

## Editor's Introduction

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American athlete Stan Smith points out “experience tells you what to do; confidence allows you to do it.” In this section, we share the experience of your peers as they outline their strategy for bringing their communities to self-sufficiency. Neechi Foods demonstrates that even in the inner city, bright ideas can prosper and grow. This worker co-op has strong survival instincts and is moving to a position of thriving with Neechi Commons. Their success will support other small business owners bringing prosperity to a place that is often bleak.

The 2010 winners have lots to share. Aamjiwnaang First Nation has built Chippewa Industrial Developments Ltd. over forty years on a vision of teamwork. Their industrial park provides employment and hope. Tribal Wi-Chi-Way-Win Capital Corporation, 2010 winner of the Aboriginal Private Sector Business Award provides the means for Aboriginal businesses to finance their dreams. Finally, Rodney W. Hester, the 2010 Individual Economic Developer of the Year Award Winner shares his observations for inspiring growth in local businesses through Cree Regional Economic Enterprises Company. He takes his role seriously and inspires commitment in entrepreneurs who have taken on the challenge of establishing new businesses.

We offer a window on the experience of these success stories so that you will have the confidence to move forward on the important projects in your own communities.