

Introduction

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In this Lessons from Research, we examine four important issues in economic development: self-government agreements, property values, e-commerce, and cultural tourism.

Nicholas J. Wilson in *Reconciling the North: Transit Pipelines and the Pursuit of Self-sufficient Self-Government in the Yukon* challenges our ideas about the nature of self-government agreements in the Yukon and their potential for economic development. Using UNDRIP and modern border theory, he argues that the Yukon First Nations, in partnership with transnational energy companies, create Special Economic Zones at the sub-state level to attract investment and generate economic growth.

Steven Rogers et al. in *Price of the Soil: Property Values of Leaseholds and Certificates of Possession* examines the question of property values on First Nations Reserves. A short history of property rights on reserve serves as the backdrop for their analysis. Using data on leaseholds and Certificates of Possession (CP), they analyze 149 leaseholds across 20 reserves, 79 CP transfers across 14 Reserves and 338 fee simple / freehold parcels across 34 off-Reserve communities. They found that the vast majority of leaseholds (60%) and CPs (88%) had market values less than those in non-Indigenous communities. Analysis of the reasons for this result suggests that further work is needed in order to develop property rights systems that support economic development and are reflective of traditional Indigenous property systems.

Alexander E. Buchan in *E-Commerce on Reserve: Opportunities, Challenges, and Taxation* analyzes the emerging e-commerce system and whether Indigenous businesses have a competitive advantage under the *Indian Act* and the *Income Tax Act*. He finds that there are clear opportunities for Indigenous communities and individuals to benefit from e-commerce free of taxation. For communities considering businesses such as

data centres, he finds that issues such as access to power, transportation, and fast Internet connections pose challenges requiring governments to provide the needed infrastructure.

Patrick T. Maher et al. in *Sustainability, Ethics, and Authenticity in Indigenous Tourism: The Case of Eskasoni Cultural Journeys on Goat Island* examines whether the blending of community-led approach with the premises of sustainability tourism can lead to an attraction that is both ethical and economically viable. Particular attention was paid to the issue of cultural authenticity and community well-being. The development and operation of the tourism site represents an emerging best practice for Indigenous cultural tourism. Two aspects of the practice are highlighted: the necessity of community leadership and participation as well as the continued involvement of Elders and traditional people to guide the presentation of culture.