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News of interest to Aboriginal people
from the Government of Canada

update

SUMMER 2005

Designers bring art and culture to the world

Angela DeMontigny says her passion for fashion started when she was in high school.

"I was sketching dresses and reading fashion magazines all the time," says Angela, who grew up in Vancouver, British Columbia. "I wanted to create beautiful clothing that people could wear every day."

To make her dream a reality, she studied design at college and got hands-on experience working in the fashion industry. She started her own business in 1995, which she has grown with financial support from several sources, including Industry Canada's Aboriginal Business Canada program.

Today, she runs a successful business selling to clients in Canada and around the world. Her designs are popular with entertainers, and she recently dressed the hosts and presenters at the 2005 National Aboriginal Achievement Awards.

Her one-of-a-kind designs reflect her Cree-Métis heritage; her trademarks are hand-painted symbols and hand-beaded accents.

"I try to show the beauty of Aboriginal art and culture by using traditional design elements in a modern way," says Angela, who now lives near Toronto, Ontario.



PHOTO: PAUL TOOGOOD

▲ **Cree-Métis designer
Angela DeMontigny**

Angela is one of a growing number of designers who are carrying on their First Nations, Inuit and Métis traditions through modern fashion.

"As designers, we need to learn and use these traditional skills so they will survive," says Angela.

Now these designers are working together to set up the **Canadian Aboriginal Design Council**. It will support, promote and create opportunities for artisans and designers.

"This is an emerging sector in our economy," says Angela, who is a founding member of the council.

"I try to show the beauty of Aboriginal art and culture by using traditional design elements in a modern way," says Angela DeMontigny.



PHOTO: PAUL TOOGOOD

▲ **Model Janis Lavalee wears a suede dress designed by Angela DeMontigny at the Canadian Aboriginal Design Council fashion show during Toronto Fashion Week in March 2005.**

"We want to create opportunities and expand the international market for Aboriginal design and fashion."

For more information about the Canadian Aboriginal Design Council, e-mail **Angela DeMontigny** at a.demontigny@sympatico.ca or **Carol Outram** at outram@videotron.ca.

If you're looking for **Government of Canada** support to start or expand your business, check out **Services for Aboriginal Businesses** on the Internet at www.sab-sea.gc.ca or call the **Aboriginal Business Service Network** toll-free at 1 877 699-5559. ☎

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Canada



Nunavut computer sites train youth, support business

Survey shows business owners seeing more success

The number of First Nations, Inuit and Métis business owners is growing and they are doing better and better in today's economy. That's backed up by a Statistics Canada study released in 2004 and sponsored by Industry Canada's Aboriginal Business Canada program.

Of the 1,126 business owners who responded to the **Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Survey**:

- 72 per cent made profits in 2002, up 11 per cent from 1996
- two thirds had been running their business for more than five years
- nearly two out of three expected their business to grow in the next two years

You can read the survey results on the Internet at www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca.

From Rankin Inlet to Arctic Bay, people living in Nunavut train and apply for jobs, or start and expand businesses at **Community Access Program** (CAP) sites. These sites give people access to computers and the Internet.

"In many communities, this is the only place people can go to use the Internet," says Darlene Thompson, who is secretary treasurer of the Nunavut Community Access Program.

Every year, there are more than 20,000 visitors to the 19 CAP sites in 15 communities across Nunavut.

"Inuit youth also work as interns at CAP sites to train people on the computers," says Darlene.

In March 2005, the Government of Canada gave new funding to the Nunavut Community Access Program. The money is being used to start two new sites, and to develop existing sites.

This funding is part of \$90 million committed for Northern economic development over five years, which was announced in the 2004 Federal Budget.

Industry Canada started the CAP program in 1994. There are now more than 3,800 CAP sites in rural, remote and urban communities across Canada. To find a CAP site near you, visit cap.ic.gc.ca on the Internet or call toll-free **1 800 575-9200**. 



PHOTO: RON ELLIOT

▲ **Solomon Oyukuluk is gaining job skills as a volunteer at the CAP site in Arctic Bay, Nunavut. Residents use the site to check e-mail, run their businesses and take courses.**

Mohawk incubator nurtures small businesses



▲ **Tracey Deer runs her documentary film company, Mohawk Princess Productions, out of the Kahnawake Business Incubator in Quebec.**

True to its name, the **Kahnawake Business Incubator** helps give birth to and nurture good business ideas.

Launched in April 2004, the incubator provides services to new, multi-media businesses in the Mohawk community of Kahnawake, Quebec. It is run by Tewatohnni'saktha, the Kahnawake Economic Development Commission.

"We focussed on that sector because it is a new and growing field in our community," says Barbara McComber, director of small business services for Tewatohnni'saktha.

As members of the incubator, these businesses have access to state-of-the art computer


equipment, high-speed Internet, subsidized rent, fully furnished office space, and more.

The incubator is in a new three-story business complex. It was funded in partnership with Tewatohnni'saktha, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and Industry Canada's Aboriginal Business Canada program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada:
Toll-free telephone: **1 800 567-9604**

Industry Canada's Aboriginal Business Canada
Website: www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

Kahnawake Business Incubator
Telephone: **1(450)638-4280** 

One-stop shopping for entrepreneurs

You can get the help you need to start or grow your business from the **Aboriginal Business Service Network**. This is a partnership between Aboriginal organizations, and federal and provincial governments.

The goal? To give you one-stop shopping for information about business programs, services and laws—as well as training—in your community.



▲ *Jerry and Gladys Christiansen at the Keethanow Lumber and Furniture Store, in Lac La Ronge, Saskatchewan.*

That's the case in Saskatchewan, where business people can learn the basics of financial management in a new course called Bookkeeping from a Shoebox.

Graduates of the course include the staff at the Keethanow Lumber and Furniture Store, which is owned and operated by the Lac La Ronge Indian Band in Saskatchewan.

"Before my staff completed the course, they knew the basics of entering financial data, but not the reason for doing it," says store manager Jerry Christiansen. "After completing the course they had a clearer understanding of how the information was shared and why accuracy and thoroughness is so important."

If you would like to attend or host a workshop, and you live in Saskatchewan, contact the Canada-Saskatchewan Business Service Centre at **1(306)956-2323** or **1 800 667-4374**.

Find Aboriginal Business Service Network services in your area:

→ call toll-free **1 877 699-5559**

→ visit our website at www.cbsc.org/absn ☎

Programs focus on communities

On April 1, 2005, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada launched the **Community Economic Opportunities Program** and the redesigned **Community Economic Development Program**.

Responding to the needs of communities, and to suggestions of the Auditor General of Canada, these economic development programs will be easier to access and will better serve the diverse needs of First Nations and Inuit communities. For more information, order a copy of the new 2005 Economic Development Program Information guide by calling **1 800 567-9604**. Or, you can find it on the Internet at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ps/ecd/prg/05/index_e.html.



Forestry project breaks ground

The forestry industry, First Nations, the Government of Canada and the Government of New Brunswick are working together to create more than 100 full-time jobs and 500 training opportunities for First Nations people.

In September 2004, they launched the **Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership—New Brunswick**. This is a groundbreaking project that works directly with the forestry industry to find people the right jobs and training.

"We've made the direct connection between First Nations people and the organizations that are doing the hiring," says project coordinator Stephen Ginnish.

Less than a year old, the project is already delivering results. "We now have close to 200 people participating," says Stephen, who is based at Eel Ground First Nation.

Together, all the partners have dedicated more than \$4 million to the project. Federal funding is from the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership and the First Nations Forestry Program.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership—New Brunswick:

Website: www.asepnbn.org

E-mail: asepnbn@nb.ainb.com

Toll-free telephone: **1 866 315-3530**

Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership:

Website: www17.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca

First Nations Forestry Program:

Website: www.fnfp.gc.ca

Toll-free telephone:

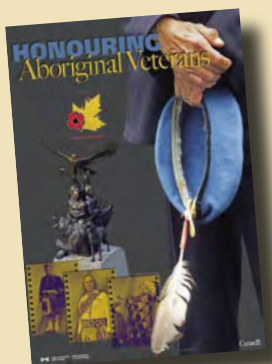
1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232) ☎



▲ *This summer, Krista Sockabasin, from Tobique First Nation in New Brunswick, is gaining hands-on experience at the Canadian Forest Service thanks to the Aboriginal Skills Employment Partnership—New Brunswick. This fall, she's starting her fifth year of forestry at the University of New Brunswick.*

Honouring Aboriginal veterans

The Government of Canada has declared 2005 as the **Year of the Veteran**. Every year is an important year to honour veterans and their service. 2005 is especially meaningful because it marks the 60th anniversary of the end of the Second World War. Indian and Northern Affairs Canada will honour Aboriginal veterans and the sacrifices they have made for Canada. You can find out about special events and download products, like a poster and a pamphlet, at www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/ks.



Calling Home Ceremony in Europe this fall

During the **Year of the Veteran**, First Nations, Inuit and Métis spiritual leaders, veterans and youth will visit battlefields and war cemeteries in Europe. They will take part in ceremonies to call home the spirits of fallen warriors and to honour their fallen comrades.

The overseas ceremonies were planned by Aboriginal veteran's organizations. They are being supported by Veterans Affairs Canada and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

After the Calling Home Ceremony, Aboriginal communities throughout Canada will hold ceremonies to receive the spirits of fallen warriors. For more information, visit www.vac-acc.gc.ca or call toll-free 1 800 443-0394.



Advancing an agenda for change

The May 31 Policy Retreat

in Ottawa was a milestone in the relationship between the Government of Canada and the five national Aboriginal organizations in Canada.

On behalf of the **Government of Canada**, Minister **Andy Scott** signed accords with the leaders of the **Assembly of First Nations**, the **Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami**, the **Métis National Council**, the **Congress of Aboriginal Peoples** and the **Native Women's Association of Canada**.

These accords will help to ensure that First Nations, Inuit and Métis people are

involved in developing policies that directly affect their quality of life, like economic development, health and housing.

This agenda for change was launched at the April 19, 2004 Canada-Aboriginal Peoples Roundtable, and has continued with follow-up meetings over the past year.

The dialogue will continue this fall with the provinces and territories at the First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues.

Learn more about the policy retreat, and the accords, on the Internet at: www.aboriginalroundtable.ca.



1. Minister Andy Scott with Clément Chartier, President, Métis National Council, and Phil Fontaine, National Chief, Assembly of First Nations **2. Jose Kusugak, President, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami** **3. Dwight Dorey, National Chief Congress of Aboriginal Peoples** **4. Prime Minister Paul Martin and Beverley Jacobs, President, Native Women's Association of Canada**

NEW HORIZONS FOR SENIORS:

Funding for community-based projects

A new program is helping First Nations, Inuit and Métis Elders to share their traditional knowledge and skills with others in their community. **New Horizons for Seniors** is a Government of Canada program that offers funding for local projects encouraging seniors to further their leadership roles in their communities.

This year, more than 330 organizations across Canada got funding, including several First Nations and Inuit groups.

In Nunavut, for example, Elders will visit local schools and youth centres to teach traditional skills and language through storytelling, games and songs.

Your organization can apply for funding between **June 1 to September 16, 2005**.

To find out more visit www.sdc.gc.ca.

Click on "Seniors", then "New Horizons for Seniors." Or, you can call **1 800 277-9914**.

UPDATE

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You can read **Update** on the Internet at
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca/pr/pub/upd/index_e.html.

You can subscribe or send your comments to Update using the attached postage-paid reply card, or by:

E-mail: Update@inac.gc.ca

Fax: (819) 953-2305

Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 567-9604 or TTY/TDD: 1 866 553-0554

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E-mail: InfoPubs@ainc-inac.gc.ca

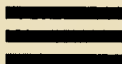
Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 567-9604 or TTY/TDD: 1 866 553-0554

For information on Government of Canada programs and services:

Website: canada.gc.ca

Telephone (toll-free): 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)

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Summer 2005

Keep those
cards and letters
coming!

"As a mother, I feel it is important for my kids to hear positive information about their culture. I want them to be proud of their heritage."

OUTLOOK, SASKATCHEWAN

Thanks to all of you who send us comments. Do you have question or comment? Want to see a story covered? Let us know—your ideas matter!

Fill out the reply card and mail yours in today! Postage is paid.

—*The Editor*