

Concluding Thoughts

Forestry, mining, natural resources, education, training, employment, partnerships, land-claim agreements, international projects — these are a few of the key words that we find when we read the articles in this issue. But there are other words that don't jump out at us on first read that are just as important. For example, we hear that change is occurring, and that this change is making a difference to the lives of Aboriginal peoples and communities, including students, workers, and women. We also see that the involvement of Aboriginal peoples and communities in the natural resource sector, in education, and through corporate and government partnerships is creating a situation in which Aboriginal peoples are increasingly becoming major players. Aboriginal peoples are no longer marginalized subjects in activities occurring in the mainstream economic and political systems, and throughout different business and economic development processes. Last, but not least, we are provided with ideas concerning new ways to organize and think and dream about new and innovative Aboriginal activities within forestry, mining, natural resources, education, training, employment, partnerships, land-claim agreements, and international projects.

All of the words we find in this issue — not only the obvious but also the subtle ones — add to our understanding of Aboriginal community and venture development. As we celebrate the many successes of those involved in Aboriginal economic development, we hope that the articles that make up this issue of the journal inspire you to add to the growing list of words and ideas that are permeating discussions and activities surrounding the practice of Aboriginal community, business, and economic development in Canada. We, of course, are very interested in your stories and research, and welcome your submissions, which we will review for publication in upcoming issues.