

**2007 INDIVIDUAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPER OF THE YEAR AWARD WINNER  
RUTH WILLIAMS, KAMLOOPS, BC**



Ruth Williams has been a leader in social and economic development for Aboriginal people in British Columbia for 25 years. She has been a member of dozens of organizations over the years, almost invariably assuming a leadership role. Ruth currently sits on not less than seven different boards; she has also been a founding member of eight non-profit organizations, which are working to improve the quality of life for Aboriginal people in the BC interior.

Ruth Williams is a founding member of All Nations Trust Company, an Aboriginally-owned trust company that has provided more than \$56 million in business loans to Aboriginal entrepreneurs since 1987. The impact of Ruth Williams' socio-economic initiative has been felt locally, provincially and nationally. Organizations and programs have been created during her career that have positively affected Aboriginal people in the fields of education, social programs, housing and business.

While accepting her award, Ruth thanked her community for allowing her to work with them; she also thanked *"all those that work with me for making it happen"*. *Ruth's hopes are that the legacy that she leaves will make it a "better place for [everyone] to live in the future"*.