

Editor's Introduction

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This edition contains two articles that challenge what we've been doing. The first article, *Alternative Approaches to Hydro Compensation and Agreements with First Nations: Manitoba and Quebec* by John Loxley of the University of Manitoba compares a new approach to development in northern development and the Peace of the Brave approach in Quebec and the benefits that accrue to First Nations communities for each. The new Manitoba approach offers joint ownership of hydro projects, involvement in planning of the projects and participation in employment and business development opportunities arising from the projects. This pro-active approach is contrasted with the Peace of the Brave approach adopted in 2002. The Quebec approach continues and extends aspects of the James Bay agreement, and provides guaranteed annual payments to the Cree for the next 50 years. It does not provide for joint ownership of northern Quebec hydro dams.

The second article *Membertou always wanted to succeed* by Brown, Finny, Doucett, Tulik, Bernard and Yu-Ting of Cape Breton University demonstrates the power of vision coupled with a disciplined and determined leadership who have their eyes firmly fixed on a future that is very different from the past. The Membertou Model, grounded in Mik'maw values and solid business principles contains lessons that other First Nations communities might find useful in their economic development efforts. The Membertou approach demonstrates what can be accomplished using a comprehensive capacity building effort.

The third article *Factors Influencing the Economic and Social Prosperity of Aboriginal Peoples* by Sara Rose and Wade Rose at Queen's University and Carleton University, respectively reviews the relevant research literature on Aboriginal economic development to identify common factors that might positively effect economic and social development. Rose and Rose's review supports the experience of Membertou and the approach taken by Manitoba: vision, self-determination, institutional development, capacity building are identified as key factors to improvement.

What is clear from these papers is the dynamic nature of economic development and the need to continually challenge our understandings and practices: what worked in Quebec in the 1970s may not work in northern Manitoba in the 2010s. What is constant to success in Aboriginal economic development is vision, a leadership who is willing to act upon that vision and develop the community capacity (both human and institutional) to carry it out.