



ABORIGINAL BUSINESS SERVICE NETWORK– BC

ABS N Mission Statement:

The BC ABS N is a collective of Aboriginal business service providers in British Columbia who enhance access to business information and resources.

ABS N & the Gap Analysis

In 2002, the Community Economic Development Centre and Simon Fraser University (SFU) completed a Gap Analysis on "Assessing The Business Information Needs of Aboriginal Entrepreneurs in British Columbia". From this gap analysis a three year action plan was developed for ABS N, which included hiring an ABS N Provincial Coordinator, developing REACH Sites throughout the Province, a workbook on Aboriginal Business Development and a variety of other tools – intended as capacity development tools for Aboriginal Business Development Officers.

In May of 2011 ABS N formed a "Gap Analysis Steering Committee" (GASC) consisting of volunteer Aboriginal business providers from Aboriginal Capital Corporations, Community Futures offices and Business Development Centres, along with Provincial and Federal representatives, to create a comprehensive and integrated strategy to support the growth and development of Aboriginal Business.

This year ABS N will be updating the Gap Analysis. The recommendations from the report will form the blueprint for future ABS N initiatives.

The members of the GASC are as follows:

- Patti Phillips, Kootenay Aboriginal Business Development Society
- Joan Broussard, Aboriginal Business Canada, Indian & Northern Affairs Canada
- Art Lew, Haida Gwaii Community Futures
- Sandy Wong, Tale'awtxw Aboriginal Capital Corporation
- Rocio Zielinski, Sto:lo Community Futures Development Corporation
- Marie Baptiste, Aboriginal Business Service Network Society
- Geri Collins, Community Futures Development Corporation of Central Interior First Nations

It is anticipated that Eagle Spirit Community Solutions in partnership with the University of Northern BC -

Community Development Institute & Simon Fraser University - Centre for Sustainable Community Development will be the Consultants who will be doing the work on updating the 2001 Gap Analysis reports.

The report is anticipated being completed by October 31, 2011.

REACH Sites

There are now 28 REACH Sites throughout the province. REACH Sites were established to provide First Nation entrepreneurs with access to business resources such as a computer station, printer, with word processing, spreadsheets and internet resources.

ABS N & CANDO

This year ABS N will be partnering with the Canadian Council for the Advancement of Native Development Officers (CANDO) for the 18th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting. Due to this partnering initiative ABS N will not be hosting a "Strategic Conversations Forum" this year. The CANDO conference will be held from November 7 - 10, 2011 in Richmond, B.C. Visit: www.absn.ca or www.edo.ca for more info.

CANDO will be hosting the "Economic Development of the Year Awards" at their Presidents Dinner on November 10, 2011.

ABS N and CANDO are working together to continually network information accessibility to Aboriginal Service providers, entrepreneurs; facilitating increased awareness of existing information of financial resources for service providers, Government agencies, Aboriginal Capital Corporations and Business Development Centres in BC.

STATS

For the fiscal year 2010 - 2011 ABS N has had 2,341 volunteer hours; 350 REACH Site Contacts; 419 contacts with its Directors; 557 contacts with regard to conferences, training, jobs or meetings. ABS N does not ordinarily work with clients but has been able to provide 1 client direct service; 10 clients referrals and provided 38 with clients information. Thirteen out of the REACH Sites report an Average of 137 clients per week. 5,335 clients between April 1 & Dec 31. REACH Sites uses involved: searches in the areas of jobs, employment,

business information, grants, writing proposals, business plans, aftercare support and counselling as well as utilization of their resource centers.

Aboriginal Business Awards

Nominations are now open for the third annual BC Aboriginal Business Awards. "These awards are a unique way to highlight Aboriginal business accomplishments and reflect on the importance of our Aboriginal businesspeople that employ families throughout BC" said Premier Christy Clark in her joint announcement with Keith Mitchell, BC Achievement Chair.

Nominations include the following categories:

- Youth Entrepreneur
- Joint Venture
- Community-Owned
- Business of the Year (3 categories)

Deadline for submissions is September 15, 2011.

For further info visit: www.bcachievement.com

First Nations Technology Council (FNTC)

The FNTC has a tremendous amount of information available on their website: <http://www.fnbc.info/>

- Categories include the following:
- Our People
- Our Culture
- Leadership and Governance
- Economic Development
- Natural Resources
- Community Development
- Spotlight on Communities
- Tools and Resources

In viewing their Economic Development section you can find:

- Business Forms
- Business Start Up
- Entrepreneurship
- Marketing & Statistics
- Performance Measures
- Tools and Resources
- Tourism
- Training & Education
- Women in Business
- Youth in Business

Aboriginal Business Directory

FNTC is looking at launching their "Aboriginal Business Directory" on their website by the end of next week. Contact Heather Bohn for more info: heather.bohn@fntc.info

Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce

The Industry Council for Aboriginal Business is moving towards launching an Aboriginal Chamber of Commerce or an Aboriginal Business Association in BC. Keep posted for new developments and/or announcements in September, 2011 on their website at: www.icab.ca

ABSN - Board of Directors-2011

Paulette Flamond, Chair
Patti Phillips, Vice Chair
Yvonne Scotchman, Secretary Treasurer
Jacqueline Ridley, Director
Rocio Zielinski, director
Sandy Wong, Director
Trevor Kempthorne, Director
Veronica Creyke, Director
Art Lew, Director

ABSN - Ex-Officio Directors-2011

Garth Stiller, WEDC
George Hunter, Small Business BC
Joan Broussard, ABC BC Region, INAC
Karen White, MARR
Tracey Axelsson, CFDA of BC

Website:

The ABSN website (www.absn.ca) has been updated to include information on the following:

- REACH Sites - Map & Contact Info
- Annual Forum - Strategic Conversations & CANDO
- Board of Director Profiles & Contact Info
- Resource Links for websites
- Business Plans
- Publications
- Gap Analysis

Contact Information:

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