



# update

WINTER 2005

News of interest to Aboriginal people  
from the Government of Canada

## Growing healthy communities

**C**olin Paul loves helping out at the new community garden at Pictou Landing First Nation in Nova Scotia. This garden provides fresh vegetables for Elders and children in the community, and is tended by a team of dedicated volunteers.

Like its garden, this Mi'kmaq community is growing strong. In the past two years, they have built a gas bar that is creating jobs and income for the community. They built new housing and a water system, and are now building a band office and health centre.

Chief Ann Francis-Muise says the key to their success is good community planning. "It has helped us to better meet our current needs, and plan effectively for future growth," she says.

Developed by and for the First Nation, this plan is a roadmap for healthy community development over the next 20 years. It sets out a shared vision, with specific goals to make that vision a reality.

"Now, we are all working together to achieve a common goal," says Chief Francis-Muise. "I see positive changes in the management of Band affairs, and more community involvement in events, activities and decision-making."

Pictou Landing developed their plan using the **First Nations Community Planning Model**. This model was created by thirteen Atlantic First Nation communities, the Government of Canada and Dalhousie



Photo: Janet Francis

*Eleven-year-old Colin Paul loves helping out at the community garden at Pictou Landing First Nation.*

University. You can read more about this and other resources in the story "Tools for community planning" on page 2. ■

### IN THIS ISSUE

- ♦♦ **Housing solutions you can use** ..... page 2
- ♦♦ **Elders building a safer community** ..... page 3
- ♦♦ **Website offers urban information** ..... page 3
- ♦♦ **New land claim and self-government agreements** .... page 4

## Housing solutions you can use



*You can take a tour, get training or order a free book to learn more about these new homes built by Seabird Island First Nation.*

**N**ew homes at Seabird Island First Nation in British Columbia will provide healthy, affordable housing for generations to come.

They also offer good housing ideas to First Nation and Inuit communities across Canada.

Seabird Island used their own housing crew to build the homes. This created jobs, training and new skills for community members. They used building materials that will resist mould and last for the next 100 years. They also used sources of renewable energy—the earth, wind and sun—to give heat and power to the homes. That means 50-75% savings on energy costs, and better air quality.

The community is a member of the Stó:lō Nation, and the homes reflect their culture and traditions. For example, they are built around a healing herb garden and locally carved totem poles.

"This project has given us a unique opportunity to incorporate our traditions, but in a modern way to meet our housing needs," explains Band Council member Marcie Peters.

Seabird Island First Nation, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and more than 20 businesses worked together to make this project a success.

Find out more about Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's **Non-Profit On-Reserve Housing Program** by calling toll-free **1 800-668-2642**. Or, visit the Internet at [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca). Go to "Shortcuts for..." on the left of your screen and click on "Aboriginal."

Find out about housing programs at **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada** on the Internet at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca). Click on "Programs and Services" and then "Infrastructure and Housing." ■



### Your next step

Your community can take home ideas from the Seabird Island project.

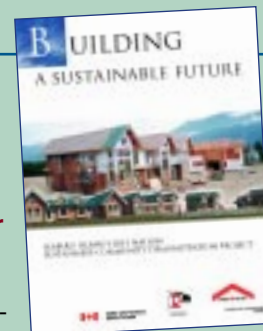
Here's how:

**Order the Seabird Island tour booklet, *Building a Sustainable Future*.**

You can get a free copy by calling toll-free **1 800-668-2642** or visiting our website at [www.cmhc.ca](http://www.cmhc.ca). Go to "In your region" at the top of the page, and choose "B.C. and Yukon" from the menu. Then click on the link to the Seabird Island story.

**Take a tour.** To register for a free tour of the project call toll-free **1 800-668-2642**.

**Arrange a workshop in your community.** Find out about a free, one-day workshop for housing and construction managers, community planners and others who are interested in this project. Call **(613) 748-2592** or send an e-mail to [acroteau@cmhc-schl.gc.ca](mailto:acroteau@cmhc-schl.gc.ca).



### Tools for community planning

Through planning, communities can create a shared vision that leads to better quality of life. Check out these tools designed to support the growth of healthy First Nation and Inuit communities:

**Read *Sharing the Story: Experiences in First Nations, Inuit and Northern Comprehensive Community Planning*.**

This book profiles more than 17 First Nation and Inuit communities. You can order a free copy by calling toll-free **1 800-567-9604**, or read it on the Internet at [www.pwgsc.gc.ca/rps/inac/content/docs\\_governance-e.html](http://www.pwgsc.gc.ca/rps/inac/content/docs_governance-e.html).

**Join the new Internet chat room for communities by communities.** You can share community planning experiences, good ideas and resources at a new online discussion group. To request membership in the group, go to [http://inac-collaboration.pwgsc.gc.ca/ev\\_en.php](http://inac-collaboration.pwgsc.gc.ca/ev_en.php) and click on "Request Account."

**Learn more about the First Nations Community Planning Model.** You can read more about the project—and order a copy of this and other planning tools for a small fee—at the Dalhousie University website. Go to [www.dal.ca/~ceunit/fncp.html](http://www.dal.ca/~ceunit/fncp.html) and click on "publications."





## Building a safer community

Elders and police on the Blood Reserve in Alberta are working together to help build a safer community.

"Personally, in 33 years of policing, I think it is the best thing we have ever done," says Chief of Police Alf Rudd.

The Blood Tribe Police started working with a team of Elders in March 2004. The Elders serve as uniformed "Aisiimohki," or "peacekeeper" officers. Their goal is to prevent crime in a way that preserves traditional Blackfoot values and customs.

The Elders teach the police about the Blackfoot culture, religion and language, and help them respond to some calls in the community. They also counsel those affected by crime—both the accused and the victim. They visit schools to talk to students about substance abuse and participate in youth crime prevention projects.

The Elders bring their wisdom, life skills and knowledge to the job.

"I worked as a counselor in a correctional centre for 13 years. I'm excited to bring my experience to the job," says Elder Eagle Bear.

And they say it's the best job they've ever had.

"Inside my soul it feels good because we are helping our people," says Elder Eagle Child.

This project is funded by **Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness Canada's First Nations Crime Prevention Fund**. Read about more projects on the Internet at [www.psepc.gc.ca/abor\\_policing/crim\\_pre\\_initiatives\\_e.asp](http://www.psepc.gc.ca/abor_policing/crim_pre_initiatives_e.asp). ■

Photo: Sergeant Bob Dunlap



*Peacekeeper officers Elders Eagle Child and Eagle Bear in front of Chief Mountain in Alberta.*

## New governance website

What's new in governance? Find out at a new website that tells you how Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is working with First Nations to improve governance in your communities. You'll also find information on governance pilot projects, photographs and background information. Check it out on the Internet at: [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/lts/fng/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/lts/fng/index_e.html).

## Funding for infrastructure projects

Infrastructure Canada is a Government of Canada department that works to improve the quality of life in rural and urban communities across Canada. That means helping to put into place the basic building blocks of healthy, sustainable communities, like safe roads and drinking water. First Nations communities are partners in this program, and can apply for project funding. Find out more at [www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/hsg/cih/ci/ic/index\\_e.html](http://www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/hsg/cih/ci/ic/index_e.html).

## Keep those cards and letters coming!

"I am very excited and happy to see my brothers and sisters succeeding and sharing their stories. Thank you!"

VERNON, 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 First Nation and Inuit communities 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

## Agreements open doors to prosperity

In November, the members of Kwanlin Dün First Nation voted to accept land claim and self-government agreements that were negotiated with the Government of Canada and Government of Yukon.

Kwanlin Dün First Nation is the largest urban First Nation in the Yukon. Under the agreements, the community will receive about 1,040 square kilometres of settlement land and \$29.19 million in financial compensation. They will also receive a one-time payment of \$5.6 million for economic development, training and education projects.

These agreements give Kwanlin Dün new law-making authority and better tools to manage and protect its land and resources, preserve and enrich its culture and way of life, and enhance the economic growth and well-being of its community.

The First Nation is planning a signing ceremony with the Government of Canada and the Government of Yukon early in 2005.

For more information, check out this website at: [www.kwanlindun.com](http://www.kwanlindun.com).



*Under new agreements, Kwanlin Dün First Nation will own parcels of land in downtown Whitehorse along the banks of the Yukon River.*

Photo: Archbould Photography

## Building a strategy for the North

On December 14, 2004, the Government of Canada and the governments of Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut announced that they will be working together to develop the first government-wide strategy for the North. The Northern Strategy will help guide all four governments to achieve real, positive change for Northerners today and in the future. The strategy will be developed with Aboriginal governments, organizations and Northern residents.



You can learn more about the **Northern Strategy** on the Internet at [www.northernstrategy.ca](http://www.northernstrategy.ca). It includes information in English, French and Inuktituk.

### Do you live in the city? This website is for you!

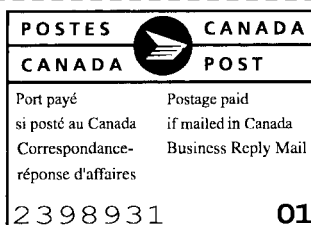
Find information about programs and services in your city at the **Aboriginal Canada Portal**. Their new urban and rural information section has links to programs and services for health, social services, culture, housing and Friendship Centres in cities across Canada.

The Aboriginal Canada Portal gives you one-stop access to information for and about Aboriginal people in Canada. It's also a unique partnership between National Aboriginal organizations and the Government of Canada. Visit us on the Internet at [www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca](http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca), and click on "Urban and Rural Information."



1000009929-K1A0H4-BR01

THE EDITOR UPDATE  
INDIAN AND NORTHERN AFFAIRS CANADA  
RM 1900  
10 WELLINGTON ST  
GATINEAU 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 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](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 at **1 800 465-7735**; or visit [www.canada.gc.ca](http://www.canada.gc.ca) on the Internet.

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

QS-6172-110-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**.

