



Progress Report

Update on Aboriginal Initiatives

Winter 2004

Early childhood development a priority

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), together with Human Resources Development Canada and Health Canada, released two reports that highlight the Government of Canada's commitment to helping young Canadian children get a good start in life.

The *Early Childhood Development Activities and Expenditures: Government of Canada Report 2002-2003*, reports on federal government activities and expenditures in support of young children and their families. The annual report has been published each year since the September 2000 Federal/Provincial/Territorial Early Childhood Development (ECD) Agreement was put in place. The report includes information about the Federal Strategy on Early Childhood Development for First Nations and Other Aboriginal Children.

The companion report, *The Well-Being of Canada's Young Children: Government of Canada 2003*, co-authored by Human Resources Development Canada and Health Canada, examines Canadian children's development up to five years of age.

The Government of Canada has committed \$500 million to ECD in 2003-2004. The 2003 federal budget provides an additional \$35 million over five years for early learning and child care programs for First Nations children, primarily those living on reserves.

For more information on early childhood development, visit www.socialunion.gc.ca/news/051203_e.html.

Your input matters

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is evaluating the following economic development programs:

- Resource Access Negotiations Program
- Resource Partnerships Program
- Regional Partnerships Fund
- Equity Programs (the Resource Acquisition Initiative, the Economic Development Opportunity Fund, and the Major Business Projects Program)

As part of the evaluation, we invite you or your organization to comment on the efficiency and effectiveness of these programs in meeting the economic development needs of First Nations and Inuit communities. We're also interested in hearing what changes, if any, you think are needed.

Please send your submission to:

Applied Research Consultants
112 Kent Street
Suite 2010A
Ottawa, ON K1P 5P2

All submissions will be treated confidentially by the consultants and will not be provided to INAC.

To read more about INAC's economic programs, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/pas_e.html.

Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative builds partnerships

Michelin North America (Canada) Inc., Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), the province of Nova Scotia and Nova Scotia Aboriginal leaders signed an agreement. The goal of this partnership is to create a larger, skilled Aboriginal workforce and improve job opportunities for Aboriginal people in Nova Scotia.

Under this agreement, Michelin, INAC's Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative (AWPI) and Aboriginal organizations will identify job and economic development opportunities and review human resource practices. AWPI is committed to breaking down the barriers to the employment of Aboriginal people.

Better job opportunities for Aboriginal people and greater representation of Aboriginal people in the workforce is part of the Government of Canada's commitment to build stronger Aboriginal communities. AWPI works in partnership with Aboriginal people, industry and all levels of government to let employers know about the advantages to hiring Aboriginal people, and to make this commitment a reality.

For more information about the AWPI and how it can work for you, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ai/awpi/index_e.html.

Feedback

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

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