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PROOF OF CONCEPT FOR ADVANCING AN ABORIGINAL WORKFORCE DELIVERED AT FIRST NATIONAL CONFERENCE

April 4-5, 2007, Fairmont Château Laurier, Ottawa

Ottawa – *Unlocking Aboriginal Potential in the Workplace*, a national Aboriginal recruitment, retention and advancement two-day conference began today at the Fairmont Château Laurier in Ottawa. More than 275 delegates and speakers have gathered to learn about successful strategies to advance an Aboriginal workforce. Delegates represent Canadian employers, educators, human resource professionals, diversity managers, career development practitioners and employment counsellors.

“The advancement of Aboriginal people in the workplace is a complex issue that can not be solved without thoughtful strategic consideration for the realities of the Aboriginal community and mainstream workforce, says Kelly Lendsay, President and CEO of the conference host, Aboriginal Human Resource Development Council of Canada (AHRDCC). “It gives me great pride to say that even in the face of much adversity, the transformation of solutions and proof-of-concept for Aboriginal inclusion in the workplace is evident in Canada and at this conference.”

Unlocking Aboriginal Potential in the Workplace will provide delegates with a first time opportunity of this nature to learn about promising Canadian and international Aboriginal labour market practices. The dynamic and high level lineup of keynote and workshop presentations will help delegates build and improve labour market strategies that will accelerate Aboriginal employment opportunities, career development solutions and workplace engagement strategies in Canada.

“Focus on economic development is critical to Canada’s productivity, says Chief Clarence Louie, Osoyoos Indian Band Development Corporation and AHRDCC board member. “However, attention must be given to the key driver of productivity – human resource development. The success of the Osoyoos First Nation to mobilize our human resource capital and create unparalleled economic success can be used as a model for others to follow.”

AHRDCC is a public private partnership that connects Aboriginal organizations and employers to partnerships and solutions that accelerate the recruitment, retention and advancement of Aboriginal people in the Canadian labour market.

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