



Media Release

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Census Confirms Aboriginal People are a Solution to Skilled Worker Shortage

The 2006 Census reaffirms that Canada is experiencing an Aboriginal baby boom and Aboriginal people are the nation's youngest and fastest growing human resource. According to the 2006 Census released on January 15, 2008, the average median age in Canada for Aboriginal Canadians is 27, considerably lower than the average median age of the non-Aboriginal Canadian population at 40.

Many business leaders across Canada understand the business case for Aboriginal inclusion and invest in Aboriginal capital to build a strong workforce. Successful employers have developed labour market initiatives that encompass a holistic approach to Aboriginal employment. In many cases, their success can be attributed to their investment in Aboriginal education, business development and communities, not as a charity, but as a vote of confidence in the abilities of the Aboriginal people who have a stake in the business and its future enterprise. They understand that Aboriginal people contribute value to the Canadian economy each day, and this young upwardly mobile labour force wants and needs workplace opportunities for training, skills development and employment.

“Successful Aboriginal workforce strategies focus on the realities of the Aboriginal world and the needs of industry, says Kelly Lendsay, President and CEO of the Aboriginal Human Resource Council. “On a national scale, a disconnect exists between the potential skills contribution made by the Aboriginal workforce and the view held by some business and labour leaders on this contribution.”

Promising Aboriginal Human Resource Practices

Companies across Canada are making great strides towards Aboriginal inclusion. To read more about how employers are recruiting, retaining and advancing the Aboriginal workforce, visit www.aboriginalhr.ca (Resources/Promising Practices)

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