



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

# update

News of interest to Aboriginal people  
from the Government of Canada

JULY 2004

## Training for success

**C**orey Desjarlais is proud of his work as a water treatment plant operator. "Keeping everyone safe—that's my job," he says.

This twenty-six-year-old works at the new Three Nations Water Treatment Plant in Grassy Plains, British Columbia. It was built by three First Nations: Cheslatta, Nee Tahi Buhn and Skin Tyee.

At the plant, Corey helps test and treat water that is sent to more than 50 homes, a school and a clinic. This makes sure the water people drink is safe and clean.

To get the job, Corey took a one-year water operator training program. He scored over 90 percent in his course work and got hands-on experience helping build the water treatment plant. He has worked there since it opened in February 2003.

The Government of Canada gives funding to First Nations communities to build and improve water treatment plants—and to train and certify First Nations people to operate these plants. This is part of a five-year plan to help First Nations supply safe, clean water in their communities.

Water operator training is available to First Nations people across Canada. It is offered by many different organizations, like tribal councils, provincial associations and community colleges.

Today, more than 1,000 First Nations people are working as water operators on reserves across Canada.



*Corey Desjarlais works to keep water safe in his community.*

Corey feels this is a career other people should think about too. "There are many opportunities in water management. This is definitely the job of the future," he says.

To learn more about water operator training and certification, call toll-free **1 800 567-9604** or visit the Internet at **[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/h2o](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/h2o)**, and click on "Operator and Training Certification." ■

### Doing business with the Government of Canada

A new training tool for Aboriginal businesses is now on the Internet. It gives information about how to find and bid on federal government contracts with the Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business. Visit our website at **[www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/saea-psab](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/saea-psab)** and click on "web-based guide to doing business with the federal government." Order a free information kit by calling toll-free **1 800 400-7677**.



Canada

## Building better homes and jobs



*This is a super energy-efficient, affordable and award-winning Mohawk home.*

**T**he Mohawks of the Bay of Quinte in Ontario are leaders in Canada's housing industry.

That's because they build some of the most energy-efficient and affordable homes in Canada.

These are well-built homes that use less energy and have better air quality. The results are 30 percent lower utility bills, and healthy, affordable housing for hundreds of people in this Mohawk community.

"The people who live in these houses appreciate having much healthier, comfortable homes with largely reduced utility bills," says Mohawk housing director Chris Maracle.

The homes are all designed, built and kept up by the Mohawk housing department. This has created jobs and training for at least 20 Mohawk builders, carpenters, painters and electricians. The entire crew is trained to build R-2000 homes—the most energy-efficient homes in Canada.

They have won many awards, including Canada's only national energy efficiency award for housing in 2003. Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards are given out every year to celebrate Canadian successes in improving energy efficiency and the environment.

Read about **Canada's Energy Efficiency Awards** at [www.energyawards.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.energyawards.nrcan.gc.ca). Or call toll-free **1 866 333-3970**.

Find out about **R-2000** and **EnerGuide training** on the Internet at [www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca](http://www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca), or call toll-free **1 800 387-2000**. Natural Resources Canada offers this training to First Nations, Inuit and Northern communities across Canada. ■

## Creating jobs for youth

**F**irst Nations and Inuit communities and organizations can apply for funding to create jobs for Aboriginal youth through the **First Nations and Inuit Youth Employment Strategy**. To find out more, visit [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/jeunesse-youth](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/jeunesse-youth) on the Internet. You can also call toll-free **1 800 567-9604**.

## Insulation warning

**T**he Government of Canada wants you to know that a specific type of vermiculite insulation made before 1990 may contain asbestos. There is little risk to health if the insulation is sealed behind walls and in attics, and if you do not touch or move it. Disturbing the insulation may release asbestos fibres into the air and can pose a health risk if you breathe the fibres.

If you think you have vermiculite insulation in your home do not move or touch it. If you have concerns, you can find out what to do by calling toll-free **1 800 443-0395**, contacting your community health centre or nursing station, or visiting Health Canada's website at [www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/insulation](http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/english/insulation).



*Vermiculite insulation should not be moved or touched.*

Photo: Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation

## Jobs for students

**S**tudent employment with the Government of Canada can give you the money you need to stay in school and the skills you need to get a full-time job.

This was Dena Buckshot's experience. As a student, she had a regular summer job working at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada in Gatineau, Quebec.

"It gave me a good job, and new experience working in an office environment," says Dena, who is a member of the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nation in Quebec.



*Dena Buckshot*

Today, Dena has a university degree and a full-time job as a Human Resources Advisor in the federal government.

You can apply online for government jobs at [www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca) on the Internet. Check out the **Federal Student Work Employment Program** and the **Post-Secondary Recruitment Program** (and read about the **Aboriginal University Recruitment Inventory**). You can also call toll-free **1 800 935-5555** to get information about jobs and training for youth.

### Job websites:

[www.jobs.gc.ca](http://www.jobs.gc.ca) • [www.skillnet.ca](http://www.skillnet.ca) • [www.youth.gc.ca](http://www.youth.gc.ca)



## Training for the fishing business

**F**irst Nations people on Canada's east coast are learning new skills and getting jobs in the commercial fishing business.

In 1999, Mi'kmaq and Maliseet communities in the Maritimes and the Gaspé region of Quebec got a bigger role in the East Coast fishery. That was because of the Supreme Court of Canada's *Marshall* decision. This decision gave them access to fishing licences, boats, gear and training.

This decision has led to more than 1,200 First Nations people getting new jobs in the east coast fishery. Also, more than 2,000 people have been trained to work in the business through Government of Canada programs.

To build on this success, the federal government recently started two new training programs. The **At-Sea Mentoring Program** gives First Nations people hands-on experience working on fishing boats. Trainees learn from people who know the fishing business. The **Fisheries Operations Management Program** teaches First Nations people how to run a fishing business.

Fisheries and Oceans Canada has put \$7 million into the two programs. They are working with First Nations to set up the programs in more than 30 communities.

For more information about training opportunities in your area, visit your band office. To learn more about these new programs, visit [www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca](http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca) on the Internet. ■



*Shannon Paul gets hands-on training in the east coast fishing business from mentor Stanley Paul.*

## West Nile virus: Protect yourself this summer

**H**ow can you lower your risk of getting West Nile virus? Try not to get bitten by a mosquito! Wear light-coloured clothing so you don't attract mosquitoes. Use bug spray with DEET or other approved ingredients and carefully follow directions on the label. Try not to spend too much time outside at dawn and dusk, when mosquitoes like to bite. Be sure to wear long sleeves and pants if you are going to places with lots of mosquitoes. Repair holes in screens on doors and in windows. For more information, call toll-free **1 800 816-7292** or visit Health Canada's website at [www.westnilevirus.gc.ca](http://www.westnilevirus.gc.ca).



## Keep those cards and letters coming!

"Very informative. Awesome to read about our people succeeding!"

VANDERHOOF, BRITISH COLUMBIA

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 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

## Partnerships at work

**E**mployers, Aboriginal communities and the Government of Canada are working together to create jobs for First Nations, Métis and Inuit people.

This is thanks to the **Aboriginal Workforce Participation Initiative**, known as AWPI. This federal government program connects employers with local Aboriginal communities to figure out and fill employment needs. They also help employers create a workplace that embraces Aboriginal culture and values.

The result? Employers have more qualified staff to choose from, and Aboriginal people have better chances of getting meaningful jobs. And because AWPI helps employers lower the barriers to Aboriginal people on the job, they will also work in a more positive work environment.

"It's about real jobs and pay cheques for real people," says National Director Rick Hansen.

Hansen has seen the positive results. In Manitoba, 30 Aboriginal people were hired when AWPI helped an employer, the Brandon Regional Health Authority, connect with 18 Aboriginal communities and organizations.

And more good news is on the way. For example, AWPI brought together:

- Michelin North America (Canada) Inc. and Aboriginal communities to create jobs in Nova Scotia.
- the Government of Alberta and businesses to find possible jobs for Aboriginal people across the province.

Find out more by visiting the Internet at **www.awpi.gc.ca**. Employers and Aboriginal communities or associations can contact AWPI by calling **1 819 994-5924** for more information. ■



*Donna Catcheway works in health records at the Brandon Regional Health Authority in Manitoba. Working in partnership with First Nations communities, as well as schools, unions and government, the health authority has hired more than 30 qualified Aboriginal people like Donna.*

## Celebrating National Aboriginal Day!

**A**jingle dancer from the Kehewin dance troupe, Alberta, performs at a National Aboriginal Day celebration on June 21, 2004 at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in Gatineau, Quebec. National Aboriginal Day events are held every year across Canada to celebrate the cultures and contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples in Canada. Find out more on our website at **www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/nad/** or call **1 800 567-9604**.



050609829-K1A0H4-BR21

THE EDITOR UPDATE  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA  
RM 1900  
10 WELLINGTON ST  
GATINEAU QC K1A 9T9



## 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.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/index\_e.html**.

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

**www.ainc-inac.gc.ca**

QS-6172-090-EE-A1

ISSN:1704-4286

© Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada

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

