



## ALTAGAS LTD. ANNOUNCES NEW DEVELOPMENT FUND TO SUPPORT FIRST NATIONS ENTREPRENEURS

Calgary, Alberta (May 26, 2014)

Earlier today, AltaGas, Ltd. Chairman and CEO, David Cornhill was on hand to deliver a cheque worth \$500,000 to the Indian Business Corporation (IBC), an Aboriginal Financial Institution, during an announcement at the Chinook Lodge Aboriginal Resource Centre on the campus of SAIT Polytechnic. This ground-breaking agreement allows an Aboriginal Financial institution to partner with an organization outside of government to create a pool of capital to help finance First Nations entrepreneurs to start and grow businesses in their communities.

"AltaGas is always seeking new opportunities to create sustainable social value," said David Cornhill, Chairman and CEO of AltaGas. "I know firsthand how important it was to have financial support when we started AltaGas twenty years ago and we wanted to be able to do the same, but specifically for First Nations entrepreneurs. Through this agreement with IBC, AltaGas is able to support the creation and growth of sources of revenue for First Nations communities and to ensure everyone benefits from the impacts of the energy industry."

Through the AltaGas First Nations Development Fund, AltaGas has agreed to an interest-free \$500,000 loan to IBC that will be paid in installments over the next five years. IBC typically receives funding from Aboriginal Business Canada so this funding arrangement will boost IBC's capacity to finance viable aboriginal entrepreneurs in Alberta as demand for IBC's lending services outstrips its capital.

"AltaGas' investment in Indian Business Corporation means more First Nations entrepreneurs will get financing to start or grow their business," said Rob Rollingson, General Manager of IBC. "We know this kind of investment helps companies deepen their community relationships while increasing individual self-sufficiency and will create positive social outcomes. This contribution demonstrates that AltaGas is a leader and social innovator in advancing opportunities for First Nations entrepreneurs."

#### **About AltaGas**

AltaGas is an energy infrastructure business with a focus on natural gas, power and regulated utilities. The Corporation creates value by acquiring, growing and optimizing its energy infrastructure, including a focus on clean energy sources. For more information visit: www.altagas.ca.

# **News Release** AltaGas



## **About Indian Business Corporation**

Established in 1987, the Indian Business Corporation (IBC) provides financing for First Nations peoples in Western Canada. We believe access to capital for First Nations peoples provides opportunities for success and development.

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# AltaGas First Nations Development Fund

At AltaGas we measure our success by the social value we create and the legacy we leave. Social value is about understanding our place in the bigger picture and creating benefit beyond the bottom line. We pride ourselves in developing strong relationships with First Nations and other Aboriginal communities, mindful that these relationships influence our success.

Our objective is to develop long-term relationships and to provide sustainable benefits to the communities in which we operate.

Together, AltaGas and the Indian Business Corporation (IBC) have developed the AltaGas First Nations Development Fund to support the creation and growth of sources of revenue for First Nations communities.

AltaGas has agreed to an interest-free \$500,000 loan to IBC that will be paid in installments over the next five years. The funding arrangement will boost IBC's capacity to finance viable First Nations entrepreneurs in Alberta as demand for IBC's lending services outstrips its capital. IBC typically receives funding from Aboriginal Business Canada, which makes this funding arrangement unique.

#### **About Indian Business Corporation**

Established in 1987, IBC provides financing for First Nations peoples in Western Canada. IBC believes access to capital for First Nations peoples provides opportunities for success and development. Since 1987 IBC has been able to provide \$70 million in financing to First Nations business initiatives.

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