

United Nations



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*Under Secretary-General
and Special Advisor to the Secretary General*

**Congratulatory Message by Maurice F. Strong
on the Occasion of TeKnoWave's First Graduating Class**

4 November 2004

I am delighted to extend my greetings and best wishes to the 2003-2004 graduating class of TeKnoWave. Please accept my congratulations for your noteworthy achievement as the first graduating class of TeKnoWave.

Today's job and economic market in the global knowledge based society demands astute preparation, innovative solutions and the timely adaptation of information communication technologies (ICT) in order to succeed. TeKnoWave represents such a solution indeed, as they, their champions and partners collaborate to create Canada's 1st National Aboriginal IT Training Program.

However for every innovative and dedicated initiative there is a requirement for pioneers, people who create pathways for others to follow. As TeKnoWave graduates you are all being recognized for your achievements, but equally as important, for forging a pathway that others may follow in your footsteps.

Moreover, I commend TeKnoWave's board, staff, champions and partners for building such an important bridge – "a portal" to the future and your commitment to prepare 1,000 Aboriginal and Indigenous youth as ICT professionals.

TeKnoWave is one of the most innovative and promising initiatives of our Aboriginal and Indigenous community. Using the latest information technologies will enable many more Aboriginal people, particularly youth, to obtain the training and develop the skills that will expand their employment and economic opportunities. **There can be no higher priority.**

Congratulations!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maurice F. Strong".

Maurice F. Strong

*Under Secretary-General
and Special Advisor to the Secretary General*

