

---

## BACKGROUND

2007OTP0052-000506  
April 24, 2007

Office of the Premier  
Ministry of Advanced Education

### **B.C.'S ABORIGINAL POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION STRATEGY**

The Province's \$65-million Aboriginal post-secondary action plan includes a wide range of programs to close the education gap in British Columbia. The following scholarships, programs and projects will help Aboriginal students access post-secondary education and training.

#### **Scholarships**

- A new \$10-million Aboriginal scholarship endowment to support students in getting a post-secondary education that will be administered by the Irving K. Barber B.C. Scholarship Society. Available in 2008/09.
- Earlier this year, the ministry contributed \$100,000 to the Chief Joe Mathias B.C. Aboriginal scholarship fund.

#### **Targeted Programs**

- The ministry is providing \$14.9 million towards new Aboriginal service plans, fulfilling a commitment made in the throne speech to support partnerships between post-secondary institutions, Aboriginal communities and organizations to create programs and services that address the barriers faced by students. The funding will be used to identify interests and educational needs of Aboriginal students and create programs that meet those needs.
- \$15 million will be invested over the next three years to create gathering places that reflect Aboriginal culture at public post-secondary institutions.
- Through the ministry's Aboriginal special projects fund, \$12 million is being invested to support programs and projects that benefit Aboriginal students. Another \$1.15 million will go towards language curriculum development in 2007/08. Since 2001, the fund has helped over 3,900 Aboriginal students succeed in their post-secondary education.

#### **Transition Support and Partnerships**

- \$12.8 million will be used to encourage more Aboriginal people to enter fields such as health care, social work and business. The funding will encourage more transitions from high school and adult literacy programs to graduate level post-secondary education by targeting funding to those programs. These programs will be created through partnerships between post-secondary institutions and Aboriginal communities.
- In each of the next three years, up to 100 additional student spaces will be made available for public institutions to deliver courses and programs specifically designed for Aboriginal learners.

-30-

Media        Corinna Fillion  
contact:     Communications Manager  
               250 952-6400  
               250 812-7977 (cell)

For more information on government services or to subscribe to the Province's news feeds using RSS, visit the Province's website at [www.gov.bc.ca](http://www.gov.bc.ca).