

Provincial and Territorial Ministers
Responsible for Aboriginal Affairs
and
Leaders of the National Aboriginal
Organizations

Ministres provinciaux et territoriaux
responsables des affaires autochtones
et des
dirigeants des organismes autochtones nationaux

Communiqué

CROSS-CANADA COOPERATION ON ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS PRIORITIES KEY TO ACHIEVING CONCRETE RESULTS

TORONTO, October 29, 2009 – Today, Aboriginal affairs ministers and the leaders of five national Aboriginal organizations agreed to work together, as the Aboriginal Affairs Working Group, to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal peoples in Canada. It is the first time in four years a meeting of representatives from all senior levels of government and national Aboriginal organizations has taken place to address a broad range of issues, over and above the current challenges of the economy, facing First Nation, Métis and Inuit peoples.

“This is our generation’s opportunity to ensure that we bring real and substantive change to the quality of life for the next generation of Aboriginal people. This can only be achieved by closing the socio-economic gap that exists between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada. Through a revitalized historic process, we will work collaboratively on the most critical challenges facing Aboriginal people – education and economic development. Through this new national process, it is my hope that our work will lead towards a future First Ministers’ Meeting,” said Brad Duguid, Ontario Minister of Aboriginal Affairs.

The creation of the working group, with membership from all provinces and territories, and the national Aboriginal organizations, fulfills a direction from all premiers in their discussions last summer in Regina, Saskatchewan with the five national Aboriginal organization leaders.

Ministers and leaders confirmed that establishing a strong and enduring working group process of provincial and territorial ministers responsible for Aboriginal affairs and national Aboriginal leaders is critical to improving socio-economic conditions for all Aboriginal peoples.

Further, they agreed that many priorities are shared between working group members and the federal government. Where policies and programs exist or are contemplated in shared priority areas, federal government participation will be critical to achieving concrete, measurable results for all Aboriginal peoples in Canada.