



## Editor's Comments

Welcome to the second edition of the Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development. Getting this issue to press has proven to be a challenge, much like that faced by economic development officers everywhere as they struggle with the everyday problems of development within their own communities and organizations. All of the editors are volunteers who enthusiastically donate their time and expertise to helping to put each issue together. Creating a journal is proving to be a large but exciting challenge. We enjoy working on it and learn from the experience. We hope that you like what you read and that it causes you to think differently.

In the *Learning from Experience* section, we listen to Chief Billy Diamond talk of the centrality of vision to economic development. We also listen to Dr. Joseph Gosnell, Sr talk of the opportunity that is represented by the Nisga'a Treaty as well as the vision that sustains it. We also see the efforts of the Campbell River Indian Band, the 1998 CANDO Economic Developer of the Year, and their vision behind their economic development strategy. This section highlights the 1998 nominees for the CANDO economic developer of the year award, given every year at the CANDO Annual Conference. For all of them m, vision is the driving force of Aboriginal economic development accompanied by a consistent, strategic and long term effort.

In the *Lessons from Research* section, Marv Painter, Kelly Lendsay and Eric Howe, all of the School of Commerce at the University of Saskatchewan analyse the economic gap between Aboriginal People in Saskatchewan and mainstream Saskatchewanians. What is surprising is the size of the gap and the enormous and complex effort that is required to begin to narrow it. Michelle Mann and David Newhouse explore the capitalist context of Aboriginal economic development: Mann sees it as dis-empowering and Newhouse focuses on the way in which Aboriginal peoples are adapting it to their own circumstances. We often forget that we work within a capitalist economy and that our development efforts take place within this particular social-political-economic system.

In the *Book Review* section, two recent texts are discussed: One is a review of a text by prepared by the C.D. Howe Institute which sets out their ideas about Aboriginal Economic Development. The second looks at development practises around the world.

The last section of the journal, *Commentary*, will change from issue to issue. Here we will present a variety of current material that doesn't fit the other sections and which we believe offer interesting points of view on Aboriginal economic development. This time we present a short talk by one of the editors on the care and support of Aboriginal economies.

We hope that you enjoy the journal.

The Editors