

PRINCE RUPERT INVITATION

I invite you to an all day Learning Circle on “Developing Community Enterprise Strategies and Partnerships for Aboriginal Women in Prince Rupert” on March 24, 2009. The circle or council is an ancient form of meeting that has gathered human beings into respectful conversation for thousands of years. The circle has served as the foundation for many cultures. What transforms a meeting into a circle is the willingness of people to shift from informal socializing or opinionated discussion into a receptive attitude of thoughtful speaking and deep listening. The purpose of this circle is to strengthen the capacity of Aboriginal women to develop, implement, and sustain economic development opportunities and partnerships in your community.

As you may know Aboriginal women looking to create business face numerous challenges. But research shows that one of the best assets women bring to starting a business is the strength and support they draw from their social networks and community. In addition, Aboriginal women-led community organizations also face challenges by relying on short-term or temporary funding. In response to this, the development of a network for Aboriginal women is needed to support their business ventures, to aid the development of their Social Enterprises, as well as to provide a foundation in the creation of sustainable economic development.

The group would continue to meet, adding resource people to the group that could support the start up of such enterprises. The hope would be that the on-going groups will build the needed supports for Aboriginal women starting up and sustaining business and social enterprises.

The nature of this gathering would be to evaluate a variety of models of women in business and social enterprise and determine what models might be applicable to your local situation. Furthermore, we will develop a Canada-wide advocacy network that supports Aboriginal women in social enterprise. This network will be developed by building partnerships with key groups including Aboriginal women in: universities, business, community organizations, and Aboriginal women from different sectors (governments, banks and credit unions, health care and social services). We expect this network will serve Aboriginal women at different stages of their business development.

We hope you will join the Circle. If you want to include yourself or want more information, please call Mamie Lawson, who is coordinating this event in your community.

Location: Highliner Plaza Hotel & Conference Centre Time: 9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Mamie can be contacted @ (250) 624-3535 during these hours (8:30 am – 12:00 pm) & (1:00 pm – 4 pm)

Sincerely,

Mamie Lawson