

## Media Advisory

### National and International Business, Aboriginal Inclusion and Diversity Leaders Gather in Toronto this Week to advance Indigenous Employment

**April 26, 2010, Toronto** - *Inclusion Works '10*, Canada's premier Aboriginal HR and employment event kicks off in Toronto this week with a line-up of corporate, Aboriginal and government leaders that will set the tone for discussions that will advance workplace strategies to advance inclusion across Canada and beyond.

The event includes a unique hiring fair which will bring together 86 of the nation's top First Nation, Métis and Inuit graduates and recruiters from many of Canada's leading companies and employers-of-choice.

Hosted by the Aboriginal Human Resource Council (AHRC) and it's more than 60 *Leadership Circle* partners, *Inclusion Works '10* is dedicated to raising awareness of the benefits of hiring Aboriginal workers and helping employers become better versed in Aboriginal diversity and inclusivity in the workplace.

AHRC President and CEO, Kelly Lendsay, says this year's program provides a platform for discussion between Aboriginal communities and employers and an opportunity for businesses to learn more about the importance of workplace diversity and inclusion.

"With the Canadian economy emerging from recession and a skills shortage looming ever larger on the horizon, there's never been a better time to focus on what workplace diversity and inclusion really means for the longer term prospects of some of the country's major employers," says Mr. Lendsay.

In addition, he says the inclusion of Aboriginal workers and increased employee diversity at all levels in Canadian companies will help dispel long-held misconceptions and improve understanding between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal communities.

"*Inclusion Works '10* is a step in that process. It will help employers assess their future human resource requirements and introduce them to the talented young Aboriginal people who can meet those needs."

Keynote speakers at the three-day event include:

- National Chief Shawn Atleo, Assembly of First Nations
- The Right Honourable Paul Martin, former Prime Minister and current head of the Martin Aboriginal Education Initiative
- Sir Ken Robinson, internationally recognized speaker and leader in the development of creativity, innovation and human resources - "How to Profit from Diversity"
- Sonya Kunkel, Environics - "Results of Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study"
- Ed Komarnicki - Parliamentary Secretary, Human Resources and Skills Development Canada

Formed in 1998, the Aboriginal Human Resource Council is a national not-for-profit organization. As a social enterprise, the council's mandate is to advance the full participation of Aboriginal people in [Canada's labour market](#) on a national level.

-30-

For more information:

Chris Freimond, 778.840.2428 or Nicole Robertson, 403.616.4999

w: <http://www.aboriginalhr.ca>