

## **Budget 2009**

### **Strengthening Partnerships with Aboriginal Canadians**

Budget 2009 builds on past budgets by investing in new partnership approaches to deliver crucial services. These include:

- Committing \$305 million over the next two years to improve health outcomes for First Nations and Inuit individuals.
- Providing \$20 million over the next two years to extend partnerships with provinces to further improve child and family services on reserves.

### **Aboriginal Canadians**

An essential part of Canada's training efforts is fostering partnerships with Aboriginal groups and the private and public sectors to ensure that Aboriginal Canadians get the skills and training they need to play a larger role in the labour market, and to help them make the most of employment opportunities.

To continue to support this partnership-based approach, Budget 2009 will provide an additional \$200 million over three years to support Aboriginal skills development and training. This funding will enhance the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership initiative and create a new fund.

Budget 2009 invests an additional \$100 million over three years in the Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership (ASEP) initiative. ASEP fosters partnerships with provincial and territorial governments, Aboriginal organizations and the private sector to help Aboriginal Canadians receive valuable skills and employment training. This investment builds on the success of a \$105-million enhancement to ASEP announced in Budget 2007 that resulted in 16 projects being approved. The new Budget 2009 investment will support partnership-based projects that are expected to support the creation of up to 6,000 jobs for Aboriginal Canadians.

Budget 2009 invests \$75 million in the new two-year Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund. This will support short-term, focused initiatives designed to help Aboriginal Canadians get the specific training they require to benefit from employment opportunities, including those generated by the stimulus package. This fund will be an important step toward implementing a partnership and results based successor to the Aboriginal Human Resources Development Strategy (AHRDS). The fund will also support short-term projects that are responsive to market needs, and are partnership- and results-based, to deliver skills training to Aboriginal Canadians. Budget 2009 commits a further \$25 million for 2009-10 to maintain current AHRDS funding until the new overall strategy is put in place in April 2010.

## **Aboriginal Canadians**

The Government of Canada invests over \$10 billion each year in Aboriginal priorities.

Budget 2009 invests another \$1.4 billion on Aboriginal priority issues.

- \$200 million to support Aboriginal skills and training to ensure Aboriginal readiness for opportunity-driven initiatives and to improve labour market outcomes for Aboriginal peoples.
- \$400 million to address First Nation on-reserve housing by supporting construction, remediation and complementary activities, such as lot servicing.
- \$515 million to support First Nation communities with urgent on-reserve infrastructure needs, which will concentrate on school construction, improving access to safe drinking water, and the remediation and replacement of crucial health and policing infrastructure.
- \$325 million to continue practical partnership approaches with Aboriginal organizations and provincial and territorial governments on delivery of First Nations and Inuit Health programs and Child and Family Services.

As well, Budget 2009 will make a \$250 million investment that will benefit all Canadians living in the North, including Aboriginal Canadians.

- \$200 million over two years in dedicated funding for the territories to support renovation and the construction of new housing units.
- \$50 million over two years in support of economic development in the North, a new Regional Economic Development Agency and a renewed Strategic Initiative for Northern Economic Development.

These investments bring the amount of new funding that this Government has announced for Aboriginal Canadians since 2006 to almost \$6.3 billion.

Source: <http://www.budget.gc.ca>