



Backgrounder

National Aboriginal Partners in the *Aboriginal Canada Portal*

The development and maintenance of the *Aboriginal Canada Portal* is an ongoing partnership between the Government of Canada and six national Aboriginal Organizations: the Assembly of First Nations; the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples; the Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers; the Inuit Tapirisat of Canada; the Métis National Council; and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

Assembly of First Nations (AFN)

"Canada's First Nations are keenly aware of the important role technology can play in the advancement of their prospects for economic development and self-determination. Through the use and application of new information technologies, First Nations citizens and communities can find a bridge over the information and knowledge gap which currently exists. The sharing of information with other individuals and communities in Canada and in other countries can facilitate a greater understanding of each other and lead to the discovery and application of rational and practical solutions for the development problems we are experiencing at home. Now more than ever before, we have the ability to reach out anywhere in the world at the touch of a button and trade goods, services and ideas. The Aboriginal Canada Portal is one way of ensuring that Canada's First Peoples remain in touch and informed."

AFN National Chief, Matthew Coon-Come

The AFN Economic Development Secretariat is an active participant in the development of the *Aboriginal Canada Portal*. We are of the firm belief that Canada's First Nations have not only a need, but a right, to be fully connected and integrated into the new digital community that is taking shape in the world around us.



Council for the
Advancement of Native
Development Officers

Conseil pour
l'avancement des agents
de développement autochtones



Native Women's
Association
of Canada

Association des
femmes autochtones
du Canada



Métis National
Council

Ralliement national
des Métis



Congress of
Aboriginal Peoples

Congrès des
peuples autochtones



Assembly of
First Nations

Assemblée des
Premières Nations



Inuit Tapirisat
of Canada

Inuit Tapirisat
du Canada

The Assembly of First Nations is the national advocacy and lobby organization representing more than 650,000 First Nations citizens in 633 communities across the country. The AFN exists to ensure the protection, continuity and continuation of our inherent rights.

For more information, contact:

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Economic Development Secretariat
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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples (CAP)

“Communication has been integral to Aboriginal peoples since time immemorial. For more than a year, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples has actively participated in the joint steering committee overseeing the development of the Aboriginal Canada Portal.

The portal is an outstanding manifestation of how communication with Aboriginal peoples has evolved from the “moccasin telegraph” to the information superhighway. Through these new and developing technologies, the portal can expand our communications with one another and the world, as well as improve our understanding of each other. CAP is proud of our full and equal participation in this exciting adventure and we look forward to realizing its possibilities for our people.”

Dwight Dorey — Chief and President — Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is the national organization that represents the interests of 850,000 Aboriginal peoples living in urban, rural and remote areas throughout Canada.

For further information contact:

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The Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO)

“ The Aboriginal Canada Portal is an excellent single window site to Canadian Aboriginal on-line resources, organizations, programs and services. Through our participation in the project we are thinking not only of how to support economic developers today, but of anticipating what tools they will need to build Aboriginal communities and economies of tomorrow.”

Angie Stewart, Past President of CANDO & Director Northern B.C.

This project has demonstrated an ability to achieve effective results through a partnership between national Aboriginal organizations and the Government of Canada. Complimentary to the portal project, CANDO is also involved in a *Technology for Economic Capacity (TEC) Project* and a *Connectivity Feasibility Study* to facilitate the creation of an EDO Extranet to serve the learning needs of economic development officers. The digitization of portal material and the ability of economic development officers (EDOs) to work on-line will no doubt build aboriginal capacity.

CANDO is a federally incorporated, non-profit society that is Aboriginal-controlled, community-based and membership driven. CANDO's mission is to build capacity to strengthen Aboriginal economies. Our vision includes contributing to the development of strong, vibrant, competitive and self-sustaining Aboriginal economies; and serving as a leading authority on Aboriginal community and economic development.

For more information, contact:

Angie Stewart

Past President of CANDO and Director Northern B.C.

Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers

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The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

The Aboriginal Canada Portal is a partnership between Aboriginal Canadians and Canadians, supplying information on aboriginal issues and organizations to help bring Canadians together”

John Holman, Director, Communications — Inuit Tapirisat of Canada

The Inuit Tapirisat of Canada (ITC) is the national organization representing more than 40,900 Inuit living in 55 communities in the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, Northern Quebec and Labrador. ITC deals with issues ranging from Inuit self-determination to the preservation of Inuit culture.

For more information, contact:

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The Métis National Council

“It is obvious to everyone that Aboriginal Peoples are only now arriving at the information age. We need to assist and encourage our people to become involved in new technology if we are to remain viable and competitive.”

Gerald Morin, President, Métis National Council.

The Métis National Council (MNC) is the national advocacy and lobby organization representing more than 300,000 Metis Nation citizens in over 400 communities across the country. The MNC mandate is to preserve, promote, and protect the interests of the Metis Nation within Canada.

For more information, contact:

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Director of Communications

Métis National Council

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The Native Women's Association of Canada

A key mandate of the Association des femmes autochtones du Québec (Quebec Native Women Association) is to ensure that its members are adequately informed, which is now possible through our Web page. This new technology will help build a network of women and various Aboriginal organizations and create solidarity among us. With this tool, it is now easier to consult and call on women regarding subjects for which we need to take a stand. The creation of forums, debates and exchanges is possible and beneficial for issue advancements. With our Web page, we can inform women about their rights and the recourses available to assert those rights.

It is important that our women be able to benefit from this new technology which, let's hope, will become more and more accessible in the near future.

Michèle Audette, President, Quebec Native Women

Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) was invited to become a member of a focus group for the *Aboriginal Canada Portal* project in March 2000. We have been proud to be a member of this new project. We realize the need for online services and know that the *Aboriginal Canada Portal* will be an instrument in getting all people informed about products and services.

NWAC has its own web site www.nwac-hq.org and hopes to use the site by informing Aboriginal people about services that NWAC offers, programs and bursaries that are available. Although there is still a lot of work that needs to be done, NWAC will continually do updates as new information comes available.

NWAC is founded on the collective goal to enhance, promote, and foster the social, economic, cultural and political well-being of First Nations and Metis women with First Nations and Canadian societies.

As a non-profit organization incorporated in 1974, the NWAC is an aggregate of Native Women's organizations and as an association of that of a "Grandmother's Lodge", we as Aunties, Mothers, Sisters, Brothers, and Relatives collectively recognize, respect, promote, defend and enhance our Native ancestral laws, spiritual beliefs, language and traditions given to us by the Creator.

For more information, contact:

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