

Introduction

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Variety is the spice of life. This issue's Lessons from Experience focuses on individual and community success from both wealth and cultural perspectives. The issues that are close to the hearts of many are offered here for sharing and illumination.

When a community is divided by an artificial barrier, it requires the community and a champion to bring unity. A highway split Paqtnekek Mi'kmaw Nation, Nova Scotia, in the 1960s, and their champion, Rose Paul, Director of Lands and Economic Development, took on the challenge and succeeded. She earned the Individual award in Cando Economic Developer of the Year.

The momentum of growth in a community can't be beat. Glooscap First Nation is a new, small community with big plans. Successful business efforts include a highway commercial development, a Tim Hortons franchise and development of 5–10-year strategic plans. Community support and positive relationships with all levels of government marked by positive, honest and long-term relations are their framework for success, which was recognized in the community category.

Tammy Belanger, Glooscap First Nation member, won the Aboriginal Private Sector Business award for the success of Green Leaf Enterprises, her business, which she started in 2000. Her businesses include a Christmas shop, floral design classes, and training courses for growing vegetables for interested communities. Her best and only marketing is on Facebook.

Legalization of marijuana has had an impact on economic strategies being developed by communities. Noah Wilson has taken the experiences from his own community and placed them in a case study, complete with extensive instructor notes with a variety of questions about this effort, which can be used by the readers.

Emily Dishart engages the question of the role of capitalism in Tsawwassen First Nation, BC's economic experience. The author states that the community's economic decisions are enhancing cultural traditions and Indigenous sovereignty. They have worked hard to set a political framework that gives them the control they need, which is outlined in the article in some detail.

Finally, L. Javed Sommers reflects on the possibilities of achieving Indigenous sovereignty through economic development and the reasons corporations might be persuaded to support community efforts in this regard.

Ekosi and enjoy.