



Services *for* First Nations People



*A Government
of Canada Guide*



Government
of Canada

Gouvernement
du Canada

Canada 

Published under the authority of the
Minister of Indian Affairs and
Northern Development
Ottawa, 2002
www.ainc-inac.gc.ca

QS-6179-000-BB-A1
Catalogue No. R2-229/2002
ISBN 0-662-66842-1

© Minister of Public Works and Government Services Canada

*Photographs : Cover, pages 3, 5, 10, 14, 19, 39, 42, Oscar Kistabish.
Page 26, ICEM. Page 29, Jacques Vincent. Page 33, Raoul Flamand.*

Services for **First Nations People**

INTRODUCTION

The Government of Canada offers a variety of programs and services for First Nations people. *Services for First Nations People: A Government of Canada Guide* describes many of these services and how to access them.

Services and programs cover many areas, from employment and the environment to health and education. All are available to individual First Nations people living on reserves. Many are also available to all Aboriginal people, including Métis, Inuit and First Nations people who live off reserves.

The Government of Canada Budget 2003 builds on many of these programs with more funding to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people.

Many services are funded by the Government of Canada, but delivered by band or tribal councils. Contact your council office to find out more about these services. All other service descriptions in this guide provide contact information.

HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

Programs are shown in **bold**.

Toll-free telephone numbers and Web site and mailing addresses are provided with each service description.

If no toll-free number is given, call 1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232), (TTY: 1 800 465-7735), Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time to speak to a friendly bilingual person.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Children, Youth and Education	5
2. Jobs and Training	10
3. Business Services and Economic Development ...	14
4. Health and Well-Being	19
5. Housing	26
6. Land and Environment	29
7. Arts and Culture	33
8. Justice, Legal Issues and Taxation	38
9. Other Resources and Publications	41

CHILDREN, YOUTH AND EDUCATION



For preschool children

The **Aboriginal Head Start** program provides support for preschool children and their parents. If you're a parent, you can take courses to develop your parenting skills and confidence. Your children can learn about healthy eating, active living, and Aboriginal cultural practices and languages. The program is available to families in urban areas, northern communities or on reserves.

1 866 225-0709 (toll-free)

www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni and click on *Community Programs*, then select *First Nations Head Start on Reserve* from *Programs and Projects*.

Child care while you work or learn

Parents who want to work or take training often need child care services. The **First Nations/Inuit Child Care Initiative** provides more than 7,000 child care spaces in 390 First Nations and Inuit communities. To find out more, contact your band council, band administrator or a Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) office near you.

www.hrdc.gc.ca/aro and click on *Child Care*.

Family services to meet children's needs

The **First Nations Child and Family Services Program** provides culturally sensitive child and family services. For more information about services in your community, contact your band administrator.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.ainc-inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services* then *Social Services*.

Get help paying your education costs

Children who live on reserves and attend an elementary or secondary school on a reserve can have their education costs covered by the **Elementary/Secondary Education Program**. Costs may also be covered if your child attends a provincial or territorial public school. Contact your band office to see how to apply for funding.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then click on *Education*.

Opportunities for youth

Programs for young people (15-30) under the Government of Canada's **Youth Employment Strategy (YES)** can offer you opportunities for the work experience, knowledge, skills and information that you need to succeed in the workplace. To find out about the wide variety of programs and services offered, call the Youth Info Line.

1 800 935-5555

TTY: 1 800 465-7735

www.youth.gc.ca and click on *Youth Programs*.

Financial support for your higher education

If you are an Aboriginal student, you may be able to get financial support for tuition, books and other education costs. Every year, the **Post-Secondary Education Program** gives more than 26,000 First Nations students money they need to attend universities, colleges or other recognized post-secondary institutions.

There are also hundreds of scholarships, bursaries and awards available to all Aboriginal students.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then click on *Education*. Also go to *Scholarships, Bursaries and Awards Guide for Aboriginal Students* and check out the E-Directory.

Get a summer job with the government

You may be able to get one of 8,000 summer jobs the Government of Canada offers every year. The **Aboriginal Summer Students Program** provides an opportunity to earn while you gain valuable work experience. You're eligible if you're a full-time secondary school student, or enrolled at a CEGEP, college, technical school or university.

1 800 O-Canada

www.jobs.gc.ca/fswep-pfete and click on *Student's Guide*, then click on *Departmental Programs*.

Be a Canadian Ranger

If you're aged 12 to 18 and live in a remote or isolated community, you can become a **Junior Canadian Ranger**. You'll learn traditional skills, go on outdoor adventures and learn about first aid, military drills, and how to use maps and compasses.

If you are 17 years or older, you can serve part time in the Canadian Forces as a **Canadian Ranger**. Canadian Rangers provide a military presence in northern, coastal and isolated areas of Canada.

1 800 856-8488

www.rangers.forces.gc.ca

Enjoy the benefits of the Internet

Help your school get on-line with the support of **First Nations SchoolNet** and your local Regional Management Organization (RMO). The program, delivered regionally by six Aboriginal RMOs across Canada, provides Internet connections, equipment and technical support to First Nations schools under federal jurisdiction.

1 800 575-9200

www.schoolnet.ca/aboriginal

E-mail: fns-pnr@ic.gc.ca

Or write to:

SchoolNet

155 Queen Street, 4th Floor

Ottawa, ON K1A 0H5

Enjoy a challenging summer job

Develop self-confidence, learn about teamwork and improve your physical fitness by joining the Canadian Forces' **Bold Eagle** training and employment program. Your summer job offers outdoor activities to help you learn new skills. The Bold Eagle program is available to First Nations youth living in western Canada or northwestern Ontario.

1 800 856-8488

www.recruiting.forces.gc.ca

and click on *News & Events*.



JOBS AND TRAINING

On-line tool for employees and employers

SkillNet, a network of career and recruitment Web sites, has developed a service called **CareerPlace** that helps Aboriginal job seekers, and employers looking for Aboriginal employees. Job seekers can post their résumés on-line for potential employers to look at and can apply on-line to many exciting employment opportunities from businesses across Canada.

www.skillnet.ca and click on **CareerPLACE**.

A career in health

Thinking about a career in health? Health Canada's **Indian and Inuit Health Careers Program** can help. The program provides:

- community-based programs for Aboriginal youth interested in health-related post-secondary education
- financial support in the form of bursaries for post-secondary students in the health field (The bursaries are managed by the National Aboriginal Achievement Foundation.)

1 866 225-0709 (toll free)
www.naaf.ca

Interested in working for the Government of Canada?

Canada's federal public service is always interested in hiring Aboriginal people. To see what's available, check the *Jobs Open to the Public* Web site. It lists jobs across Canada by field and region. The site can also link you to information on the following:

- post-secondary recruitment
- information technology recruitment
- the Federal Student Work Experience Program
- the Co-op/Internship Program

1 800 645-5605
www.jobs.gc.ca

A force for the future

Experience military life before deciding if a career in the Canadian Forces is for you. The **Canadian Forces Aboriginal Entry Program** allows you to sample military life without having to join. The program reflects the unique experiences and concerns of Aboriginal people.

1 800 856-8488
www.recruiting.forces.gc.ca and click on **Links**.

Check out a career with the RCMP

Here's your chance to find out if you're cut out for a career in the RCMP. Through the **Aboriginal Cadet Development Program**, you can take a three-week course at the RCMP Training Academy in Regina. Your local RCMP detachment can provide more information.

www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then on *Contract Policing Services*. Select *Aboriginal Policing*.

Land management and preservation

If you want a job involving land management and preservation of lands under the *Indian Act*, consider these Government of Canada training programs.

- **Land Management Training Program:** This program provides instruction on how to administer reserve land under Lands and Trust Services. The initiative is open to First Nations people living on reserves.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then click on *Lands and Trust Services*.

- **Aboriginal Park Officer Training Program:** This program teaches the skills needed to get a job as a park officer with Parks Canada.

1 866 811-0055 (toll free)

www.parkscanada.gc.ca and click on *Jobs @ Parks Canada*.

Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy

If you need a job or want to upgrade your skills, the **Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy** can help. Aboriginal Human Resources Development Agreement (AHRDA) holders in First Nations across Canada have programs to help you get the skills and experience you need. To find out more, contact your AHRDA holder, band administrator or band council, or contact your nearest Human Resources Development Canada (HRDC) office.

www.hrhc-drhc.gc.ca/aro and click on *AHRDA Locations*.



BUSINESS SERVICES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Is your future in running a business?

Industry Canada's **Aboriginal Business Canada** program may be able to help you. If you are an Aboriginal entrepreneur or plan to become one, financial support, business development advice, information and other resources are available. To access funding, business planning is required. You must also have equity to invest and other commercial financing.

Aboriginal Business Canada has helped over 7,300 First Nations, Métis and Inuit individuals and organizations meet their business goals. Join this growing number and create your own future.

1 877 699-5559 (toll-free)
www.abc-eac.ic.gc.ca

A business support network

The **Aboriginal Business Service Network** provides Aboriginal entrepreneurs with access to business programs, services and regulations, in urban, rural and remote settings. Business information experts will point you to resources that help develop your business ideas and explain how to access these programs.

1 877 699-5559 (toll-free)
TTY: 1 800 457-8466
www.cbsc.org/absn

Bank offers wide range of services

The **Business Development Bank of Canada** supports Aboriginal entrepreneurs. Services can help you to:

- start or expand a business
- strengthen your management skills
- increase exports
- introduce quality systems into your business

1 888 INFO-BDC (463-6232) (toll-free)
www.bdc.ca and click on *Aboriginal Entrepreneur*.

Matching funds available

If you're starting a business, you may be able to receive matching funds or financing for your debt. Government of Canada **Business Equity Programs** support First Nations and Inuit businesses.

- The **Opportunity Fund** and the **Resource Acquisition Initiative**: These programs offer financial support of up to \$500,000 to new or expanding businesses. The Resource Acquisition Initiative focuses on resource-sector businesses.
- **Major Business Projects Program**: This program supports new or expanding businesses where the applicant is seeking equity support over \$500,000, to a maximum of \$3 million.

Contact your local Community Economic Development Organization.

There are many more programs to support economic development. You can gain access to capital, skills and experience, lands and resources, markets and business partners. For more information, ask for *Indian and Northern Affairs Canada: Economic Development Program Information*.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services* and select *Economic Development*, then *Programs and Strategies*.

Doing business with the Government of Canada

The **Procurement Strategy for Aboriginal Business** helps Aboriginal firms do more contracting with government departments and agencies. Contracts worth more than \$5,000 that primarily serve Aboriginal people are open only to qualified Aboriginal businesses. Under the Procurement Strategy, Aboriginal businesses are also encouraged to bid on federal contracts that are open to all qualified suppliers.

1 800 400-7677

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

<http://saea-psab.ainc-inac.gc.ca>

The information you need to get started

Seminars are available to show your company how to do business with the Government of Canada.

www.contractscanada.gc.ca and click on *Seminars*.

Access world markets

Interested in taking your products and services to the world? Find the information and support you need at the **Aboriginal Planet Business Centre** Web site. This site has information on exporting for small- and medium-sized businesses. You'll also find the *Aboriginal Exporters Directory*.

www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/aboriginalplanet/ and click on *Business Centre*.

What you need to know about global markets

Want to know more about what's involved in doing business outside of Canada? Team Canada Inc provides a full range of export services and information to help your company make the right decisions.

1 888 811-1119 (toll-free)
www.exportsource.ca

Opening up global markets

Competing in global markets can be exciting and rewarding. Get the help you need to get started from the **Arts and Cultural Industries Promotion Division**. Run by the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the program offers support in the areas of export development, trade promotion and marketing.

1 888 757-7752 (toll-free)
www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/arts/

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



Community-based health programs

All Canadians can access medical services through their provincial or territorial health insurance plan. If you're a First Nations person living on a reserve, you can also access community-based health programs and services. Many of these are delivered locally by First Nations organizations. Contact your local health centre or band office for more information.

- **National Child Benefit First Nations Reinvestment:** Provides communities with resources to design and implement programs and services that help low-income families with children.
- **Family Violence Prevention Program:** Provides operational funding to shelters located in First Nations communities. This program also funds community-based family violence prevention programs that aim to prevent incidents of family violence on reserves.
- **Canada Pre-natal Nutrition Program:** Offers counselling, food supplements and breastfeeding support to women living on reserves or in a recognized Inuit community. You must be pregnant or have a child under the age of one to be eligible.
- **Dental Therapy and Oral Health Promotion Program:** Provides treatment and education in communities where dental services are hard to find.

- **Aboriginal Diabetes Initiative:**
Provides support to help prevent and control diabetes among Aboriginal people. The initiative provides access to care and treatment, prevention and promotion, and lifestyle support services for First Nations living on reserves and Inuit living in recognized Inuit communities. It also funds primary prevention programs for Métis, off-reserve Aboriginal and urban Inuit groups.
- **First Nations Environmental Health Program:**
Provides information to First Nations communities on the quality of air, soil, food and drinking water. The program also deals with waste, pests, communicable diseases and mould in houses.

Health Canada also provides services and programs in the following areas.

- **Help for seniors:**
Aboriginal seniors and people with health problems or disabilities can get the help they need to maintain their independence. Support includes homemaker services and care in institutions.
- **Information about infectious disease:**
Health Canada assists First Nations communities in the prevention of the spread of infectious diseases. These include tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis C and sexually transmitted diseases. Services focus on prevention, care, treatment and support, and program co-ordination.

- **Home and community care services:**
You can receive basic home and community care through the **First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Program**. The program is open to First Nations people living on reserves and Inuit living in recognized Inuit communities. Ask your local health centre about services in your community.
- **You may be eligible for medical services:**
Health Canada's **Non-insured Health Benefits Program** provides medical goods and services to supplement benefits provided through private, provincial, territorial or federal health insurance plans. If you're a registered Indian, a recognized Inuit or Innu, you may be eligible for the following benefits:
 - drugs
 - dental care
 - eye care
 - medical supplies and equipment
 - medical transportation
 - crisis intervention counselling

1 866 225-0709 (toll-free)
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni

Service reduces cost of food delivery to isolated communities

Many isolated First Nations and Inuit communities can't be reached year-round, by road, rail or marine service. That can make it difficult for residents to buy affordable healthy food like fruits, vegetables, bread, milk and eggs. Anyone, including retailers and individuals, can receive Food Mail if suppliers in the south have a Food Mail account with Canada Post. People benefit by shopping at local stores that use the **Food Mail Program**.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca/ps/nap/air/inf_e.html

E-mail: foodmail@inac.gc.ca

Community can help meet basic needs

The **Social Assistance Program** enables First Nations communities to help provide food, shelter and clothing to those in need. Ask your band administration office for more information or contact your regional Indian and Northern Affairs Canada office.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553 0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then select *Social Assistance*.

Help for abuse victims

Indian Residential Schools Resolution Canada resolves residential school claims in a fair, safe and timely manner. The department works with Aboriginal people and organizations, churches and federal departments to promote healing and reconciliation. The department hopes to build healthier communities and to educate Canadians about the lasting effects of abuse in Indian residential schools.

1 800 O-Canada

www.irsr-rqpi.gc.ca

Training in the area of substance abuse

The **Aboriginal Shield Program** offers education on substance abuse to Aboriginal communities. The program assists Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal police officers as well as community leaders, health care workers, teachers and youth leaders. For more information, call your local RCMP detachment.

You can help prevent suicides

White Stone, the Aboriginal Suicide Prevention Program teaches young adults and community caregivers how they can help prevent suicides. If you're between 18 and 25, you will learn how to help prevent suicide among youth in your community. Participants are selected by Aboriginal community leaders and elders. Call your local RCMP detachment for more information.

Veterans entitled to benefits

As a war veteran or a civilian with theatre-of-war experience, you or your family may be entitled to certain services and benefits. Benefits are available to serving or former members of the RCMP or Canadian Forces (regular or reserve). Support includes:

- financial help through the **War Veterans Allowance Program**
- home and community care through the **Veterans Independence Program**
- a tax-free disability pension

If you are receiving a disability pension, you may also qualify for health care benefits. For more information, contact the Veterans Affairs Canada district office nearest you.

www.vac-acc.gc.ca

or write to:

Veterans Affairs Canada
P.O. Box 7700
Charlottetown, PE C1A 8M9

Benefits for those injured in service

Help is available to former and still serving members of the Canadian Forces (regular or reserve) who suffer an injury related to their service. To access the benefits and services you need, you can visit or call your local district office or call the **VAC/DND Centre for the Support of Injured Members and Their Families**.

1 800 883-6094

www.dnd.ca/hr/thecentre

Assistance Service

Former Canadian military veterans and their families can receive professional counselling from a network of 600 counsellors across the country. More information on this voluntary and confidential service is available.

1 800 268-7708

TTY: 1 800 567-5803



HOUSING

At home with energy efficiency

Interested in building houses that save energy and protect the environment? The **R-2000 Home Standard Certification Program** will help you get started. The program is open to those who buy, design or build homes. Aboriginal housing authorities and tribal councils can also participate.

1 800 387-2000

www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/r-2000

Becoming more energy efficient

Make sure commercial, institutional and residential buildings in your community are built to save energy. Contact the **Commercial Building Incentive Program** to see if your community is eligible for funding.

1 877 360-5500 (toll-free)
www.oee.nrcan.gc.ca/cbip

Loans for rental housing

The **On-Reserve Non-profit Housing Program** provides loans and subsidies to band councils to build on-reserve rental housing. For more information contact your local Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation office listed under “housing” in the blue pages of your local telephone book.

Financing for on-reserve housing

Assistance is available to First Nations people and band councils on reserves to buy or renovate single-family homes or multi-family rental properties. The **Loan Insurance Program**, which is available on reserves, will help you get financing from approved lenders. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) program provides loan insurance to banks, Aboriginal capital corporations and credit unions. Contact your local CMHC office.

1 800 668-2642

www.cmhc.ca and click on *Programs & financial assistance*, then click on *Aboriginal Housing*.

Loans to repair housing

Loans, a portion of which may be forgiven, are available to band councils and band members who want to repair homes on reserves. The **On-Reserve Residential Rehabilitation Assistance Program** provides financing to make sure houses meet health and safety requirements. Loans are also available to those who want to improve access for persons with disabilities. Improvements include outdoor ramps, non-slip surfaces and handrails. Contact your local Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation office.

Making homes safe for seniors

The **Home Adaptations for Seniors Independence Program** wants to make it easier for seniors to continue living in their own homes. If you're a First Nations senior citizen living on a reserve, you may be eligible for non-repayable financing up to \$2,500. Contact your local Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation office.

1 800 668-2642

www.cmhc.ca and click on *Programs & financial assistance*, then click on *Aboriginal Housing*.

LAND AND ENVIRONMENT



A role in Canada's forest industry

There are many opportunities for First Nations people on reserves to take part in Canada's forestry sector. The **First Nation Forestry Program** helps First Nations find co-operative ways to finance forestry development. The program also supports projects that contribute to sustainable forest management and forest protection.

1 800 O-Canada
www.fnfp.gc.ca

Co-operating on fishing

The **Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy** works to ensure that the Aboriginal fishery is managed effectively and co-operatively. Fisheries and Oceans Canada applies the strategy where the department manages the fishery and no comprehensive claim is in place. Under the strategy, the department negotiates agreements and provides related project funding.

1 866 266-6603 (toll-free)

www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca and click on *Fisheries Management*, then click on *Aboriginal Fisheries Strategy*.

Access to commercial fisheries in the Atlantic

The **Marshall Response Initiative** was established following the Marshall decision. Under the initiative, Fisheries and Oceans Canada has been negotiating fisheries agreements with the Mi'Kmaq and Maliseet First Nations in the Maritimes and Gaspé region of Quebec, who are potentially affected by the decision. Fisheries and Oceans Canada continues to work with Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal fishers and fishing communities to implement this initiative.

1 866 266-6603 (toll-free)
www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca and click
on *The Marshall Response Initiative*.

Save energy in development projects

Make sure development projects in your community use technologies that save energy and protect the environment. The **Aboriginal and Northern Climate Change Program** helps Aboriginal people and northern residents reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

1 800 387-2000
[www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/
action_plan/na_b15.shtml](http://www.climatechange.gc.ca/english/action_plan/na_b15.shtml)

Support for environmental projects

If your community wants to research factors of concern that may be harmful to the environment, contact Health Canada's **National First Nations Environmental Contaminants Program**. The program looks at issues from both national and regional perspectives.

1 800 225-0709
www.hc-sc.gc.ca/fnihb-dgspni

Making land use decisions

Geoscience, the study of the Earth, is helping northern Aboriginal communities make the right decisions about land use. The **Geological Survey of Canada** supports economic development in those communities by focusing on environmental and public safety issues.

1 800 O-Canada
www.nrcan.gc.ca/gsc/outreach_e.html

Mapping technologies

Aboriginal, northern, rural and coastal communities want to make good decisions about sustainable development. The **Sustainable Communities Initiative** offers training and support in modern mapping technologies such as geomatics and geographical information systems.

1 877 469-3724 (toll-free)
www.sci.gc.ca

Protecting our heritage

Aboriginal peoples work with Parks Canada to identify and protect examples of Canada's natural and cultural heritage. Agreements between Aboriginal peoples and Parks Canada have led to the creation of **national parks and national historic sites** across Canada and should also lead in the near future to the creation of national marine conservation areas. These protected places preserve our diverse heritage and make it possible for Aboriginal people to continue their cultural practices. Contact Parks Canada for information on how to participate in one of these partnership programs.

1 866 811-0055 (toll free)
www.parkscanada.gc.ca

ARTS AND CULTURE



Support for Aboriginal artists

The **Canada Council for the Arts** offers programs to help artists create and present their work. All Canada Council programs are available to Aboriginal artists and non-profit arts organizations. The following council programs are open only to Aboriginal artists and arts organizations:

- Support to Aboriginal Peoples Dance Organizations and Collectives
- Aboriginal Media Arts Program
- Aboriginal Peoples Music Program
- Developmental Support to Aboriginal Theatre Organizations
- Assistance to Aboriginal Curators for Residencies in the Visual Arts
- Grants to Aboriginal Writers, Storytellers and Publishers
- Aboriginal Peoples Collaborative Exchange: National and International Travel

1 800 263-5588, ext. 5212

TTY: 613 565-5194

www.canadacouncil.ca and click on *Grant Programs*, then on *Programs for Aboriginal Artists*.

How to promote your work

As an artist, you can promote your work through the **Indian and Inuit Art Centres**. The Centres display Aboriginal art, lend works to government offices and art galleries, and organize touring exhibitions. There's also a library about Indian and Inuit artists and their works.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

Protect historical items

Aboriginal organizations, such as museums, art galleries and libraries, can get advice on preserving heritage items. The **Canadian Conservation Institute** can help in planning how to protect heritage items, such as oral histories, on audio or videotape. It can also advise on the preservation of sacred places and help assess the effects of tourism on culturally important places.

www.cci-icc.gc.ca

or write to:

**The Canadian Conservation
Institute**

Client Services

1030 Innes Road

Ottawa ON K1A 0M5

Help preserve a part of Canada

If you know a person, an event or a place that you believe to be of national historic significance, please contact the **Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada**.

1 866 811-0055 (toll free)

www.parkscanada.gc.ca and click on *National Historic Sites of Canada*.

E-mail: hsmbc-clmhc@pc.gc.ca

or write to:

Executive Secretary

Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada

25 Eddy Street, 5th Floor

Gatineau QC K1A 0M5

Museums eligible for financial help

The **Museums Assistance Program** makes money available to Canadian museums and related organizations. You may also be eligible for support if you're interested in creating an Aboriginal museum.

1 866 811-0055 (toll free)

www.pch.gc.ca and click on *A-Z index*, then click on *M*.

Learn how to put history on display

You can learn how to preserve and present heritage artifacts and cultural material through the **Aboriginal Training Programme in Museum Practices**. The program is offered by the Canadian Museum of Civilization.

1 800 555-5621

www.civilisations.ca/cmc/at/attoceng.html

or write to:

Co-ordinator

Aboriginal Training Programme in Museum Practices

Canadian Museum of Civilization

100 Laurier Street

PO Box 3100, Station B

Gatineau QC J8X 4H3

Learn more about Aboriginal history

Would you like to know more about Aboriginal history? The **Social and Cultural Archives** of the National Archives of Canada is an excellent place to begin. It has many documents about Aboriginal history, traditions and culture. An oral history of Aboriginal peoples is available and you can get help in researching your family tree.

1 866 578-7777 (toll-free)

www.archives.ca to view exhibits, click on *Aboriginal Peoples* or *Genealogy*.

Aboriginal resources and services

The **National Library of Canada** collects material by or about Aboriginal peoples. You can access these materials free of charge at the National Library or borrow them at public libraries and libraries at schools and universities.

1 877 896-9481 (toll-free)

www.nlc-bnc.ca

Aboriginal realities on film

Videos on a wide range of Aboriginal issues produced by the **National Film Board** are available at many public libraries and universities across Canada through the NFB's on-line film library. The NFB has produced more than 500 films by Aboriginal filmmakers and on Aboriginal life and culture. Videos can also be purchased by phone or on-line at www.nfb.ca/store.

1 800 267-7710

www.nfb.ca click on *collections* and use the search engine.

Support for Aboriginal television

Telefilm Canada supports Aboriginal language programming for television. If you're interested in developing or producing Aboriginal language programs, funding is available through the **Aboriginal Language Envelope**. It's part of the Canadian Television Fund.

1 800 567-0890

www.telefilm.gc.ca



JUSTICE, LEGAL ISSUES AND TAXATION

The benefits of Indian Status

The Registrar at Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) is responsible for the **Indian Register**, a record of everyone who is registered as an Indian under the provisions of the *Indian Act*. Once you acquire Indian Status, you will be entitled to certain benefits, such as specific tax exemptions, and dental and eye care.

The Registrar also maintains band lists for those First Nations that have not opted to assume control of their own membership. For information on how to apply for registration or how to obtain a Certificate of Indian Status card if you are already registered, contact the Indian Registry Administrator at your First Nation, Indian Registry staff at one of INAC's regional offices or Indian Registry staff at INAC headquarters. More information on the application process and the programs and services available to Registered Indians is available from INAC.

1 800 567-9604
TTY: 1 866 553- 0554
www.inac.gc.ca and click on
Status - F.A.Q.

Financial trust services

Under the **Indian Moneys Program** the Government of Canada looks after Indian moneys for certain First Nations children and adults unable to do so themselves.

1 800 567-9604
TTY: 1 866 553-0554
www.inac.gc.ca and click on
Programs and Services, then on
Lands and Trust Services.

Annual treaty payments

Some treaties provide yearly payments to treaty members. These annuities are usually paid at treaty day events, held on reserves every year.

1 800 567-9604
www.inac.gc.ca

Tax and customs benefits and requirements

The Canada Customs and Revenue Agency wants you to be aware of the tax and customs benefits and requirements that may apply to you. Get information on:

- income tax
- Goods and Services Tax/Harmonized Sales Tax (GST/HST)
- excise tax
- duty on imported goods

1 800 959-8281
www.ccra.gc.ca

Why make a will?

Writing a will and choosing someone to manage your estate is important. If you need help, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada offers workshops on **wills and estates**. If you die without a will, and no family member wishes to administer your estate, a departmental administrator may be appointed.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553- 0554

www.inac.gc.ca and click on *Programs and Services*, then *Lands and Trust Services*.

Alternatives to the justice system

Alternatives to the justice system are available to Aboriginal people, particularly youth. You can get more information through the **Community Justice Forum** or from your local RCMP detachment.

www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca and click on *A-Z index*, then choose *R* and click on *Restorative Justice*.

OTHER RESOURCES AND PUBLICATIONS



Internet

Public access across Canada

Public access to the Internet is available at **Community Access** centres. More than 800 access centres serve Aboriginal communities across Canada. You'll find them in public places such as schools, community centres and libraries.

1 800 575-9200

TTY: 1 800 465-7735

<http://cap.ic.gc.ca>

Aboriginal view of global issues

Come to **Aboriginal Planet!** The new Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade on-line magazine reports on Canadian Aboriginal events around the world and on important international Aboriginal events in Canada.

www.aboriginalplanet.gc.ca

Internet portals

You can access Web sites of interest to Aboriginal people at the **Aboriginal Canada Portal**. You'll find information on topics such as economic development, learning and employment, health, culture, justice and urban life.

www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca

Manage your own resources

Information is available to Aboriginal people who want to manage their own lands and resources and take part in resource-based business activities. The **Aboriginal Portal at Natural Resources Canada** provides training tools and on-line access to technical and scientific information. You'll learn more about resource-based projects and activities that relate to:

- job creation
- education and skills development
- community leadership
- economic and business development
- recovery and maintenance of the natural environment

www.nrcan.gc.ca/aboriginal

Smart choice for communities

Your First Nations community can enjoy the advantages of telehealth and distance education by developing a broadband network. The **Smart Communities** program can provide information and advice on how to make high-speed Internet services work for your community.

1 800 575-9200

<http://smartcommunities.ic.gc.ca>

E-mail: smartcom@ic.gc.ca

Learn about the North

Canada and the Circumpolar World gives you a window on the eight countries that circle the North Pole. Many Aboriginal peoples call this area home. Also, learn how Canada plays a leading role in solving problems and creating opportunities in the North.

www.circumpolar.gc.ca

Publications

The Government of Canada has guides to many of its services. These three will be helpful to all Canadians:

- *Services for Children and their Families*
- *Services for Seniors and their Families-Services for You*
- *Services for You (programs and services for all Canadians)*

1 800 O-Canada

www.communication.gc.ca (to order guides)

Justice and healing

Publications about justice and healing for Aboriginal people are available from the **Aboriginal Peoples Collection**.

**http://www.sgc.gc.ca/abor_corrections/publications_e.asp
E-mail: abocor@sgc.gc.ca**

If you would like to know what publications are available or to obtain copies, you can fax (613) 990-8295 or write to:

**Aboriginal Corrections Policy Unit
Solicitor General Canada
340 Laurier Avenue West, 10th Floor
Ottawa ON K1A 0P8**

The **Indian and Northern Affairs Canada Departmental Library** is a place to research First Nations, Métis, Inuit and Canada's North. You can borrow most books through your local library by interlibrary loan.

1 800 567-9604

TTY: 1 866 553-0554

www.inac.gc.ca/library

E-mail: reference@inac.gc.ca

**To find out more about Government
of Canada services:**

Call **1 800 O-Canada (1 800 622-6232)** toll-free, Monday to Friday, 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., Eastern Time. If you are hearing- or speech-impaired, use the TTY number: **1 800 465-7735.**

Click on the Canada site: **www.canada.gc.ca**. If you don't have Internet access at home, call **1 800 O-Canada** to find out about free Internet access in your community.

Visit a Service Canada Access Centre. Call **1 800 O-Canada** to find out if there is a centre near you. You can also go to **www.servicecanada.gc.ca** and click on *In Person* and then on your province or territory on the map of Canada.

This guide is also available in large print, on audiocassette, in Braille and on computer diskette. Call **1 800 O-Canada.**

*If you want to comment on this guide, you can write to us.
Please include your address. Send comments to:*

Services for First Nations People

c/o Government Enquiry Centre

Ottawa, ON K1A 1M4

E-mail: SFN-SPN@communication.gc.ca