

## Editor's Introduction

.....

Wanda Wuttunee

Most Canadians do not understand the parameters of Aboriginal contributions to the country's economy. As a result it is easy to cling to the stereotypes of poverty and dysfunction that affect a portion of our population. It is easy to remain ignorant of the wonderful efforts that many are making and how they are succeeding in the business world. CANDO recognizes the contributions within our own communities through their awards but often the impacts that the winners have go beyond their own communities.

Eileen Paul, Membertou Nation, is honored for her work in supporting the growth of small business in her community. She is a manager of a business centre that lends a helping hand to those with an idea but who lack the skills necessary to succeed. She has paid attention to women and has special programming designed for them.

The community of Membertou is also recognized. The history of struggle and poverty that was overcome through the vision of its leadership is inspirational. Membertou is building a nation with its focus on self-sufficiency, control of the land, investment in infrastructure and a way to reach out to partners by demonstrating their healthy community. Leadership at its finest.

Running a business is a daunting prospect and yet Abenaki Associates has survived and thrived for more than 30 years. The information technology and management world is highly competitive but Abenaki Associates has developed relationships that have

strengthened their business and made many friends across the country.

Enjoy these stories of success in Canada's Aboriginal communities and share them with a friend.