

Canada announces changes to program for Indigenous Peoples in the Americas

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Ottawa — Canada will make the Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program (IPPP) more accessible to enable the development of more effective partnerships and knowledge exchanges among Indigenous groups of Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean. The changes will also expand the program's scope and encourage greater participation of Canada's Aboriginal peoples in its decision-making process.

The announcement was made today by Aileen Carroll, Minister of International Cooperation, and Andy Scott, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development.

"This program strengthens partnerships between Canadian and Latin American and Caribbean Indigenous groups by allowing them to share their knowledge and experience," said Minister Carroll. "Such partnerships are essential to support the growth and development of the Indigenous peoples. In accessing the IPPP, they are able to work with well-established partners to conduct their own development projects."

Canada originally announced the \$10-million IPPP at the inaugural Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas, which was held in Ottawa in March 2001. A second Summit will take place in Buenos Aires in October 2005. The Summit has become an important forum for Indigenous peoples to develop positions that can influence policy discussions at the Organization of American States and the Summit of the Americas.

In addition to fulfilling an important commitment of the Summit of the Americas Plan of Action, the IPPP contributes to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by focusing on extreme poverty and promoting sustainable development.

"The Indigenous Peoples Partnership Program is a concrete expression of the Government of Canada's commitment to work in partnership with Aboriginal peoples," said Minister Scott. "This program provides funding to enable Canadian Aboriginal people with experience in community development to provide assistance to their counterparts in the Americas."

The original program focused on three themes: development, knowledge, and youth. The revised program will add two new themes — gender and international policy dialogue — to help build the capacity of Indigenous peoples to take charge of their own development. Canada's Aboriginal peoples will also have greater say in selecting projects for funding. Revised guidelines for the IPPP will be available by the end of March 2005.

Information

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