
News Release Communiqué

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Minister Frulla Announces Renewal of Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative

OTTAWA, May 10, 2005 – Minister of Canadian Heritage and Minister responsible for Status of Women Liza Frulla today announced a five-year extension of the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre (UMAYC) Initiative and a renewed total investment of \$125 million over this period.

“Over the past seven years, this Initiative has proven to be tremendously beneficial for Aboriginal young people,” said Minister Frulla. “So, I am very pleased to be able to announce the renewal of the Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centre Initiative, which provides Aboriginal youth with a range of programs and services that help them reach their full potential.”

“We are delighted to be working with the Department of Canadian Heritage on this Initiative’s renewal,” said Vera Pawis Tabobondung, President of the National Association of Friendship Centres. “This Initiative is an incredibly important one for urban Aboriginal youth across the country.”

The UMAC Initiative was established in 1998 for five years. In 2003, the Initiative was extended for another two years. Today’s announcement ensures that the Initiative will continue to operate until 2010.

The Initiative is managed in partnership with three national Aboriginal organizations—the National Association of Friendship Centres, the Métis National Council, and the Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami—and their provincial/regional branches.

The Urban Multipurpose Aboriginal Youth Centres Initiative provides Aboriginal youth aged 15 to 24, living in urban settings, with projects and activities that are culturally relevant and based in the Aboriginal community. The Initiative helps Aboriginal youth improve their economic, social, and personal prospects.

Funding announced today was provided for in the February 2005 federal budget.

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Information:

Jean-Philippe Côté
Director of
Communications
Office of the Minister of
Canadian Heritage and
Minister responsible for
Status of Women
(819) 997-7788

Peter Dinsdale
Executive Director
National Association of
Friendship Centres
(613) 563-4844

Myriam Brochu
Chief, Media Relations
Canadian Heritage
(819) 997-9314

(This news release is available on the Internet at <http://www.canadianheritage.gc.ca> under Media Room.)

