

# Introduction

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Wanda Wuttunee

This issue boasts a diverse group of individuals and organizations that are achieving success in their economic initiatives.

The Tahltan Nation in British Columbia is using a nation building model to guide success that takes into account their way of life, the marketplace, and business partnerships. Their unemployment rate at 98%, initially, dropped at an astonishing rate to 0%. Read their story that they are so proud to share.

At the other end of the country, New Brunswick Aboriginal Women's Mentoring Circle is focused on business women's success. Their model focuses on mentoring; but because of the weather and distance, the program is virtual. Aftercare includes an age-appropriate multi-generational mentorship program. The framework offers an approach tailored to a specific portion of the population.

The 2015 Economic Developer of the Year profiles the winners in three categories. The individual economic developer award winner is Cliff Fregin, a member of the Old Masset Village on Haida Gwaii, has been involved in Aboriginal economic development for almost 30 years. Read how he has worked to benefit his community. The community category recognition went to Penticton Indian Band Development Corporation for their work in building diverse business interests. They work at partnerships with a variety of external parties while holding to their community priorities. The private sector award recognizes the work that Spirit Staffing & Consulting has done for 16 years building a reputable employment agency.

Finally, communities that are fine-tuning their approach to board governance or are canvassing the ways that they might organize new boards will find "A Basic Primer on Organizational Governance" of interest. It sets out the Western approach to boards, which may well comple-

ment community priorities. It is also helpful to understand the ways you can improve on what is being done already. Business does not know ethnicity or gender, but business people can bring their perspectives and values to business in order to be successful on their terms while drawing on solid business principles that make sense.

**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.