

PROTECTING KNOWLEDGE: PACIFIC PEOPLES' PARTNER- SHIP ABORIGINAL YOUTH INTERNSHIP (CANADA)

Ten Aboriginal Youth Take Off on South Pacific Adventure

Victoria - **September 15** marked the beginning of a six-month South Pacific odyssey for ten young aboriginal Canadians. Through the internship program, these youth are being immersed in the work and daily life of indigenous communities in the Cook Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and New Zealand. Their work placements will offer them a range of experiences in everything from indigenous tourism to coastal resource management and from community popular theatre to traditional medicine.

Victoria-based Pacific Peoples' Partnership has teamed up with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade to offer this international program, now in its third year. Interns come from aboriginal organizations across the country, and each brings unique skills. Brennan Gohn (Cowichan, B.C.) and Tricia Collinson (Haida, B.C.) will be stationed in the Cook Islands. Dana Reid (Mamgis, B.C.) and Kathleen Graham (Dene, NWT), along with Sheldon Wuttunee (RedPheasant, Saskatchewan) and Angie Shuter (Nlakapamux Nation, B.C.) will all be working with Maori peoples in New Zealand.

Shuter will be focusing on intellectual property policy and law reform. "While Canada has taken some important steps in developing policy pertaining to First Nations intellectual property and traditional knowledge, we have much to learn from the international community. I think that we can learn from the experience of the Maori people and from their very advanced work in this field," Shuter said.

Cameron Patterson (Métis, Alberta), Kyle Halsey (Iroquois, B.C.) and Murphy Patrick (Carrier, B.C.) will be based in Vanuatu. Michele Thomas (Seneca, Ontario) will pursue her interest in traditional medicine both here on Vancouver Island and in Fiji.

Pacific Peoples' Partnership, founded in 1975, is a social justice organization that supports Pacific Islanders in their efforts to protect and promote their environment, livelihoods and community development.

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Other aboriginal organizations that manage Youth International Internship programs include: Nunavut Youth Abroad Program, United Nations Association of Canada, International Institute for Sustainable Development, University of Saskatchewan—Native Law Centre, International Organization of Indigenous Resource Development, Ochapowace—South East Treaty Four Tribal Council, University of Victoria—Institute for Child Rights and Development, and Rights and Democracy (formerly the International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development).

If you would like to know more about the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade Internship Program, visit: <http://www.dfait-maeci.gc.ca/interns> or call us toll-free at: 1-800-559-2888.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS

The Assembly of First Nations in collaboration with Métis and Inuit organizations organized the Indigenous Peoples Summit of the Americas in Ottawa on **March 28-31**. Recommendations regarding the Summit's mandates were developed and later shared with the leaders at the Summit of the Americas in Quebec City on **April 20-22**. The major themes of the agenda included: bridging the digital divide, connectivity, corporate social responsibility and indigenous development, indigenous rights in the Americas, an Organization of American States' (OAS) draft declaration, the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, International Labour Organization 169, the UN Permanent Forum, the World Conference against Racism, the Inter-American Indigenous Institute, the OAS Declaration on Traditional Knowledge/Intellectual Property Rights, and strategic economic partnerships within the hemisphere. The federal government, in partnership with the aboriginal organizations of Canada, provided financial assistance for this event and for 45 indigenous leaders from the Americas to participate. The Summit was well attended by indigenous leaders and organizations from across Canada.

REUNION OF THE CONDOR AND THE EAGLE: INTERNATIONAL INDIGENOUS ACTION SUMMIT

The Carib Chief and Council of the Commonwealth of Dominica and Four Worlds/Four Directions International of Canada, in participation with the Government of Canada and the Commonwealth of Dominica, invite you to attend the International Indigenous Action Summit to be held in the Commonwealth of Dominica in the Eastern Caribbean on **December 4-9**.