

## Introduction

-----

David Newhouse

Economic development occurs with a particular social, political and culture environment. Understanding the interactions between these three important life aspects as well as the goals that Indigenous peoples are pursuing is foundational to the development of good public policy. Bonita Beatty of the University of Saskatchewan in her article *A Distributive Aboriginal Political Culture is Alive and Well in Northern Saskatchewan* finds that Indigenous culture was resilient and informed the shape of economic activity in the north; in doing so, she links political and economic objectives in a clear and meaningful way.

Business development and economic development require people who have business management skills and who know how to work effectively in both Indigenous and Canadian environments. Janice Esther Tulk, Mary Beth Doucette and Allan MacKenzie of Cape Breton University analyzes CBU's efforts to increase the number of Indigenous students pursuing business education as well as helping them to learn how to work in both the business and Indigenous worlds. Their model uses technology and a wide network of mentors who develop long-term relationships with students to improve enrolments and retention of students. Graduates of the program are encouraged to remain involved as peer mentors to students within the program.