



## ASSEMBLY OF FIRST NATIONS

473 Albert Street, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Ottawa, ON K1R 5B4  
Telephone: (613) 241-6789 | Toll-free: 1-866-869-6789  
Fax: (613) 241-5808 | [www.afn.ca](http://www.afn.ca)

**Message from National Chief Shawn A-in-chut Atleo**  
**MentorNation**  
***"Helping Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Take Flight"***  
**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

It brings me great honour to bring greetings to the launch of MentorNation *"Helping Aboriginal Entrepreneurs Take Flight"*. On behalf of the Assembly of First Nations and our National Executive Committee, thank you for the invitation to serve as an Honorary Mentor as part of this exciting program.

I would like to commend the Samson Cree Nation and Classroom Connections for their hard work in supporting Indigenous entrepreneurs to create community business opportunities and for providing the necessary support to ensure the long-term success and viability of their business ventures.

There is no question that this is an exciting time for First Nations across the country. Indigenous entrepreneurs are an example of our bright future. As a former young entrepreneur, I can attest that this kind of initiative opens a world of opportunity and provides a foundation for the future.

Through mentorship and increased knowledge and experience, our young Aboriginal entrepreneurs are able to contribute to the resurgence and revitalization of our nations, our responsibilities and our economies. This includes the stewardship of our environment, and maintaining our traditions and our identity.

As Aboriginal businesses grow, Indigenous entrepreneurs will continue to inspire young people in our home communities. As our role models, they will demonstrate that success can be achieved and this will be instrumental in helping our people achieve the change they deserve. Once again, congratulations on this great initiative and I look forward to being a part of it.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SA', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Shawn A-in-chut Atleo  
National Chief