

Introduction

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This issue's Lessons from Experience provides an opportunity for all of us to learn from and celebrate each other through an introduction to the ED of the Year Award Winners, followed by an introduction to the host of Cando's annual conference, Whitecap Dakota First Nation, and the tremendous economic work it has achieved over the past several decades. We will then turn our attention to British Columbia, where a small B.C. corporation finds many ways to support economic development opportunities for Indigenous organizations.

Our cross-country venture takes a turn into Ontario, where we are introduced to the concept of procurement and how a program within the federal government may prove valuable to Indigenous communities and individuals. Travelling further east into Quebec, we are introduced to an Indigenous entrepreneur who is the CEO of a construction company operating in the highly successful wind energy sector. The goal of the operation is to secure employment opportunities for Mi'gmaq community members within the Gaspé region.

Travelling west to Saskatchewan, we are introduced to an individual who supports Indigenous individuals and communities to explore and be immersed within the Indigenous Agriculture realm. Although Indigenous communities have a long tradition of harvesting plants for sustenance, the goal of Farm Credit Canada is to provide learning opportunities about agriculture and farm management. Lastly, we are very pleased to share the story of a unique charity founded in Ontario that speaks to the joy of dance. The charity is a model of working with Indigenous youth in a medium that excites and promotes health and well-being.