

Moving Forward Together

MINISTRY OF ABORIGINAL AFFAIRS • 2010-2011 REPORT



A large, stylized green leaf graphic with white veins, positioned in the lower-left corner of the page.

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*November 30, 2010, Launch
of PLAY Hockey Camps*

① A Message from Chris Bentley, Minister of Aboriginal Affairs

“I’m proud of what has been accomplished so far and look forward to more successes.”

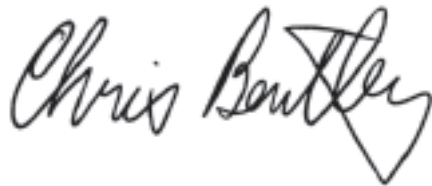
Ontario continues to work hard building and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal people in this province.

We’re moving forward to close the socioeconomic gaps that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Ontario. We’re improving education and skills training possibilities, and creating economic development opportunities for Aboriginal people.

We’re paying special attention to Aboriginal youth. The Aboriginal population in Ontario is young and growing. About 27 per cent are 15 years or younger. They will play an important part in Ontario’s future. We’re teaming up with private sector organizations to create programs that are giving Aboriginal youth leadership skills, improving their self-esteem and giving them hope for the future. I’m proud of what has been accomplished so far and look forward to more successes.

The work we do is not done in isolation. We work closely with Aboriginal people and their organizations to provide services they need and make changes that will positively affect their lives. Ontario is a stronger place when First Nations, Métis and Inuit can reach their full potential.

Miigwetch,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Bentley". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized loop at the end of the last name.

Chris Bentley
Minister of Aboriginal Affairs



② The Ontario Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs

Ontario's **Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs** was created in 2007. The ministry works to build stronger relationships with Aboriginal people throughout the province and improve their quality of life.

Our relationships with Aboriginal partners are integral to the ministry's strategic plan, because they form the foundation of the government's work in all aspects of Aboriginal affairs.

Aboriginal governments and organizations represent the interests of First Nations, Métis and Inuit people living in Ontario. Working together, we can better identify the needs of Aboriginal people and their communities, as well as the many opportunities within their reach. This means creating jobs, improving social conditions and promoting economic sustainability.

We also help other ministries coordinate their Aboriginal-related policies and programs and ensure that funding is spent effectively and efficiently. The province spends about \$600 million annually toward meaningful initiatives for Aboriginal people through ministries across the Ontario government.

*"The ministry works
to build stronger
relationships with
Aboriginal people
throughout the
province and improve
their quality of life."*





*June 9, 2010, Treaty No. 5
Centennial Commemoration Day*

③ Building Relationships – Working Together

Relationships at three levels – national, provincial and local – help to guide Ontario’s policies and programs in Aboriginal affairs.

The ministry coordinates and participates in a number of working groups, committees and other initiatives created to share and discuss information and expertise.

At the national level, the ministry chairs the **Aboriginal Affairs Working Group**. The Working Group is made up of provincial and territorial ministers alongside leaders of national Aboriginal organizations. The second meeting of the Working Group was held on April 28, 2010, in Toronto. Ministers and leaders agreed to work on three key goals:

- Closing the graduation gap
- Closing the income gap and
- Ending violence against Aboriginal women and girls.

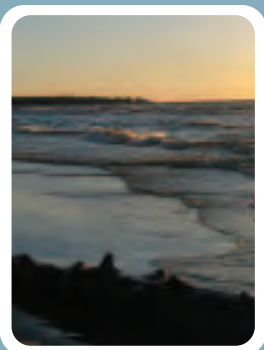
As chair, the ministry is responsible for providing leadership on addressing these challenging issues.

At the provincial level, Ontario looks to Justice Linden’s **Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry** and its recommendations as a roadmap to better relationships with Aboriginal people.

The ministry co-chairs the **Ipperwash Inquiry Priorities and Action Committee** with the Chiefs of Ontario. The Committee tracks the progress being made on the recommendations from Justice Linden’s report, including First Nation policing, resource benefits sharing and consultation, and establishing a Treaty Commission of Ontario.

*“We are proud of our
relationship agreements
with Aboriginal
political-territorial
governments.”*

● Spotlight on:



The Ipperwash Inquiry was formed in 2003 to investigate the causes of the death of a First Nation protester at Ipperwash Provincial Park in September 1995. Justice Linden’s *Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry*, released in 2007, gives a detailed account of the incident but also identifies broader issues with the relationship between Aboriginal people and the government.

Aboriginal political-territorial organizations in Ontario include:

- Nishnawbe Aski Nation
- Anishinabek Nation (also known as the Union of Ontario Indians)
- Association of Iroquois and Allied Indians
- Grand Council Treaty #3
- Métis Nation of Ontario

In addition, there are six unaligned First Nations. The province consults with them through the Independent First Nations.

Provincial social service and urban Aboriginal organizations include:

- The Ontario Native Women's Association
- The Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres

We are proud of our relationship agreements with Aboriginal political-territorial governments because they facilitate communication between Aboriginal leaders and Ontario government representatives. They help to ensure more coordinated planning for programs and services in Aboriginal communities by setting priorities and identifying issues.

New relationship agreements recently signed between Ontario and First Nations include:

- a Political Process Agreement between Ontario and **Six Nations** to strengthen relationships and make practical progress in education, social services, economic development and community safety;
- four new agreements between Ontario and the **Anishinabek Nation**, represented by the Union of Ontario Indians, and the Ministry of Natural Resources to enhance relations between Aboriginal people and the ministry through consultation on resources such as forestry, fish, wildlife (including trapping), land-use planning and Great Lakes water; and
- an agreement between the Ministry of Natural Resources, the Ministry of Northern Development, Mines and Forestry and **Grand Council Treaty #3** to promote communications on natural resource management issues and opportunities for economic development in the resource sector.

The ministry continues to work with other First Nation political organizations and the Chiefs of Ontario on issues that affect First Nations. Through this collaborative relationship, there was an agreement between Canada, Ontario and First Nations to keep the **First Nation point-of-sale tax exemption** of the Harmonized Sales Tax (HST). The Ontario government and First Nations leaders worked together for almost a year to maintain this exemption that has existed for 30 years.

Another result of this collaborative relationship is the new agreement between the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation and **Chippewas of Rama** First Nation. This agreement ensures the continued operation of Casino Rama in Rama First Nation for the next 20 years. Starting in April 2011, the Ontario Lottery and Gaming Corporation will distribute part of its revenues to First Nation communities across the province.

The ministry is continuing its work with the Métis Nation of Ontario (MNO) to further define the renewed relationship established when the MNO and Ontario signed the **Métis Framework Agreement** in 2008.

Since 2008, two agreements based on the principles of the framework have been signed, one with the Ministry of Education and another with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities. Formalizing these relationships is a significant step towards improving postsecondary education, training and employment outcomes for Métis in Ontario.

The Ontario government proclaimed 2010 the **"Year of the Métis"** to celebrate and recognize the unique history, culture, identity and contributions of Métis communities in Ontario.

In March 2010, Dr. Brenda Macdougall became **Chair of Métis Studies** at the University of Ottawa. This position is funded partially by the province. Part of her work will focus on genealogical tracing of Métis people.

"Proclaiming 2010 as the 'Year of the Métis' in Ontario demonstrates we are truly moving into a new era of recognition, respect and reconciliation in this province we call home."

*Gary Lipinski,
President of the Métis Nation of Ontario,
April 19, 2010, Ontario News Release*



The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs and the MNO are collaborating on research that will help to identify Métis communities in Ontario. This work will help increase understanding of Métis history, culture, language and current issues in Ontario.

A large part of relationship building is ensuring that all levels of government, the private sector and the general public have the information they need to interact with Aboriginal communities and organizations in an informed and constructive way.

Governments in particular have a **duty to consult** Aboriginal people and their communities. The duty is grounded in the Aboriginal and treaty rights protected in the Canadian Constitution.

In 2010, the ministry continued to improve consultation efforts with industry, businesses and governments. For example, we delivered a series of consultation workshops in four parts together with First Nation and Métis partners. Gathering more than 1,200 participants, this latest workshop initiative raised the total of ministry-delivered workshop participants to 3,500.



● Section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982

- 35. (1) The existing Aboriginal and treaty rights of the Aboriginal Peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed.*
- (2) In this Act, "Aboriginal Peoples of Canada" includes the Indian, Inuit and Métis peoples of Canada.*
- (3) For greater certainty, in subsection (1) "treaty rights" includes rights that now exist by way of land claims agreements or may be so acquired.*
- (4) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the Aboriginal and treaty rights referred to in subsection (1) are guaranteed equally to male and female persons.*





*Musselwhite Mine, located 480 km
north of Thunder Bay, Ontario*

④ Economic Development – Building Stronger Communities

Aboriginal economic development builds stronger, healthier and more prosperous Aboriginal communities across Ontario.

The **Open Ontario Plan** is the government's strategy to bring new ideas, new people and new investment to Ontario. The plan supports Aboriginal economic development by increasing student achievement, building a stronger workforce and taking advantage of opportunities in northern Ontario.

In January 2010, the Ontario government partnered with the Chiefs of Ontario to hold the first **Ontario First Nations Economic Forum** in Thunder Bay. First Nation representatives and economic development leaders discussed how coordinating efforts among representatives from the governments of Canada and Ontario may foster more sustainable First Nation economies.

Over two days, participants focused on three key areas of First Nation economic development:

1. resource development
2. socio economic development
3. relationships and partnership building

All parties committed to developing practical tools and sharing information that will directly support the First Nation economy.

The **New Relationship Fund** continues to help Aboriginal communities and organizations participate in meaningful consultation and engagement with government and the private sector.

Since the program's inception in 2008, 133 First Nation communities and 32 Métis community councils have received funding. Today, this \$85-million program has funded more than 300 projects involving Aboriginal communities and Aboriginal organizations. The program has created more than 200 jobs.

"The New Relationship Fund provided the means to hire staff to work on mining and other resource user negotiations. With the Ring of Fire in adjacent First Nations, we are increasingly being pressured to meet with mining companies to develop workable agreements. Without this program, we would not have been able to undertake this work."

*Chief Oskineegish,
Nibinamik First Nation*





In 2010, Ontario created the **Northern Training Partnership Fund**. This \$45-million, three-year, project-based skills training program helps prepare people in northern Ontario for jobs in resource development and related sectors that drive northern economic development. It also helps them benefit from emerging economic development opportunities in the Far North, including the region known as the “Ring of Fire,” which contains one of the world’s largest deposits of chromite – a key ingredient in stainless steel and an economic opportunity for Far North communities.

Much progress has been made on the **Far North Planning Initiative**. For example, the passage of the **Far North Act, 2010**, sets the foundation for land-use planning in the Far North of Ontario. This Act makes land-use planning a joint process and gives First Nations located in the Far North a say in determining which areas will be dedicated to protection and which areas will be open for sustainable development. Land-use planning in the Far North is about Ontario and First Nations working together to make wise land-use decisions that will support the Far North’s economy and environment. Ontario’s vision for the Far North is one where First

“This very timely initiative complements the Anishinabek Nation’s move towards abolishing poverty, and growing and creating a better quality of life for our citizens as outlined in Our Economic Blueprint. As we embark on greater participation in the energy and resource sectors, be it mining or forestry, the Northern Training Partnership Fund will allow us to broaden that participation in a real and tangible way.”

Grand Council Chief Patrick Wedaseh Madahbee, Union of Ontario Indians, July 22, 2010, Ontario News Release

Nations have a significant role in land-use planning and where land-use decisions recognize the social, environmental and economic interests of First Nations and the province.

Much of the success of Ontario's Far North will depend on increasing economic opportunities for Aboriginal people in the north. The [Growth Plan for Northern Ontario](#) will help the Far North compete and thrive in a changing global economy. The Growth Plan will complement the work done through the Far North Planning Initiative. It provides a 25-year economic blueprint for northern Ontario with policy directions under six themes: Economy, People, Communities, Infrastructure, Environment and Aboriginal Peoples. The plan aims to create a regional economy that:

- is resilient and sustainable
- gives northerners more education and career choices, and
- attracts new people and investments.

Aboriginal people have participated in the development of the Growth Plan through workshops, meetings and reports and will continue to be involved in the Growth Plan's implementation.

The [Mining Act](#) was modernized in 2009 with significant input from Aboriginal communities. The government completed a public input phase in June 2010 on regulations for the province's modernized Mining Act that included consultations with First Nation and Métis communities.



Northern Ontario covers over 800,000 square kilometres, representing nearly 90% of the province's land area. It is home to 106 First Nations and 40% of Ontario's Aboriginal population.



“Providing economic opportunities through renewable energy development is a cornerstone of Ontario’s Green Energy Act.”

The Ontario government is continuing its work with Aboriginal partners to develop a system of Resource Benefits Sharing. The government has committed an initial \$30 million towards a **Resource Benefits Sharing plan**. We are working towards resource revenue sharing agreements that will contribute to a more positive climate for strong partnerships, economic opportunity, and prosperity for Aboriginal communities and Ontario as a whole. First Nations and Métis communities are in discussions with the government on details of the long-term agreement.

The Ontario government wants to ensure that Aboriginal communities can both benefit from and be a part of Ontario’s drive to find the clean energy that will fuel our future. Providing economic opportunities for Aboriginal communities through renewable energy development is a cornerstone of Ontario’s Green Energy Act. In support of this goal, the Ontario government launched a number of initiatives, such as the **Aboriginal Energy Partnership Program**, the **Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program** and price incentives under the **Feed-In-Tariff Program**. These initiatives will create jobs and stimulate economic development, while offering guaranteed and sustained long-term revenue streams.

After consulting with Aboriginal communities in 2009, the **Ontario Power Authority (OPA)** launched the **Aboriginal Energy Partnerships Program** in April 2010. The program provides funding for community energy plans and support for renewable energy development work. Through the **Aboriginal Renewable Energy Fund** component of the program, 15 grants have been awarded for projects in 11 Aboriginal communities across the province. The following First Nation communities are participating in the development of hydroelectric, solar, wind and bio-energy projects with this support:

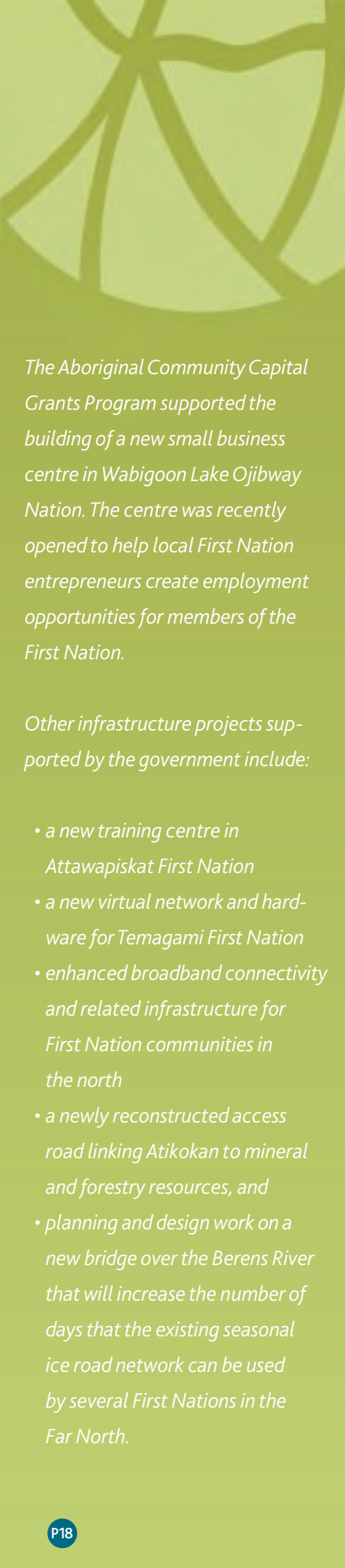
- Bingwi Neyasshi Anishinaabek (Sand Point) First Nation
- Cat Lake First Nation
- Pic Mobert First Nation
- Pic River First Nation
- Slate Falls First Nation
- Wikwemikong Unceded Indian Reserve
- Chippewas of Georgina Island
- Alderville First Nation
- Mississauga First Nation
- Matachewan First Nation, and
- M'Chigeeng First Nation.

Another program that supports Aboriginal participation in the green economy is the government's \$250-million **Aboriginal Loan Guarantee Program**. Aboriginal communities eligible for loan guarantees can become equity partners in renewable generation and transmission projects.

Ontario's **Feed-In-Tariff Program** is a guaranteed pricing structure that combines stable prices and long-term contracts for energy generated using renewable resources. To date, 19 Aboriginal-led or partnered renewable energy projects have been offered Feed-In-Tariff contracts with the Ontario Power Authority.

"First Nation communities are participating in the development of hydroelectric, solar, wind and bio-energy projects."





The Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program supported the building of a new small business centre in Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation. The centre was recently opened to help local First Nation entrepreneurs create employment opportunities for members of the First Nation.

Other infrastructure projects supported by the government include:

- *a new training centre in Attawapiskat First Nation*
- *a new virtual network and hardware for Temagami First Nation*
- *enhanced broadband connectivity and related infrastructure for First Nation communities in the north*
- *a newly reconstructed access road linking Atikokan to mineral and forestry resources, and*
- *planning and design work on a new bridge over the Berens River that will increase the number of days that the existing seasonal ice road network can be used by several First Nations in the Far North.*

Healthy communities need **infrastructure**. The **Aboriginal Community Capital Grants Program** helps First Nation and Aboriginal organizations build and renovate community centres and small business centres. These centres support business and community development, and can provide employment and training opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Ontario is also partnering with the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres to build or renovate friendship centres across the province. The three-year, \$8-million **Friendship Centre Infrastructure Program** will help ensure that friendship centres continue to play a prominent role in the lives of urban Aboriginal people.

In November 2010, the governments of Canada and Ontario, in partnership with Bell Aliant, announced more than \$81 million in funding to create the **Northwestern Ontario Broadband Expansion Initiative**. This will supply state-of-the-art fibre-optic networks to 26 Nishnawbe Aski Nation communities in Ontario's Far North. The entire initiative is made up of five projects that will be completed over four years and will span more than 2,300 kilometres. This new infrastructure will encourage economic development, spur innovation and improve the quality of life for the region's First Nations.

In 2009, the governments of Canada and Ontario provided support to 52 Aboriginal community recreation projects with total funding of over \$30 million through the **Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RIInC) Program** and the **Ontario Recreation Program (Ontario REC)**. Funding for facilities like pools, rinks and playgrounds are helping to improve recreational opportunities in Aboriginal communities across the province.

"Friendship Centres are community hubs. They provide a gathering place for urban Aboriginal people to celebrate their culture and access many services and programs. On behalf of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres we look forward to working with Ontario and express our gratitude to the province for supporting our efforts in providing a safe environment for urban Aboriginal people in our communities."

Sheila McMahon, President of the Ontario Federation of Indian Friendship Centres, Sept 22, 2010, Ontario News Release





*November 2010, Jumpstart James Bay Tour
with Olympian Sami Jo Small*

⑤ Health, Education and Social Services – Closing the Gap

Aboriginal leaders in communities across Ontario are committed to building a brighter future for Aboriginal children and youth. Ontario is helping by delivering programs and services that will create better opportunities. To ensure informed representation the government appointed John Beaucage, former Grand Council Chief of the Anishinabek Nation, as the **Aboriginal Advisor to the Minister of Children and Youth Services**.

Affordable housing programs improve the quality of life for Aboriginal families living off-reserve. Under the \$80-million **Off-Reserve Aboriginal Housing Trust Program**, the province is working with Aboriginal funding administrators to deliver the **First Nation, Inuit, Métis Urban and Rural Housing Program** and the **Greater Toronto Area Aboriginal Housing Program**. These programs will provide affordable housing for approximately 880 off-reserve Aboriginal households.

The Ontario government and Aboriginal partners are renewing the **Aboriginal Healing and Wellness Strategy**. Since 1994, this strategy has addressed health issues in Aboriginal communities, both on-and off-reserve. It has improved access to health care and has enhanced services to address family violence while building the capacity of First Nations, Métis and Inuit communities within a holistic and culture-based framework.

The Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs has developed new partnerships between government, businesses, private foundations and non-profit organizations that are helping public funds go further and enriching the lives of Aboriginal children and youth. In 2010, the Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs approached Right To Play, Canadian Tire Jumpstart and the Belinda Stronach Foundation to bring youth programs to life.

Promoting Life-skills for Aboriginal Youth (PLAY) is a partnership that began in 2010 between Ontario and Right To Play. Through sport and recreation, the program gives kids an opportunity to be healthier and a reason to be happier. It was piloted in Moose Cree and Sandy Lake First Nation, and they welcomed the first PLAY hockey program for hundreds of youth in their communities last November. Both communities report increased participation among youth and fewer incidents of vandalism and suicide since the program started.

"Affordable housing programs improve the quality of life for Aboriginal families living off-reserve."





Right To Play is a humanitarian organization that uses sport and play programs to improve health and develop life skills for children and communities in 23 countries around the world. After the successful pilots in Moose Cree and Sandy Lake First Nations, the program is being expanded to more communities in 2011.

"I am very proud. I feel very happy that I am able to work in a project like this where we can give so much to the kids in the community. I feel the need to help them grow as strong, healthy individuals. I see the potential to work with kids, moulding them to be great leaders to contribute to the community."

*Catherine Cheechoo,
PLAY Program Supervisor*

Through **Canadian Tire Jumpstart**, a national community-based charitable program, First Nation youth living along the James Bay coast will gain confidence, self-esteem and leadership skills through sports and physical activity. Seven Far North First Nation communities have received sports equipment. Attawapiskat First Nation is also the first to receive funds for a local wellness worker to support youth leadership skills, self-esteem and sports.

One Laptop Per Child, a partnership between Ontario and the Belinda Stronach Foundation, is delivering laptop computers to First Nation children ages 6 to 12 in participating communities. The computers are loaded with Aboriginal content, including 100 books, literacy and leadership programs, nutrition guides, physical exercise programs as well as games to improve dexterity, self-esteem and creativity.

Aboriginal people will be a driving force in the labour market of tomorrow, which is why support for Aboriginal learners is a necessity. To help Aboriginal learners succeed, Ontario invested more than \$26 million in both 2010 and



Attawapiskat, Chapleau Cree, Fort Albany, Kashechewan, Missinabie Cree, Taykwa Tagamou and Weenusk First Nations are benefiting from Jumpstart.

2011 in additional supports. For example, the new **Aboriginal Student Bursary Fund**, introduced in 2009, has helped close to 1,000 learners access and participate in postsecondary education.

Other programs and support services for Aboriginal learners and targeted initiatives are helping even more learners. The **Aiming Higher** program at Nipissing University is an example. It is a part of a student recruitment program supported by funding through Ontario. Aiming Higher has helped more than 150 Aboriginal high school students and adult learners explore program offerings at Nipissing University. The program also provides workshops and motivational addresses led by professional Aboriginal role models.

Ontario developed the **Aboriginal Education Strategy**. This strategy has been designed to help improve opportunities for First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in both remote and urban areas. It sets the foundation for improving achievement among Aboriginal students in provincially funded schools and supports life-long learning as students transition to postsecondary, training or workplace opportunities. Funding is provided to school boards for additional support to Aboriginal students, specialized training for teachers, **Native Studies** and **Native Languages classes**. Funding is also provided to support **Native Counsellor training** and alternative secondary school programs.

Through the **Aboriginal Justice Strategy**, Ontario is addressing the varying needs of Aboriginal people more effectively. The strategy's vision is to provide equitable, coordinated, effective and responsive criminal justice services to all Aboriginal men, women, children and youth in Ontario. To help realize this vision, the **Aboriginal Victims Support Grant Program** supported a number of initiatives that will improve the lives of victims in Aboriginal communities.

From 2009 to 2010, a total of \$2 million was awarded to 19 Aboriginal organizations, many in underserved areas of the province, for 20 projects supporting victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, hate crimes and historic abuse. Victims in the Kashechewan, Fort Severn and Moose Cree First Nations as well as in Thunder Bay, Timmins, Sudbury, Hamilton and Ottawa benefited from the initiatives that received funding.



*"Aboriginal people
will be a driving force
in the labour market
of tomorrow."*



Ipperwash Park, Ontario

⑥ Land Claims and Reconciliation – We Are all Treaty People

The government is continuing its work toward resolving Ontario land claims and fostering reconciliation between Aboriginal communities, non-Aboriginal communities and governments.

Ontario funded the participation of 34 First Nations communities in land-claim negotiations with the province. The most recent claims ratified by Ontario and First Nations include:

- the **Fort William Boundary Claim**, which proposes to transfer approximately 4,655 hectares of Ontario Crown land to Canada to be set apart as a reserve for the Fort William First Nation and
- the **Missanabie Cree First Nation Land Transfer Agreement**, which gives the community their first land base.

Through the **Land and Larger Land Base Negotiations**, land is provided to landless First Nations or First Nations with very small reserves. This year, the final agreement with Bingwi Neyasshi Anishinaabek (Sand Point) First Nation was fully implemented with the establishment of the **Bingwi Neyasshi Anishinaabek (Sand Point) Reserve**. This community previously had no land base. Now, Sand Point First Nation can strengthen its community identity, pursue new economic opportunities and plan for the future.

In March 2010, provincial regulations for **Ipperwash Provincial Park** were removed to allow the transfer of the land to the federal government. This paves the way for the park to be added to the reserve of the **Chippewas of Kettle and Stony Point First Nation**.

We have been working to improve the land-claim process, as recommended in Justice Linden's **Report of the Ipperwash Inquiry**. This year, Ontario met its commitment to clear the backlog of outstanding land claims awaiting assessment.

Ontario will continue to support a land-claim process that promotes effective negotiations, meaningful settlements and good relations between communities.

"Like all negotiations, there have been ups and downs, but we have worked tirelessly towards a resolution that will benefit present-day members and future generations, which our forefathers expected when they signed the Treaty in 1850. The Settlement will also provide the resources that our First Nation needs to create businesses, employment and other opportunities for the long term which will benefit our members and the entire Thunder Bay area."

Chief Peter Collins, Fort William First Nation, Nov 19, 2010, Ontario News Release

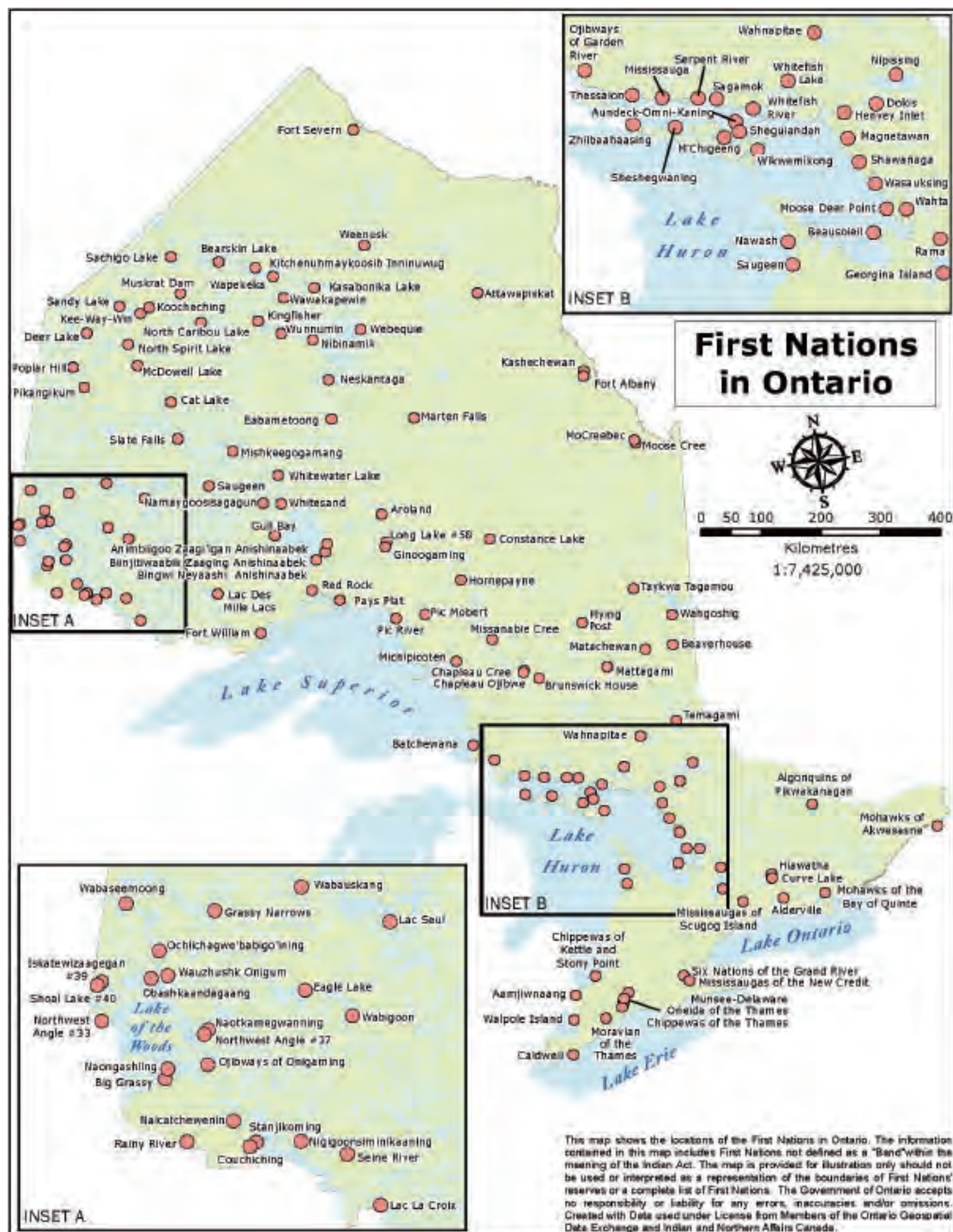
⑦ Looking Ahead

Aboriginal people are the fastest growing population in Ontario. For Ontario to be a strong, healthy province, Aboriginal people and their communities must enjoy the same quality of life that the rest of Ontario experiences.

Though the last two years have been very productive, there is much more work to be done to make that goal a reality.

Ontario is firmly committed to improving the quality of life of First Nations, Métis and Inuit, and to closing the social and economic gaps between Aboriginal people and non-Aboriginal Ontarians.





This map shows the locations of the First Nations in Ontario. The information contained in this map includes First Nations not defined as a "Band" within the meaning of the Indian Act. The map is provided for illustration only should not be used or interpreted as a representation of the boundaries of First Nations' reserves or a complete list of First Nations. The Government of Ontario accepts no responsibility or liability for any errors, inaccuracies and/or omissions. Created with Data used under License from Members of the Ontario Geospatial Data Exchange and Indian and Northern Affairs Canada.

8 Aboriginal People in Ontario

- According to 2006 Census data, Ontario has the largest Aboriginal population in Canada.
- An estimated 296,500 Aboriginal people live in Ontario, representing 21 per cent of Canada's total Aboriginal population.
- In Ontario, Aboriginal people make up about two per cent of the general population.
- Those who identify themselves as First Nations or as having First Nations ancestry make up 65 per cent of the Aboriginal population; Métis make up 30 per cent; and Inuit, 0.8 per cent. Others, including those who identify with more than one Aboriginal group and those who are registered members of a First Nation but do not claim Aboriginal identity, make up 3.5 per cent.
- The Aboriginal population in Ontario is growing. While the general population increased by 6.6 per cent between 2001 and 2006, the total Aboriginal population in Ontario grew by 28.7 per cent.
- The increase in the Aboriginal population of Ontario may be attributed to an increase in the birthrate and the number of people identifying themselves as Aboriginal or as having Aboriginal ancestry.
- The First Nations population in Ontario increased by 20.4 per cent from 2001 to 2006.
- The Métis population in this province increased by 52 per cent between 2001 and 2006. Again, this may be attributed to more people identifying themselves as Métis.
- The Aboriginal population in Ontario is young. Approximately 27 per cent are 15 years or younger, compared to about 18 per cent in the rest of the population.

(Source: 2006 Census. Note that several First Nations chose not to participate in this census and some were incompletely enumerated. Additional information was obtained from Indian and Northern Affairs Canada and First Nations websites. The total Aboriginal population includes an estimated 54,000 First Nations people who did not participate in data collection by Statistics Canada.)

