



## Services Currently Provided by Blue Sky

- Gatherings, sharing of culture;
- Promotes access to Elders, Traditional Healers, Teachers;
- Cultural Awareness programs;
- "Spirit" awakening, holistic dialogue;
- Anishinabe experiences;
- Promotes access to Traditional teachings, ceremonies;
- Promotion and awareness of environmental stewardship;
- Sharing of history, storytelling;
- Promotes access to Traditional medicines, medicine walks; and,
- Presentations to workshops, classes, and conferences.

### Status of Development of Blue Sky:

Blue Sky is seeking \$44,148.50 in funding to complete: consultation with focus groups; formalize Board of Directors; market assessment including surveys; feasibility study; and, business plan.



## Community Consultation

Our grass roots approach has partners supporting this endeavor from as far away as: Kenora to the west; Sudbury to the east; Kettle Point First Nation to the south; and, Constance Lake to the north. We have had four large community gatherings acknowledging this support. An example of the support being realized is best described by the Elder, Mary Michano, of Ojibways of the Pic River First Nation and her experience of the gathering in her community on September 20, 2006:

*"It was nice to be with the group. The Circle was very powerful and so many of our people carry the seven sacred teachings. Our First Nation Traditional ways are always our strength and we as First Nations are very proud of that. It is so important to gather, share and give the teachings to each other. We rebuild ourselves so then we can pass it down to our children's children to continue the sacred circle and gatherings in other First Nation communities.*

*Our Creator always walks with us and guides our people. We are very strong by the direction we are given. Creating and focusing on our Turtle Lodges in our communities will make our people stronger. Our ways of life are given to us by our loving Creator. We are very special people. Other Nations are always looking for healing and the strength that we have. Others are looking up to us as First Nations. Yes the project is very good. We are always rebuilding ourselves to see more clearly. I hope I can play a role and be a helper with the Teaching Lodge. Anything I can do. Thanks."*

*Spirit Buffalo Woman Looking to the West*



# Ozhaawashko-giizhig (Blue Sky) Traditional Teaching Lodge

## INFORMATION PORTFOLIO

[www.blueskyteachinglodge.ca](http://www.blueskyteachinglodge.ca)



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## Vision Statement

*With the help of the Creator, we will bring all four Nations together to promote: love; respect; courage; honesty; wisdom; humility; and truth. With an army of helpers, we will achieve these teachings through gatherings sharing knowledge and creating awareness.*

Norma Fawcett, Elder, Red Rock Indian Band

## Spiritual Laws: Seven Sacred Teachings

The Anishnabe were given seven sacred laws that were to act as a spiritual foundation. These laws offered direction for anyone wishing to have a balanced and peaceful life. Each law was represented by an animal:

**LOVE** - Represented by the **EAGLE**

**RESPECT** - Represented by the **BUFFALO**

**COURAGE** - Represented by the **BEAR**

**HONESTY** - Represented by the **SABE (bigfoot)**

**WISDOM** - Represented by the **BEAVER**


**HUMILITY** - Represented by the **WOLF**

**TRUTH** - Represented by the **TURTLE**

Watching the animal world offered the Anishnabe teachings that kept him/her in balance with the natural laws. Blue Sky will incorporate these Spiritual Laws into all activities.

## History of Blue Sky

A meeting was held with some Elders of the Lake Helen First Nation on October 11, 2005. There was an exchange of ideas and the direction from the Elders was to move forward with this project to gather more information. Our organization has recently become incorporated under the name Ozhaawashko-giizhig Traditional Teaching Lodge.




## Purpose of Blue Sky

Blue Sky is not just a vision, but a reality which is helping to rebuild cultural and Spiritual connections. The primary goal of Blue Sky is to provide an environment for individuals from all cultures and walks of life to gather; share Anishnabe culture; traditional teachings and stories from Elders; and, the Spiritual laws.

Focused on building peace, unity, and understanding, Blue Sky will encourage and provide the opportunities to experience and learn about the natural, historical and cultural characteristics of unique environments while preserving the integrity and sustainability of those sites and stimulate the economic development opportunities.

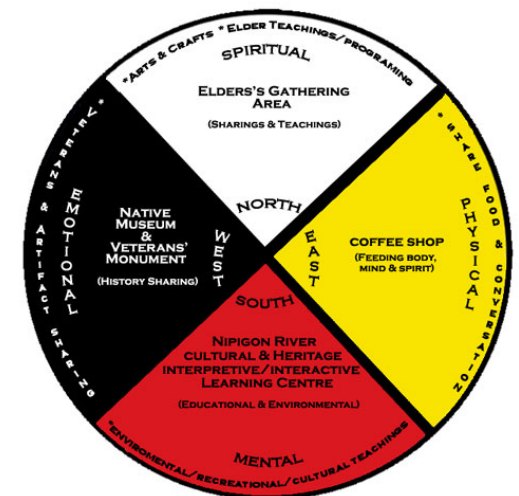
Blue Sky has been travelling to various communities in the region to create awareness, recruit new members as well as bring our goals to others. As a result of these community and event visits and to respond to the growing interest, membership and development of Blue Sky, the organization is currently in the process of acquiring a building to act as our main meeting spot. We partnered with Lakehead University students to complete studies to help us move forward in determining location and development options.

We have worked hard to involve community, government, corporate, tourism, academic and resource-based voices and recommendations in moving forward and have had many successful developments to date. We have developed a working foundation with strategic stakeholders, community partnerships, inclusive membership and governance with very little financial support.



## Desired Components of the Teaching Lodge

This facility would ensure that the Elders, Traditional people and teachers in the area would always have a location to meet and gather, share teachings, promote good healthy lifestyles, inspire a sense of pride in the Anishnabe peoples and preserve the Anishnabe language and culture. This medicine wheel illustrates the four components proposed for Blue Sky:



The following offers a "snapshot" of what a typical day could look like:

- Archaeologist teaching class how to respect, preserve and display artifacts;
- Native veterans sharing war stories;
- Elders made fresh blueberry pie;
- brook trout are spawning and you can view them at a viewing area through a webcam;
- fire burning in the centre of the Gathering Area and the Elders are sharing teachings with all races of Nations, young and old alike; and,
- Elders from Pays Plat First Nation are showing youth how to make mukluks.