasting camps. Lots of information from the Healing Foundation in regards to Residential Schools."

“The Aboriginal Sobriety Group was one group, and Nunkuwarrin Yunti was another. There were former- secondary students that I met from the University of South Australia and Deakin University. Also, I met through working at ASG in South Australia.

I made connection with many people but 1 will always be in my mind I met a fellow from Hawaii and we spoke about the drug problem, he was telling me that there was one community not far from where his family lived that had very bad drug problems that very young people were on drugs and there was killings, drug overdoses, this made me realize that not only our communities or country had these problems it is a worldwide problem.”

“I made connections with a mother and son from New Zealand who are carefully watching and analyzing Canada and First Nations who are trying to settle land claims. The son is an environmentalist/professor whose strength from the Inuit and their challenge of the US government (other governments as well) to meet environment standards for our health. His mother is a professor at an all Aboriginal University and is very active with the health of her people. I have also met with a great speaker and facilitator from the conference, who happens to be a medicine woman. I have gained immense information from her.”

“Four organizations from Australia, two of which I had met previously outside of HOSW. Representatives from one organization in Australia returned home with us after the conference to visit the mountains and experience ceremony prior to returning home. I also met up with several people from New Zealand whom I had met previously at HOSW in New Mexico. I met many new people from New Zealand and continue to keep in contact via email with two of them. I also met up with several friends and colleagues from other provinces.”

“PSI Patient Support International”

“NCSA; Various 1st Nations groups; IIC, etc.”

“I did talk to a woman about doing a community project together but have lost contact with her.”

“MaMaWiChiTaTa – Joanne Beauchamp-Clowes “

“A company from New Zealand, Tao Maoro, and Helena was in the portion of "Connecting with your Ancestors".”

“The residential school folks from Ottawa.”

“Hom Nath Chalise from Nepal”

“I am a board member with the Red Deer Aboriginal Dance troupe, a worker that provides care for children that are drug and alcohol affected. I own my own company and do drum circles to promote community capacity and wellness. I am a mixed race person Celtic and Anishinabe so I was there for personal reasons as well.

I communicate with a lady from the North (Inuit) and a lady in New Zealand. We share ideas on early childhood development (common interest) and what is happening in our area.”

“Previous friends from Australia, new friends from Hawaii”

“Maori, Hawaiian, Native American, and community frontline health, drug, and alcohol workers”

“Executive Director of a Canadian healing organization. During the conference, I had the opportunity to connect with people from within Canada and throughout the world who share my vision for culture in healing programs. Some people were people who I've known while others were new. Renewing acquaintances is important to continuing the dialogue and sharing new ideas and projects.”

“Jeff More from BC and Onaje Muid from the US. Onaje was a very resourceful person and taught me a lot about the affects and history of colonization in the USA.”

“I think the group that I mostly connected with was on my frequent travels around Edmonton, was the native Canadians that I met on the streets, although a lot of them were under the influence of alcohol, I never met one who was disrespectful to me once I mentioned where I came from mind you on my travels I probably went through about 10 packets of cigarettes and about \$50 in coins but it didn't matter to me because I've been there and done that too.”

“I made connection with Hawaii, Australia, Peru workers from each country and we all seem to be on the same track with our goals on healing our people in our own traditional ways or with traditional medicines and were all great people to talk to making me feel really good with them.”

“Maori and the Canadian Aboriginal people”

"Many; AADAC, NNADAP, are two and the others are individuals from different organizations plus the people in other countries."

"I met Johnny Kasudluak, the coordinator for the Men's Healing Group in Nunavik. He sits on the Core Prevention Group in Inukjuak. The Core Prevention Group was revived as a result of Pauktuutit's community mobilization meeting, and developed the community healing circle model."

"Rod Jeffries presentation left me thinking seriously and I made contact with him regarding his work and how I could learn more and get that information here to our people."

"Blackfoot, Professional agencies, Native Wellness Institute Oregon, City of Edmonton employees...connections all across Canada"

"I attended the activities/workshops with the Hawaiian group and others that have left a lasting impression. The large group presentations were excellent."

"Since returning to Labrador, I applied for and obtained a job with the Nunatsiavut Government - one of the presenting groups! I also maintain contact with an elder in Kuujjuak, and I have contact with the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami and Pauktuutit."

"Many of the presenters who discussed addiction issues"

"Health Canada"

"Can't remember name of person but they presented on suicide and suicide prevention in Aboriginal communities."

"People from NCSA were gracious and very helpful"

"New Zealand people didn't really keep track of what organizations they represented. Australian delegates"

"It was a group of people. I did an impromptu thing on NDHR because person who was supposed to present didn't show, so I told them about NDHR."

"Mick Gooda who was with Australian delegates. I spent most of my time with Australians. Eastern Canada and Australian, Aboriginal and Queensland Islander Health Council, Harvey from Hawaii."

"A conference organizer/director Racquel Fraser, Rob Papin, Evie Mark (throat Singer) Rod Jeffries IIC, Stephanie Hawkings (Dancer) plus a heap of other brothers and sisters"

"ALA and Te Runanga O Ngai Tahu were my sponsor organizations- I was one of 12 young indigenous people from Aotearoa selected and sponsored by ALAC (and other IWI Maori organizations) to attend the conference internationally I have remained in contact with several native people whom I met in Canada via e-mail and Bebo, including all the people in my traveling group."

"One was an organizer of the event (a young girl) and the others were part of the youth track counsel that had youth from the Blackfoot there"
"ALAC, Ministry of Health in NZ"

"My colleagues and I met a couple Named Georgina & Daryl I have forgotten their last name but Georgina was one of the voluntary workers."

"I had enjoyed exchanges of information's with other organizations from PEI Treatment Center. Addictions Counsellors and what kinds of treatment strategies they deliver within their facility and programs they implement. I had met a man from Chile and exchanged traditional and cultural values"

"I made some valuable connections at HOSW with the international leadership group. This group is led by Fran Silvestrie and has Bill Mussell from CANADA on it also."

"I made [connections] with people from Hawaii that I plan to stay in touch with. Our organizations NNAPF intends to keep open lines of communication and have made one trip to our international partners"

Question 4: Are there concrete plans to complete work together (projects, joint initiatives, program sharing and exchanges, joint publications) that has resulted from connections made at HOSW5?

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 91

Yes: 30

Helping out with HOSW 2010: 4

Program Sharing and Exchanges: 13

Unclear: 4

Joint Initiatives: 5

Joint Publications: 2

Yes: 2

No: 45

In Progress: 16

The majority of the respondents (49%) have not made concrete plans to complete work with other conference attendees. The reasons given are related to a lack of time, money/resources and conflicting schedules and the difficulty inherent in international partnerships. Those that have made plans to complete work together (33%), 43% are related to program sharing and exchange which involves the exchange of best practices. The plans that are in progress are mainly impeded by distance and funding issues but the respondents seem to feel confident that projects will be completed.

“Just helping out in 2010. I'm also planning to help out with the canoe teams, etc.”

“Not as yet, but the work in progress and networking is still happening.”

“No concrete plans have been worked out however, when I have time over the next year, I will be providing them with additional information regarding the financial aspect of the conference as I see them and will provide support to them when possible. Regarding the IIC Staff, the conference gave me the opportunity to work with Robyn and Racquel. Given they are now NCSA staff, I think it definitely enhanced our ability to work together. i.e. you go through hell together without killing each other and respect and friendship is somewhat entrenched. It is easier to work with people on that basis then merely on the basis of being co-workers.”

“I am working on a Diabetes Education in Tribal Schools project through NIH that is developing wonderful curricula for students.”

"Not at present, but I hope to maybe contact them in the near future and try and use some of their expertise."

"No; discussions of potentials to work on diabetes prevention training."

"He provided consultation (free) on a project I am working on with University of British Columbia regarding Aboriginal English dialects."

"Not yet, because we run into funding problems and jurisdictional issues (located in BC)."

"Yes - I am currently in the midst of making connections with people in Hawaii in order to start preparing for the 2010 conference, and connections are already starting to happen within Aotearoa about going to the 2010 conference."

"The work that we have started will be continuing. My participation at HOSW5 was more for sharing information on our activities with the IEYC and the screening of the Jidwa:doh documentary."

"I would be interested in starting some projects together. At this point, I'm completing my dissertation, but do have plans to discuss future projects with people that I met at HOSW5."

"I had planned to visit Australia to see my Australian contact and would have made a trip to New Zealand too but finances and Canada's passport problems have interfered with that plan for this year."

"No plans but would be interested as I said to exchange more data with contacts on Diabetes...I gave a presentation about Diabetes and Anti-psychotic drugs as I have an Insulin dependant and a medication dependant Schizophrenic and patient still in my care so found this subject very interesting and not much research done on it...However ran out of time!!!"

"We have shared program information and discussed possibilities."

"Yes, there are concrete plans with both institutions."

"No, but I wish that I had the money/resources to travel and to visit with some of these agencies, but we got the contact information and bought the CD's that explain the models/service that they developed."

"Tataroa and I are working on securing employment, work visas and accommodation. She is arriving in Canada on Oct. 28th. desire is to work with our First Nations communities"

"Not at this time, but I am very interested in going to HOSW5. Last year was the first I heard of this type of conference and I was so blown away by the information and sessions. It was too bad I was unable to go for the full week, but I am glad I was able to go for the two days. "

"I have planned joint publications, and knowledge sharing. I am hoping to visit some of these people on a professional basis."

"At the moment we are in the midst of opening a youth healing centre and hopefully some of the materials obtained at the HOSW5 gathering will be used in some programs."

"There has been no concrete plan to work together at this stage but program sharing and exchanges can work for the future of our young people. Sharing is Caring."

"No – that is really the problem. We haven't been able to take things from a 'chat' and enthusiasm at HOSW to anything concrete."

"We share publications and news of our area."

"Not formally at this point, though we share information via emails. I really hope that they will be able to incorporate the teaching into their aftercare plans using their culture and ceremonies. "

"No, there are no plans but I have used what I have learned to support funding and projects."

"I have published in Pimatisiwin, and my presentation was based on that paper."

"Of course we will be sharing ideas and exchanging ideas."

"Definitely some training will happen as a direct result of our attendance at the HOSW."

"I am hoping to organize a work exchange trip to Australia in 2008-2009. Discussions ensued in some small part at the conference."

"Yes, we're hosting 2010 HOSW"

"No further plans to work in collaboration on any projects other than referring people to NCSA for assistance in the courts."

"No not yet, but would definitely like to be apart of it, should they ever need me."

"Yes, trying to mentor the student to continue his studies with the United Nations"

"No but I would have liked that. It seems that people have very busy schedules. Also, people from over-seas it was hard to them come back and teach/give input here."

"Yes, potential work in research and health promotions through theatre engage community elders with HOSW"

"Through the Qauma project we have worked with Jeff twice and there are tentative plans to work with him again. The Qauma project is currently idle but will be active once a contribution agreement with the Aboriginal healing Foundation has been made"

"I never made any concrete plans with any organisation in Canada but one day I would love to visit your country again and just spend time travelling from one community to the next. I think I can relate in the context of community because in Australia, I live on an Aboriginal community and I have been involved in community development since 1989."

"I've been emailing my friends in Australia and they would love for me or others from the Yukon to come over there to see how they run their programming and the funding aspect to their success for over 10 yrs with no problems. We just talk about how our programming is and what we do with clients and how we support them towards their healing and put on workshop or conferences."

"We have used what we have learnt in Edmonton to incorporate it into our programs."

"I have kept in contact with some that I meet and we have and still share; program sharing, upcoming conferences, exchanging info, and visiting with each other either by phone or e-mail each other. "

"Unfortunately, no, however I gathered some healing models that are of interest to Abuse Issues with Pauktutit Inuit Women of Canada. We will keep these models in mind for any future projects."

"Rod visited New Zealand end March, beginning April this year and came to Gisborne and did a two day workshop with my people. Every single participant from the work shop (80 people) thoroughly enjoyed it and found it very beneficial."

"Participated in workshop "Healing through Song" in which this group was to sing the song to the big crowd; unfortunately could not be part of the group that sang it, (had to leave with the delegation I was with.)Presenter was from New Zealand (Mere Taylor-Tuiloma).Wonderful! We wanted to make connection to her, but unfortunately, we have not to date."

"Our community is holding a Land Based Treatment program similar to the one presented by the group from Hopedale at the conference (now that I work for the same organization, it is easy to share resources with them!)"

"I would hope they would participate in NDHR"

"No concrete plans but beginning seedlings of work"

"Not at this point because of distance but there is something down the road for co-production. Making a unified video of the Aboriginal experience. Experience community approach to filmmaking and viewings"

"I would like to think so in the future maybe. I would like to think there is opportunity where we can learn off one another in an exchange program maybe?"

"We held a final gathering and evaluation after HOSW and on our return home – from this ALAC have begun thinking towards the next HOSW in 2010 and will look at ways to support more youth from Aotearoa to attend this next gathering – including young pacific people."

Nationally I am now assisting ALAC with bringing together selected youth from around the country to participate in ALAC's inaugural national youth forum to find ways of working closer with young people in NZ and to look at how ALAC communicates its message of harm minimisation (alcohol related) to young people in our country.

At an international level I would be really interested in connecting with others who are working in the area of harm minimisation for youth to see if there were any possibilities for joint projects in this area."

"I would like to work closer with a group of indigenous youth from overseas and a group of Maori youth that I anticipate on taking to the next hui however nothing has been set in concrete as yet"

"The had hoped to come over to Australia and visit us and we could show them around our land but we have lost contact my colleague had their email address but I haven't seen her for quite some time"

"We were able to bring back some resources that the AAADAC developed around Crystal Meth and have subsequently received permission from them to redevelop and use for Indigenous groups here in Australia."

"I plan to develop a community development initiative here in Porirua specifically addressing the issue of accommodation for many of our client's tangata whai ora whom are confronted by at times discriminatory and exclusionary housing policies. I have been to visit some of our indigenous Australian providers in Sydney's lower decile areas. I will continue to stay informed about the current thinking and indigenous treatment interventions being tried around the world."

"During the gathering our unit took orders from participants who were interested in our drug and alcohol pamphlets that we had developed for communities in Alberta. The resources were mailed out the week after the conference to organizations that were external to NNADAP Alberta Region."

Question 5: What type of support do you require to help maintain a connection? I.e. Participant newsletter, website to promote dialogue, blogs, message boards....

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 106

Yes: 69

(Allowing for multiple responses)

Participant Newsletter: 26

Website to promote dialogue: 22

Blogs: 6

Message Boards: 9

Email updates: 9

Other: 6

All the above: 17

No: 18

Unclear: 7

65% of respondents said that they required support, in their response they were allowed to pick multiple selections, this resulted in 95 responses. The two main forms of support required were participant newsletter (27%) and a website to promote dialogue (23%), along with these choices 18% of the respondents chose all the above. The 17% who indicated no need for additional support either are keeping in contact with fellow attendees on their own time or feel that additional support would not impact their existing connections.

"Newsletter, email updates would be useful as would a website. If you choose to go this route, we would be very pleased to discuss this with you and could design such a site in a cost-effective way and also link it to the range of Aboriginal content sites that we have created and which have established visitation. This cross-promotion would be mutually beneficial."

"I think a website with opportunities to post news would be great."

"I would really enjoy a follow-up participant's newsletter"

"I don't know if you have all the contacts on people who presented on diabetes at the gathering, but if you have, it would be most helpful if you could send me that info, because there were so many it was quite hard to get all their info."

"Participant newsletter and website would be great."

"Website will be brilliant idea for feedback and up and coming indigenous events across the world."

"I think that if you can provide any of these communications then I would be happy to receive, participate in discussions or what have you."

"All the above would or make it easier to make and maintain connections..."

"Newsletter would be great"

"Newsletter, website, emails."

"A participant newsletter would be nice. I am finding that message boards and blogs are not as effective for me because I forget to go to those sites. If something appears in my "in-box", then it's in front of me. In addition to my dissertation, I have many other projects on the go - email tends to be the most effective communication for me - but that's just me :)"

"A participant newsletter would be wonderful since I didn't get contact numbers for all people I would like to contact. An interactive website would also work. I do not do blogs."

"Electronic newsletter could be nice to be informed of what is going on."

"News letters websites e-mails would be wonderful to keep me in touch with whatever you will be doing in keeping your people aware and understanding about Diabetes."

"Website I would think or email...and message boards."

"Participant newsletter would be great."

"All of the above. Telephone calls. Visits. Gatherings."

"In all of the years that I've been attending and presenting at conferences, this is the first time that I've ever been asked this question as part of a conference evaluation of sorts....I think that I could/would make use of a website that has the contact information and details of the people who presented and attended the HOSW. I wish that I could engage in a-based, but I travel too much in my work - don't have the time to sit down at a computer such things that are extraneous to my work."

"Participant newsletter would be great."

"All of the above, the easier to make these connections attainable the better"

"A newsletter is always great."

"I would like anything to keep me updated."

"Mostly by telephone and email."

"I am managing to keep in contact with these people."

"A website would be great also a participant's newsletter would be fantastic."

"Our organization has a website to promote ourselves in a manner that other people from around the world have a fair idea of what we do here in our local community of Rockhampton- Central Queensland Australia."

"Participant newsletter would be great."

"I should have done a better job of collecting information on people so I could have done the follow up. I think a message board or website would be good"

"Perhaps a website, with occasional email reminders to check it out"

"More time away from my own personal responsibilities, or perhaps reprioritizing... nothing from your end..."

"All of these tools would work, I would especially love to connect with the group from New Zealand...I attended their music workshop and the song the entire group created still resonates with me today."

"Unsure about this question, this would be over my head a bit technical my guess is a news letter or tele-satellite conference. "

"Website to promote dialogue"

"I have been emailing but more conferences or more often would help"

"I think all of the above would be valuable."

"Due to the nature of our organization and the fact that we work directly with individuals in need within our community I do not believe that international networking is an immediate benefit to our organization."

"Message board would be nice."

"A website to share information and keep in contact with other HOSW participants would be helpful."

"I participated in one of the opening ceremonies at the Stan Daniels, and of that participation, I would like to have seen the spiritual connection that resulted from the ceremony maintained in some fashion at future HOSW conferences. That is the support required, and this is not by means indicating other means of communications are less important, but if healing is to be clearly the outcomes, much needs to still occur in that fashion."

"A participant newsletter would be very informative."

"Nothing at this time. We communicate via email"

"I think these are great ideas and I would participate. In all the networking that goes on at a conference of this size it is important to maintain contact. I have misplaced three key business cards from Australian delegates and unless they contact me I have no way to reach them to continue discussion regarding the exchange. A forum as above would be helpful."

"A newsletter is a good way for me as I'm not too good on the computer"

"I would like to be able to attend the National Aboriginal Court worker Program Quarterly meetings in order to connect with other court workers in other provinces."

"All sound good"

"Website is easiest"

"Maybe a blog"

"Email is good. For all the other participants it will be good to have a list of attendees and their area of interest, and contact numbers."

"All of the above."

"Would be nice to have a website to promote dialogue and maybe a message board."

"All of the above would be very helpful and some information on the upcoming HOSW in Hawaii"

"Newsletter, HOSWW website"

"Website with message boards"

"I've kept in contact with Jeff by phone and e mail. I stay in contact with Onaje by e mail."

"Yes I wish to receive any information that will assist me to stay in touch."

"I can't seem to get a hold of anyone down in Australia since they had a big fire down there with no success and just keep trying."

"Newsletters are good, as message boards/blogs I find are too time consuming."

"All that you have mentioned."

"Message boards would be good but who would be the main contact
The type of support we require is website to promote dialogue. It would be wonderful if we are provided information with the upcoming HOSW in Hawaii on regular bases. "

"Newsletters would be good or even follow on from the conference as to who has been where since making connections at the conference to further share their knowledge. We are lucky because Barry Bublitz the NZ delegate for HOSW keeps us all informed if anything is going on."

"Website to promote dialogue would be ideal; a voluntary contact board as well"

"All of the items you have mentioned."

"Either a paper or email newsletter would be nice; certainly a comprehensive website would be great. It would also be great to have access to the Marketplace participants - I ran out of money WAY too soon and there are some things I would love to have for gifts, etc!"

"Blogs or an interactive website would be great"

"Something for people without access to computers, newsletters"

"I would like a newsletter so that I could be provided with ideas to use in my community"

"All those sound great"

"Newsletter would be good, maybe a contact list"

"Newsletter with updates and info on the next HOSW would be great"

"Message boards and something by mail for people who don't have computers"

"Blogs and message boards to keep links strong for the next HOSW"

"Blogs, e-mails, message boards, newsletter, all of it. Once the conference is over you don't hear anything, until you meet up again. Yeah, but it is my responsibility to keep up with it, I can see it being a lot of work but I wouldn't use it. I can see it being a lot of work but I wouldn't use it"

"Websites with blogs and message boards. Some people I was in contact with before and people I have contacted since to see a lot of videos"

"A newsletter would be great making it an indigenous global one would be awesome! And we can all contribute to that from our countries to keep everyone in the loop of what's happening in our communities...oh and then there's Bebo!"

"An HOSW message board and e-newsletter are excellent ideas!"

"All types of support to help identify the target group to build a connection with would be excellent"

“All those suggestions are good blogs and newsletters are ones I would use”

“Updates on the upcoming event and any projects that resulted from HOSW would be great.”

“I believe the way to maintain support is was suggested web site, blogs and message boards”

“I would be interested in getting regular updates about the progress since the Edmonton conference, newsletter other information and in particular information and plans for Hawaii so I have ample time to organize things at this end, either through Government or otherwise.”

“I don't need any assistance to keep in touch with my personal contacts thanks, but a HOSW newsletter would be interesting.”

Question 6: Do you plan to attend HOSW in Hawaii in 2010?

Statistical Summary:

Total Respondents: 109

Yes: 64

No: 15

Don't Know: 30

Reasons given for not attending or being unsure of attendance:

Funding: 23

Work related reasons: 4

Other: 15

Of the 109 respondents, 59% indicated that they will be attending HOSW in 2010. The remaining 41% were divided into the categories of not attending (33%) and being unsure (67%). The main reason given for not being able to attend was funding or lack of, and the secondary reason was for work related issues.

"I don't know – it will depend on funding at that time. We are a charity with no core operating funding."

"Not as a participant but if someone were to send me, I would gladly volunteer time as a grunt."

"ABSOLUTELY!! YES! I am hoping that it will be possible for me to attend HOSW 2010. I was very honoured to be invited to the Hawaiian morning spiritual opening at HOSW 2006 and they gave a special blessing and invitation to carry the spirit back to Hawaii in 2010 -- I hope to do that!"

"Yes, we are working on that right now. But funding is very hard to find these days, but hopefully I will stumble on to something."

"I plan to attend HOSW in 2010."

"I would like to if I can get a sponsor to possibly be a presenter. It would help if there was funding from HOSW to partially cover costs. Last time I went as a presenter and my employer paid my way as part of my professional development."

"I do plan on it but it'll depend upon the financial situation of my organization and the continuation of my contract. I have mentioned it already to my funding organization and tried to talk the director into coming - sounds good so far but no promises yet."

"Anything is possible, however I know one of the reasons my employer supported my attendance at this conference was because it was local so....."

"Yes, I will be attending the conference and I will be bringing my whanau (family) to attend and participate as well!"

"Yes, pending funding."

"Definitely in our future plans!!! Both my daughter and I attended the Edmonton session. We both enjoyed the workshops and lectures. My daughter attended the youth workshops. We have been trying to save to attend the Hawaii session, hoping it is scheduled for the month of August....."

"I certainly hope so - that is very exciting! I really enjoyed this conference, and do look forward to more networking opportunities. The HOSW5 was very well organized, and I was very happy to go. I certainly hope to be there to experience the sailing by night and the healers' ceremonies."

"Yes, I plan to attend in 2010, in Hawaii."

"Yes I do hope to attend the Conference in Hawaii in 2010... I am aware there is an Indigenous Diabetes Conference in Vancouver but I don't think I will be able to attend."

"I would very MUCH LOVE TOO! Please put me on the email list of some sort...I would love to go."

"Only if I am still with my occupation at that time."

"Overall, I thought that HOSW was the best organized and best run conference that I have attended for a group of this size. The focus on family with the 4 tracks....elder, adult, youth, and children...was just absolutely awesome. I brought my son with me and he registered in the youth track and enjoyed himself and learned a great deal. If possible, I would love to attend the HOSW in Hawaii...but, this is an expensive place both to get to and to stay in."

"YES, my colleague and I want to start in order to offset some of the costs associated with this conference."

"As a matter of fact, I plan to attend the next conference, and I just talked with my grand-daughter this past weekend about her going to the conference with me. I've helped her develop a plan for saving up money for the trip. She is pretty excited!"

"I am hoping things workout so I can go in 2010."

"Yes, I plan to attend HOSW in 2010."

"I will keep my fingers crossed and hopefully will again be chosen to represent my community along with some young Koori dancers. I sure do plan on attending the next HOSW in Hawaii in 2010 God Willing All Goes Well and to share what we have achieved since 2006. God Bless"

"Yes, I am, and I also hope to bring community members and family."

"Still thinking about it."

"My attendance was work related, so I am unlikely to be attending the event in Hawaii."

"Yes.... participating in fundraising in our community now...."

"Yes. My boss has agreed for me to attend the next conference."

"Hope to, but dependent on financial resources."

"Yes if funding is available, looking at my account and started to save for this journey. For Hawaii here I come"

"Yes, if I can get funding I would love to."

"No; I have a fear of flying."

"No. We are a non-profit organization and the cost would be too great. My staff and I appreciated the opportunity to participate in the conference."

"Yes, I would like to attend the one in Hawaii. I was trying to get some together so that we can start fund raising but it is so far off no one is interested right now. I will keep trying. It would be good to get some contact names of people who would be able to help me out in regards to cost and where it is being held. Some prices and maybe even some package that being offered. So that I would have an idea the cost to [plan] ahead. Maybe I will have to go alone .Or I could approach my E.D. and get some funding to be able to go."

"I hope to attend depends on our organization can fund us to attend this gathering."

"I can't say, at this time, however, when I did attend the first one, I felt that the reason was not of my own choosing, and thus if I am meant to be at the one at that date of 2010, I'll likely be there."

"I would love to attend but I don't know if I could find the funding to go there."

"Hope to (depends of funding)"

"Yes, I would very much like to as I believe that the HOSW conference is the best conference for Indigenous people to go to."

"I certainly hope so. My son and I enjoyed attending the conference."

"Financially not at this time"

"Yes, I do, I plan on going with my whole family next time."

"Yes if someone sponsors me"

"No it is likely too expensive and too far to go."

"I would love to but finances make it impossible to go."

"Most definitely."

"Yes, and promoting it to others I have contact with, and to my community elders group."

"I don't see myself attending, unless of course it is God willing."

"I would like to attend the 6th HOSW gathering in Hawaii in 2010."

"Yes, we are trying to do [fund]raising towards this 6th HOSW in Hawaii for at least 10 -15 from Kwanlin Dun First Nation Band in Whitehorse to attend and hopefully other communities are all doing the same here in the Yukon too."

"Yes and I plan to take my daughter."

"If at all possible I would attend the next gathering in 2010, and would like to take a group of people to the gathering like; Elders, Youth, adults, and the possibility of taking children or better a family."

"Yes I plan to attend Hawaii in 2010. Working towards it now with air miles."

"Yes, Pauktuutit Inuit Women of Canada's staff will attend and plan to do another presentation on our wellness initiatives – implementing the National Strategy to Prevent Abuse in Inuit Communities."

"Absolutely I will be attending the HOSW in Hawaii, and since I have been back and shared my experiences I think there will be a small group from our area going which will be fun and I look forward to the event."

"Our group who attended plan to attend the 2010 HOSW."

"Yes, definitely."

"Would love to but unsure of finances"

"I would love too; they sound like they are doing a lot of exciting stuff I would like too because this is the first one I attended. I would like to go see sessions and meet people"

"Depending on funding, yes I would love too. It would be a great opportunity."

"If the surfs pumping I'm there! Absolutely plan on going to Hawaii"

"I hope to attend HOSW 2010- defiantly! Next time I will be bringing all of my children to participate and also hope to bring more of my own whanau"

“Indeed 2010 is in planning, our group that we plan on bringing to the next conference has been identified and we have begun planning on how we can achieve this, however building a relationship with another indigenous youth group would be awesome and good for Maori youth to experience and share what our culture has entrenched us with.”

“I would love to attend but money is always a problem.”

“I’m uncertain at this time whether I will get to HOSW in Hawaii, but probably not. Not because I don’t want to, but simply due to the expense.”

“I plan [on] making it to Hawaii so I can continue to meet people and share traditional knowledge with each other so that we can all learn to take care of each other better as well as Mother Earth.”

I will not attend the one in Hawaii; I was really disappointed that many of the elders involved in this gathering felt they were not treated well.”

“To be perfectly honest with you the HOSW conference was the worst conference I have ever attended. Most of the workshops that I was to attend were cancelled; for the most part I sat and waited for the presenter only to realize that the presenter was a no show. Quiet frankly, if there was a money back guarantee I would have asked for a full refund. I do not intend to dishonour my employer by attending this conference in the future.”

“I have made the recommendation to have the entire staff attend the Hawaii conference.”