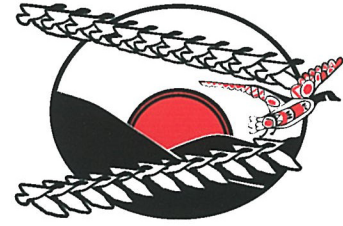


IMPROVING EMPLOYMENT OUTCOMES FOR OFF-RESERVE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

PROTOCOL AGREEMENT



Between the
B.C. Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres
("BCAAFC")
And the
Province of British Columbia
("THE PROVINCE")
(collectively referred to as "the partners")



INTRODUCTION:

Seventy-eight per cent of BC's Aboriginal population live off-reserve, with 60 per cent living in urban areas. The off-reserve/urban Aboriginal population is also fast growing and young (almost 50% are under the age of 25).

In comparison to the non-Aboriginal population, off-reserve Aboriginal people face disproportionate barriers to living long and healthy lives, including the lowest life expectancy and graduation rates, some of the highest rates of suicide, addictions, unemployment, poverty, victimization, incarceration and a disproportionate number of children within the child welfare system.

Laying a solid foundation together through innovative, community-driven, and integrative approaches to economic independence will ultimately increase positive outcomes for the off-reserve Aboriginal population (e.g. increased employment rates, better education and job training, healthier family life).

The October 3, 2011 Speech from the Throne included a commitment that: "The government will work with Aboriginal partners, the federal government and local governments to develop an off-reserve Aboriginal action plan to achieve better education and job training, healthier family life, and strengthened cultures and traditions."

Also, in a November 25, 2011 speech to the "Non-Profit Partnerships Summit: Collective Impact through Social Innovation", Premier Clark stated that "The province is a participant and supporter of social innovation and entrepreneurship in B.C. We need to find new ways of doing business - one that involves working with the private, volunteer and non-profit sectors to create solutions that make a real difference in people's lives. Working together, we make real change."

On October 19th, 2012 the BCAAFC and the Province entered into a Protocol Agreement which outlined the principles and the collaborative approach the partners would undertake in developing and implementing an Off Reserve Aboriginal Action Plan (ORAAP).

In February 2014, the BCAAFC launched the Five by Five Aboriginal Jobs Strategy, setting a target of 5,000 Aboriginal people employed over a five year period. On April 29th, 2014 the Province announced the BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint, whereby a target was set of 15,000 new Aboriginal workers over the next 10 years.

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this Agreement is to renew the relationship between the Parties as they work together to continue to advance ORAAP and to achieve the Parties' mutual interests in skills training and employment for urban Aboriginal people as set out in goals identified in the BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint and the Five by Five Aboriginal Jobs Strategy.

ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

BCAAFC

The BCAAFC is an umbrella organization representing 25 Aboriginal Friendship Centres in B.C. More specifically, Friendship Centres in B.C. represent the largest Aboriginal social service delivery infrastructure and offer a variety of cultural resources, employment resources, health promotion and prevention services, counselling supports, early childhood education and development services, and supports for elders and youth.

The BCAAFC's vision is to have a future where Aboriginal people have a quality of life that enables them to be strong, proud, and healthy individuals, and where this leads to economic self-sufficiency and sustainability for Aboriginal families and communities.

The BCAAFC's role in this partnership is to work in collaboration with the Province in implementing BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint and the Five by Five Aboriginal Jobs Strategy and contributing to the Province's target of 15,000 new Aboriginal workers in the next 10 years.

The Province

MARR's vision includes a future where the Province has forged positive, enduring relationships with Aboriginal peoples, whose communities are healthy, prosperous, sustainable and self-determining. MARR remains committed to the values and principles reflected in the Transformative Change Accord and the Métis Nation Relationship Accord and will work with provincial ministries, the federal government and local government to support the coordination of cross-government collaboration of government programs that can support local priorities through off-reserve action plans. MARR will also conduct and support research, as required, to advance ORAAP.

PRINCIPLES/APPROACH FOR WORKING TOGETHER:

In working together to achieve the goals as set out in BC's Skills for Jobs Blueprint and the Five by Five Aboriginal Jobs Strategy, the BCAAFC and MARR will:

- » Respect the mandates, scope of responsibilities, unique role and contribution of each of the Parties;
- » Seek to align activities, resources and efforts to achieve the goals;
- » Agree on an overarching approach, structure, and timeframe to achieve the goals identified by the Parties;
- » Use available evidence and research to identify gaps, and build on approaches that have proven successful in contributing to achieving the goals;
- » As required, undertake joint research and community consultation to better understand key socio-economic issues and solutions to address community needs;
- » Work in collaboration to identify external partnerships and opportunities that will contribute to meeting the goals;
- » Engage Aboriginal organizations/ service providers, and other representatives of the Aboriginal community where it contributes to achieving the goals;
- » Engage representatives from all levels of government, the private sector (e.g. financial institutions), and not-for-profit organizations in the implementation and evaluation of activities that contribute to achieving the goals;
- » Support off-reserve programming and services that are culturally appropriate, reflect the unique interests, priorities and needs of the Aboriginal community, and where such services contribute to achieving the overall goals; and,
- » Create partnerships that support social innovation and social entrepreneurship in a way that contributes to the goals of the Parties and enables Aboriginal communities to build their own sustainable creative solutions.
- » Periodically review the Protocol and revise as required

Ultimately, it is the intention of the partners to work together in a meaningful and measurable way to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people in BC.

Signed this 23rd day of October in the year 2014.

On Behalf of the:
BC Association of Aboriginal Friendship Centres:

ANNETTE MORGAN
President

On Behalf of the:
Province of British Columbia:

THE HONOURABLE JOHN RUSTAD
Minister of Aboriginal Relations and Reconciliation
WITNESS
WITNESS