



Investing in the Future of B.C. Aboriginal Children *New Program Will Show Families Ways to Save for Post-Secondary*

Vancouver, September 29, 2011 – A new program to encourage Aboriginal families in British Columbia to invest in their children’s futures launches today. “We know that an education after high school can help our children follow their dreams and realize their full potential,” says Vanessa Mountain, Program Manager at Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures. “We as parents, extended family members and caregivers can support our children’s educational dreams by investing now and empowering their future.”

Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures is a non-profit program, run by the B.C. Aboriginal Child Care Society. Its goal is to encourage Aboriginal families across B.C. to plan for their children’s post-secondary education by opening a Registered Education Savings Plan (RESP).

By investing in their children’s education, B.C.’s Aboriginal families and communities are gaining control of their futures, expanding their pool of education dollars and becoming more self-reliant.

“Our children are more likely to find meaningful employment after completing post-secondary education. That makes them better equipped to fulfill their chosen paths,” says Mountain. “What a great way to carry on the legacy of opportunities left by our ancestors”.

By opening an RESP, families and their children are automatically given access to a range of federal government grants and saving incentives to help with their children’s post-secondary education, including extra financial resources to cover expenses when they start post-secondary.

Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures will work at the grassroots level to inform families about just how easy it is to save – and how those savings will grow. Mountain says, “Going to the bank can be a bit daunting for some people; we want to make the process as clear and easy as possible for everyone.” Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures is brought to you by the BC Aboriginal Child Care Society.

-30-

For more information about Hummingbird Aboriginal Student Futures and for interviews prior to the launch of the program, contact:

Gina Vesnaver, Curve Communications, gina@curvecommunications.com 604.684.3170 x 106