

# The Source

forum of diversity



PAGE 4

In the mood for a rendez-vous?

www.thelasource.com

Vol 9 No 21 - February 6 to 20, 2007

## Home Is Where The Earth Is

by Lise Boullard

On February 22, 2007 an international panel of representatives from political, cultural and educational groups will gather at the Simon Fraser University Centre for Dialogue. They will discuss Finding Home: Belonging, Connection and Community, an event that may be the first step in changing what 'home' means for Canadians. The first event of its kind, the learning day will provide a forum for First Nations, immigrants, refugees, youth, artists, government, business, seniors and educational institutions to come together and engage in discussion in order to learn from one another about the various ways to create and sustain home at both the community and personal levels.

As global warming, homelessness, refugee populations and immigration put increasing pressure on our global society, a forum to openly discuss solutions

and views about the different definitions of 'home' could not come at a better time. The panel will focus on three themes throughout the day: 1) Remember Home: the role of memory, values and world-views in finding home 2) Imagine Home: the importance of creativity in making home 3) Create Home: the necessity for meaningful personal and community action for building and sustaining home. Jessie Sutherland, Founder and Project Manager, explains that "the world is going through huge changes and so even though they are super complex, maybe part of the solution is expanding awareness of self, others and environment in responding to changes and changing times."

Sutherland developed the idea for 'Finding Home' while working on a different project regarding Aboriginal versus non-Aboriginal relationships. After working in the field

for approximately twenty years, Sutherland noticed that there were many different initiatives taking place across Canada. But nobody knew what anyone else was doing. She decided to create a place where leaders in the field could discuss their projects with one another through 'tele-conference reconciliation'. In teleconferencing reconciliation, people from across Canada and around the world can join in on a free conference call for one hour (however everyone is responsible for their long distance calls). Although this started out as a side

"Earth" cont'd from page 1

project for Sutherland, it soon became full time work. The collaborative learning day on February 22nd stems from the idea of bringing leaders in the field together to share information and build networks.

A number of respected political and community leaders will be among the panel to share their personal stories at 'Finding Home'. After a session regarding the history of the universe and the meaning of home for human beings over time, Chief Robert Joseph, Hereditary Chief of the Gwa wa enuk First Nation and Chairman of Native American

Leadership Alliance For Peace and Reconciliation, will talk about his own life journey from victim, to survivor and human being. Following a dialogue session and lunch break, attendees will hear from Senator Roméo Dallaire, who sits on the Senate as a member of the Liberal Party of Canada and previously served as Commander of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Rwanda. He will discuss his vision of the state of the world today, his dream for the world, and the paradigm shift that should follow. The day will end with a session regarding the urgent need for humans to learn to view the world differently in order to make choices that benefit the earth. Sutherland will facilitate the discussion, weaving everything together.

Sutherland expects that the collaborative learning day will be a springboard for a multi-year project. Next year she plans to pilot a series of four workshops and dialogue sessions on skills of finding home as well as a train the trainer program, which will take place in community centres and neighbourhood houses. Sutherland currently has an office at Simon Fraser University; however, she hopes to set up shop independently in the future.



Photo by Jessie Sutherland

Jessie Sutherland founded Finding Home

For more information visit [www.worldviewstrategies.com](http://www.worldviewstrategies.com)