



Media Release

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35 Companies Sign-up to Advance Aboriginal Inclusion through the Leadership Circle

National - As the economy begins to recover and organizations awaken to the power of inclusion, corporate leaders are endorsing the business case for Aboriginal inclusion and working in partnership with the Aboriginal Human Resource Council to create inclusive workplaces across Canada through its [Leadership Circle](#) program. The program offers private and public sector organizations customized recognition platforms and access to products and services that have been uniquely designed to help them advance business opportunities, inclusion leadership and their path up the council's [Inclusion Continuum](#).

Partners build a trusted and beneficial relationship with the council, known for its national leadership in Aboriginal inclusion and service excellence -- recently acknowledged through certification to the ISO 9001:2008 standard for quality management systems.

"We are encouraged to see that a growing number of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal business leaders understand the benefits of inclusion are working with us to advance the First Nations, Métis and Inuit workforce in Canada," said Kelly Lendsay, president and CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council. "We currently have 35 [Leadership Circle partners](#), which represents a 30 per cent increase since October 09 and a 100 per cent renewal rate with 2009 partnership agreements that have expired. The momentum continues to grow as we get closer to the delivery of our signature event, [Inclusion Works '10](#) -- April 27-29, 2010 in Toronto."

Canwest and the Government of Canada have again formalized agreements as "Premiere" *Leadership Circle* partners. RBC and Scotiabank increased their commitment by signing three-year agreements and joining TransCanada and MGM Communications as "Solutions" partners. SNC-Lavalin now accompanies Barrick-Hemlo, the Government of Manitoba, Higgins International and Syncrude Canada in the "Partnership" level, and Creeco is the latest and eighth Aboriginal partner to join. To see a complete list of *Leadership Circle* partners [click here](#).

Leadership Circle partners, as the country's most influential inclusion leaders, believe in investing in Aboriginal people, in Canada and their [business case](#) for inclusion. They want to make the findings of the Canadian Centre for the Study of Living Standards a reality - that Canada's GDP would increase by an estimated \$401 billion by 2026 if Aboriginal people were to reach the same education and social well-being of non-Aboriginal people.

To find out how you can benefit as a *Leadership Circle* partner and discover ways to get involved in [Inclusion Works '10](#), visit aboriginalhr.ca.

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