



**MEETING OF FIRST MINISTERS AND NATIONAL ABORIGINAL LEADERS  
KELOWNA, BRITISH COLUMBIA, NOVEMBER 24-25, 2005**

**FACT SHEET**

**PROCESS LEADING UP TO THE MEETING**

The First Ministers Meeting on Aboriginal Issues is the next high point in an evolving process of collaboration among federal, provincial, territorial and Aboriginal leaders to achieve real change, and to make tangible progress towards closing the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples.

Since the September 13, 2004 Special Meeting between First Ministers and Aboriginal Leaders on Health, a multilateral process leading up to the FMM has been underway. The objectives reflect Canadian values and expectations with respect to improving the quality of life for First Nations, Inuit and Metis people.

FMM planning began in early 2005 and has been led by a Steering Committee made up of representatives from federal, provincial, territorial governments and five National Aboriginal Organizations – the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Metis National Council, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada.

The Steering Committee has met regularly and has established the policy priority areas that will be discussed at the FMM: education; housing; health; economic opportunities; and relationships. The work of the Committee will guide the discussions of the First Ministers and Aboriginal leaders, and the subsequent outcomes in each of these areas.

**A COMMITMENT TO STRONG RELATIONSHIPS AND ACHIEVING RESULTS**

From the Government of Canada's perspective, considerable progress has already been made to strengthen relationships through the Canada-Aboriginal Peoples' Roundtable process. Launched in April 2004, this bilateral process resulted in the signing of Policy Accords with each of the National Aboriginal Organizations at a Policy Retreat on May 31, 2005. These Accords, signed with the Assembly of First Nations, Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami, the Métis National Council, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples and the Native Women's Association of Canada, underline Canada's commitment to renewing relationships and strengthening policy partnerships.

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