

# Towards Reconciliation with First Nations: Narrowing the Community Well-being Gap through Improved Governance and Community Healing

October 5, 2011



Recent evidence suggests that the gap in well-being between First Nation communities and those in the rest of Canada may be widening, not narrowing. Furthermore, there is a near consensus that governance and community healing are critical factors in determining whether First Nation communities prosper. Moving towards reconciliation through, among other things, improved First Nation governance and related community healing initiatives has therefore become a critical priority of numerous First Nation organizations and the federal government.

## Odell House

Odell House, a restored 19<sup>th</sup> century residence, is home to the University of Ottawa's Centre on Public Management and Policy, part of the Graduate School of Public and International Affairs. The Centre offers professional development programs, undertakes research and fosters candid conversations focused on improving public management in Canada.



uOttawa

## THE PROGRAM

The one-day course explores the system under which First Nations are governed including among other things the legal framework, intergovernmental relationships, the make-up of the First Nation governments, the role of media and the historical and cultural context. It teases out the characteristics that make this governance system both unique and in many cases highly dysfunctional. It then turns to the difficult challenge of how governance and related community healing can be improved in a sustainable manner. Finally the course focuses on a number of policy options that might help improve governance and community healing and lead to a narrowing of the community well-being gap with the rest of Canada.

## WHO SHOULD ATTEND

This course is for individuals concerned about living conditions in First Nation communities and the impact that governance and Canada's colonial past has on them. In particular, policy advisors and program managers in a wide range of organizations from First Nations communities to federal and provincial governments to not for profit organizations will benefit from this course.

## COVERED IN THE COURSE

Questions addressed include:

- What is the evidence that the community well-being gap is actually widening?
- What are the key characteristics of the First Nation governance system?
- What have we learned about recent initiatives focusing on individual and community healing?
- How do First Nation concepts of good governance compare with 'western' norms?
- What is the evidence that suggests that First Nation governance and the lack of sustained community healing are a drag on closing the community well-being gap?
- Why is improving governance and undertaking community healing in a sustainable fashion such elusive challenges, whether in First Nation communities or internationally?
- What policy options might help improve First Nation governance and community healing?
- In particular what might be an effective strategy for the most highly distressed First Nation communities?

Centre on Public Management and Policy  
[www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca](http://www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca)

# Towards Reconciliation with First Nations: Narrowing the Community Well-being Gap through Improved Governance and Community Healing

October 5, 2011

## INSTRUCTOR



**Mike Degagne** is Executive Director of the Aboriginal Healing Foundation, a national Aboriginal organization dedicated to addressing the legacy of Canada's Indian residential school system. He has worked in the field of addiction and mental health for the past twenty-five years, first as a community worker on reserve in northern Ontario and later with the Addiction Research Foundation, the Canadian Centre on Substance Abuse, and the National Native Alcohol and Drug Abuse Program. Mike lectures nationally and internationally on issues of Aboriginal health, residential schools, reconciliation, and governance. He serves on a number of boards, including Champlain Local Health Integration Network. His Ph.D. focuses on Aboriginal post-secondary education.



**John Graham** is a senior executive with over 40 years' experience with the federal and Ontario governments, the private sector, Bank of Canada, and a Royal Commission. He joined the Institute On Governance in 1996 as its Director on Aboriginal Governance and since then has conducted over 350 governance related projects. In 2010 he established Patterson Creek Consulting Inc., which specializes in Aboriginal Governance and offers a range of services including facilitation, evaluation, policy research, governance workshops and professional development courses. He has an Honours B.A. in mathematics and economics and a Masters Degree in Business Administration.

## DATES

October 5, 2011

## LOCATION

**Centre on Public Management and Policy**

University of Ottawa  
Odell House, 180 Waller Street  
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 9B9

## FEE

\$ 600 + tax

Includes course materials, lunch and snacks during the day and parking on campus.

The course will be offered in English and is limited to a maximum of 20 participants.

## TO REGISTER

Visit our website [www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca](http://www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca)  
Or contact **Anna Jahn** at [ajahn@uottawa.ca](mailto:ajahn@uottawa.ca),  
phone: 613 562-5800 Ext. 3889

## FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE COURSE

Please contact:

**John Graham**  
[john@pattersoncreek.ca](mailto:john@pattersoncreek.ca)

or

**Mike Degagne**  
[mdegagne@ahf.ca](mailto:mdegagne@ahf.ca)



uOttawa

Centre on Public Management  
and Policy

[www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca](http://www.cpmp.uOttawa.ca)