



National Indigenous Peoples Day Greeting from the CEO, June 21, 2023

Today, as we celebrate National Indigenous Peoples Day, I am happy to be home, and working with everyone on the team at the First Nations Bank of Canada to ensure that Indigenous Peoples across this nation share in the prosperity they deserve. After 22 years in the United States, it was time to get back to my territory, to help Indigenous communities everywhere build the kind of strong economies they have wanted for many generations.

It is possible, there is an awakening across the land that First Nations, Métis and Inuit People have the knowledge and ability to lead the entire country towards a better future, one that is based on sustainable, inclusive economic growth.

While the Canadian population is getting older, our communities are bursting with young people, and we all know that Indigenous youth have the energy and passion to break barriers for all of us.

Our advantage is multi-generational because young people are being guided by the teachings of our Elders and Knowledge Keepers who are sharing their wisdom about how to protect the land, the water and the sky from the devastation we are all witnessing due to climate change.

On this special day, I want to share my commitment and passion for Indigenous languages and cultures. I believe that strong communities with vibrant economies lead to cultural revitalization, something all of us want to see happen for Indigenous communities everywhere.

Our Indigenous communities have a deep connection to the land, a wisdom that guides their decisions, and a profound respect for all living beings. It is through their stories, art, language, and traditions that we gain invaluable insights into the profound relationship between humanity and nature.

Let us stand together in unity, recognizing the injustices of the past and the challenges that Indigenous communities continue to face. Let us reaffirm our commitment to reconciliation and to building a society where every person is treated with dignity, respect, and equality.

National Indigenous Peoples Day serves as a powerful reminder that we all have a role to play in creating positive change. It is a call to action to listen, learn, and engage in meaningful dialogue. To hear the voices of Indigenous communities, and to support their aspirations for self-determination and prosperity.

Together, we can create a future where Indigenous communities thrive, where their unique perspectives are valued and integrated, and where we build relationships of understanding and connection. Let us commit ourselves to walk this journey of reconciliation together as a nation that embraces diversity, celebrates heritage, and fosters harmony.

Hiy hiy

Hamiyaa (Gitxsan), Miigwech (Ojibwe), Maarsi (Metis), Nakurmiik (Inuktitut).

Happy National Indigenous Peoples Day!