

August 24, 2010

Alberta receives national awards for plan to end homelessness and First Nations economic development

Edmonton... Alberta's approach for helping people most in need received countrywide recognition at the 2010 Institute of Public Administration of Canada (IPAC) national awards ceremony. Alberta is a recognized leader in the nation when it comes to ending homelessness and promoting Aboriginal economic development. The two award-winning initiatives are the first of their kind in Canada and set new standards for collaboration among funders, community leaders and service providers.

A Plan for Alberta: Ending Homelessness in 10 years won the Gold national award. Spearheaded by Alberta Housing and Urban Affairs, this initiative shifts the role of government from managing homelessness through emergency shelters to ending homelessness by providing permanent housing and the supports needed to break the cycle of homelessness. When fully implemented, the plan will ensure homeless Albertans are permanently housed with the supports they need within 21 days of entering a temporary emergency shelter. Fifteen Alberta government ministries are involved and all of Alberta's major cities have multi-year strategies to end homelessness which align to the provincial plan.

"Under Premier Stelmach's leadership, community partners have joined with us to bring hope and a better future to hundreds of Alberta's most vulnerable citizens," said Jonathan Denis, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs. "This national award propels us forward on the path to ending homelessness as we know it today in Alberta."

The First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative, led by Alberta Aboriginal Relations, received the Bronze level award. The innovative program is delivered in partnership with Alberta Employment and Immigration to develop sustainable partnerships between First Nations, industry and government. Its unique cross-sector approach with industry and government strengthens First Nations economic capacity.

"The First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative's unique approach has resulted in more than 109 sustainable partnerships since the program's inception in 2005," said Len Webber, Minister of Aboriginal Relations. "Recognition by IPAC is an honour and allows us to further share this partnership model with our public administration peers across Canada."

The 2010 Innovative Management Awards recognize governmental/public sector organizations that have shown new and innovative ways of cutting across bureaucratic boundaries and silos to address the complex issues facing society.

The IPAC Innovative Management Awards were presented on August 24 at the 62nd IPAC

National Annual Conference in Ottawa. The IPAC conference brings together more than 500 senior officials from federal, provincial, territory and municipal levels of government, as well as senior representatives from academia and the private sector. For more information on IPAC visit www.ipac.ca.

For more information on Alberta's 10-year plan to end homelessness, visit www.housing.alberta.ca. For information on the First Nations Economic Partnerships Initiative, visit www.aboriginal.alberta.ca.

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