



Nikan

CEDO'S Path

Special features

- FNQLEDC and FNEC join efforts!
- FNQLEDC: consulting its members
- Amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act

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FNQLEDC and FNEC join efforts!

Contribution of Caroline Nepton Hotte and Ève Bastien

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) joins the First Nations Education Council (FNEC) to host the activities of the training session of community economic development officers and representatives (CEDO) and the First Nations Technological Gathering, scheduled to take place on February 10 to 13, 2004, in Trois-Rivières.

For its fourth training session, as advised by the CEDOs, on February 10th, 2004, the trainers will tackle the inescapable theme of "negotiation". The slogan of the training session is: practice. This training will allow the members of the FNQLEDC to improve their technique of negotiation planning. Also in order to unify the efforts of the regional organizations and to harmonize the participants' traveling, the first Technological Gathering of First Nations, hosted by FNEC will be held in the same venue.

Since November 2002, the FNEC has carried out several activities of interest for the First Nations schools. A preliminary study on urgent needs was conducted following the signing of the agreement with Industry Canada. This study revealed the priority needs of the schools in equipment and training. In January 2003, the FNEC conducted a more extensive study on the schools' technological situation.

In addition to the various programs regarding connectivity, training and equipment offered by the FNEC over the last few months, the FNEC is currently organizing a First Nations Technological Gathering, to be held on February 11-13, 2004, in Trois-Rivières. The goal of the Gathering is to enable technicians, teachers, managers and youth to identify their technological needs, to exchange on this topic, to create a network and to receive training.

There will be workshops and plenary sessions during the first two days. On the last day, a panel will be discussing a topic related to technologies, and the participants will be having a round-table meeting to review the Gathering and make recommendations for a future gathering and improving the implementation of technologies in the communities. A plenary session will close the Gathering to enable participants to share their recommendations and feedback regarding this event.

During the banquet, on February 12, guest speakers will be discussing various technology-related aspects. Also, a contest will be initiated regarding the development of school Web sites.

The First Nations Education Council is one of six organizations that have been mandated by Industry Canada to manage the SchoolNet program. The objective of this program is to equip First Nations schools with computers, Internet access, and technical support and training.

For more information on the Technological gathering, please contact Ève Bastien at (418) 842-7672 or by email at the following address ebastien@cepn-fnec.com.

For the CEDO who wants to register at FNQLEDC's training or at the Technological gathering, contact Lorraine Rhéaume, at (418) 843-1488.

Growing Richer with Continuous Training

By Julie Picard, Economic Development Adviser

One of the mandates of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission is to keep its members informed and well trained on subjects of relevance.

To achieve its goals, the Commission organizes training sessions on a continuous basis in collaboration with École Nationale de l'Administration Publique (ENAP). For example, on June 17, 2003, an initial session under the theme of "Strategic Monitoring and Environment Analysis" was offered to economic development officers of all Aboriginal and Inuit communities across Quebec.

On October 29 and 30, 2003, a second training session took place, this time in Mont-Tremblant. This training session focused on Managing Interfaces and Communication with the Environment. This seminar was an opportunity for the economic development officers to have a better understanding of the types and models of communication and to figure out the communication features in a strategic situation. By the end of this symposium, the participants were properly equipped to better identify the barriers they are confronted with and they are now better skilled to develop effective and practical techniques.

A third training session titled: "The Partnership : from conception to implementation" took place in Quebec on November 26 and 27, 2003. This session was an opportunity for the participants to become acquainted with the guiding principles and partnership venture, whether public or private and it allowed them to become familiar with the different types of partnership and most of all to comprehend the nature of effective tools in order to achieve a successful partnership.

In summary, the training sessions allow the participants to acquire new skills, to establish new contacts, to break from their operational routine, to exchange and share experience. The main point remains that the officers develop appropriate skills to put forward economically-oriented projects in their respective environment and ensure the follow-up which secures a plus factor for their communities.

Please keep in mind that the next training session is scheduled to take place in Trois-Rivières on February 10th and will revolve around the art of negotiating. Hoping to see you in large numbers!

FNQLEDC Consultation

Maximizing services to officers

In order to maximize services to its members, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) will be undertaking a tour of consultation in 16 Native communities across Quebec, during the winter and spring of 2004.

The economic development adviser, Ms Julie Picard, is the person responsible for this project. She will be traveling to meet with the officers and representatives who are involved in economic development so that together they can establish economic development profiles of communities that have been selected for this project.

This project will enable the development of a connectivity profile in relation to new telecommunication and information technologies (NTIT) in community economic development organizations (CEDO). The FNQLEDC also proposes to achieve the community economic development profile of the communities that will be visited and a profile of the and representatives involved in community economic development.

Results and analyses will be transmitted to the community economic development organization, to the officer or representative, and also to the Chief of the community. These analyses will enable the FNQLEDC to improve their response in meeting community economic development needs. They will also be used as management and decision-making tools for the communities in question.

The FNQLEDC economic development adviser will be contacting the officers in the upcoming weeks to know their availability and meet with them in their respective community.

For more information on this project, please feel free to communicate with Julie Picard at (418) 843-1488.

Programs offered by Canada Economic Development

"Canada Economic Development's mandate is to promote the economic development of the regions of Quebec, paying special attention to those experiencing slow economic growth and inadequate employment, with a view to the enhancement of prosperity and employment in long term."

IDEA-SME

Program enabling the Agency to offer SMEs a wide array of resources and services in the following domains : Innovation - Testing and experimentation to enhance natural resources - Productivity - E-Business - Export market development - Entrepreneurship - Business climate

Program for Export Market Development

National program intended to assist Canadian business in marketing their products and services abroad.

Community Futures Program (CFP)

National program provides support to communities to taking charge of their own local economic development.

Canada-Quebec Infrastructure Works Program

In partnership with provincial, territorial, and municipal governments, First Nations and the private sector, the program will upgrade infrastructure in rural and urban municipalities across Canada.

To get more information on these programs, visit Economic Development Canada's Web Site.

<http://www.dec-ced.gc.ca/>

Or contact the Economic Development Advisor of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission

Ms. Julie Picard
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(418) 843-1488

Partner of FNQLEDC's training sessions



Développement
économique Canada

Canada Economic
Development

Canada

Sacred Circles

A Native Comic book excelled

By Caroline Nepton Hotte

The little comic book titled Sacred Circles excelled at the Mishtapew Gala held on November 23, when Brandon Mitchell, the owner of Birch Bark Comics won the business Creation Award.

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) was fortunate enough to interview this young Listuguj Mi'gmaq entrepreneur and to lay its hands on one of these real masterpieces in a Quebec specialized boutique where comic books are sold (paper back comic books), such as Spider-Man, Batman, X-Men, etc.

Brandon started off this business as just an idea, as if his life was drawn in this direction. "I was always a good draughtsman and my parents constantly encouraged me to achieve something worthwhile with this talent of mine". One day Brandon decided to undertake animation and graphic arts studies in New-Brunswick. Upon his return to Listuguj he started teaching art classes to 4th and 8th grades school children.

While teaching art classes at the *Gitpu* School, the kids inspired him to develop a creative comic book. "Birch Bark Comics is a business whose main publication for the time being is limited to Sacred Circles", explained Brandon. Brandon's concept becomes a revelation that disrupts the domain of comic books when he replaces the "super-hero" by a fantastic adventure story. Inspired by the Aboriginal culture, Sacred Circles combines the action of by-gone



Brandon Mitchell, in the middle, with a group of young people who were his inspiration for his first comic book.

days when Aboriginals used to populate the whole territory, with the action of young Aboriginals of our era who are out on a camping expedition and suddenly have visions of an evil spirit of ancient times.

Brandon hopes that his venture of Birch Bark Comics will pave the way for drawing artists, native writers and Indigenous stories. It goes without saying that this adventure was not brought to life only by one person. Brandon Mitchell was successful in getting into partnership with other animation and graphic designers, including Jean-François Beaulieu who digitizes the pictures and colors them by computer. Also, he was fortunate enough to get the support of a mentor from his community, namely his ex-employer who helped him in getting familiar with the various steps of business start-up. His community was also a big fan of his project.

Starting up a business in Listuguj

In 1997, the Mi'gmaq government of Listuguj developed a community economic development policy which opened the doors to the Listuguj Economic Development Commission. Sherri Morrison, the community economic development officer at the Commission manages the financial requests that are submitted.

In the Commission's point of view, it is crucial that the promoter learns the basics of business management. The promoters must first have the necessary qualifications to start up a business. If they do not have them, they must acquire them by following a 30 hours training session. Brandon Mitchell followed a basic management courses at the Listuguj Mi'gmaq Development Centre. Also, he gathered all the necessary information by doing

his own researches; this was made possible with the assistance of his mentor and of the Development Centre which granted him a salary for a whole year. Upon completion of these preliminary steps, he became qualified to request the assistance of a consultant for the completion of his business plan and to materialize his work. "I did the research on my own to have a better knowledge of the business I so badly wanted to establish", explained Brandon.

The promoters and entrepreneurs of Listuguj must go through this apprenticeship if they wish to secure financial assistance from the Listuguj Economic Development Commission. Brandon was successful in getting financing from the Listuguj Economic Development Commission in the amount of \$10,000 to materialize the business start-up work.

Today, Brandon Mitchell is a proud award winner of the Mishtapew Gala. "To me, the fact of winning this award was more than I would have ever expected after one year of promotion". The selling of a product such as Brandon is offering is not an easy task. He succeeded to sell over 2000 copies of his first comic book by traveling personally to schools of the area. When traveling to the United States at the *Wizard World Chicago Comic Conference*, he had the opportunity to network with people who share the same interests and who will be able to make his dream come true. His name now appears in the famous catalogue of American comic books *Diamond Comics Distributor* published in the United States.

Unfortunately *Sacred Circles* is not yet translated into French due to a lack of funds to ensure the promotion and sales. However, because of its cultural, innovative and amusing characteristics, it can become a recommendable tool for young French-speaking Aboriginals aged 7 to 99 years in the learning of English reading.

After a year of development, Brandon Mitchell has learned a lot about himself. This young entrepreneur has changed a lot. "*Birch Bark Comics* has been quite an adventure. With the benefit of hindsight, today I can say that we have more good days than bad ones!". He is now hoping to develop animation projects in cooperation with potential comic studios. This is a young man who is definitely full of passion!

www.birchbarkcomics.com



The first volume of the comic book named "Sacred Circles".

Harmonization measures in forestry activities

An opportunity to talk about it!



Photo: Suzy Basile



Photo: Ressources naturelles Canada

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI) is currently preparing a symposium on the harmonization measures of forestry activities and of principles of management, development and forestry development on traditional lands of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador, which will be held on March 9, 10 and 11, 2004 in the Innu Community of Essipit.

This symposium is meant to review the situation on the notions pertaining to the overall problems caused by the implementation of harmonization measures. The main goal is to reach the stage of a joint vision regarding the direction, the guiding principles, the measures of development and territorial management, the use of Aboriginal traditional ecological know-how and of other technical data and processes that will ensure the durability of these processes.

This symposium will be a follow up of the Indigenous Peoples Forestry Forum and of the XIIth World Forestry Congress held in Quebec last September. It is important to harmonize our vision with the international stances taken at those two (2) events and to follow the evolution of this issue.

Suzy Basile coordinator



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Sustainable Development Institute**
250, Place Michel Laveau, Bureau 201
Wendake, Quebec GOA 4V0
Tel : 418-843-9999 / fax : 418-842-5966
e-mail : sbasile@iddpnql.ca

Objectives of the symposium

- 1- Share the experience in progress in the various First Nations communities
- 2- Develop joint principles and promote the distribution of the particular applications concerning harmonization measures
- 3- Develop a guide that will help structure :
 - a comprehensive approach
 - the identification of the First Nations specific needs
 - the tools that will enhance the implementation of harmonization measures in a coherent manner.

This symposium is offered to members of the First Nations, to members of technical teams of the communities and to any other person whose position carries responsibilities pertaining to territorial and resource management and to the field of development.

For any information or to register, please communicate with :

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador
Sustainable Development Institute
250 Place Michel-Laveau, Office 201
Wendake, Quebec GOA 4V0
Tel. : (418) 843-9999 / Fax : (418)-842-5966
Email : sbasile@iddpnql.ca

The types of training offered by the FNQLSDI

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI) is mandated to provide training on the various questions that affect and directly concern the First Nations communities and territories. A series of five training sessions of three days each are offered to the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador.

The last session will be taking place in the spring of 2004 and will be offered exclusively in English. Three of the training sessions already offered, were provided in French. This training is free of charge for the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador members as a whole.

It is possible for the FNQLSDI to offer a specialized training in one of the following topics which is of particular concern to you. You are welcome to communicate with us for any additional information.

TOPICS

- The involvement of Aboriginal Peoples in the Forestry Law (Loi sur les Forêts Québec)
- The comprehensive harmonization measures pertaining to development in Quebec's Native communities
- Community Management Process
- Wendake Action Plan
- First Nations Consultation Protocol
- First Nations Environmental Evaluations Process

Amendments to the Canadian Environmental Assessment Act pertaining to Aboriginal Peoples of Canada

Special Contribution : Jacques Laurin, Environment Consultant

On October 30, 2003, the new CEAA came into force in Canada. The amendments to this Act will make the process more certain, predictable and timely for all participants, will promote high-quality assessments and increase opportunities for meaningful public participation, in particular for the Aboriginal Peoples.

The numerous dissertation papers tabled by Aboriginal Peoples at revision periods of the CEAA resulted in the fact that more than 10% of the provisions of the CEAA affect us directly. It is not an easy task to summarize and to popularize all this material in a few paragraphs, but we will attempt the experience for the readers' benefit. For greater legal certainty, interested readers may consult the guide titled: "Explanations of Amendments to the Act" at the following website address: www.acee-ceaa.gc.ca and they will realize that the following interpretation is not a substitute for the official legislative and regulatory texts.

- Band Councils ruled by the *Indian Act* are not recognized as federal authorities (article 2.1)
- In an effort to improve communication and collaboration between the governments and Aboriginal Peoples, the CEAA officially acknowledges that Aboriginal Peoples have a unique role to play, particularly in environmental evaluations which affect reserve lands, traditional territories and issues linked to treaties and to lands management. (art. 4(1) b.3))
- From now on, any on-reserve project can be subject to an environmental evaluation starting from its planning stage, when the Band Council launches the CEAA because the Council is the promoter of the project and is providing the financing, or when Council takes the necessary measures to undertake it. (art. 10(1), (2))
- Aboriginal traditional know-how may now be taken into consideration in an environmental assessment because it is considered as knowledge of environment and ecological systems acquired and implemented by generations of Natives as the foundation of their cultures. (art. 16.1)
- From now on, a project which is to be subject to an assessment by a commission, could now be referred to a joint commission formed of the government and autonomous aboriginal organizations after conclusion of a mutual collaboration agreement. (art. 40(2))

- When a project situated on *federal land* does not launch automatically an environmental evaluation but risks to have impacts on reserve land or off boundaries, the minister may refer this project to mediation or to a commission. (art. 48(1))
- When an on-reserve project does not launch automatically an environmental evaluation, but risks to have impacts on off-reserve lands or on federal lands, the minister may refer this project to mediation or to a commission. (art. 48 (2))

When a project, standing chances to have impacts on reserve lands or off boundaries, is referred to a commission by the minister, the latter must grant an advance notice of ten (10) days to the Aboriginal Peoples and to all other parties involved. (art. 48 (5) e), f), g)

Any project affected by the CEAA, will be subject to a compulsory registration in the Canadian Environmental Assessment Registry (CEAR); some information is readily available

on Internet and it will be mandatory to forward a copy of certain documents when requested by the public. (art. 55)

- As soon as the regulation affecting Band Councils will come into force, any Band Council vested with a decision-making power in accordance with the *Indian Act*, will be allowed to develop its own environmental assessment regulations and follow-up program for any on-reserve projects. (art. 59 l, 1.001))
- The Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency (CEAA) is required to consult Aboriginal Peoples on the political aspects linked to the CEAA by setting up an Aboriginal Advisory Committee(AAC), namely on reserve lands and on issues connected to treaties and to land claims. (article 62h)

For more information contact the FNQLSDI at (418) 843-9999.

Are you familiar with the Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program ? (CEDTAP)

This is a national program that began in 1997. Now in its second phase, CEDTAP aims to assist 500 communities across Canada by 2007. CEDTAP's mission is to enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of community-based organizations engaged in community economic development and social economy by supporting activities that will strengthen their capabilities on the field, to increase the visibility, knowledge, coherence and resources of the sector as a whole in cooperation with other organizations sharing the same interests.

The FNQLEDC invites you to get in touch with the funding coordinator for Quebec, Ms Danielle Laurin. She will provide you with information on the different possibilities of assistance contained in this program, such as technical assistance, community exchange, communications and information technologies, development of intervention tools and initiatives of target groups, such as Youth, Women, Aboriginal Peoples, etc.

For more information on funding requests, please visit the following website :
www.carleton.ca/cstier/cedtap/

or contact :
Danielle Laurin
Regional Coordinator, - Quebec
Community Economic Development Technical Assistance Program
Tel. : (514) 866-2355, station 209
Fax. : (514) 288-0755
qc-patdec@cedtap.com

Symposium of the Entrepreneurship Foundation

The FNQLEDC will be in Attendance!

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) will be one of many participants at the workshop on *Leadership entrepreneurial des Premiers Peuples*, (First Peoples Entrepreneurial Leadership) in Quebec during the 21st symposium of the Entrepreneurship Foundation to be held under the theme *Urgence Entrepreneurship – Une responsabilité partagée!* (Emergency Entrepreneurship – A Shared Responsibility).

This workshop to be hosted by Carole Lévesque, a professor at the Institut national de recherche scientifique de l'Université du Québec, will be divided in two parts. In the first portion, the FNQLEDC will be introduced along with its vision, its mandates and the role of community economic development officers and representatives. In the second part, the owner of Indiana Marketing, Mr. Vincent Lévesque, who is of Huron-Wendat ancestry, will share his experience as Aboriginal entrepreneur in the field of marketing and communications.

Other special guests will be attending this high-profile event, such as the President and Chief Executive Officer at Hydro-Quebec, André Caillé, the President and Executive Director of Mouvement Desjardins, Alban D'Amours, the President and publisher of Le Soleil, a Quebec newspaper, Alain Dubuc, and many others.

The Foundation's symposium is an opportunity to learn more on the strategies to secure funding, on new initiatives of Youth strategies, on the harmonization of professional life with personal life, on marketing and many more topics. This is an ideal opportunity for the First Peoples to express their concerns and their needs in the area of the current community economic development.

The FNQLEDC invites the officers and representatives of community economic development to attend this activity in large numbers and to promote it to the entrepreneurs of their communities.

To register and to get more information, please visit the following Web site:
www.entrepreneurship.qc.ca/fr/accueil/colloque_menu.asp

Contact:

Entrepreneurship Foundation

Toll free: 1-800-661-2160 / Tel.: (418) 648-1994 / Fax: (418) 646-2246

Aboriginal Skills and Employment Partnership program (ASEP)

ASEP is a new program announced by Human Resources Development Canada. The funding of this program will be allocated to training plans leading to Aboriginal employment within the scope of large economic development projects and other projects focused on resources. The program aims at providing the Natives with the necessary skills to participate in economic development projects, such as mining in the Northern hemisphere, petroleum and gas industries and hydro-electric development projects.

The contribution of ASEP will not exceed 75% of the total value of the large project. The large project, as forecasted by the program, must include a significant participation of the private sector and of the provincial and territorial government along with a major participation of the local Aboriginal communities situated on the premises of the project to be developed. The said project must prove that it will provide a minimum of 50 permanent jobs to Aboriginal Peoples.

For more information on this new program, please contact the First Nations of Quebec Human Resources Commission at (514) 283-8937.

Or visit the following Web site and see documents on ASEP: www17.hrdc-drhc.gc.ca/

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Show yourself to the CEDO's!

Nikan – CEDO's Path, the news bulletin of the Quebec and Labrador Aboriginal community economic development officers and representatives invites you to advertise your services, a unique occasion to establish business links with the First Nations for the beginning of 2004!

The continuation of services to the economic development officers and representatives of the FNQLEDC members depends on your participation to that publication. The autonomy and the success of community development depend on the commitment and the involvement of all concerned in the initiatives developed by the members of the communities.

ADVERTISING FORMAT

- Format : Business card (5 cm by 9 cm)
Cost : \$100,00
- Format : Banner (6 cm by 19,5 cm)
Cost : \$150,00
- Format : Quarter of a page (14 cm by 13 cm)
Cost : \$200,00
- Advertising space for logo and business name and address in FNQLEDC's Website.
Cost: \$200,00 for one year.

Do not hesitate to contact the FNQLEDC to know more about the economic development officers and representatives or to place an ad in our publication.

FNQLEDC
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