

Editor's Comments

We strive to make our journal timely, useful, and informative. We want to go that extra mile for you, so we are increasing our accessibility. We are moving to open access beginning with our next issue in 2024. You will be able to access our articles online as well, and we will continue to offer a print copy. It is a very exciting journey for us. Also, I would like to invite you to consider writing a book review of current literature in the field of Indigenous community economic development. Please reach out to the Cando office if this is of interest, and we will discuss your ideas.

This issue brings important issues to the foreground. The conversation regarding the meaning and relevance of treaties in today's context of Indigenous relationships is addressed thoughtfully in the two commentaries, one focusing on fisheries and the other on the Robinson treaties in Ontario. The positioning expressed by the authors is particularly relevant.

In the next section, the articles in Lessons from Experience cover the country and an impressive array of topics. Consider Whitecap Dakota First Nation, which centres the community in all its endeavours and engages in building alliances through successful partnerships across the board. Other issues that are raised include making the best of procurement opportunities, celebrating and recognizing economic developers, and fostering youth engagement. This involvement often begins with dance and later evolves into the development of youth as change leaders in their communities.

Follow the journey of a provincial funding body that has opened its doors wide to the B.C. Indigenous community through relationship-building and grants. Agriculture has been an opportunity that has a history of being taken up by Indigenous folks. What is happening in that sector these days to support initiatives across Canada? Farm Credit Canada's strategies are outlined here. There are never enough success stories to motivate and inspire. Victoria LaBillois is no exception, as she tackles challenges head-on and shares her vision.

Understanding some of the impacts of COVID on Aboriginal Economic Development Corporations is outlined in an article by Coates and Finnegan in Lessons from Research. Recognizing the caring outreach that CEOs did for their communities while facing big challenges in their corporations is heartening, and one of the many reference points raised for future crisis management. Also in this section, similarities with the U.S. experience are looked at for illumination of the Canadian context in the Kelly article. The author considers key challenges that Canadian Indigenous leadership in reserve communities are facing from institutional government oversight impacting development initiatives, especially in land and governance.

Investigating relationships between important economic health indicators in Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities has been a consistent focus in previous issues of the journal. In this issue's statistical analysis, presented collectively in The State of the Indigenous Economy section, a longitudinal perspective on the Canadian experience is provided, highlighting the significant positive impact of education.

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