

Artist's Statement  
*Spirit Horses Running Over Rough Terrain*

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Nancy Desjarlais

NATIVE ARTIST

This painting, called *Spirit Horses Running Over Rough Terrain*, was painted with simplicity and joy in mind. To Nancy, the horses running free, guided by the four sacred directions, signify the spirit running free, even when the journey is rough.

The painting won the first prize in the 2009 Peace Hills competition.

*'Uy' skweyul* (Good day, in Hul'q'umi'num'). It is with immense pleasure that I present to you the 21st Issue (Volume 11, Number 1) of the *Journal of Aboriginal Economic Development (JAED)*.

Although I have been involved in the publication of this journal for more than two decades, I am always amazed by the new, unique, and novel topics that emerge from one year to the next, including topics that add in significant ways to a larger and all-encompassing community and economic development narrative. Take this issue for example. It includes discussions on emerging opportunities, such as transit pipelines, the legalization of marijuana, property values of leaseholds and certificates of possession, e-commerce on reserve, and Indigenous tourism. And as economic opportunities can be seized only if the community is equipped to pursue them, the issue also presents other perspectives that are critical to successful economic development, including effective leaders who blaze the trail and the value of strategic planning. The journal provides continuing coverage of commercial development, small business development, Indigenous–corporate relations, and balancing capitalism and cultural traditions.

The articles in this issue are imbued with economic opportunities and ways to seize them. This positive tone continues to the end, with a longitudinal exploration of the enhancement of the state of the Aboriginal economy in relation to educational level completed, measured by employment, unemployment, and wage rates.

I trust you will find this issue informative, interesting, and useful. As always, we look forward to your feedback and invite you to submit articles, case studies, community or leadership profiles, or other stories, which we will review for inclusion in our upcoming issues of *JAED*.

In ending, thank you, respected friends and colleagues — *Huy tseep q'u Siiem nu Siye'yu* — for continuing to assist Cando, Captus Press, and the Editorial Board of *JAED*, in creating, publishing, and sharing this important Journal. And a BIG congratulations, Cando, on the celebration of your 25th Annual National Conference and AGM!

*Huy ch q'u*. Thank you.

Warren Weir