



# update

WINTER 2003

News of interest to Aboriginal people  
from the Government of Canada

## Good News For Kids!

Getting children ready for school is important to people everywhere. That's why the Government of Canada will spend another \$320 million in the next five years. The new money will help First Nations and Inuit to raise healthy, happy kids.

In the Oneida Nation of the Thames, there are two programs for preschool kids that are funded by the Government of Canada.

"The whole community gets involved, making sure our children are ready for school and for life," says Chief Harry Doxtater. About 5,000 people live in his community near London, Ontario.

The **Aboriginal Head Start** program gets children ready for school by teaching about things like healthy eating and ABCs. (There are Head Start programs both on and off reserves.) Parents and Elders help the program in many ways — by telling legends, for example.

Chief Doxtater says, "Teaching our children our cultural traditions is very important."

The second program is called the **First Nations and Inuit Child Care Initiative**. It helps families by providing low-cost daycare.

These children's programs will now get more money through the Federal Strategy on Early Childhood Development for First Nations and Other Aboriginal Children. That means more communities can have programs like Head Start and more low-cost child care.



The Government of Canada will spend more money on children. Ethel Blondin-Andrew is Canada's Secretary of State for Children and Youth. With her is Harry Doxtater, Chief of the Oneida Nation of the Thames.

The new money will also go toward:

- more work to prevent Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and Fetal Alcohol Effects
- finding more ways to help Aboriginal kids in the future

You can find out more about children's programs by going to these Internet websites:

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca), [www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca](http://www.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca)  
[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

**Call Us Toll Free! 1-800-567-9604**

Now you can make a free phone call to find out more about programs and services at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. You can also get free booklets, like the new *Services for First Nations People: A Government of Canada Guide*.

Are you hearing impaired? Call TTY 1-866-553-0554.

There is no long distance charge when you call these numbers.

Canada



## A place to connect in Clyde River, Nunavut

Living in the far North, you can feel cut off from the rest of the world sometimes. It was like that for the 830 people of Clyde River a few years ago.

They were moved to a settled community in the 1960s. Since then, they've had trouble with disease, addictions, violence and suicide. "Clyde" (as local people call it) also has the most people in the Baffin Region without jobs.

But they are doing something about it. A few years ago, people got together to talk about how to bring job training and healthy life programs to their community.

That's how the Ilisaqsivik Society got started in 1996. In the Inuktitut language, the word "ilisaqsivik" means "a place where you can recognize yourself."

With help from the local and territorial governments, they bought the old health centre building.

"Ilisaqsivik has given people a place to gather, a place to meet people and a place to connect," says Annette Taylor. She is the acting co-ordinator for the Society.

In 2000, the Society was registered as a charity. Now, they raise money from many sources. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, the Government of Nunavut, First Air, and the Northwest Company are just some examples.

Thanks to Ilisaqsivik, young people have a safe place to go. They can learn more about their culture. Men who don't have hunting or fishing equipment can now go out on the land with men who do. Pregnant women can learn more about how to have healthy babies.

The place is now "bursting at the seams" with people taking part in the programs. Between 100 and 200 people use the Society's services six days a week.

To learn more about the Ilisaqsivik Society, check out their website on the Internet at [www.ilisaqsivik.ca](http://www.ilisaqsivik.ca)



People in Clyde River, Nunavut started Ilisaqsivik, a place to learn and a place for kids to grow.

## Acting on What We Know: Preventing Youth Suicide in First Nations

People everywhere are worried about youth suicide. What can a community do? The Minister of Health Canada and the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations asked for this special report. It has ideas to help prevent suicide among First Nation youth. The report was prepared by the Advisory Group on Suicide Prevention and is being distributed to First Nations communities. To get a copy, visit:

[www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/cp/publications/preventing\\_youth\\_suicide.htm](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb/cp/publications/preventing_youth_suicide.htm)

## Indian Status?

"How do I register for Indian Status?" "Am I eligible?" People often ask Indian and Northern Affairs Canada these questions.

How to register for Indian Status is simple. Call us and we'll send you a form. But who is eligible for Indian Status? The answer depends. A lot has changed in recent years.

You may qualify if:

- you qualified for Indian Status before the *Indian Act* was changed in 1985
- at least one of your parents is eligible for Status for any reason
- you lost Status by marrying a non-Indian man
- you lost Status because your father was not a Status Indian
- you lost Status because your parents applied to give up Status and First Nation membership through something called "enfranchisement"

Also, the rules are different if you were born before, on, or after April 17, 1985.

Remember, you must *register* for your Indian Status. It is not automatic. To order an Indian Status Registration package or to get more details, call toll free at **1-800-567-9604**.

You can also find out more at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca) on the Internet. Look for "Status — FAQ" on the left side of the Web page. Click on the words and you will find the information.

## Budget 2003 — What's in it for you?

The Government of Canada announced a new budget in February, and there is good news. Another \$2.2 billion will be spent to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal and Northern people.

Here is how some of the money will be spent.

### Healthy Families and Communities

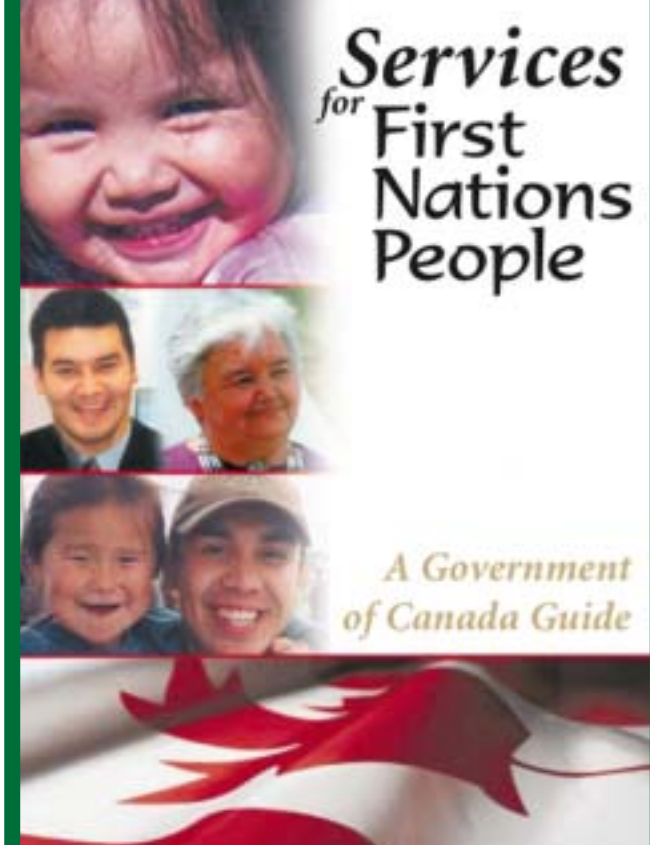
- \$1.3 billion on First Nations and Inuit health programs
- \$600 million for safe water systems
- \$42 million for First Nations policing and better safety in communities

### Education and Culture

- \$172.5 million for Aboriginal languages and culture
- \$35 million for more child care and early learning programs
- \$35 million for First Nations schools

### Jobs

- \$25 million for training and new jobs on major projects across Canada
- \$20 million to support new and growing Aboriginal businesses
- \$12 million so Aboriginal people can be more involved in managing fisheries. The money will also create new jobs.



To get a copy, call us toll free at 1-800-567-9604

### For More Information

You can read more about the budget at this website:  
[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca)

Click on "Budget 2003: Building the Canada We Want".

## Thanks for telling us what you think!

Thanks for sending in the reply cards. Please take a moment to fill in the card. We want to make sure that you got your copy of *Update* in the mail. What did you think about it? You can put your reply card in the mail right away – you don't need a stamp.

Here is what some of you said last time.

"This *Update* is great! Keep it coming!"

"This publication is informative, important and challenging."

Many people want to hear more about jobs. We're listening! Look for stories about jobs in the next *Update*.

We would like to hear more of your story ideas. So send in your comment card — your ideas help us write *Update*.



We would like to receive your comments and suggestions.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Did you find this issue informative? ☐ yes ☐ no

What other important topics would you like to see covered in future issues?

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send Government of Canada information to my e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Send *Update* to my friend at this address: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ It's okay to use my name and address for other government updates.

I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by:

☐ community television ☐ mail to my home ☐ band office

☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre





Community members in Northern Ontario welcomed the chance to directly reach out to Minister Nault.

## Counting all people!

Here are some interesting facts from the 2001 Canada Census.

- There are more Aboriginal people in Canada than ever before.
- Nearly one million people in Canada say they are Aboriginal.
- One third of the Aboriginal population is under age 15. About one fifth of the non-Aboriginal population is under age 15.
- One out of every four Aboriginal people can speak an Aboriginal language.

Read all about it on the Internet at [www.statcan.ca](http://www.statcan.ca)

## Governance Legislation: What's New with Governance

Many people are telling the government what they think about the proposed First Nations Governance Act, Bill C-7. There have been many consultations.

The bill has been presented to Parliament. Now, the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs, Northern Development and Natural Resources is studying Bill C-7. This committee is travelling across the country to hear from First Nations people and others.

The proposed Act is a work in progress. The committee is taking everyone's suggestions, opinions and concerns into account.

They will look at the proposed Act again, clause by clause. The committee will then report back to Parliament this spring. After this report, the bill will be presented again through a Second Reading in the House of Commons.

The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Robert D. Nault, supports the work of the Standing Committee. He asked the committee to listen to First Nations people.

The goal is to make a First Nations Governance Act that will give First Nations people power to make sure their communities work better for them.

You can find out more about what's new on the Internet. There is a special website with all the news and information about the First Nations Governance Act. You'll find it at [www.fng-gpn.gc.ca](http://www.fng-gpn.gc.ca)



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THE EDITOR UPDATE  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA  
RM 1900  
10 WELLINGTON ST  
HULL QC K1A 9Z9

## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete the reply card, clip it out and send it in (postage is already paid) or call INAC General Enquiries at **1-800-567-9604** or TTY/TDD: **1-866-553-0554**. You can also send us a fax at **(819) 953-2305**, or drop us an e-mail message at [Update@inac.gc.ca](mailto:Update@inac.gc.ca)

For information on Government of Canada programs and services, call toll-free **1-800-O-Canada (1-800-622-6232)**; TTY/TDD: **1-800-465-7735**; or visit [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca)

You can also read the **Update** at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html)

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