

## Introduction

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Wanda Wuttunee

This section highlights our success stories and how others can learn to help communities move forward in a respectful manner.

Food security is an important topic for many communities that lack options for healthy living. For Asfia Gulrukh Kamal, a PhD student, coming to research in a northern Manitoba community and the journey to being welcomed as a part of the community is significant. In “The Story of Healing with *O-Pipon-Na-Piwin* Cree Nation (OPCN)”, she shares her insights as an outsider and what it took to move past that. Her experience is useful for other students who may be considering such an adventure and for communities, which may be surprised about how they too can be enriched from “outsiders with good intentions.”

When communities are approached by mining companies, often the perspectives of Aboriginal women, who have a variety of experiences to share, are useful. In “Aboriginal Women, Mining Negotiations and Project Development”, Stephanie LaBelle reports on a number of topics, including joint ventures, community benefits and challenges, as well as what companies ought to think about in working with communities. As women in the mining industry, they see their role as protecting their communities while working as employees.

Outstanding work by our community is recognized, celebrated, and honoured in “2014 Economic Developer of the Year Award Winners”. The impact that Individual EDO of the Year Chris Hartman (CEO of the Tsawwassen First Nation Economic Development Corporation) has had in his community is telling in this quote, “TFN is quickly becoming an economic driver in the Greater Vancouver region, and an Economic Impact Study estimates that current projects alone will generate more than \$348 million in construction employment income and \$235 million in

permanent annual employment income.” Find out more about Chris Hartman and his team’s economic bullet in this article.

The Community EDO Winner, Nisga’a Lisims Government Economic Development, demonstrates innovation through partnership, a long-term prosperity framework, and business growth can make a positive difference in northwest British Columbia. Finally, Acosys Consulting — Aboriginal Private Sector Business EDO winner — offers community- and government-focused options that result in a win-win situation for Aboriginal people seeking employment. Internship opportunities help young people build skills and find employment, while sensitivity training in corporations open up the doors for recruiting and retaining Aboriginal employees.

Empowering, collaborating, and innovating mark winning attitudes that will make the difference in our communities.

**Suggestion:** If the information speaks to you in this section, then do some outreach to the individuals highlighted here and have your questions answered. You will be pleased how much people enjoy sharing insights into their successes.