



ProgressReport

Update on Aboriginal Initiatives

Summer 2002

National Aboriginal Day A time to celebrate!

The first day of summer has special meaning across Canada: Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people alike celebrate National Aboriginal Day on June 21st with a host of activities and events that highlight Aboriginal culture.

Now in its seventh year, a growing list of National Aboriginal Day activities offers many ways for Canadians to learn and celebrate the many important historical and contemporary contributions to Canada by Aboriginal people.

Business leaders point to awareness as key to building partnerships

Raising awareness about Aboriginal companies through education and marketing is the best way to foster business relations between non-Aboriginal and Aboriginal companies. This is one of the findings of a recent Ipsos-Reid poll of non-Aboriginal business stakeholders and decision-makers.

Respondents mentioned settling treaties and reaching agreement on land claims issues among the challenges to developing long-term business relationships. The study, conducted by phone with 22 business leaders, was commissioned by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

Want to learn more?

For a directory of Aboriginal businesses, visit http://strategis.gc.ca/scdt/abc_map/nav.html

To obtain a summary of the survey results, contact the editor at progressreport@inac.gc.ca

June 21st is a time for all Canadians to recognize the diverse cultures and outstanding achievements of First Nations, Métis, and Inuit. Canada proudly recognizes the unique contributions of Aboriginal people in a variety of disciplines from agriculture to the arts.

Share the celebration

Visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca to find out how you can receive free materials to help celebrate on June 21st, and consult the national online listing at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/index_e.html for events and activities in your community.

Paving the way to First Nations self-reliance

In a speech during a recent conference in Ottawa, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Robert D. Nault reaffirmed the government's position that the *Indian Act* represents an impediment to progress for Aboriginal people in Canada.

The First Nations Governance Initiative, in conjunction with three other government initiatives, is being proposed to deal with the inadequacies of the *Indian Act*. The other initiatives include First Nations Fiscal Institutions; an Independent Claims Body; and the *First Nations Land Management Act*. Together, these initiatives will provide the tools for governance to pave the way for greater self-reliance and economic self-sufficiency.

The First Nations Governance Initiative is a bridge to a future where communities operate under a system of government created by First Nations, for First Nations, says Minister Nault.

For a transcript of the speech go to www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/spch/2002/bia_e.html

Feedback

Progress Report invites your comments and suggestions. Drop us a line at:

Progress Report
Communications Branch
Indian and Northern Affairs
Canada
19th Floor, Room 1900
10 Wellington Street
Ottawa ON K1A 0H4

E-mail:
progressreport@inac.gc.ca
Fax: (819) 953-2305
QS-6173-010-BB-A1

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca



Training Centre will strengthen role of Aboriginal professionals in health planning

The Government of Canada is providing \$3 million for an Ottawa training centre designed to increase the number of Aboriginal people engaged in health research.

Unique for its national focus, the Ottawa Aboriginal Training Centre will promote the use of modern, innovative practices for infectious disease control in the planning and governance of Aboriginal community

health services. It is one of four such centres across the country funded by the Canadian Institutes of Health Research, with a shared goal of involving Aboriginal people in finding long-term solutions to health problems in Aboriginal communities.

For the complete story, visit www.cihr-irsc.gc.ca/news/press_releases/2002/pr-0206_e.shtml