



National Association of Friendship Centres
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For Immediate Release

Press Release

Urban Aboriginal Youth Initiative Renewed

(May 10, 2005) – Ottawa, Ontario – The National Association of Friendship Centres (NAFC) is pleased to announce that the Urban Multi-Purpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative has been renewed today.

“We are relieved to have the initiative renewed”, stated NAFC President Vera Pawis Tabobondung. “Now we can continue the important work of serving urban Aboriginal youth.”

The NAFC have been in discussions concerning the renewal of the program for quite some time. When April 1, 2005 passed with no announcement of the initiative's renewal, many became concerned about the future of the initiative. In response, mass layoffs occurred across the country impacting the services available for urban Aboriginal youth. This announcement will allow communities to begin the task of hiring workers and rebuilding capacity.

“We are looking forward to having youth programs become operational again”, commented Peter Dinsdale, Executive Director. “It will take some time as so many workers will have to be rehired.”

The National Association of Friendship Centres is a national Aboriginal organization providing programs and services to 117 Friendship Centres across the country.

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