



Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

- For more than 30 years the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples has been advocating on behalf of off-reserve and non-status Aboriginal people in Canada
- 79% of Canada's Aboriginal people are living away from reserves (about 800,000 people)
- Most policy and programming in Canada is directed to on-reserve people



Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

- The Congress works closely with its Provincial and Territorial Organizations (PTOs) for research and advocacy in regards to constitutional and legal issues
- Provides programs in the areas of Aboriginal justice, women, governance, labour-market development, health and youth



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- Aboriginal people in Canada are statistically and demographically over-represented in all social needs categories
- Yet 50% are under the age of 25, and populations are growing much faster than Canada's national average
- Therefore, the Congress of Aboriginal Peoples is moving away from “entitlement-based affiliations” to alliances for progress for Aboriginal people based on shared needs



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- Newly defined “communities of interest” will need information and knowledge-based decision making tools
- Therefore, we must move from the “echo chamber” to a true horizontal transfer of information



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- The Congress relies on communication, and believes strongly in inclusive and reciprocal transfer of information
- We communicate with our constituents through our Provincial/Territorial Organizations, with government departments, private sector organizations, and non-Aboriginal Canadians



Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

- We use the Internet to amplify the voice of our people to reach a local and global audience
- We use new technology for peer-to-peer communication, building self-confidence and self-esteem
- We use this new technology to improve access to education programs and job prospects



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- Post secondary graduates have grown 400% in 20 years to 160,000
- Self-employed growing 10 times the national average
- Internet is an important tool
- The information society will create new jobs



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- With new alignments and a new social order, the Internet has the potential to realign political structures
- Increase the role of the citizen
- Strengthen the voices of the marginalized
- Continue the development of local and global portals to support accessibility



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- Shift the emphasis from technology to content and use
- Hardware and software are simply tools
- It is how we use them as “social tools” that will determine success
- Positive results: networks in Africa, street kids in Latin America, New York inner city groups



Congress of Aboriginal Peoples

Our Vision

- Access to information and knowledge recognized as a right for all people
- Continued development of cultural, spiritual and relevant indigenous content on the Internet
- Recognition that knowledge is the social and economic enabler and basis for empowerment



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The Congress of Aboriginal Peoples reaches out with a hand of partnership to all of our colleagues at this important time to achieve this vision.



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