

An intimate evening with the Hon. Paul Martin in support of the St. John's Indigenous first aid initiative

As part of its efforts towards implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada's 'calls to action', the St. John Canada Foundation is seeking to raise \$225,000 towards the training of Indigenous first aid instructors. At present, there are only five (5) Indigenous civilians in all of Canada who are qualified to teach the St. John Ambulance first aid course. This number has got to increase substantially if we are to reach all the Indigenous households in this country. But as things currently stand, formal first aid training in Indigenous communities is sparse at best—especially in remote communities—where it's needed the most.

Please join us in our efforts to build first aid capacity in Indigenous communities, and for an exclusive evening in Toronto with the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin.

Indigenous people in Canada have a lifetime risk of severe trauma that is 4x the national average, and in some communities, 5 – 8x. The prevalence of opioid addiction, together with the high incidence of mental health emergencies, is compounded by issues of poor access to health care and jurisdictional disputes that are unimaginable to most non-Indigenous Canadians.

Indigenous people learn best from other Indigenous people, using teaching approaches that are culturally sensitive and appropriate. Equipping Indigenous Canadians with the same life-saving skills as every other Canadian sends a powerful message of reconciliation. Indigenous lives are precious; and it's not enough to just say this. We must also back up our words with actions.

To date, we have raised a third of our goal—enough to train 5 additional Indigenous first aid instructors. Each \$15,000 raised in this campaign will train an additional first aid Instructor, and 100% of every dollar raised will be spent to cover the cost of training and teaching materials for the new instructors. Individuals or organizations who contribute \$10,000 or more are invited to attend this dinner on September 28th, 2017 in Toronto, featuring the Rt. Hon. Paul Martin.

I hope that you will consider making a significant contribution to this campaign.

Sincerely,

Allan Bird, OStJ, CD and Michael Dan, CM OStJ OOnt MD PhD FRCSC

Donations may be made directly to the St. John Canada Foundation:
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/st-john-canada-foundation/>

Please indicate on your donation that it is for the 'Indigenous First Aid Initiative'
The St. John Canada Foundation is a registered Canadian charity (number: 897199709RR0001)