

# Access Alberta

## WD's Commitment to Sustainable Development

Throughout the 1990s, Canadians have come to realize the importance of balancing economic growth with environmental and social sustainability. Especially in Western Canada, we have come to realize that our traditional resource industries are finite. While these industries have afforded us a healthy economic growth, they have also been identified as environmental and social risks.

Natural resource industries have worked hard to deal with issues such as pollution and erosion. They have worked with advocacy groups to monitor progress and keep the public informed on environmental developments.

While issues of sustainable development span nationally and internationally, it is important for us as western Canadians to remember we play a major part in shaping the environment we leave for future generations.

At Western Economic Diversification (WD), a sustainable development strategy is coming to fruition. Led by the Deputy Minister, Oryssia Lennie, and managed by members of the executive committee, the strategy framework has

been developed. The strategy, which will soon be released as a publication, identifies performance measures and targets to monitor progress and review methodology.

WD is putting its sustainable development strategy into action. As with all buildings that are 15 years or older, the offices at Canada Place are starting to need upgrading and minor renovations. WD has committed to be a pilot project for the federal government, incorporating new and innovative sustainable technologies into its refit plans.

WD is working in partnership with Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC) to implement this sustainable development model. PWGSC is assisting WD to meet the requirements of this leadership role.

WD is currently finalizing its refit plans. Built into these plans are many of the latest ideas and concepts in office design and construction, including a comprehensive assessment of such things as walls, doors and furniture. Every practical idea is being considered. In some cases, we will be looking at the installation of mobile walls to allow future changes to be considered in a cost-effective manner. Early discussions indicate the potential and suggest the reuse of many existing set-ups (i.e. doors), with existing furniture refurbished.

This is a true example of how WD is committed to making sustainable development a reality.

# Upcoming Events

## **Aboriginal Youth Fair\***

February 6, 2001

Shaw Conference Centre, 9797 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

This event is part of a nation-wide series of career fairs for Aboriginal students. Exhibitors and speakers will provide information on the wide range and diverse careers available.

For further information, please contact Philip Ducharme at (416) 926-0775 or toll-free at 1-800-329-9780.

## **Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association Fourth Bi-annual Funding and Information Conference**

February 14-16, 2001

Ramada Conference Centre, 11834 Kingsway Avenue  
Edmonton

Conference fee: \$275

The Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association hosts this bi-annual funding and information conference to provide Aboriginal organizations and individuals with a forum to increase their knowledge on topics, such as: justice, health, economic development, Aboriginal investment, marketing and public relations.

To request a conference package or for further information, please contact the Alberta Native Friendship Centre Association at (780) 423-3138 or visit their Web site: [www.nativecentres.org](http://www.nativecentres.org).

## **Alberta Awards of Distinction**

February 27, 2001

Shaw Conference Centre, 9797 Jasper Avenue  
Edmonton

Tickets: \$125/person or \$900/table of 8

Time: 6:00 p.m. champagne reception; 7:00 p.m. dinner and awards

Alberta Chambers of Commerce host their 10th annual awards ceremony. This event honours Alberta businesses and the vital role they play in the province's economic prosperity.

To order tickets or for further information, please contact Teresa Pollock at (780) 425-4180, ext. 4 or 1-800-272-8854, ext. 4.

## **National Aboriginal Achievement Awards\***

March 16, 2001

Jubilee Auditorium, 11455 – 87 Avenue  
Edmonton

Tickets: \$300, \$250 tax receipt issued upon request

Time: 8:00 p.m.

This nationally televised awards ceremony recognizes Aboriginal achievement in all career areas, including: arts, business, law and public service.

To order tickets or for further information, please contact Philip Ducharme at (416) 926-0775 or toll-free at 1-800-329-9780.

*\*The National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation organizes the Aboriginal Youth Fair and National Aboriginal Awards. This non-profit organization promotes career opportunities to Aboriginal students. They host career fairs and speaker workshops to introduce and encourage youth to explore the many career opportunities available. They also recognize Aboriginals who have contributed and achieved much in their careers at an annual awards ceremony. For further information on the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation and its programs, please contact Philip Ducharme at (416) 926-0775 or toll-free at 1-800-329-9780.*