



Bringing Out the Best for Aboriginal People



Revitalizing Treaty Negotiations to Provide Certainty

The province is working to revitalize treaty negotiations, creating certainty and new opportunities for all British Columbians. The province has:

- ▶ Issued instructions to provincial negotiators to discuss all issues and examine new options for advancing treaty negotiations.
- ▶ Signed more than 300 individual agreements with First Nations including treaty-related measures, economic development agreements, direct forestry awards, oil and gas consultations and collaborative parkland agreements.
- ▶ Entered into 82 treaty-related measures with a total provincial investment of \$4.2 million.
- ▶ Entered into land protection and acquisition agreements, with a total provincial investment of \$12.9 million for 7500 hectares, to support treaty negotiations at several tables.
- ▶ Signed the Lheidli T'enneh, Maa-nulth, Sliammon and Tsawwassen First Nations Agreements-in-Principle, each of which form the basis of a final treaty. Final agreement negotiations continue at these tables

Renewing Our Partnership With Aboriginal Communities

We are opening new dialogue and forging stronger partnerships that give Aboriginal leaders greater input into decisions impacting their communities. B.C. has:

- ▶ Signed a protocol agreement with the First Nations Summit in September 2003, building on the commitment in the 2003 throne speech to establish a new relationship of recognition and reconciliation with B.C. First Nations.
- ▶ Initiated annual meetings between cabinet and the First Nations Summit to discuss challenges and opportunities for co-operation.
- ▶ Established a First Citizens' Forum to open dialogue between the government and aboriginal people on social and economic issues.

More Resources to Increase Economic Opportunities

While treaty negotiations proceed, we're also investing resources to help Aboriginal people access new economic opportunities now. The province has:

- ▶ Dedicated \$26.5 million to 145 projects to support First Nations' economic development.
- ▶ Committed \$135 million in revenue sharing over four years for Aboriginal people interested in forestry opportunities to create new jobs in their communities.
- ▶ Added funding to double the First Citizens Fund to \$72 million by April 2004, to support programs like the business loan program, including new business advisory services in Fort St. John and Cranbrook.
- ▶ Provided a \$15-million trust, supporting initiatives for First Nations along the BC Rail corridor.

Strengthening economic opportunity



Revenue-sharing agreements are supporting greater Aboriginal participation in B.C.'s number-one industry.

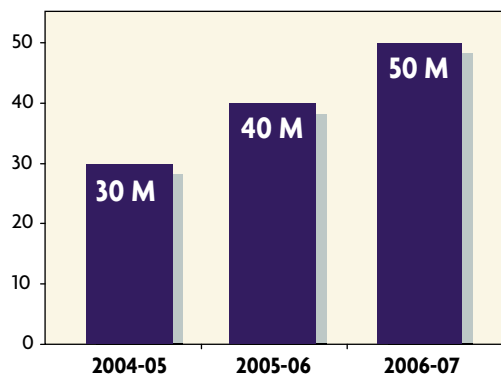
Bringing Out the Best for Aboriginal People

New Partnerships to Create Jobs for Aboriginal People

Working with Aboriginal groups to build new partnerships that will create more jobs for B.C. Aboriginal people, the province has:

- ▶ Established a new partnership with Treaty First Nations to streamline reviews of potential oil and gas developments that will help create new jobs and opportunities for their members.
- ▶ Worked to ensure Aboriginal people are directly involved in planning and receiving economic benefits from the 2010 Winter Games.
- ▶ Partnered with Aboriginal communities in land-use planning, resulting in many agreements that provide land-base certainty while creating new economic opportunities for coastal First Nations.
- ▶ Committed to include Aboriginal representatives on the B.C. Resort Task Force, to ensure they share in the benefits of developing resort tourism opportunities across the province.
- ▶ Launched “Honouring our Past” to encourage the reintroduction of Aboriginal place names to British Columbia’s landscape.
- ▶ Launched Aboriginal Business Entrepreneurial Skills Training Program for Aboriginal youth to increase access to business opportunities throughout BC.

Revenue sharing to create jobs for Aboriginal people



B.C. has committed \$135 million in revenue sharing over four years to help First Nations participate in forestry.

Strengthening Aboriginal Communities

We are keeping our commitment to help materially improve the quality of life of Aboriginal people and build stronger Aboriginal communities. The province has:

- ▶ Signed an agreement with Aboriginal leaders to reduce the number of Aboriginal children coming into government care and return children to their communities when appropriate.
- ▶ Developed the B.C. First Nations Health Handbook, a companion to the B.C. Health Guide.
- ▶ Dedicated \$1 million to preserving and promoting indigenous Aboriginal languages and cultures.
- ▶ Provided \$800,000 toward to support enhanced health care for Aboriginal women, children and families in Vancouver.
- ▶ Expanded Aboriginal early childhood development services in 37 communities and appointed B.C.’s first Aboriginal infant development program adviser.
- ▶ Provided grants to support local government and Union of BC Municipalities participation in the treaty negotiations process

Preserving B.C.’s Aboriginal heritage



B.C. is supporting FirstVoices.com, an innovative program designed to preserve aboriginal languages.

Bringing Out the Best for Aboriginal People

Skills and Business Development

Interim Measures and Treaty-Related Measures

Treaty Negotiations Office

Victoria: 250 356-8281

Other than Vancouver or Victoria: 1 800 663-7876

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 880-1022

www.gov.bc.ca/tno/

Local Government – First Nations Relations

www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/lgd/gov_structure/first_nations/

Aboriginal Directorate/First Citizens Fund

Victoria: 250 356-5276

www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal_dir/index.htm

First Nations Interests

Land and Water BC Inc.

Victoria: 250 387-6408

lwbc.bc.ca/for_first_nations/

Business Development/Community Relations with BC Hydro

Toll-free provincewide: 1 877 461-0161

www.bchydro.com/ard/

Job Opportunities in the Forest Sector

www.for.gov.bc.ca/protect/firefighter/equity.htm

Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Education

Victoria: 250-356-1891

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/abed/

Aboriginal Programs – Ministry of Advanced Education

www.aved.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/

Post-Secondary Education Opportunities

Toll-free provincewide: 1 888 664-2256

BC Hydro Post-Secondary Education Scholarships

Vancouver: 604 224-9376

Toll-free provincewide: 1 800 224-9376

www.bchydro.com/community/scholarships/scholarships878.html

Family and Community Services

Aboriginal Health

Ministry of Health Planning

Victoria: 250 952-3151

www.healthplanning.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal/

First Peoples' Heritage Language and Cultural Foundation

Aboriginal Languages, Arts, and Culture

Victoria: 250 361-3456

www.fpcf.ca

A Guide to Aboriginal Organizations and Services in British Columbia

www.mcaaws.gov.bc.ca/aboriginal_dir/guide.htm

We want your input

All of us want to see a new era of reconciliation, opportunity and shared purpose between Aboriginal and non-aboriginal British Columbians.

In addition to negotiating treaty settlements, the province is working to materially improve the quality of life, education and health care of Aboriginal families.

I welcome your input and invite you to contact me for more information on our initiatives to build new partnerships with First Nations.

Gordon Campbell
Premier

E-mail your comments to: premier@gov.bc.ca