

REVIEWS OF
CURRENT BOOKS
AND LITERATURE



Editor's Introduction

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This issue we present reviews of three books that address two themes that are at the heart of aboriginal economic development strategies: urban poverty and aboriginal government.

In *Solutions That Work: Fighting Poverty in Winnipeg* (Jim Silver, Editor, Fernwood Press, 2000), the authors argue that addressing poverty is a complex issue: local initiatives alone cannot adequately address the issue. One needs a broad coalition of community groups and organizations that can provide a strong political voice for local concerns and to carry out local initiatives. This strong political voice also needs an activist government that listens and invests in local community effort as well as creating a policy environment conducive to local initiative.

Citizens Plus: Aboriginal Peoples and the Canadian State (Alan Cairns, UBC Press, 2000) and *First Nations, Second Thoughts* (Thomas Flanagan, McGill-Queens Press, 2000) outline the long-standing debate about the Indian problem: what ought to be done with the Indians? Cairns and Flanagan represent quite well contemporary thinking about Aboriginal-state relationships. Cairns, now a

retired political science professor, coined the term Citizen's plus to characterize the position of Indians within Canadian society while a researcher on the Hawthorne Report in the mid 1960's. Flanagan, also a political scientist, writes of the Aboriginal orthodoxy which he claims underlies contemporary Aboriginal public policy. Both present provocative ideas that need much debate and discussion. We invite you to join it.