

# Honouring your talent: Jobs for Indigenous people at the Government of Canada



**Lee Hyndman,**

Chippewas  
of Nawash  
First Nation

Lee Hyndman was raised in Vancouver, far from her home community, the Chippewas of Nawash First Nation, located on unceded territory in Ontario. When Lee's father was just a toddler, he was taken from his family and sent to a residential school, then scooped into foster care. As a survivor, her father doesn't talk about his past. So Lee grew up knowing that she was Anishinaabe, but feeling cut off from that part of herself.

Joining her department's Indigenous People Circle "was the first time I ever connected with other Indigenous people," says Lee. "The network met regularly at different offices in Vancouver, and being a part of it made me feel whole," she says.

Lee, who is now finishing her university degree online, leaped at opportunities offered by the Government of Canada to advance and learn on the job. Over her 15-year career, she has moved from the position of administrative assistant, to program officer, to team leader. Employment and Social Development Canada's year-long Aspiring Leaders Development Program sent Lee on a game-changing course at the Banff Centre called "Introductory Wise Practices for Indigenous Leadership."

"Through Indigenous knowledge and wisdom, I learned to re-story my life and my approach to leadership," she says. Lee's next goal: to move up to the executive level where she can help Indigenous colleagues thrive.



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