

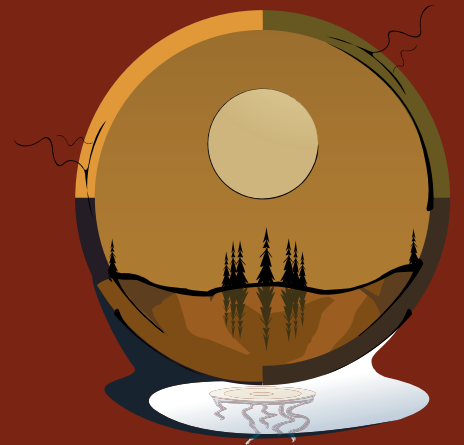


Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires Indiennes
et du Nord Canada

Fall 2007

Indian & Inuit Services



New RDG in the NWT Welcome Trish Merrithew-Mercredi

Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) in the Northwest Territories has a new Regional Director General (RDG). Trish Merrithew-Mercredi (née Duggan) began work on September 4th, 2007. “Even though I have been gone 20 years, I still have family and friends here and consider the North my home and am very pleased to be back,” says Trish. “I have wanted to come home for a long time.”

Born in Toronto, Trish moved to Fort Smith with her family when she was one. They moved to Inuvik when she was about seven and she spent the next 18 years there. After attending the University of Alberta and graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology, Trish returned to the North and worked for Canada Employment and Immigration for about three years in Inuvik and Yellowknife before moving into consulting. She spent close to three years with an international consulting firm, ARA Consultants, in Yellowknife, concentrating on program evaluation and human resources and community development, before transferring with the firm to Ottawa. During this time, Trish was primarily involved with First Nation and Aboriginal community development and health, and increasingly focused on addiction issues. As a private health and addiction consultant, she then moved to Vancouver and Edmonton and worked for the Nechi Institute in Edmonton over a period of years.

When her late husband, Tony Mercredi, Grand Chief of the Grand Council of Treaty 8 First Nations, was elected chief of the Athabasca Chipewyan First Nation in Fort Chipewyan, they lived there for the next fourteen years. During those years Trish was the CEO of the Nunee Health Authority and then became the CEO of the Mikisew Cree First Nation and its group of companies.

In January 2003 she returned to the federal government as a regional director for First Nation and Inuit Health, Health Canada, Saskatchewan Region. Her familiarity with many of the issues, the North and its people, will help her fulfill “the important role that INAC plays in working with First Nations, Aboriginal people and Northerners and building relationships.” She and her son Edmund are now getting settled in Yellowknife.

“I’m looking forward to visiting the communities, getting a sense of what is going on and renewing old acquaintances,” states Trish. “I want to communicate directly with people in the communities so we can get to know each other.” The RDG has issued an open invitation to stop in for a visit if you are ever in Yellowknife.



Canada

New Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada

In the recent cabinet shuffle, Chuck Strahl, Member of Parliament for Chilliwack-Fraser Canyon (British Columbia) was appointed the new Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians. The former Minister, Jim Prentice, moved to Industry Canada, but still retains responsibility for pipelines.



Chuck Strahl was first elected to Parliament in 1993 and was re-elected in 1997, 2000, 2004 and 2006. He served as the Official Opposition House Leader for the Canadian Alliance from January 2000 until April 2001. From February 2006 to August 2007, he served as Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food and Minister for the Canadian Wheat Board. Prior to becoming Deputy Speaker in 2004, Mr. Strahl was Critic of a variety of portfolios and also served as Deputy Caucus Coordinator and Chief Whip of the Official Opposition.

What is Governance?

Governance is the administrative and process-oriented structures, such as a constitution, by-laws, resolutions, policies and procedures, and other laws of general application used by the chief and council to direct and manage band business. Governance is about developing, implementing and managing consistent, cohesive policies, processes and decision-making procedures. For example, managing at the chief and council level might include developing standard working hours and job performance measures and determining economic development opportunities for the band.

The chief and council, as the governing body, set the direction for the band and ensure that band business is conducted in a responsible manner. They meet this obligation by considering the values, needs and input of the community, ensuring the community assets, including land, buildings, equipment and money are enhanced and protected, and making sure that programs and services are accessible and practical.

An important part of corporate governance is the relationships among the many players involved; band employees, community members, other governments, partners and suppliers. Policies and procedures that are clear and that have been explained to staff, community members and other interested parties can help define roles and responsibilities, increase shared understanding of expectations and foster accountability. Good governance helps to create stable, sustainable and self-sufficient organizations.

Field Services offers the following presentations: Roles and Responsibilities of Chief and Council, Introduction to Governance, and Financial Management Orientation.

To request a meeting, please contact Mike Roesch at (867) 669-2548 or Graham Baptiste at (867) 669-2629 or call toll free at 1-888-414-4340.



Introduction to Governance presentation in Wrigley, July 2007

Governance Workshop

October 16, 2007

Yellowknife, NT

INAC staff from the Governance Branch at headquarters in Ottawa held a one day session on governance issues. The workshop focused on the development and purpose of election codes.

Representatives from 10 bands throughout the NWT were invited to this first workshop. Other bands will be invited to future workshops which will be scheduled in the Spring

IIS-GO!

Providing more hands-on client service

IIS-GO! is a new approach to building relationships with you – the client. We are changing the way we do business by working together, providing hands-on client service and meeting face-to-face more often.

IIS-GO! focuses on working with communities to determine needs and priorities, identifying short and long-term goals, and developing and implementing a plan in order to achieve the goals. IIS-GO! is intended to streamline internal processes and to ensure activities and programs are co-ordinated. Our goal is to deliver programs that make a difference.

If your community would like staff from I&IS to visit, please contact Field Services Officers Mike Roesch, (867) 669-2548, Graham Baptiste, (867) 669-2629 or call toll free at 1-888-414-4340 to discuss the topic of the meeting and possible dates.

Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC)

Aboriginal Business Canada (ABC), previously part of Industry Canada, was merged with the Economic Development Division, Indian and Inuit Services Directorate at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) on December 1, 2006.

This change provided a more unified approach to support Aboriginal economic development and makes it easier for First Nations, Métis and Inuit to take advantage of a wide range of programs directed at Aboriginal business development. Emphasis is placed on innovation, trade, market expansion, tourism, youth entrepreneurship development and strengthening Aboriginal financial and business development organizations.

Depending on the nature of the project, ABC may be able to provide funding to assist with a range of activities including business planning, start-up, marketing and expansion. Before ABC can consider supporting the proposed venture, the entrepreneur or organization must be able to demonstrate the following: Aboriginal ancestry, equity to invest (minimum of 15% cash equity), experience and key viability factors such as financing, marketing plans, management and operational capacity.

For more information about ABC please contact Patrick Crozier at (867) 669-2624 or toll free at 1-888-414-4340. You can also visit the website at <http://ainc-inac.gc.ca/eac-abc>.

Inuvik Petroleum Show



L to R - Maurice Evans, Barry Robb, Ernie Carmichael, Joe Handley, Nellie Cournoyea, Patrick Crozier, Fred Carmichael, Miki O'Kane.

Governments and organizations that provided funding toward Aurora College's purchase of three underground mining training simulators were recognized at the Inuvik Petroleum Show in June.

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Published under the authority of the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and Federal Interlocutor for Métis and Non-Status Indians,
Ottawa, 2007 www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

1-800-567-9604 TTY only 1-866-553-0554

Print version: QS-Y290-001-EE-A1 ISSN:1916-0836

Online version: QS-Y290-001-EE-A1 ISSN:1916-0844

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Cette publication est aussi disponible en français sous le titre : Bulletin sur les Services aux Autochtones et aux Inuits, Automne 2007