



National Skills Upgrade

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Alarming News in 2013

**Half of First Nations 16 – 55 years are
unemployed or not working
and
More than half of those employed
live below the poverty line
earning \$20,000 or less per year**

**This represents 80% of all First Nations people
across Canada who:**

- Lack confidence and adequate literacy skills
- Lack essential skills for employment
- Struggle to break the cycle of dependency on social assistance
- Are unable to help with their children's education
- Lack opportunities for post-secondary studies
- Live in rural isolation

Communities must take action to reduce poor literacy standards and unemployment in order to effect social change necessary to lift low living standards.

An Important Message to all Aboriginal Leaders

Education and skill development using economies of scale is an **effective solution for breaking the cycle of poverty, low wages and unemployment.**

Research has shown that the best way to upgrade Aboriginal peoples' skills is to use effective community delivery models.

The proposed National Skills Upgrade with modification warrants support of all Canadians.

A Practical Solution for Aboriginals across Canada – 2014

ArrowMight is a home-based solution with the potential to deliver to **150,000 households**, reaching **250,000 adults and young people** – the 80% identified as unemployed, on poverty level wages, and not in the workforce.

Challenge For Aboriginal Leadership

To seek consultation with federal, provincial and territorial governments for the implementation of a National Skills Program for **all unemployed and at-risk Aboriginal households**. The program would run within an agreed upon time-frame of three to four years.

Given the large number of people involved, and with multiple household enrolments, the ArrowMight Program can **double** and **triple potential outcomes**. Maximizing the beneficial reach of the National Skills Program will increase participation rates across Canada – a major evolution in positive skill upgrades that benefits the whole Nation.

The Federal Government has proposed an approach to Provincial/Territorial and employers/industry partners wherein each would contribute \$5,000 per person to assist getting people into employment.

ArrowMight proposes a reduction from the federal government's cost of \$15,000 to \$7,500 per individual, allowing two houses to be serviced for the cost of one. **This also allows two or more adults to be up-skilled in each household, creating cost-efficiencies that can reach all unemployed and at-risk Aboriginal individuals.**

*Delivery efficiencies
could reduce the cost of
the program by half*

Aboriginal leadership should insist that providing opportunities for a select few is discriminatory and unhelpful when faced with the formidable disparities that prevail across Canada for First Nations, Métis, and Inuit.

This would be an ideal federal initiative addressing the disparities experienced by Aboriginal people and improving the future for all Canadians.