



To stop the dying of American Indians and Alaska Natives from alcohol and substance abuse, we as representatives from four national Indian organizations hereby adopt the Healing Journey Accord. The Healing Journey Accord is intended to stop the dying by presenting a practical vision for the Year 2005 including strategies for achieving that vision.

This vision and accompanying strategies were identified at the National Native American Summit on Alcoholism and Substance Abuse, held in October, 1995, sponsored by the National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics (NANACOA), the National Indian Health Board (NIHB), the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), and the American Indian Health Care Association (AIHCA).

### Our Vision

We envision that by the Year 2005, we will have strong, healthy communities which nurture and support the spiritual, cultural and economic growth of individuals and families. We envision communities wherein:

- Individuals and institutions support sobriety and do not tolerate sexual abuse of children or domestic violence.
- Children are raised in sober, stable families learning strong, culturally based parenting skills with support from both parents and the extended family and community.
- Tribal and community leadership is sober, responsible and healthy.
- Traditional cultural and spiritual activities are integrated into all aspects of family and community life.
- Individuals and institutions demonstrate respect for women and men equally.
- People enjoy a high standard of living through excellent education, employment opportunities, comfortable housing, recreational activities, and community health facilities.
- Treatment programs for families and individuals are available and accessible, and they are staffed by trained Native professionals.
- Youth are graduating from high school with pride, motivation, leadership skills and knowledge about substance abuse disorders and healthy lifestyles.



## II. Our Commitment:

As national organizations signing this accord, we commit to this unified mission to eradicate substance abuse, to holding an annual summit review to develop a coordinated work plan, and to assume the following responsibilities.

### A. NCAI will:

1. Seek tribal resolutions to support needed legislation and funding.
2. Establish a Code of Ethics.
3. Adopt policies that Indian leadership shall be sober and drug free.
4. Ban alcohol at our national meetings.
5. Have a working youth committee.
6. Invite youth to national meetings and sponsor national youth conferences.
7. Make conference more accessible for grassroots participation by including in the budget local transportation, food, etc.
8. Facilitate the development of national Native networking through:
  - a. Linking tribes, national organizations and urban programs via Internet.
  - b. Work groups for tribal and urban programs to work together.
9. Promote recognition of American Indian and Alaska Native leaders and stories of success through publications, magazines, etc.
10. Encourage tribes to pursue economic opportunity that is not self-destructive, such as alcohol and tobacco.
11. Support government control of alcohol and tobacco lobbyists.
12. Develop, sponsor and coordinate prevention activities, national meetings, projects, training and media campaigns, such as:
  - a. National Native voting campaign
  - b. Sobriety campaign
  - c. National Walk-A-Thon to support Indian community activities
  - d. National Summit for Indian Youth
  - e. Racism - oppression workshops and publications
  - f. Conflict resolution and consensus building training
  - g. Annual alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse training for tribal officials and community leaders.
13. Actively pursue funding opportunities to support regional and tribal-specific training.

### B. NIHB will:

1. Provide annual alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse training for tribal officials and community leaders at the national Consumer Conference.
2. Establish a Code of Ethics.
3. Ban alcohol at our national meetings.
4. Have a working youth committee.
5. Make conferences more accessible for grassroots participation by including in the budget local transportation, food, etc.
6. Facilitate the development of national Native networking through:
  - a. Linking tribes, national organizations and urban programs via Internet.
  - b. Work groups for tribal and urban programs to work together.
  - c. Cooperative research projects.
7. Work to decrease tobacco advertising that is targeted to Indians.



### B. NIHB will: (continued)

8. Develop, sponsor and coordinate prevention activities, national meetings, projects, training and media campaigns, such as:
  - a. Media campaign for zero tolerance for domestic violence
  - b. Sobriety campaign
  - c. National "All My Relations Day"
  - d. Training on how to manage change
  - e. Conflict resolution and consensus building training
9. Actively pursue funding opportunities to support regional and tribal-specific training.

### C. AIHCA will:

1. Establish a Code of Ethics
2. Ban alcohol at national meetings.
3. Have a working youth committee.
4. Invite youth to national meetings and sponsor national youth conferences.
5. Make conference more accessible for grassroots participation by including in the budget local transportation, food, etc.
6. Facilitate the development of national Native networking through:
  - a. Linking tribes, national organizations and urban programs via Internet.
  - b. Work groups for tribal and urban programs to work together.
  - c. Cooperative research projects.
7. Develop, sponsor and coordinate prevention activities, national meetings, projects, training and media campaigns, such as:
  - a. Sobriety campaign
  - b. National "All My Relations Day"
  - c. National Urban Indian Forum
  - d. Annual alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse training for community leaders.
  - e. Conflict resolution and consensus building training.

### D. NANACOA will:

1. Monitor and oversee adherence to this Healing Journey Accord.
2. Recruit and enlist other groups such as UNITY, NIEA, etc.
3. Establish a Code of Ethics.
4. Ban alcohol at our national meetings.
5. Have a working youth committee.
6. Facilitate the development of national Native networking through linking tribes, national organizations and urban programs via Internet.
7. Provide annual alcoholism, drug abuse, domestic violence and sexual abuse training for tribal officials and community leaders.
8. Train leaders in culturally relevant conflict resolution.
9. Develop, sponsor and coordinate prevention activities, national meetings, projects, training and media campaigns, such as:
  - a. Sobriety campaign
  - b. National "All My Relations Day"
10. Actively pursue funding opportunities to support regional and tribal-specific training.



#### E. Other Organizations Signing this Accord will:

1. Establish a Code of Ethics.
2. Ban alcohol at national meetings.
3. Have a working youth committee.
4. Invite youth to national meetings and sponsor national youth conferences.
5. Make conferences more accessible for grassroots participation by including in the budget local transportation, food, etc.
6. Facilitate the development of national Native networking through linking tribes, national organizations and urban programs via Internet.
7. Develop, sponsor and coordinate prevention activities including national meetings, projects, training and media campaigns.
8. Actively pursue funding opportunities to support regional and tribal-specific training.

### III. Our Impact On National Indian Policy

The four national organizations shall make every effort to educate the general public and public officials throughout the nation.

#### A. This educational process at a minimum will address:

1. The need for financial assistance to provide for prevention activities, treatment programs and facilities, and training of Native professionals.
2. Development of new programs including Community Healing Centers to:
  - a. Provide culturally appropriate alcohol and substance abuse treatment on demand in modern, well-equipped facilities.
  - b. Offer family treatment.
  - c. Address violence and sexual abuse in substance abuse treatment.
  - d. Treat chronic behavioral illness.
  - e. Incorporate spiritual leaders into service delivery.
  - f. Provide aftercare tracking and support.



As national organizations, we will "Walk Our Talk." We demand of ourselves and our leadership that we be sober, respectful, trustworthy and competent role models. In signing this accord, we testify to our personal commitment and the commitment of the organizations we represent to take action to stop the dying from alcohol and substance abuse.

*W. Ron Allen*

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President, National Congress of American Indians

*Fajad L. Kolin*

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Chairperson, National Indian Health Board

*Charles Alvalley*

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Chairperson, American Indian Health Care Association

*CM J P h D*

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Chairperson, National Association for Native American Children of Alcoholics