

Editor's Introduction

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Robert J. Oppenheimer

In the article “Aboriginal Employment: Improved in 2011, but still has a ways to go”, Oppenheimer discusses the employment picture in Canada for Aboriginals and non-Aboriginals in 2011 as compared to 2010. Employment rates by age, gender, education level, industry, province and territory are presented. By examining employment patterns it is possible to obtain an overview of this important aspect of the State of the Aboriginal Economy. As indicated by the title of the article, employment rates have improved in 2011, but Aboriginal employment remains considerably below those of non-Aboriginals. The article shows that a large part of this gap may be explained by the lower levels of education obtained by Aboriginals.

Colbourne, in his article, “Ch’nook Indigenous business education initiative”, reports the employment levels in British Columbia. Similar to the conclusion reached in Oppenheimer’s article, he notes the gap in educational levels obtained by Aboriginals compared with non-Aboriginals in British Columbia. He then identifies the critical need for further education, particularly in business for Aboriginal youth. The article discusses how Ch’nook addresses this need and the opportunities it provides. The development of Ch’nook is described and it may serve as a possible model for others to adopt. Contact information is provided for those seeking to learn more about Ch’nook as well as how to create such an initiative.