



Indian and Northern  
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes  
et du Nord Canada



## Program Background

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The National Aboriginal Trust Officers Association (NATOA) has partnered with TD Bank Financial Group, Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) and Lethbridge College to create an online National Aboriginal Trust Accreditation Program. Since the transfer of trust management responsibilities from the Federal government to Aboriginal communities, there has been considerable demand to ensure the appropriate tools are in place for prudent decision-making at the community level.

To meet this demand, the primary objective of the program is to ensure a consistent, recognizable body of knowledge is available to decision-makers in Aboriginal communities across Canada. The program is intended to deliver standardized training, based on Canadian trustee best-practices and enhance Aboriginal fund management across the country.

It is estimated that Aboriginal investment trusts across Canada total in the billions of dollars. Enhancing the management of these funds will create a significant impact on the well-being of Aboriginal communities, both economically and socially. A conservative improvement of two percent in trust management could be the equivalent of positioning hundreds of millions of dollars back into Canadian Aboriginal communities.

The Lethbridge College curriculum development team, liaising with members of NATOA's Advisory Committee, is developing the curriculum for the program. This team is working closely to ensure the course content is applicable to the fund management needs of all Aboriginal communities and can be accessed by individuals with diverse educational backgrounds. The result of the program will be a larger number of trained individuals, in all corners of the country, who are equipped with the knowledge and skills to make positively impactful decisions for the short and long-term.

The program will be housed on Lethbridge College's online training platform and offered exclusively to individuals through direct links on the NATOA website. The first cohort of National Aboriginal Trust Accreditation Program participants is expected to begin in the summer of 2010.