

BEST PRACTICES

*Learning from  
Experience*



## Editor's Introduction

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The elders tell us that we gain knowledge about our world through our own experiences and by watching others. They also tell us that we learn vicariously about those things that we do not experience directly through the sharing of stories.

In this section we read a number of stories about Aboriginal economic development initiatives taking place across the country. The following three articles provide many lessons about the challenges and opportunities that exist for Aboriginal communities in Canada. In the first paper, Chief Billy Diamond talks about the political forces that community leaders must address and overcome if grassroots initiatives are to succeed. In the second paper, Dr. Joseph Gosnell, Sr., adds to this theme. He discusses possible opportunities modern day agreements may bring to those treaty members who are ready to participate in economic development. The third paper introduces the reader to four economic development success stories. These include a look at the (i) Campbell River Indian Band (the 1998 CANDO Economic Developer of

the Year award winner), (ii) Saskatchewan Indian Institute of Technologies, (iii) Khoutzen Development Corporation, and (iv) Blood Tribe Agricultural Project.

It is our hope that interested readers will learn from these stories and that they will incorporate them into their understanding of Aboriginal economic development in Canada. If you have a story to share with us, please submit it for subsequent publication.