



Native Women's Association of Canada

Press Release – For Immediate Release

NWAC announces a new National Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment fund (ASTSIF) through the Project Called “Building the Spirit”

Ottawa, ON (June 15, 2010) The Native Women's Association of Canada (NWAC) is pleased to announce it will provide direct and immediate opportunities for leadership development and attainment for Aboriginal women and youth in literacy and essential skills via strategic partnerships. This will be done through the national Aboriginal Skills and Training Strategic Investment Fund (ASTSIF) Project called 'Building The Spirit'. It is a national scope project that will provide accreditation, certification, and designation to Aboriginal women and youth throughout Canada and is funded by Human Resources and Skills Development Canada (HRSDC).

The NWAC Building the Spirit project will provide sponsorship to Aboriginal women and youth that lead to direct and immediate opportunities for leadership development and attainment realized through formal accreditation, designation and certification in governance, financial accountability and community development.

Two pillars under the Building the Spirit ASTSIF project activities are:

- 1) **Literacy & Essential Skills:** Under this area we hope to provide funding opportunities for Aboriginal women and youth or Literacy and Essential Skills training and High School completion and/or general equivalency classes, courses or completion certificates.
- 2) **Program Management and Financial Management:** formal accreditation, designation, and certification for Aboriginal specific courses in governance, financial accountability and community development.

“Providing support for literacy and essential skills opportunities through ASTSIF will ensure that Canada's most vulnerable population has access to, and benefits from, the federal stimulus initiative which has been earmarked for the Aboriginal community,” says NWAC President Jeannette Corbiere Lavell.

NWAC is the National Aboriginal Organization representing the national voice of Aboriginal women in Canada. NWAC has long held the vision to increase leadership, employability and enhanced skills development strategies that ultimately will result in the full integration of Aboriginal women in the labour market, across all sectors, in a collective and cohesive way.

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