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- For the past five years, national workshops on land claim issues and claim negotiation and implementation have been held
- We use networks to identify issues, to avoid reinventing the wheel and learn from each other.
- A structure has been created at AANDC to address these issues and initiate appropriate action
- We are working directly with Aboriginal governments
- Senior management has responded as well: there is now a Director General-level committee on northern and aboriginal affairs.
- By and large, the work has been driven from the bottom up. These issues are very important, and staff have been proactive.
- We have had a strong emphasis on education and awareness. We attended the LCAC conference last year. The plenary session revealed a real need for education and awareness, to understand obligations in a fundamental way. For the last number of years that has been the focus. For staff in the NCR, there have been few opportunities to engage directly with Aboriginal representatives, thus the value of this event.
- It's important that we bring Aboriginal representatives to talk
- In 2011 another session was held with LCAC, an excellent opportunity for staff
- The Land claim 101 sessions have also benefitted staff
- Procurement training focuses on those obligations, they are enthusiastic supporters of training opportunities LCAC has offered.
- Our perspective is to get as many people to these events as possible. The Royal Proclamation event, for example, was excellent. We bought a block of registration for that session, advertised it, and received lots of positive feedback.
- We also convene an annual land claim discussion. We just met on Monday and Tuesday, and brought those people here.
- We have strong commitment from staff, who care about the relationships they have with Aboriginal governments. We look for opportunities to develop solutions to issues big and small.
- Regarding staff continuity, we've been lucky that way, which helped as we address larger, systemic issues.
- Collaboration between regional and Ottawa staff is very good. Fully 90 percent of effort is in land claim areas, so this is key.
- Staff have put together a land claims 101 presentation, and this training has sparked some ideas for us as to how we can deliver that in a different way. Last spring there was an opportunity to meet
- We're keen to make the most of future opportunities to provide education and increase awareness of key issues.