

Editor's Comments

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Warren Weir

This Special Edition of the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development* focuses on on-reserve property rights and the development and management of on-reserve lands. To do that we have partnered with two leaders in the field: David Natcher and Marena Brinkhurst.

Dr. David Natcher is currently a professor in the Department of Bioresource, Policy, Business and Economics, at the University of Saskatchewan, in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Trained as a cultural anthropologist, his research interests rest largely in environmental and economic anthropology. David's training and professional experience lie predominantly in qualitative and community-based research. His experience has been cultivated through applied research partnerships with Aboriginal communities in Alaska and Canada. This is where he has had the opportunity to research and publish on the various challenges faced by rural communities, the changing northern economy, and the strategies employed by Aboriginal and other resource dependent communities to deal effectively with social, political, economic and environmental change. By working directly with Aboriginal resource users, tribal governments, federal, state and provincial government agencies, and resource development industries, David has gained considerable insights. This has included issues relating to indigenous systems of land tenure (particularly in relation to traditional ecological knowledge), the politics of resource allocation, and how power is articulated, and best negotiated, in contested environments. He has an extensive CV that includes a significant list of publications, including books, book chapters, and journal articles. Much of the information in this

biographical overview came from David's University of Saskatchewan website (see <http://ilmi.usask.ca/people/david-natcher/index.php>).

Marena Brinkhurst recently completed her Master's in Resource and Environmental Management in the Faculty of the Environment, Simon Fraser University and lives in Vancouver, British Columbia. She now works as a planner, consultant, and researcher focused on land use planning, land policy, land rights reform, and land tenure and management systems. She is passionate about preventing and resolving conflicts over land and resources and empowering sustainable and equitable land use, especially for Indigenous and marginalized peoples. She is a community planner at Beringia Community Planning Inc., a small Canadian firm that specializes in working in partnership with Aboriginal communities (www.beringia.ca). Her graduate research was in partnership with the Penticton Indian Band in British Columbia and investigated the history and land management implications of the on-reserve land tenure system created by the federal Indian Act, and in particular individual land-holdings on reserves. She can be contacted by e-mail (marena.brinkhurst@gmail.com).

The impressive selection of articles devoted to the topic of land and lands-management, located primarily in the Lessons from Research section of our Journal, is situated between two long-standing and ongoing sections of the Cando Journal — Lessons from Experience and The State of the Aboriginal Economy. In Lessons from Experience, Michelle White-Wilsdon describes and profiles Cando's 2012 Economic Developer of the Year Award Winners. The Economic Development of the Year Awards, presented at last year's Cando Conference, include:

- Eileen Paul — Outstanding Individual EDO,
- Abenaki Associates — Private Sector Business, and
- Membertou — Community Category.

Located at the end of the Journal are two articles devoted to better understanding the state of the Aboriginal economy. In the first submission, Phillip Lashley and M. Rose Olfert analyze off-reserve employment options for on-reserve First Nations in Canada. In the second article, Robert Oppenheimer focuses on Aboriginal employment in 2012 and reviews the changes since 2011.

In ending, everyone at Cando and Captus Press — especially those of us who sit on the JAED editorial committee — would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to David Natcher and Marena Brinkhurst for taking on this important topic in such a timely, balanced and informing manner. This is indeed a Special Issue.