

NAABA launches improved business link for members

(Fort McMurray, AB – June 22, 2009) - Aboriginal-owned companies will receive information about work opportunities in the region more quickly and efficiently, thanks to a new initiative started by the Northeastern Alberta Aboriginal Business Association (NAABA).

Procurement and contract decision makers will now be able to **submit work opportunities online** to NAABA at www.naaba.ca, who will then forward the information directly to its members. Member businesses interested in the work opportunities can then contact NAABA, who will forward the names and their company information to the procurement contact responsible for managing the work opportunity.

"This direct contact between procurement and contract decision makers and NAABA will enable our members to get the information they need to respond to work opportunities in a timely manner," said Cheryl Alexander, NAABA's General Manager. "NAABA will hire a new administrator to assist this direct link between Aboriginal businesses and industry."

Contact information for each **full member** has been posted on NAABA's website. Members must keep their contact information updated to ensure they receive information about business opportunities.

"We've also sent this notice to procurement managers and industry stakeholder relations people to communicate this new service," said Alexander. "We encourage our full members to keep their contact information updated so we can continue helping them receive information about work opportunities."

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For more information, please contact Cheryl Alexander at (780) 791-0478 or by e-mail at naaba@telus.net.

Backgrounder

Good news for Aboriginal businesses in the region:

NAABA launches a streamlined information flows process that will improve your company's ability to respond to work opportunities in the region.

The NAABA Office, under the direction of Cheryl Alexander, will now receive work opportunities directly from business and industry procurement departments (rather than via Red Link or the Chamber of Commerce). The process is time efficient and simple:

1. NAABA will receive the business opportunity information via email.
2. NAABA will forward the business opportunity information directly to its full member businesses; ensuring response deadline information is passed on to the potential supplier.
3. Businesses interested in the work opportunity will contact NAABA directly and express interest.
4. NAABA will forward a list of the interested businesses, along with their contact and business information, to the procurement contact responsible for managing the work opportunity.
5. A new administrator will be hired by NAABA and dedicated to providing this direct link service between Aboriginal business and industry. Aboriginal businesses and industry now has one direct point of contact for work opportunities.

What does this change mean for Full NAABA members?

Direct contact between procurement and contract decision makers and NAABA ensures members get the information they need to respond to work opportunities in a timely manner.

What do Full members need to do to take advantage of this service?

A database of all pertinent contact information for each NAABA full member has been posted on the NAABA website. It is imperative that members keep their company contact information as up-to-date as possible. This will ensure they are getting the information they need to respond to business opportunities in an efficient and timely manner.

Is industry aware of these changes?

A copy of this notice is being sent to procurement managers, business and industry stakeholder relations people, and this new service will be communicated to business and industry throughout the coming weeks.

Should industry representatives or NAABA full members have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact NAABA office at (780) 791-0478 or email at naaba@telus.net