
PREMIER'S MESSAGE

National Aboriginal Day June 21, 2006

**Message from the Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia**

It is a privilege for the Province to join with British Columbia's First Nations and Aboriginal people to celebrate their valued place in our communities on the 10th anniversary of National Aboriginal Day.

Over the next 10 years, we have set an ambitious goal to close the social and economic gap that exists between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians, and events like this are important to remind us why that goal is so important to all of us. Canada's Aboriginal culture is a distinctive part of our history and heritage that must be preserved, embraced and celebrated for future generations.

But even more importantly, we must work together to ensure that all British Columbians – Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike – have the opportunity to share fully in the prosperity growing all across our province. We are making progress toward that goal by working with First Nations and Aboriginal people to expand and enhance their educational, social and economic opportunities.

National Aboriginal Day gives us a chance to reflect on the progress we have made, and to renew our commitment to go even further as we continue to build a New Relationship with First Nations and Aboriginal people.

I want to thank all those who have contributed to this year's National Aboriginal Day festivities to help us celebrate and share all the diversity of British Columbia's remarkable Aboriginal heritage and culture. I encourage all British Columbians to take advantage of this opportunity to experience the richness of that heritage and discover one of the aspects of our province that truly does make this the best place on Earth.

Honourable Gordon Campbell
Premier of British Columbia