



Government
of Canada

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update

APRIL 2004

News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

Doing business with pride

Lisa Meeches says being true to her Aboriginal roots and spiritual beliefs gives her the strength to do well in business.

"Don't compromise who you are spiritually as a First Nations person," says Lisa, who is Ojibway and grew up in Long Plains First Nation in Manitoba. "Whether you're a secretary or a lawyer, the way to success is with pride."

Lisa is living proof of this. She is a television host, executive producer and president of two production companies—Meeches Video Productions and Eagle Vision—in Winnipeg. Both companies have about 100 employees, and give jobs and training to Aboriginal people.

These companies produce television shows like *The Sharing Circle* (which Lisa co-hosts) and *Tipi Tales*, which are shown on the Aboriginal Peoples Television Network.

"The lessons taught through these programs transcend race and culture, and provide basic truths to living a good life," says Lisa.

Lisa started her career in 1986 as a writer and reporter for the Native Media Network in Winnipeg. She has a degree in broadcast arts and a diploma in business administration.

Lisa's production business grew recently with money from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Economic Development Opportunity Fund. They are working on new television shows about health and wellness, Aboriginal legends and other subjects.



Lisa Meeches makes television shows that tell Aboriginal stories.

To find out more about the **Economic Development Opportunity Fund**, visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/pas_e.html on the Internet and click on "Equity Programs." You can also call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**. The fund helps First Nations people start, grow or buy a business. ■



Show off your business to the world!

Canada's Virtual Aboriginal Trade Show is a website that shows Aboriginal businesses to the world. Register your business online at: www.vats.ca on the Internet.

Canada

Growing a green economy



Steve Ginnish is helping bring the forest and the economy back to life at Eel Ground First Nation, New Brunswick.

The forest on Eel Ground First Nation in New Brunswick was once hurt by heavy cutting. Now, it has been brought back to life.

This is thanks to the community's plan to keep the forest—and the economy—growing for future generations.

"The forest was hurting from 40 years of uncontrolled harvesting. There was no management of the land," says Steve Ginnish. Steve, who is Mi'kmaq, is the First Nation's forestry development officer.

"In 1989, we developed a sustainable forestry plan that addresses the holistic needs of the community, and protects and cultivates all of its natural resources, from fishing to water, wildlife to medicinal plants," says Steve.

Today, forestry in Eel Ground brings in about \$2.7 million a year and creates 85 jobs during the busy season. The program has also won environmental and business awards.

The plan was put into action with help from the First Nations Forestry Program. The program is run by Natural Resources Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

"The program was our seed source. It opened the door to funds, partnerships, networks and new business ventures," says Steve.

To read more about the **First Nations Forestry Program**, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (1 800 622-6232), e-mail info@fnfp.gc.ca or visit www.fnfp.gc.ca. ■

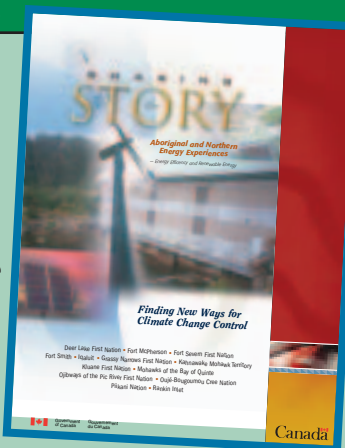
Aboriginal forestry conference

The National Conference on Aboriginal Forestry will bring together Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal forest managers, decision-makers, academics and students for presentations, workshops and field trips. It runs from May 11-13, 2004, in Thunder Bay, Ontario. For more information, visit www.aboriginalforestry.org on the Internet or call toll-free **1 800 868-8776**.



Sharing stories of energy smart communities

Learn how Aboriginal and Northern communities across Canada have improved their energy efficiency in a new Government of Canada booklet called *Sharing the Story—Aboriginal and Northern Energy Experiences*. You can read it on the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/clc. Or, to order a copy, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**.



Tax information for you

To find tax information for Aboriginal people, visit this new Government of Canada website at: www.cra-adrc.gc.ca/aboriginals/menu-e.html.

Support for Aboriginal business

In Canada today, there are more than 27,000 Aboriginal businesses. The Government of Canada offers funding and other tools to support Aboriginal businesses and community projects, large and small. Find out more by calling toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visiting www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/index_e.html on the Internet.

Cruising to success

The Campbell River Indian Band in British Columbia has a new tourism plan to bring cruise ships—and thousands of tourists—to the region.

The First Nation is on the East coast of Vancouver Island. It is making the current dock bigger and better to handle large cruise ships and their passengers.

"We initiated the project in 1999 as an alternative to the region's flagging resource-based industry," says Robert Duncan, the economic development officer who got the project off the ground. "The vision was there—we had to make it work."

To make this vision a reality, they are working with the District of Campbell River and the local tourism group. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada's Regional Partnerships Fund and Western Economic Diversification Canada have put money into the project.

When it is finished in 2004, the Campbell River Port of Call will bring in close to 40,000 cruise passengers every year, create about 150 full-time jobs and make \$8.5 million a year that will help the whole region.

To find out more about the **Regional Partnerships Fund**, visit http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pas/ecd/pas_e.html on the Internet or call toll-free 1 800 567-9604. To read about **Western Economic Diversification Canada**, visit their website at www.wd.gc.ca. ■



Cruise ships will soon dock at Campbell River, British Columbia.



Water—Source for Life

Visit INAC's new website on water. It will tell you about the First Nations Water Management Strategy and what is being done to keep your water clean. Visit www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/H2O on the Internet or call 1 800 567-9604 for more information.

Keep those cards and letters coming!

"Great issue, full of encouraging information and great pictures!"

WHITE RIVER FIRST NATION, BEAVER CREEK, YUKON

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

Partners in opportunity

On February 2, 2004, the Government of Canada promised to work with others to improve the quality of life for all Aboriginal people. In the Speech from the Throne, the government said it will:

- increase opportunities to get more education and build new skills. It will work with provinces, territories and Aboriginal groups on a renewed **Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy**;
- work with First Nations to make their governments more effective and more answerable to the people. Together, we will set up an independent **Centre for First Nations Government**;
- make sure that First Nations communities have **safe drinking water**;
- help Aboriginal people in cities by building on the **Urban Aboriginal Strategy** with willing provinces and municipalities; and
- bring **Métis** leaders and other people from government together to talk about the place of the Métis in federal policies.

There are many more things that concern Aboriginal people in the **Speech from the Throne**. You can read the whole speech at www.sft-ddt.gc.ca on the Internet. Or, call toll-free **1 800 O-Canada** (**1 800 622-6232**) to have a copy mailed to you. ■

Spring clean-up fights West Nile virus

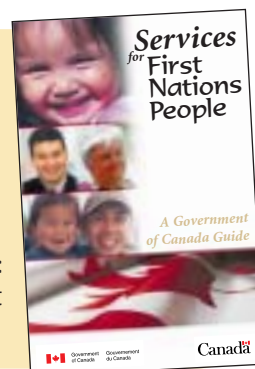
It's spring and time to think about West Nile virus, which you can get if an infected mosquito bites you. Mosquitoes breed in standing water found in old tires, containers, and other things around your home and yard.

Removing these things or dumping out the water regularly throughout the spring and summer helps lower the number of mosquitoes—and your chances of being bitten.

To find out more, visit Health Canada's website at www.westnilevirus.gc.ca or call toll-free **1 800 816-7292**.

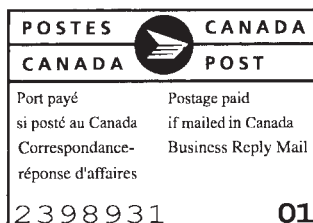


The Government of Canada offers a variety of programs and services for First Nations people. *Services for First Nations People: A Government of Canada Guide* describes many of these services and how to access them. **For your free copy call toll-free: 1 800 567-9604** or visit the Internet at www.inac-ainc.gc.ca.



Nunavut is five years old!

On April 1, Nunavut—Canada's newest Northern territory—celebrates its fifth birthday. Nunavut (the Inuktitut word for "our land") was created April 1, 1999 because of the Nunavut Land Claims Agreement.



1000009929-K1A0H4-BR01

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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 e-mail 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 on the Internet.

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

Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development Ottawa, 2004

www.inac.gc.ca

QS-6172-080-EE-A1

ISSN:1704-4286

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Cette publication peut aussi être obtenue en français sous le titre : *Dernières Nouvelles*.

