

# WIGWAM TO WIGWAM

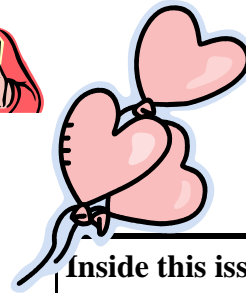
YOUR HOUSE TO HOUSE NEWS

MAY 2010

Happy Mother's Day



Sunday, May 9th, 2010



## Why do we celebrate VICTORIA DAY?

Victoria Day celebrates Queen Victoria's birthday.

We celebrate her birthday because Canada is part of the Commonwealth of Nations and the Queen is the head of the Commonwealth.

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Please note that the office will be closed for the Victoria Day holiday on:

**Monday, May 24, 2010**

## IN THE NEWS

### Most urban aboriginal peoples opt to stay in the city.

Almost half of Canadian aboriginal peoples are city dwellers, and a new study released to CBC by the Environics Institute suggests many have no plans to return to their home reserve.

The national Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study of 2,614 self-identified aboriginal people found that while many native Canadians maintain ties with their home communities, only three in 10 first-generation urban aboriginal peoples have moved back to their home community since moving to the city.

"Notwithstanding the sense of connection majorities of urban aboriginal peoples have to their communities of origin, the large majority of urban aboriginal peoples feel their current city of residence is home," the study said. "When asked 'where is home for you?' seven in 10 (71 per cent) UAPS participants say it is their current city of residence."

Native Canadians in 11 urban centres across the country participated in the study, which included person-to-person interviews conducted from March to October 2009. The Urban Aboriginal Peoples Study set out to examine the attitudes of native Canadians who call the city home. Non-aboriginal people were also interviewed in a separate poll.

Half of the country's 1,172,790 aboriginal Canadians lived in urban centres, according to the 2006 census. Nine in 10 of those interviewed in the study said they liked living in their city at least somewhat.

"Within [Canada's] cities, urban aboriginal peoples are seeking to become a significant and visible part of the urban landscape," the study said. "They like living in their cities and majorities feel they can make a positive difference in their urban homes. Notably, they are as likely as non-aboriginal people to feel this way."

Eighty-two per cent of participants said they were "very proud" of their specific aboriginal identity, that is, First Nations, Métis or Inuk. Slightly fewer — 70 per cent — said the same about being Canadian. And most are confident that they can retain cultural ties in an urban setting. Six in 10 were completely or somewhat unworried about losing contact with their culture, while a minority were totally (17 per cent) or somewhat (21 per cent) concerned.

#### Perceptions of racism

Participants in the study did note, however, that while they have a strong sense of pride in their culture and their country, a majority continue to experience negative stereotypes.

"If there is a single urban aboriginal experience, it is the shared perception among First Nations peoples, Métis and Inuit, across cities, that they are stereotyped negatively," the report said. "Indeed, most report that they have personally experienced negative behaviour or unfair treatment because of who they are."

Almost nine in 10 of those native Canadians interviewed said they believe others behave unfairly or negatively toward aboriginal people. Seventy per cent said they had been teased or insulted because of their background.

Many of the aboriginal respondents also believe other Canadians hold negative stereotypes against them. Almost three in four perceive assumptions about addiction problems in the aboriginal community, while many felt negative stereotypes about laziness (30 per cent), lack of intelligence (20 per cent) and poverty (20 per cent).

One participant in the study said the stereotypes tend to be twofold — aboriginal peoples as both romantic ideals and troublemakers.

"There's that impression of [the] noble savage, there's like the exotic romantic view, and generally we're viewed as problematic.

However, the survey found 24 per cent could be described as "dismissive naysayers" who tend to hold more negative impressions.

#### Education a top priority

Participants in the study were also asked about their goals, which closely mirrored those of many Canadians.

For example, respondents said their top aspirations are to complete their education (28 per cent), start or raise a family (24 per cent) and have a satisfying career (22 per cent).

(article continued from page 2)

Many participants also saw education as a top priority for themselves and future generations, but reported financial cost as a major obstacle to post-secondary studies.

Schooling is also a top hope for future generations. When asked how they would like their children's and grandchildren's lives to be different from their own, one in five mentioned education. Slightly fewer hoped for a solid cultural connection (18 per cent) and a life without racism (17 per cent).

The study suggests, however, that many aboriginal people are clearly concerned about how to pay for that future. Money was cited as the No. 1 barrier to getting a post-secondary education among 36 per cent of those planning to attend — and 45 per cent of those already enrolled in — a university or college.

### Little faith in justice system

One out of every two urban native Canadians interviewed say they have had serious involvement with the Canadian justice system in the past decade: 52 per cent have been a crime witness or a victim, or have been arrested or charged.

Of these people, nearly four in 10 believe they have been treated unfairly by the system, while 57 per cent believed they received a fair shake.

The participants also tended to lack faith in the justice system. More than half of aboriginal respondents have little (33 per cent) to no (22 per cent) confidence, while six per cent have a great deal.

A majority of respondents — 56 per cent — supported the idea of creating an aboriginal-only justice system separate from mainstream Canadian courts.

CBC Canada (cbc.ca) April 6, 2010

## Tenant Insurance



### Tenant insurance protects you in two ways:

**Property Coverage** - protects you from loss or damage to your personal property from fire, theft, water damage, and pays for additional living expenses if you are forced to leave your home because of a covered loss.

**Liability Coverage** - protects you from the costs of claims made against you for accidental injury and for damage to other people's property caused by your negligent actions.

For full details of this insurance coverage, please refer to the complete policy wording available on our website at [www.sohoinsurance.ca](http://www.sohoinsurance.ca)

If you are an Ontario Works client or you receive Ontario disability benefits, your shelter allowance may cover the cost of this insurance. Please contact your caseworker for more information about this.



SoHo Insurance Inc. 390 Bay Street, Suite 705, Toronto, ON M5H 2Y2  
 T: 416.360.0761 TF: 1.866.440.2492 F: 416.360.3711  
 E: [tenant@sohoinsurance.ca](mailto:tenant@sohoinsurance.ca) W: [www.sohoinsurance.ca](http://www.sohoinsurance.ca)

## Aboriginal Head Start Program (AHS)

Aboriginal Head Start (AHS) in Urban and Northern Communities is a Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) funding early childhood development programs for First Nations, Inuit and Métis children and their families. The primary goal of the initiative is to demonstrate that locally controlled and designed early intervention strategies can provide Aboriginal children with a positive sense of themselves, a desire for learning, and opportunities to develop fully as successful young people. There are 125 AHS sites in urban and northern communities across Canada.

AHS projects typically provide half-day preschool experiences that prepare young Aboriginal children for their school years by meeting their spiritual, emotional, intellectual and physical needs. All projects provide programming in six core areas: education and school readiness; Aboriginal culture and language; parental involvement, health promotion; nutrition; and social support.

Projects are locally designed and controlled, and administered by non-profit Aboriginal organizations. AHS directly involves parents and the community in the management and operation of projects. Parents are supported in their role as the child's first and most influential teacher, and the wisdom of elders is valued.

### Mission and Mandate

First Nations people, Métis and Inuit recognize children as their nations' most valuable resource. Thus, Aboriginal Head Start will provide comprehensive experiences for First Nations, Métis and Inuit children up to 6 years of age and their families, with primary emphasis on preschoolers, 3-5 years of age. The program will be based on caring, creativity and pride following from the knowledge of their traditional community beliefs, within a holistic and safe environment.

The primary goal of this initiative is to demonstrate that locally controlled and designed early intervention strategies can provide Aboriginal preschool children in urban and northern settings with a positive sense of themselves, a desire for learning and opportunities to develop fully and successfully as young people.

**For more information regarding the AHS program, please contact:**



**Public Health Agency of Canada**  
180 Queen Street West, 11th Floor  
Toronto, ON M5V 3L7  
Tel: (416) 973-0002  
Fax: (416) 973-0009



## Career Planning

A full featured employment, career development & job finding resource for youth



This site offers interested youth career profiles, answers your career questions, assists with finding a job and much more!

If you are a youth and are looking for information about starting a career, check out the website below:

[www.nextsteps.org](http://www.nextsteps.org)



Government of Canada  
Gouvernement du Canada



Aboriginal Canada Portal



**ABORIGINAL JOB CENTRE**



On this site you can search for jobs in many different sectors from administration to education to manufacturing.

If you are Aboriginal and are currently looking for a job, check out the Aboriginal Job Centre through the website below:

[www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca](http://www.aboriginalcanada.gc.ca)



# Zero Balance Club

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**Recent Winners**

January - DARLENE KYLE

February - RENA GREEN

March - BERNADETTE CRAWFORD

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The above mentioned tenants are all winners of a \$50 gift card!

**Are you wondering how to win?!**

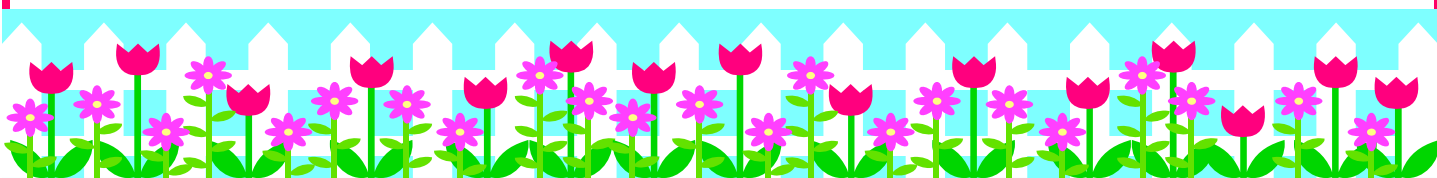
**All you need to do is pay your rent on time each month and maintain a “zero balance” on your account.**

**You will be automatically entered into the draw each month you have a zero balance!**



## FLOWER POWER 2010

If you are interested in participating in *Flower Power 2010*,  
Please contact Jodi at 416-481-4451 ext. 22.



## CREATIVE WRITING AWARD

To commemorate the Honourable James K. Bartleman's term as Ontario's Lieutenant Governor, the Government of Ontario has created the:

### **JAMES BARTLEMAN ABORIGINAL YOUTH CREATIVE WRITING AWARD**

Each year, the program will recognize up to six (6) Aboriginal students for their creative writing talent. Creative pieces may include, but are not limited to short stories, poems, essays, plays, or songs and **must be original work created by the student.**

The award will have three (3) categories: fly-in community, on-reserve and off-reserve. For each category, there will be an 'up to 12 years of age' and '13 to 18 years of age' recipient.

Each recipient will receive a certificate and a cash reward of \$2,500.

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE?**

To be eligible for the award, you must:

- Be 18 years of age or under.
- Submit an original creative writing piece that has not in any part been copied from any source.
- Self identify as being Aboriginal
- Be a student enrolled in a school in Ontario
- Be a permanent resident of Ontario



**The deadline for submissions is MAY 31st, 2010 .**

If you are interested in applying for this award please contact Danielle Powell at  
(416) 481-4451 or [dpowell@wigwamen.com](mailto:dpowell@wigwamen.com)

## *Calling all young artists...*

Each month we would like to include a piece of artwork or writing (including poems, short stories, etc.) in our newsletter to highlight talent amongst our youngest tenants!

If you are between the ages 5 and 13 and would like to contribute your work to our monthly newsletter please contact Danielle Powell at (416) 481-4451.

**PLEASE NOTE: Submissions must be no bigger than 5 1/4" x 4 1/4" (approximately half a piece of paper) and should include your name, address and age on the back of your work.**



We look forward to seeing all of your wonderful submissions!

*Check back each month to see if your artwork or writing is printed in the newsletter!*



### YOUR "HOUSE TO HOUSE" NEWS

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**#310 - 25 Imperial St.**

**Toronto, Ontario**

**M5P 1B9**

**www.wigwamen.com**

**Phone: 416-481-4451**

**Fax: 416-481-5002**

**If you have submissions for the "Wigwam to Wigwam" newsletter, please contact:**

**Danielle Powell**

**(416) 481-4451**

**dpowell@wigwamen.com**