



Nikan

www.cdepnql.org

CEDO'S Path

FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (FNQLEDC)

Special features

- Position of the AFNQL following the Kelowna Meeting
- Position of the FNQLEDC following the Kelowna Meeting

Summary

A Word from the President.....	1
AFNQL Chiefs position	2
Understanding the position of FNQLEDC.....	2
The Forum is taking shape.....	3
The Research Protocol.....	3
The FNQLEDC on the field.....	4
Environmental Certification	5
Review of activities.....	5
To be recorded in your agenda.....	6



Call for mobilization of the socioeconomic stake holders of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

Over the past months, the Executive Committee of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) has been working closely with the Commission's general directorship and its team. The quality of work they accomplished gives us great pride and we can say that, more than ever, we stand strong behind the community economic development officers (CEDO). The CEDOs have to mobilize and support our FNQLEDC so that we may take a lead role which is essential to the achievement of success stories, thus promoting a better future for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

At our last annual general assembly, together, we decided that, time had come to state loud and clear our firm intention of being the spearhead of the First Nations Socioeconomic Forum, of seeing to the management of the Sustainable Development Institute, etc.

We need your collaboration and your participation, not only for the realization of activities in 2006, but now; we must be aware of the needs of the First Nations and know which content and resources should be associated. We have to support and transmit the information to the Forum's team, whom we will be meeting in a near future.

I wish to take this opportunity to underline the excellent organization of the training sessions which I attended in Chicoutimi, and I wish to congratulate all those who took

part in it. Thanks to your participation, we can justify the need for such training opportunities. I invite you to encourage your colleagues of the First Nations in taking part and informing us on their needs, so that training sessions are adapted to respective needs.

In January 2006, we will be hosting an activity in conjunction with the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission of Quebec (FNHRDCQ). I invite you to attend in large numbers, to come and share our visions on the necessity for an integrated management and concerted approaches in our respective circles. We have to realize that the economic development of the First Nations must go through a concerted effort of the socioeconomic stake holders, as a whole.

In the course of the next months, we will intensify our communications with you. The coming of a new information officer within the team, and the mandate entrusted with a consulting firm in relation to a marketing strategy will allow the development and implementation of communication tools that are adapted to our reality.

To conclude, I wish you all a very Happy New Year, filled with a wealth of success and happiness with all your loved ones.

Raymond Picard
President
Board of Directors, FNQLEDC



Secrétariat
de l'Assemblée des
Premières Nations
du Québec
et du Labrador

Secretariat of the
Assembly of the
First Nations
of Quebec
and Labrador

250, Place Chef Michel Laveau, suite 201, Wendake, QC G0A 4V0
Tél.: (418) 842-5020 / 842-5274 FAX: 842-2660

Wendake, January 10th 2006

First Ministers' Meeting on Aboriginal issues of November 24th and 25th 2005

AFNQL Chiefs position and Meeting follow-up

The Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) took the difficult decision of not attending the First Ministers' Meeting taking place in Kelowna, British Columbia on November 24 and 25, 2005. After a lot of reflection and lengthy discussions, and also based on the long experience they have with the "federal guardian", the Chiefs concluded that the Kelowna meeting presented major risks and that it was more prudent to stay away from it.

The absence of the Quebec Chiefs at this Meeting can be explained in three reasons: the Chiefs are opposing the Pan-Aboriginal (Canada) approach because it sends Aboriginal Peoples fighting against each other. The Chiefs oppose the multilateral approach because it is the latest federal trick to escape its fiduciary responsibility. The Chiefs oppose the program and services approach based on questionable indicators because it is not working and it will never work. It is the negation of our right to govern ourselves. In order to upgrade the deplorable living conditions of our First Nations, both in urban centres and in our communities, we demand the recognition, respect and exercise of our rights, and more particularly with our fundamental right on our territory and our resources.

The AFNQL is clear however that its non-participation in the multilateral process and the FMM must not be used to deny its members their fair share of the \$5.1 billion promised by the Martin government. The Federal obligation toward First Nations is matched by the enormous needs in housing, infrastructure, education, health care and economical development.

The Chiefs of the AFNQL have put in place regional commissions and organizations which

are under control of our local governments and under the authority of the Assembly of Chiefs. The bilateral plan established between Canada and the First Nations in Kelowna must foresee immediately the direct and meaningful participation of the AFNQL regional commissions and organizations even

thought the federal government is "drowning" in political instability, at least until the January 23rd electoral results.

Secretariat of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador

Understanding the position of FNOLEDC

Background and Action Plan

At a meeting of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Regional Commissions and Organizations, held on December 16th, the directors decided to react to the November 2005 First Ministers' Meeting in Kelowna. The Chiefs of the AFNQL made the decision to withdraw from the meeting process, because at that meeting, the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) was not reflecting the interests of Canada's First Nations as a whole. However, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador continue to be part of the existing and potential tables and national committees, because they intend to represent themselves and they refuse to partake in a Pan-Aboriginal (Canada) initiative. The motives outlined in the previous article of the AFNQL motivated us to take the following steps.

- We oppose to the Pan-Aboriginal (Canada) approach because this type of initiative results in having our own people fight against each other;
- We oppose to the multilateral approach because this is the latest tactic of the federal to evade from its fiduciary obligations;

- We oppose to the programs and services approach based on questionable indicators, because that system does not function and never will. This is a denial of our right to govern ourselves.

Within this scope, several communities expressed a feeling of uneasiness to partake in the national tables; others fear that their funding will be cut because of the non-participation of the AFNQL in the FMM process. Moreover, our members of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador seem confused about this very political initiative. Furthermore, representatives of other regions' First Nations seem to show their endorsement (after the fact) of the position taken by the First Nations of Quebec.

To follow up on these events, the Commissions took the decision to develop an action plan to strengthen its position and inform the communities of Quebec and Labrador about the impacts that will ensue. The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNOLEDC) will keep its members posted

next page

on a regular basis and will strive to influence the national contributors to respect the position taken by the Chiefs of Quebec and Labrador.

Main Objective of the Action Plan

The main objective aims at explaining in a clear and specific manner, the reasons for the withdrawal of the AFNQL Chiefs from the FMM process, and at strengthening the development of a parallel process peculiar to the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, as regards the implementation of the funding ensuing from the FMM.

The Specific Objectives

■ Explain the reasons behind the position taken by the Chiefs of the AFNQL, in order for the members of the First Nations to understand the process of the FMM, its consequences and the challenges that it generates;

- Raise the awareness of other regions' representatives throughout Canada (First Nations, Metis and Inuit), so that they respect the position taken by the AFNQL Chiefs in relation to the process of the FMM;
- Develop a parallel initiative in each sector in order to implement it within the circle of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, in accordance with the principles and values ensuing from the position taken by the Chiefs of the AFNQL;
- Develop a strategy of political lobbying in order to influence the ministerial authorities and the opposition parties in respecting the implementation of a parallel initiative;
- Assess the impacts of a parallel initiative in each of the sectors, keeping in mind the First Nations Socioeconomic Forum.

Pierre Bastien
General Director
FNQLEDC

The First Nations Socioeconomic Forum

As we announced it in November 2005, the Forum Secretariat is taking shape and Mr. Serge Rock (srock@cdepnql.org), has now joined our team, as Support Officer.

Over the past weeks, the Secretariat elaborated a schedule of consultations among the First Nations populations and contemplates conducting them in 25 communities, in order to get the views of our members on the means to improve their socioeconomic conditions. Also, a specific questionnaire intended for the different sectors of the communities will be proposed to the various interveners. The community economic development officers (CEDO) should be receiving the questionnaire by the end of March 2006. The Forum Secretariat is also planning to consult different resource persons who work within the circle of five municipalities, through information sessions that will be organized by the *Union des municipalités du Québec* and the government of Quebec. And as a final point, the representatives of the various ministries will also be consulted via an initiative which remains to be defined. The outcome of the consultations will be validated by the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) and will be subsequently presented at the Forum, an event which is intended to bring about concrete actions for the future, aimed at improving the socioeconomic conditions of our First Nations members.

A Website of the Forum is under development and all the information pertaining to the activities will be transmitted to you through various media, such as bulletins, brochures, broadcasted announcements and advertising inserts in various newspapers. It should be noted that the Forum will be taking place in the fall of 2006 in the community of Mashteuiatsh.

You can reach the Forum's Team at (418) 847-2662

Mélanie Vincent, Director
mvincent@cdepnql.org

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Research Protocol: a working tool at your disposal.



The research protocol is a tool at the disposal of First Nations communities and organizations. This tool encourages the development of aboriginal skills in the area of research.

It is intended as a reflection tool gathering the elements and criteria which are essential to the elaboration of a research policy. It aims at promoting a specific ethical research, in accordance with the wish of the First Nations involved.

This reference guide was developed in June 2005 by the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL), in collaboration with the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Health and Social Services Commission (FNQLHSSC), the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI), the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC), and the First Nations Human Resources Development Commission, Quebec (FNHRDQ).

You can access the complete version of this document, both in French and English on our website, at the following address: www.cdepnql.org. A summarized version on paper is also available from the AFNQL.

The FNQLEDC on the field

Training and Coaching

The third and last year of the triennial training plan began last fall. We are pursuing our cruising speed and we are very proud of it. Over 14 representatives, from all over Quebec, are present at each session. On the other hand, we are more than pleased to see that new officers involved in the community economic development (CEDOs) are also participating; these officers have been recently appointed in their respective community.



Training Session
Participants : Louisette Paul, William Paddy Mailloux, Paul Bellefleur
Trainer : Raymond Martin

Even if the assessment of these sessions shows a high level of satisfaction, it also indicates that the participants feel the need to increase their knowledge and develop their capacities. This explains why we put in place a “coaching” program, which is both simple and complete for the CEDOs.

To this end, recently, we forwarded you a communiqué in which we were asking you to identify the areas which you would like to develop or enhance, either on an individual basis or in small groups. In this connection, a first session will be taking place in Odanak on January 19th. May I remind you that I remain available to go in your respective community with a resource-person to provide the support you need, on site. We are waiting for your call.

 **Canada Economic Development** **Développement économique Canada**

Canada

Tour de la Bourse
800, Victoria Square
Suite 3800, P.O. Box 247
Montreal (Quebec) H4Z 1E8
Telephone: (514) 283-6412
Fax: (514) 283-3302

We wish to underline that this pilot-project will be taking place between January and mid-May 2006 and we are planning to host a minimum of 30 sessions. Its survival and continuation will depend, of course, on the demand. Also, at the training sessions of March 1st in Val-d'Or and March 8th in Chicoutimi, we will try to combine

this “coaching” program by forming small working groups adapted to the expressed needs.

Community Profiles

Within the scope of the regional tour, during the last four months, we visited the following communities: Gespeg, Gesgapegiag, Listuguj, Wemotaci, Whapmagoostui, Kitcisakik, Lac Simon, Timiskaming, Eagle Village, Wolf Lake and Nutuashkuam. We keep updating this profile on a regular basis and we are trying to combine the sessions in parallel with other activities. Since January 2004, over 31 communities were visited. We wish to extend my thanks to each and every one of you for your warm welcome and your hospitality.



Julie Picard, FNQLEDC Economic Development Advisor at Whapmagoostui

Socioeconomic Forum in Calgary

In November 2005, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (FNQLEDC) had the opportunity to attend a socioeconomic forum in Calgary, which was organized by the Assembly of First Nations (AFN) and where more than 100 economic development experts of across Canada, gathered. Topics of discussion included the major stakes in the area of development, and the different obstacles encountered by the First Nations in their development, such as access to capital, funding and isolation.

The Reference Tool

To conclude, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (FNQLEDC), developed a document called *The Reference Tool*. This tool, designed with you in mind, offers a technical support in the accomplishment of your tasks. The document contains a whole range of information relating to the programs and services offered to the First Nations. Also, samples of documents, along with lists of resources with Internet links complement the document. It is our sincere hope that this tool will prove useful to you.



Julie Picard
Economic Development Advisor
FNQLEDC

Environmental Certification for the Forest Industry

Due to the pressure put on the distributors by several environmental groups who feel very strongly about global well-being, the forest industries will soon be required to comply with the standards protecting the environment and its dependent communities.

What is the function of certification?

The consumer is getting more and more interested, at the time of acquiring a forestry product, on its origin, safety and production. In fact, the population has become more and more sensitive to sustainable development.

The forest certification is useful in sanctioning good methods of land planning. Therefore, a forest industry would benefit by making use of good practices in order to be properly recognized.

What is the best certification?

There are numerous standards depending on the needs of the industry and the market. There is the ISO standard, a self-imposed standard which broaches several aspects, namely the areas of health, safety and environment. It is a standard adopted in many countries and based on the regulations and laws in effect, and to be used as a technical base. The ISO 14 001 standard is one that takes into account the issue of environment. An industry which complies with good forest practices would benefit from requesting such a certification, since the goal is to have its good practices sanctioned. The forest services of the Opitciwan community recently became the first among the Aboriginal forest industry to be certified ISO 14 001.

Two other certifications relating to sustainable development are also available, namely the Canadian Standard Association (CSA) and the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

The CSA standard differentiates itself in the fact that, for the industry that submits an application, it is not obligated to meet all the criteria in order to be certified. The goal of this standard is to ensure a continuous improvement of the planning practices.

It should be noted that, in regards to the CSA standard, two criteria particularly affect the First Nations: criterion 6.1 which takes into account the rights of the Aboriginal people and criterion 6.2 which takes into account the respect of values, the skills and the use of forestry resources by the Aboriginal people. There is currently no aboriginal forestry-related business that is certified CSA.

As for the FSC standard, it also takes into account the rights of the Aboriginal People. In fact, a steering committee has been established, which includes representatives of the First Nations, in order to develop a standard that is specific to Quebec. An aboriginal business wishing to get the FSC certification, not only protects the traditional use of the territory, but also its rights and culture. There is no example in Quebec of an industry who is FSC certified, but there are some who are getting interested in its application.

These last types of certification will become a requirement for the forest industries whose goal will be to carve out a niche for themselves on the market, and for those who feel very strongly about the future of the planet and the safeguard of durability of resources.

For more information, you may visit the following Web sites:

- Canadian Standards Association www.csa.ca
- International Organization for Standardization www.iso.ch
- *L'initiative québécoise de développement de normes FSC* www.canopees.org/fsc_qc/

Mario Gros-Louis,
First Nations of Quebec and
Labrador Sustainable
Development Institute

Review of activities organized by the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC), for the community economic development officers (CEDOs) on August 30 and September 1st last.

On August 30th last, within the scope of activities surrounding its annual general assembly, the FNQLEDC held an information session for the benefit of the CEDOs. The morning session focused on a training provided by three outside contributors on different aspects of the law:

- *The role of the CLDs in Québec, by Richard Drolet, CLD of Québec;*
- *The different legal types of businesses, by Me Jean-Sébastien Boucher;*
- *Taxation and the First Nations, by Michael Benedict, AFNQL's fiscal advisor.*

The contributors succeeded in attracting the participants' attention, thanks to their interaction and dynamism. In fact, the comments of the participants were expressed in the most laudatory terms.

In the afternoon session, two consulting firms (*Le Groupe Genivar* and *Le Groupe Nekiera'ba*) came to introduce their products

next page



Indian and Northern
Affairs Canada

Affaires indiennes et
du Nord Canada

Canada

Place Jacques-Cartier Complex
320, St. Joseph Street East, Room 400
Quebec (Quebec) G1K 9J2
Telephone: (418) 648-7551
Toll free: 1 800 263-5592
Fax: (418) 648-2266
E-mail: aicnquebec@aicn-inac.gc.ca

and services intended for the Aboriginal and Inuit clientele, an opportunity for the participants to extend their contact network.

On the following day, the CEDOs expressed a keen interest to attend the annual general assembly of the FNQLEDC. In fact, over 25 delegates duly mandated by their respective community attended that assembly along with some fifteen observers or so.

It was an opportunity for them to see the work achieved by the Commission during 2004-2005. Among those achievements, it is worth mentioning that the Constitution and By-laws were revised, the strategic planning was updated for the next three years and training sessions were organized for the benefit of the CEDOs.

The members also voted to elect a new Board of Directors for the current year. Each nation will be represented by the members here under mentioned:

Name	Position	Nation
Raymond Picard	President	Huron-wendat
Colette Robertson	Vice-president	Innu
Mary Simon	Secretary-treasurer	Mohawk
Claire O'Bomsawin	Director	Abenaki
Major Kistabish	Director	Algonquin
Raoul Flamand	Director	Atikamekw
Sydney Orr	Director	Cree
Jacynthe Nicolas	Director	Maliseet
Sandra Bouchard	Director	Mi'gmaq
Marianne Chescappio	Director	Naskapi



FNQLEDC Board of Directors Members at the annual general assembly, September first 2005
 Claire O'Bomsawin (Odanak) was absent.
 From left to right : Raoul Flamand (Manawan), Sidney Orr (Whapmagoostui), Mary Simon (Kanesatake), Major Kistabish (Pikogan), Colette Robertson (Mashteuiatsh), Sandra Bouchard (Gespeg), Jacynthe Nicolas (Viger), Raymond Picard (Wendake), Thérèse Chemaganish replace by Marianne Chescappio (Kawawachikamach).

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
 Economic Development Commission

250, Place Michel-Laveau, suite 202
 Wendake, Quebec G0A 4V0

Telephone: (418) 843-1488
 Fax: (418) 843-6672

E-mail: information@cdepnql.org
 Internet: www.cdepnql.org

Graphic design: Siamois graphisme

WARNING ON PROTECTION AND CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION
The information contained in this newsletter is protected in accordance with the applicable laws and regulations. It is therefore prohibited to distribute or to copy any part of this document without the written permission of the FNQLEDC.

Legal deposit – National Library of Canada, 2004

Legal deposit – Bibliothèque nationale du Québec, 2004



To be recorded in your agenda

Date	Location	Clientele	Activity
January 24, 2006	Montreal Holiday Inn Midtown	FNQLEDC Board of Directors Members	Board of Directors Meeting
January 25, 2006	Montreal Holiday Inn Midtown	Economic development officers and representatives Local First Nations Commissions Representatives	CEDAs-LFNC Joint Meeting
January 26, 2006	Montreal Holiday Inn Midtown	Economic development officers and representatives	Consultation Session English/French Evaluation of the training needs of the CEDAs for the next triennial training plan
March 1st, 2006	Val-d'Or Motel l'Escale	Economic development officers and representatives	English Training Session Budget process in connection with the business plan or project
March 8, 2006	Chicoutimi Hotel Le Montagnais	Economic development officers and representatives	French Training Session Le processus budgétaire en lien avec le projet ou le plan d'affaires