

I hope that the information I have provided will reassure you of the federal government's commitment to the Aboriginal peoples of Canada.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Duplessis

Suzanne Duplessis, M.P.
for Louis-Hébert

Canadian Aboriginal Economic Development Strategy (CAEDS)

DIAND is one of three departments responsible for CAEDS (along with the departments of Industry, Science and Technology and Employment and Immigration). Although available funding has had to undergo a major reassessment within the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, I would like to note that the government will still spend \$3.7 billion on Aboriginal economic development programs in 1993-1994. The government's commitment to improving the development and employment prospects of Aboriginal people is reflected by the expansion from reduction of programs such as Indian and Inuit post-secondary education and pathways to success. We believe that education and skills training are two of the most effective means for Aboriginal people to improve their economic and social conditions.

Future Directions

I have carefully read through the recommendations that you have put forward to the Standing Committee. Please be assured that the Committee will give them full consideration. In conclusion, I believe that there have been many unmet needs in Aboriginal success stories to which this government has made a significant contribution. The Native Act, announced by the Prime Minister in 1990, has been a real stepping stone to a brighter future for Aboriginal people. In addition, the fact that the Standing Committee has taken the time to study and report on these issues is a testament to the government's commitment to Aboriginal people. I am confident that the government will continue to work with you and the Standing Committee to address these issues and to ensure that the government's commitment to Aboriginal people is fully reflected in its actions.