



update

WINTER 2004

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Women reaching dreams

Life goes fast," says Anne Huntinghawk. "You may as well do what you want—and education is the key."

Anne is an Ojibway woman, born 45 years ago in Manitoba. Life has been hard for her—she was born to residential school survivors. They had many troubles. Anne was taken from her family at age eight. She went to live with a non-Aboriginal foster family.

"I didn't feel like I fit into school or belonged anywhere," Anne says. She dropped out by age 16.

After leaving school, she raised her four children as a single mother by working nights as a Psychiatric Nursing Assistant. She has worked at this job for over 20 years, where she helps people with mental disabilities.

Two of her children have gone to university and now she is following them. Anne returned to high school in 2001.

"When I first went back to school, I thought, 'What am I doing here?'" Anne soon started to feel good about being there. She graduated at the top of her class—while working full-time night shifts.

Today Anne attends the University of Manitoba, taking courses by satellite television. She still works at night. She hopes to help other Aboriginal people. "I know I can do it," she says.

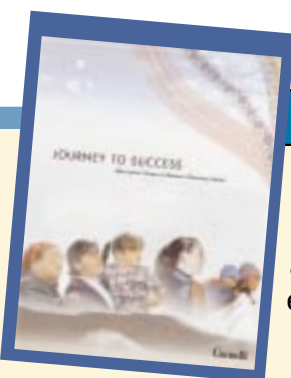


Anne Huntinghawk says education is key to making dreams happen. Photo: Simon Bueckert

Anne has accessed the Post-Secondary Student Support Program, an Indian and Northern Affairs Canada program that helps cover some of the costs of going to school. For more information on this program, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/edu/ense_e.html on the Internet or call toll-free 1 800 567-9604. ■

Aboriginal Women's Business Planning Guide

Journey to Success is a guide for Aboriginal women who are thinking of going into business. Aboriginal women across the country helped make the guide practical and easy-to-use. For a free copy, call toll-free 1 800 567-9604.



Setting up business



Linda Sunday says the freedom to develop your own ideas is the best part of being in business.

Linda Sunday, a Mohawk from Akwesasne, opened an office supply store in her community. Here's what she said about running a business.

How did you get started?

"I learned most about the industry working in my parents' store. By 1999 I was running the store myself."

Where is a good place to get information on starting a business?

"The National Aboriginal Capital Corporation Association and Aboriginal Business Canada have useful information for Aboriginal entrepreneurs. It's also a good idea to research other businesses in your field and the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Businesses, a program launched to increase the number of Aboriginal firms doing business with government."

How do you keep up with business trends?

"I network with other businesses, read business magazines and industry news. It also helps to keep tabs on Internet sites such as Industry Canada and the Retail Council of Canada."

What advice would you give someone starting a business?

"Ask for advice when you need it. There are a lot of people in business more than willing to help."

Lissa Marie Charron from Sheshegwaning First Nation on Manitoulin Island, Ontario, is co-owner of a business offering oxygen therapy in Toronto. It was the world's first oxygen spa bar.

How did you get started?

"When my partner and I started, we had passion but no expertise. So we met with experts and started picking their brains. It took us four years to open the doors of our spa."

What are the keys to success?

"Manage your stress and prioritize your tasks. The key thing is to know you can't do everything yourself and that you're not great at everything. Ask for help when you need it. Finally, whatever you're doing, find a way to make it unique; put your stamp on it."

What resources did you use to get started?

"Aboriginal Business Canada was incredibly enthusiastic about our business from the very beginning. They saw that there was potential for growth, and supported us when we were getting on our feet."

Any tips for someone thinking of opening a business?

"Because you can never really turn off your computer and walk away, you have to love what you do. It can't just be about money."

Resources

Aboriginal Business Service Network
www.cbcs.org/absn

Aboriginal Business Canada
www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business
<http://saea-psab.ainc-inac.gc.ca> ■

Concerns or questions about your local government?

If you live in a First Nation or Inuit community and have a complaint about how your local government works, we're here to listen—and help, if we can. The National Complaints and Allegations Coordinator will also listen to your concerns about organizations funded by Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Call toll-free 1 800 567-9604 or email CNAP-NACC@ainc-inac.gc.ca.

Women in business

There are Aboriginal women who have made their dream of starting a business a reality. You can read about these entrepreneurs on the Aboriginal Economic Development Success Story Database, at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nr/ecd/wen_e.html on the Internet.



Children's programs get a boost

Kids are the future. That's why the Government of Canada is spending \$320 million over five years in First Nation and Inuit communities. The Federal Strategy on Early Childhood Development for First Nations and Other Aboriginal Children is making progress.

An example is more funding for Aboriginal Head Start. This program helps kids learn to read, eat healthily, and speak their traditional Aboriginal languages. Head Start is using the extra money to make room for more children and to develop learning materials.

New funds are also helping the First Nations and Inuit Child Care Program to improve some of its child care centres and create spaces for more children. This means more parents can go back to school or take job training.

Health Canada is providing money for communities to run programs to prevent disabilities caused by mothers drinking while pregnant. Information on the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Program will be posted on the Internet soon at: www.hc-sc.gc.ca.

Through this strategy, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Human Resources Development Canada, and Health Canada are working together to deliver services to your communities.

To find out more about services for children, call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232). If you use a TTY call 1 800 465-7735. ■



Children can reach higher with programs that help them grow.

New Child Disability Benefit

Beginning in March 2004, the government will give more money to families caring for children with disabilities. The Child Disability Benefit will be paid with the Canada Child Tax Benefit. To learn more and to see if you qualify, go to www.cra.gc.ca/cdb on the Internet or call toll-free 1 800 387-1193.

Information on clean water

The First Nations Water Management Strategy was announced in Spring 2003. It is a plan to improve water and wastewater systems on reserves across Canada. There is information coming to your community about what is happening where you live. The band council in your community has also received an orientation toolkit explaining the strategy. To find out more, call toll-free 1 800 567-9604 and ask about news on water quality issues.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

"I particularly enjoyed being able to request documents from the information in your pieces. Thank you!"

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid. Want to see a story covered?

Let us know—your ideas matter!

The Editor

Update is sent to the homes of First Nation people on reserves across Canada. It costs about 20 cents a copy to produce and mail.

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 email: _____

☐ Send *Update* to my friend at this address: _____

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

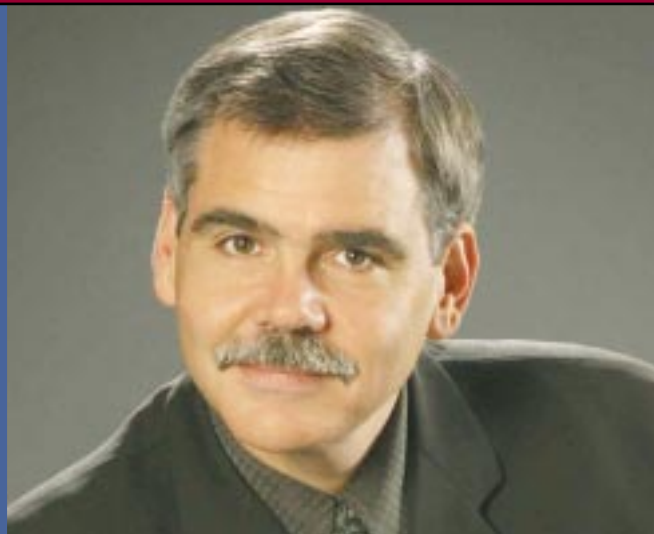
I would like to be kept informed on Government of Canada initiatives by:

☐ community television ☐ mail to my home ☐ band office

☐ community radio ☐ Internet

☐ community newspaper ☐ friendship centre

Meet the new Minister!



The Honourable Andy Mitchell

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada has a new Minister!

The Honourable Andy Mitchell is a Member of Parliament from Parry Sound-Muskoka in Ontario. He was named Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on December 12, 2003.

Minister Mitchell's last job was as Secretary of State for Rural Development and the Federal Economic Development Initiative for Northern Ontario. This work took him to many First Nations communities across Canada.

Minister Mitchell is focused on working together with First Nations people, Inuit and Northerners. ■

Matrimonial real property study

The Senate Standing Committee on Human Rights has been studying how matrimonial real property (things like houses and land) is divided after a couple living on a reserve splits up. The committee heard from witnesses during the Fall of 2003 and has prepared a report, *A Hard Bed to Lie In: Matrimonial Real Property on Reserve*, with some recommendations to deal with the issue. To learn more about on-reserve matrimonial real property and the committee, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/wige/mrp/index_e.html on the Internet. ■

New law for claims

The Government of Canada passed a law to create the Canadian Centre for the Independent Resolution of First Nations Specific Claims. The centre will help negotiate settlements and resolve disputes between First Nations and the Government of Canada through an independent tribunal. To learn about "the new law", call toll-free at 1 800 567-9604 or read about it on the Internet at: www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/clm/scbul_e.html

Flu season is here — remember to:

■ Get the flu shot ■ Wash your hands with soap and water ■ Stay home when sick
For more information, visit www.healthcanada.ca/flu or call 1 800 454-8302.



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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Complete the reply card, clip it out and send it in (postage is already paid) or call INAC Public Enquiries Contact Centre at 1-800-567-9604 or TTY/TDD: 1-866-553-0554. You can also send us a fax at (819) 953-2305, or send us an email message at 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 at 1-800-465-7735; or visit www.canada.gc.ca.

You can also read the *Update* at www.inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index_e.html.

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