



NEWS RELEASE

April 26, 2010

Equity Fund Launched for BC First Nations

Vancouver – The New Relationship Trust (NRT), All Nations Trust Company (ANTCO) and Nuu-chah-nulth Economic Development Corporation (NEDC) have joined forces to create the **BC First Nations Equity Fund** limited partnership. The Fund will offer competitively priced equity loans to BC First Nations so they may participate as owners/partners in commercially viable green energy projects.

Each partner contributed \$1.66 million in seed money to create an initial \$5 million Fund. The partners are looking to leverage additional contributions from government and private sources, with the goal of growing the Fund to \$50 million.

“First Nations have a difficult time accessing equity capital for projects, and as a result they are often left out of economic development projects in their traditional territory. By creating this Fund, we hope to provide them with opportunities to take advantage of viable economic opportunities and partnerships within their territories.” explained Ruth Williams, Chief Executive Officer of ANTCO.

Initially the Fund will focus on alternative energy investments such as small hydro run-of-the-river projects. Loans will assist BC First Nations to participate as independent power producers (IPP) by investing directly in green energy projects and thus becoming significant partners in the economies of BC and Canada.

“The decision to focus on green energy projects makes sense for a number of reasons,” says Al Little, General Manager of NEDC. “Sustainability is a core value of First Nation people. Many communities have the natural resources – rivers and streams - within their territories to participate, and green energy production is a relatively low financial risk because power can be sold to BC Hydro under a long-term agreement.”

The Fund is Aboriginal-owned, controlled and managed. “Our intention is to promote First Nations business leadership by helping BC First Nations build capacity through economic and business development projects,” says NRT Chief Executive Officer Cliff Fregin. “We hope other investors will see the benefit of promoting strong economies in First Nation communities, which will go a long way to strengthen the provincial and national economies as well.”

The Fund will begin to roll out in May 2010. Potential investors and First Nation developers may contact any one of the three founding partners for more information.

ANTCO is a trust company and aboriginal financial institution that promotes Native self-sufficiency through marketing, financial resources and advisory services.

NEDC operates as an aboriginal financial institution as well as a Community Futures corporation that supports First Nation business.

NRT supports First Nation communities in British Columbia in their efforts to build capacity in order to become healthy, prosperous and self-sufficient.

For more information:

Cliff Fregin
CEO, NRT
Tel: 604-925-3338 or 1-800-922-3338
Email: cfregin@nrtf.ca
Website: www.newrelationshiptrust.ca

Al Little
General Manager, NEDC
Tel: 250-724-3131 or 1-866-444-6332
Email: al@nedc.info
Website: www.nedc.info

Ruth Williams
CEO, ANTCO
Tel: 250-828-9770 or 1-800-663-2959
Email: ruthw@antco.bc.ca
Website: www.antco.bc.ca