

LESSONS FROM
EXPERIENCE



Editors' Introduction

Wanda Wuttunee and Warren Weir

It is an exciting time for those of us involved in Aboriginal community economic development in Canada. It is clear that we are seeing real progress taking place in Aboriginal community economic development, especially in ways that many people want for their communities. This section provides a continuing message of positive change that includes capacity building, the development and maintenance of partnerships, increased education and experience, and the internally community-based analysis of economic activities and practice in Aboriginal communities.

The first paper showcases the CANDO 2002 Economic Developer of the Year Awards. In their article Cheryl Cardinal and Nicole (Migizikwe) Hetu profile Chief Sophie Pierre and the Aboriginal Business Development Centre, located in Prince George, British Columbia. Chief Pierre, Administrator of the Ktunaxa Kinbasket Tribal Council and Chief of the St. Mary's Indian Reserve located in southern British Columbia, has worked tirelessly with her community to transpose a negative past experience from residential schools

into a more positive reality for the community's future. The authors also profile the Aboriginal Business Development Centre which provides support for business initiatives undertaken by its community members.

The second piece by Robert J. Oppenheimer and Thomas O'Connell called "Providing Entrepreneurial Training to Native Youth" offers insight into how youth can be supported as they build their entrepreneurial expertise and style. In their case study, the authors highlight a training initiative at the Kahnawake Survival School, where 20 students were coached on entrepreneurship as a career option. The paper ends with a number of useful recommendations on the development of entrepreneurs in Aboriginal high schools.

Finally, the section offers two papers that complete the circle by highlighting community-based evaluations of community initiatives. In this special publication, professional designates Robin McGinley and Alice Corbiere share the papers they completed as a final requirement of their ACED program with CANDO. This is the first time CANDO professional Aboriginal Economic Development Officers have published their work in JAED, and we are happy and honoured that they have chosen to share their experiences with us. Robin has given a lot of thought to how her community of Mistissini will make tourism a sustainable enterprise, while Alice offers an in-depth look into the development of tri-government projects based on the involvement and acceptance of the First Nation community of Garden River, located near Sault Ste Marie, Ontario.

We hope you enjoy these articles and stories on capacity building, partnerships, entrepreneurial training, and community-based analyses. If you have a story to tell, please send it to our editorial board for review.