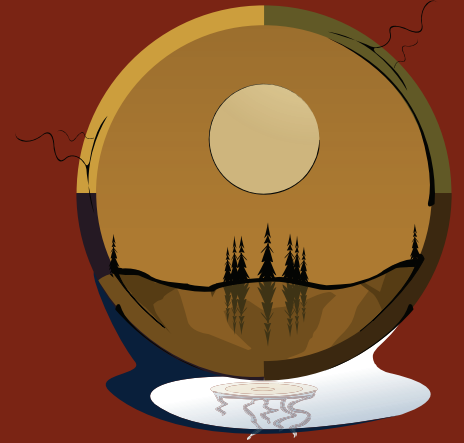




Indian & Inuit Services



Aboriginal Leaders Series

INAC has launched an Aboriginal Leaders' Series to help INAC employees better understand and appreciate the needs of their Aboriginal clients and partners.

The Series gives Aboriginal leaders the opportunity to share their perspectives and knowledge with INAC staff members. It provides a forum for community leaders, decision-makers and INAC staff to discuss issues in an open, honest, and interactive environment.

The initiative was launched in response to the Day of Action on June 29, 2007 - a day dedicated to raising the awareness of First Nations' issues. Speaking to INAC employees, Regional Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, Bill Erasmus, discussed how important it is for INAC staff to have a thorough understanding of these issues and their relation to resource development, environmental protection and community well-being.

In October, John B. Zoe, Executive Officer for the Tli Cho Government, spoke about the traditions of the Tli Cho people, including the oral sharing of their history and stories. He also discussed the new



Lutsel K'e, courtesy of Donna Schreiner

governance structure of the Tli Cho Nation and the impacts of the Tli Cho Agreement which came into effect in 2005.

In a panel discussion in December, participants Janice Anderson from Lutsel K'e, Greg Nyuli from Fort Providence, and Knute Hansen from Aklavik, spoke about the challenges they face as band managers, including the lack of financial and human resources. They also spoke about their expectations of INAC including courtesy and professionalism in written and oral communications, and consistency in the delivery of programs and services. They expressed their belief that more

community visits will help INAC staff to better understand the realities of daily life for their Aboriginal clients.

Further sessions are being planned. If you have any ideas or suggestions, please contact George Cleary, Director, Indian and Inuit Services.



Band Audit Tips and Information

The fiscal year end for all Northwest Territories bands and Tribal Councils is March 31st, 2008. Audited financial statements are due to I&S' Field Services Division by July 29th, 2008. Late submission of audits can result in a delay or halt to funding.

Indian and Inuit Services recognizes the hard work, time and money that goes into the audit preparation process. To help with the process, Field Services is preparing a best practices guide on audit preparation that will be available in March 2008. Here are five tips from the guide to improve the audit process.

1. Planning Activities:

Explore options for preparing and auditing the financial statements; identify potential problems; and implement lessons learned from the prior year's audit.

Planning meetings should start early in the process and be attended by the auditor and community staff members. On-going communications throughout the whole audit process should be encouraged.

2. Developing the Financial Statement and Audit Schedule:

Document the councils' and auditors' common understanding and commitment to complete the audit: this provides accountability so progress can be measured.



Detailed targets provide a blueprint for the timely preparation and audit of financial statements and other required documentation including: the development of a scope of work agreement between council and the auditor which clearly outlines how, when and what (the deliverables) the auditor will provide to council in exchange for the audit fee.

The audit fee and deliverables should be negotiated before the audit begins to avoid delays, unexpected costs, and ensure proper presentation.

3. Managing Staffing Changes:

Minimize difficulties associated with the change in audit staff, and/or changes in band staff.

Key staff changes should be communicated to the auditor as soon as possible. While turnover

in staff is normal, it is important that everyone is familiar with the key people involved in the audit.

4. Holding Regular Progress Updates:

This allows band personnel an opportunity to clarify the importance and status of potential issues.

Regular updates should be part of the continuous communication practices during the audit process.

5. Reporting:

Allow time for the appropriate people to review and respond to the report(s) and for the auditors to incorporate comments.

Frequent and honest communication and coordination during the reporting process are key to achieving a successful conclusion to the audit.



Treaty Payments 2008

IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT PICKING UP TREATY PAYMENTS

All community members aged 16 and older, will require two pieces of government issued identification (ID) to pick up their treaty payment. If you are collecting the payment for children under 16, one piece of the child's ID is required, and the name on the ID must match the name on the Indian Registry. An adult cannot pick up money for another adult. Acceptable pieces of ID include:

- birth certificate
- old status card (an expired one is okay)
- driver's license
- passport
- employee identification card
- student identification card
- Firearms Acquisition Certificate
- NWT general identification card

The name on the pieces of identification **MUST** match the name on the Indian Registry.

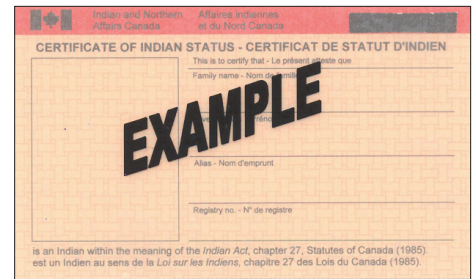
Note: The introduction of new status cards (plastic 'credit card' kind) has been delayed so INAC staff will be taking photos for the 'paper' status cards this year.

OTHER REASONS YOU NEED ID

- To get on an airplane when going down south or returning home from Yellowknife after having medical treatment.

Some community members have been sent to Yellowknife for medical treatments. When flying out of the community to Yellowknife, people are often being allowed on the plane with inappropriate identification and when they try to get back on the plane here in Yellowknife to return home, they don't have the right ID. So, remember to always carry your ID.

- To apply for the Common Experience payment (residential school settlement). Proper ID is required to apply. Please make sure you have it.



Staff from Indian and Inuit Services will be starting to visit the regions for Treaty Annuity Payments in early spring. While the dates have not been finalized, payments in the Beaufort Delta will be some time in April. Treaty payments to other communities in the NWT will occur in June and July. When the schedule is finalized, it will be sent to the band manager who will post it in the band office.

The purpose of this newsletter is to keep you informed about INAC and I&IS activities. We would like to know what kind of articles and stories you would like to see, or on what topics you would like more information. If you have any comments, suggestions or ideas for the newsletter, please let us know.

I&S Success Stories

The first issue of the I&S Success Stories was produced in January 2008. This booklet will come out twice a year – in the summer and the winter. The purpose is to highlight individual, group and community achievements and successes and to share positive stories and information with everyone in the NWT.

The stories focus on projects, activities, programs and initiatives that have received INAC funding or support. The stories illustrate a variety of positive contributions Aboriginal people and Northerners are making throughout the NWT.

In the Winter 2007-08 issue, the stories cover topics such as governance, economic development,



partnerships, co-operation and creative thinking. The articles demonstrate the many ways people are making a difference in their own lives as well in the lives of others, and how communities and individuals are benefiting.

Copies of the “magazine” have been sent to all First Nation band, tribal, and district offices. Industry

and project partners, INAC staff, funding partners, as well as other federal, territorial and municipal governments have also received copies.

If you have a success story or idea linked to the Department’s goals and priorities such as governance, people, economy, education, economic development or anything else you would like to share, please contact George Cleary, Director, Indian and Inuit Services.



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