



Aboriginal Business Development Centre Aboriginal Community Development Centre “Action Is The Key”

Provincial Aboriginal Business of the Year – 1999
National Economic Developer of the Year Award - 2002

My brain and heart are still reeling from the “Ottawa Gathering”. I left this meeting feeling very positive and energetic. I can truly say that this is one of the most exciting projects I have been involved in, and it was you folks who brought the excitement to the mix. Your energy and commitment was obvious at the end of the two days, and now we have to find a way of utilizing that energy and commitment to have an immediate impact on the ground while in the long term helping to change policy – make it happen in a good way and policy changes will soon follow.

KIS has two different yet similar meanings – we can change policy by utilizing “Knowledge in Society” to empower individuals to create an action oriented system that in effect changes governments way of thinking – governance by action, the trickle up effect. On the other hand, if we are to realize the benefits on the ground, we have to keep in mind our core audience – our communities and those who are working on the ground to serve them, so please also remember that KIS stands for “Keep it Simple”.

I know that I am personally committed to this process, and ask that each of you dig deep into yourself to ensure that your commitment is sustainable, as it will only be by working together that we maintain the momentum that has been created.

Ray Gerow

I would like to take this opportunity to express my thanks for your participation in the first national gathering of the Urban Aboriginal Economic Development Network in Ottawa, October 28-29, 2008. It was an exciting and motivating experience and the network Steering Committee is very appreciative of all of the work, input, and feedback provided by participants at the gathering.

As we start to move forward with the activities of the network, it looks as though there are already a couple of learning circles able to get underway in the near future and another couple more over the next 6 months or so. This is an exciting development.

The Steering Committee has just had another meeting to plan our next steps. Over the next few weeks you should be receiving periodic emails covering the results of the national gathering. We also hope to launch the network website early in the New Year.

Thank you again for taking time from your busy schedules to attend the national gathering. The excitement embodied in a network for sharing experiences and assisting urban Aboriginal economic development was a tangible outcome of your investment of time.

Greg Halseth