



Aboriginal Services

IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

Honourable George Abbott

**Minister of Community, Aboriginal
and Women's Services**

May 22, 2002

Key Facts

- Approximately 140,000 Aboriginal people in B.C.
- Approximately 4% of population
- Approximately 70% live off reserve
- Standard of living 20% below provincial average

Key Facts

Aboriginal people:

- Are more likely to be unemployed
- Two-thirds did not complete high school in 1999/2000.
- Live 7 years less on average
- Are 4 times more likely to commit suicide

New Era Commitments

- First Citizens' Forum
- First Citizens' Fund
- Access to technology
- Attention to women and youth
- Address urban challenges
- Preserve and protect Aboriginal languages

Action Plan

**To improve the daily lives
of Aboriginal people through:**

1. Ongoing consultation and discussion with Aboriginal leaders and organizations
2. Co-operation and collaboration with federal government
3. Improved and integrated provincial services

Action to Date

- Aboriginal Employment Partnership Initiative
- Aboriginal Youth FIRST

Action to Date

- Language initiatives – First Voices
- Urban Aboriginal initiatives
- Initiatives for Aboriginal women and children (child care)
- Access to technology (Raven Youth Tech initiative)

Action to Date

- Address Fetal Alcohol Syndrome
- Economic Measures Fund
- Aboriginal health plans
- Education enhancement agreements
- Social Work and Child/Youth Care programs
- First Citizens' Forum

Conclusion

- Action-oriented agenda
- Initial steps have been taken
- Ongoing consultation