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CEDO'S Path

COMMISSION DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR (CDEPNQL)
FIRST NATIONS OF QUEBEC AND LABRADOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION (FNQLEDC)

Special features

- New consulting services at FNQLEDC
- A promising future for Old Wendake
- FNQLEDC meets SAA coordinators

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Indigenous Peoples' Forestry Forum Close to 34 countries and over 300 guests!

Close to 34 countries and over 300 guests took part in the Indigenous Peoples' Forestry Forum held from September 19 to 21, 2003, in Quebec City, preceding the XXIInd World Forestry Congress.

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Sustainable Development Institute (FNQLSDI), the National Association of Aboriginal Forestry (NAFA), the Assembly of First Nations and Huron-Wendat Council held this worldwide event. The Forestry Forum welcomed guests from Papouasia, New-Guinea, Taiwan, Africa and Natives from the United States, from Mexico, South America and everywhere across Canada.



Aboriginal delegates from various countries took part in the Indigenous Peoples' Forest Forum held from September 19 to 21, 2003 at Hotel Loews Le Concorde in Quebec City.

They came together to work in workshops on the Wendake Action Plan. This Action Plan, presented on Wednesday September 24, 2003 within the scope of the World Forestry Congress is based on various commitments taken and on statements made by the member countries of the United Nations: Agenda 21, the Biodiversity Convention, the Declaration of Leticia and of Kimberley, Johannesburg, Kari-Oca, Durban and Cancun. Therefore it is a Petition to enforce the main elements of the past declarations concerning Indigenous Peoples.

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) attended the Forum to have a good understanding of the different follow-ups that will be required from Indigenous Peoples. The Commission will then monitor the development of this file in conjunction with the FNQLSDI to make sure that the officers and representatives of community economic development are kept abreast of the international

political commitments that will eventually have repercussions on community projects.

To maintain a continuous high profile at the World Forestry Congress, the Indigenous Peoples of different countries contributed in setting up an Aboriginal booth right in the Exhibition Hall. All in all, 18 Aboriginal communities from the three Americas contributed to the information literature made available at the booth, where information technology and traditional elements intertwined.

The Algonquin community of Barrière Lake (Mitchikanibikok Inik) took part and introduced its Trilateral Accord to implement the United Nations' Bruntland Report on durable development. This Accord allowed the Community to develop an integrated Plan of Resource Development proposing a mixture of traditional know-how and modern development aimed at protecting the environment. Unfortunately in 2001, the federal government withdrew from the file, but Quebec and the community are pursuing their efforts.

Many other communities from Quebec and Labrador participated to the literature available at the booth like Essipit and Innu Nation of Labrador.



PHOTO: FNQLEDC

The Indigenous Peoples' booth present at the Exhibition of the 12th World Forest Congress held from September 21 to 28, 2003 at the Centre des Congrès de Québec combined new technologies to natural elements such as forests, plants and wood.

Economic Development Adviser

In direct contact with the Communities

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) welcomes the newly-appointed Economic Development Adviser, Ms Julie Picard, who will be taking office on October 20, 2003 in the premises of the FNQLEDC.

A former Tax Enforcement Officer, then Land Management Advisor and Specific Claims Coordinator for the Quebec region at the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Ms Picard acquired, over her career numerous background experience with community members and government authorities.

After completing a Bachelor's degree in political sciences, with a major in public administration, then having attended the École Professionnelle du Barreau du Québec in 1989, the Economic Development Adviser possesses the necessary qualifications to provide an effective support to Aboriginal communities of Quebec and Labrador.

Please do not hesitate to call upon Ms Picard's services, she will hastily provide you with assistance for all your community economic development projects.

Consulting services provided by FNQLEDC

Thanks to the hiring of an Economic Development Adviser, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) is in a position to provide a whole new range of higher quality services, adapted to the needs of Aboriginal communities.

In collaboration with the officer or representative of community economic development, the adviser will offer the following services:

- Support to the communities' officers and representatives involved in economic development;
- Assistance in development of business plans;
- Assistance in seeking out of financial means;
- Assessment of evolution of the First Nations' economic situation;
- Support to entrepreneurship training;
- Referral to specialized services: export, technological development of businesses, etc.
- Promotion and project assessment in relation to economic development programs;
- Negotiations, follow-up and assessment of service agreements with partners of the economic local element;
- Development, follow-up and assessment of local action plans;
- Support to the evolution of local labor market, etc.

For more information, contact FNQLEDC:
(418) 843-1488 or information@cdepnql.org

The FNQLEDC meets the team of SAA Coordinators

Keeping in mind the importance of improving its information and networking services, the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) was invited to a meeting on September 18, 2003, in Quebec City, with officials of the Secrétariat aux affaires autochtones and with the coordinators of different provincial ministries who are involved in Aboriginal issues.

This first exploratory meeting was an enlightening and fact-finding session which allowed the FNQLEDC to identify the interest of the coordinators to work in cooperation. The thirty contributors or so who were at the table fully understood the mission and the mandates of the FNQLEDC. According to the General Director of FNQLEDC, Mr. Pierre Bastien, this is a step forward for the organization. "It is a first approach and I believe that

eventually it would be interesting to put in place a working committee to make sure that our undertaking will carry on while respecting the future directives that will emerge from the mutual political commitment", explained the General Director.

The coordinators of Aboriginal issues showed their interest and inquired from Mr. Bastien on various subjects such as "Aboriginal Women and Economic Development, the exchange of information between the FNQLEDC and the coordinators and finally the structure of the organization. Certain solutions must be identified for the establishment of a plan of action and networking for the next few years.

In this sense, as explained by the coordinator of Aboriginal issues at the Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Ministry,

Mr. Yvon Laviolette, several Aboriginal promoters are submitting requests for financial assistance, but for lack of support, abandon the file on the way. "Often these promoters do not necessarily deal with the economic development officer and only one project out of ten reaches the final step; therefore how can they be helped without interfering?" asked the coordinator.

To the FNQLEDC, this is an opportunity to try and get a support process started by referring the ministerial coordinators to the officers in question. The FNQLEDC can also offer solution paths through the new services of the economic development adviser, Ms Julie Picard. This file must be followed up. No doubt that it will improve the relations between the officers, the promoters and the different ministries.

A promising future for Old Wendake

Rediscover Huron-Wendat culture!

by Caroline Nepton Hotte

On the banks of Akiawenrak river, upstream from Kabir Kouba Falls, situated less than 15 kilometres from Quebec downtown, is situated one of the oldest Aboriginal communities in Canada: Wendake. The distinctive cultural heritage of the Huron-Wendat has influenced the growth of the various economic developments of that community. Over the last century, the production of culturally-related products has brought on a whole range of businesses and industries. Manufactures of snowshoes and authentic items, restaurants and local tradesmen have contributed in making this community a cultural meeting place and a First Nations landmark.

Today, the context of development has changed. The City of Quebec, a world Heritage Site, greets close to 4 million visitors a year. This is an opportunity to grab for the village of Wendake! In order to have access to this tourist mass by promoting a boosting of the local economy, the Band Council undertook in 1998 a community consultation process that was conducted hand in hand with its annual planning. To the Band Council and the economic development sector of Wendake, it was imperative to get the support and participation of the population and merchants to submit a structuring and unifying plan of community development for the economy.

Following a series of public meetings and discussion sessions, the economic development sector and the Band Council interveners banked on taking-over the historical and cultural heritage of the community. Consequently a strategic plan was finally developed "Enhancing Old-Wendake" and it met the wishes and preoccupations of the members.

"Enhancing Old-Wendake" was developed during the year 1999 and includes various elements, from marketing strategy to the creation of a museum of the Huron-Wendat Nation. The Council left nothing to chance as shown by the Director of Economic Development, Mr. Raymond Picard. "Landscape development respectful of our village historic natural environment, sign posting concept, renovation of the Tsawenhohi historical house, repairs of the municipal infrastructures and of course the burial works of hydro-electric wires and repair of dwellings on Chef Maurice Bastien Boulevard are also part of our global planning", as he explained. With all those developments extending from the railway men corridor (cycle path) to Chef Maurice Bastien Boulevard, Wendake will surely become one of the hubs of tourism.

The Director along with his team worked relentlessly to develop concrete partnerships. Through collaboration with near 40 federal, provincial and local interveners, Wendake has shown its determination to develop the economy of its region. "We wish to work in unison with the district, explained Mr. Picard during an interview and it is our hope that the works we will be carrying out will stand to benefit downtown Loretteville (a neighboring town)" added Mr. Picard.

To this day, the economic development sector has secured investments totaling over 10 million \$ through its partners, but to Mr. Picard, a lot of essential projects remain to be completed. "The Nation Museum must be operational for 2008 to coincide with the Celebrations of the 400th anniversary of Quebec City", specified Mr. Picard. At that time, all the works will be fully completed and the community will benefit from the financial spin-offs generated by more significant crowds, functional and effective infrastructures to meet the newly needed demands of tourists. Wendake will have contributed to the creation of a recognized showcase allowing the merchants to



Photo: Council of the Huron-Wendat Nation



Photo: FNGLEDC

Young workers fixing up the cobblestones close to the old burial grounds and the Kabir Kouba Falls

The Tsawenhohi House in Wendake was completely renovated in accordance with the principles of refurbishment of historical houses.

access an economic market in agitation and become a proactive economic player involved in its environment. This opportunity was excellent for the sector to update the knowledge of its teams of community animators and employees. "To make use of our culture, our history and our heritage associated to contemporary techniques of physical developments have made it so that Wendake was able to achieve, with the complicity of partners a project of the highest quality in which, in the beginning, many did not believe in" commented the economic development team.

So far, the community completed the renovation of the Tsawenhohi House and the historical chapel and several landscaping developments. The burial works of the hydro-electric wires will be done in December, 2003. Already, the residents can appreciate the modifications and live in a healthier and harmonious environment. The community of Wendake is one of those localities who are fortunate enough to benefit from the economic dynamism of the new City of Quebec. Therefore, the community develops the infrastructure required to promote its uniqueness and to exploit its cultural and historical heritage to the benefit of the Nation and visitors.

Obstacles of Aboriginal Women Entrepreneur

Written by P. Gayle McKenzie

Gayle McKenzie was a Liaison Counselor at the Alberta Advanced Education & Career Development. She has completed studies in Complete Life Planning at Athabaska University and also in Business Management at Anderson Career Training Institute. She started her own business in 2000: White Eagle & Associates.

Cultural

The aboriginal woman entrepreneur faces a variety of cultural obstacles compared to other women entrepreneurs. The attitudes and values of the aboriginal people promote harmony within the community. The practice of non-interference, non-competitiveness, and emotional restraint leads the aboriginal people to view coercing or attempting to persuade another person to purchase goods or services as an undesirable behaviour. This non-competitiveness extends into the business life that non-aboriginal people see as a lack of initiative and ambition. The principle of sharing rather than individual prosperity is an aboriginal custom that stems from group survival. When an aboriginal woman is successful in her community, it promotes jealousy from the people. She is viewed as being greedy, having more than she needs, therefore, it is expected that she share without being paid back. This is a factor in suppressing individual ambition. Time can be a factor with aboriginal people. The phrase "Indian time" refers to our ancestors who did not have clocks or watches; instead they measured time by days or seasons. This allowed them to have enough time to make sure that they were able to get all their work done to insure survival and avoid the stress of having to deal with crisis that is often brought about by lack of time such as we experience today on a daily basis. The aboriginal people believe that when the time is right, all things will come together harmoniously. It can be difficult for an aboriginal person to view time in the same way that the non-aboriginal people do so a course in time management is necessary.

Financial

When an aboriginal woman applies for a loan from a financial institution, she is often refused because she doesn't have viable collateral. If she has a home on the reservation, it is owned by their band, if she owns a home off reserve, and is married the title is usually in both husband and wife's names. The same may apply when it comes to owning a vehicle. Therefore, a woman must establish her own credit and credibility by opening her own bank account, credit cards and registering a vehicle in her own name before she starts or purchases her own business.

Long Hours

Self-employed women work 12 – 16 hours per day as the norm. After regular office or store hours she also has to maintain her role as a wife, mother and homemaker. There are many interruptions from well meaning friends and family in a home based business making it difficult to follow a schedule and to meet deadlines. There is no time clock to punch, coffee or lunch breaks so it becomes necessary to allocate their time accordingly. In order to be successful when dealing with fresh products, time becomes more demanding.

Paperwork and Unpredictable Income

Coming from a non-industrialized society, it is more difficult for the aboriginal woman because she is not accustomed to the business way of life. They have to be not only the president and marketing manager, but also the comptroller and bookkeeper until they get a new business off the ground and running smoothly, budgeting is vital. It is

sometimes necessary for aboriginal women to have a part time or full time job during the first year or two, especially if they are single mothers with no other income.

Constant Pressure

Every day is a marketing day or a work search day for the self-employed woman. Aboriginal women find it difficult being assertive and this causes conflict suppression. In order to be a successful entrepreneur, it is necessary to be competitive and aboriginal women have to work harder to attain the skill necessary to succeed. Often, aboriginal women are either submissive or overly aggressive. The skill of assertiveness has to be learned.

Some statistics

A wind of change has come...

Between 1981 and 1996, the number of self-employed workers among the First Peoples of Canada has increased by 170%, going from 7,485 to 20,195.

In 1996, it is reported that across Canada, 7,265 women of First Peoples were self-employed workers.

There is still work to do

In 1996, only 2.7% of Aboriginal women were self-employed workers comparatively to 5% for Canada as a whole.

According to the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples, 62.7% of Aboriginal Women reported that the scarceness and non-existence of employment are the main obstacles to employment.

Also, 36.1% of Aboriginal women have identified the non-pertinent education and experiences as the second obstacle to employment.

Sources: Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (1996) and Industry Canada (1998)

The Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada is currently preparing a new guide for the First Peoples women promoters. The document titled: "Journey to success" will be published in October of 2003. The FNQLEDC will keep an eye on the publishing of this new tool which shall be helpful to the promoters and to the officers and representatives of community economic development.

The First Nations Financial Institutions initiative

On June 25, 1998, the Chiefs in attendance at the Assembly of First Nations (AFN)'s General Assembly, adopted resolution no. 49/98 creating a Chiefs Committee on Fiscal Relations (CCoFR).

In December 1999, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the AFN and Canada that established the National Table on Fiscal Relations (NTFR). The purpose of the NTFR is to share information, build capacity, develop standards, and support the creation of national financial institutions.

In February 2000, the CCoFR passed resolutions supporting the NTFR Work Plan and the establishment of an Institutional Coordination Committee.

The First Nations Financial Institutions Initiative (FNFI) took root. Here-below you will find the four financial institutions with a brief history of each:

First Nations Finance Authority (FNFA)

The FNFA will provide investment and borrowing services to First Nations. It will improve the access to capital of all First Nations and provide a policy framework for ensuring First Nations are properly authorized to borrow and will promote the development of First Nation infrastructure by allowing tax revenue to service debt. The interests of this organization are in ensuring that borrowing is conducted only for sound projects that are financially viable.

First Nations Tax Commission (FNTC)

The FNTC will be the successor institution to the existing Indian Taxation Advisory Board (ITAB). This organization will promote the assertion of First Nation tax jurisdiction on sound terms, help address the issue of taxation and representation by assuming additional powers, protect the integrity of First Nation tax systems and build administrative capacity for managing tax systems. It will provide a policy framework for the generation and expenditure of tax revenue. The interests of this organization are in guaranteeing the integrity of the tax system and ensuring all First Nations can provide quality services at reasonable tax rates.

First Nations Financial Management Institution (FNFM)

The FMB is needed to build confidence in First Nation financial reporting and to promote sound financial management and practices among First Nations and First Nation institutions. This organization will develop principles, best practices and models for First Nation financial management. It will provide a forum for First Nations to share financial management expertise, capacity and experience in support of new fiscal relations.

First Nations Statistical Institution (FNSI)

The FNSI will provide First Nations with control over their statistics. This will improve the quality of First Nation statistics so they can be used to govern a fiscal relationship. At present, the quality of statistics is inadequate. Even basic statistics such as population counts are suspect in a First Nation context. A First Nations Statistical Institution will work to improve the quality of these statistics by working with First Nation communities themselves. Improved statistics will do more than provide input into the governance of a fiscal relationship. They will also provide valuable information that will guide other institutions in developing policy and initiatives, make program delivery more important and allow national First Nation institutions to properly represent First Nation interests at the national level.

These financial institutions were created by and for the First Nations. Together, these four fiscal institutions were to improve the fiscal relation between the First Nations and Canada by:

- Improving the ability of First Nations to make our own investments and to attract investment.
- Providing access to capital (loans) at a lower cost for First Nations for large-scale community projects (such as water systems).
- Supporting the establishment First Nations controlled property tax systems.
- Ensuring high service standards to those who receive services from First Nations.
- Demonstrating that First Nations governments are well managed and accountable organizations.
- Assessing and analyzing existing data and determining the collection of additional data to tell the real story of First Nations' needs and aspirations.

To empower and coordinate the work of these institutions, a Federal Act of Parliament was considered, by members of the CCoFR and the NTFR, an essential element in gaining recognition and support from existing foreign financial and government organizations. This legislation was to be called the First Nations Fiscal and Statistical Management Act (FNFSMA).

The Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs (INAC), Mr. Robert Nault, introduced the FNFSMA as being part of the legislation which was to be enacted by Parliament on the First Nations Governance initiative.

Many of the First Nations across Canada (including the Assembly of Chiefs of Quebec and Labrador) rejected the proposed FNFSMA on the grounds that such legislation would hinder the Nation to Nation relationship and their Inherent and Treaty Rights guaranteed by the Royal Proclamation of 1763, section 35 of the Constitution Act of 1982, International Law including recent Supreme Court decisions.

At the AFN Special Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa on November 19 & 20, 2002, the Chiefs in attendance adopted resolution no. 30/2002 entitled "Rejection of the proposed Fiscal and Statistical Management Act".

One of the major points supporting the rejection of this legislation is that federal authorization is required for First Nations to pass laws and establish institutions in relation to local financial management and revenue collection.

For additional information you may contact the AFNQL Fiscal Advisor at the following e-mail address, phone and fax numbers.

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Source: The above information has been compiled from the AFN's internet site and the First Nations Fiscal Institutions Initiative Community Guide.



Michael Benedict,
Fiscal Advisor

Photo: FNILEDC

FNQLEDC's Schedule of Activities

Fall 2003

The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission is proud to invite its officers and representatives of Aboriginal community economic development to its custom-made training courses of the 2003 fall session.

First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission

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Date	Location	Clientele	Activity
October 28, 2003	Le Grand Lodge Mont-Tremblant	Members of Board of Directors only	Training Session Problem Solving and Decision Making
October 29 & 30, 2003	Le Grand Lodge Mont-Tremblant	Economic development officers and representatives	Training Session Interfacing Management and Communication with the Environment Web Site of the FNQLEDC: Use of the Discussion Forum
November 25, 2003	Classique Hotel Sainte-Foy	Members of Board of Directors only	Regular meeting of the Board of Directors
November 26 & 27, 2003	Classique Hotel Sainte-Foy	Economic development officers and representatives	Training Session Partnership : From emergence to implementation

This training is made possible thanks to our partner.



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Upcoming events

From October 14 to 17, 2003
25th anniversary of the Institut Culturel et Éducatif Montagnais (ICEM)
For this occasion, ICEM has put together a series of cultural activities: Exhibitions, food samplings, competitions. A dinner conference will conclude the evening with the attendance of the Assembly of First Nations' National Chief, Mr. Phil Fontaine and Quebec's Minister of Culture and Communications, Ms Line Beauchamp. For more information, please contact ICEM : 1-800-391-4424 icem@icem.ca

October 28, 29 and 30, 2003
Ka Shutshenimitsh Project "The one who has faith in his abilities to achieve his goals"
The First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Youth Council is inviting the Youth of all First Nations to participate in a training session on leadership. At the Whyndam Hotel of Montreal Certain selection criteria will apply. For information, contact : Marjolaine McKenzie Toll free: 1-888-840-1011 Email: jeunes.youth@apnql-afnql.com

November 23, 2003
6th edition of the Mishtapew Awards of Excellence Gala, sponsored by the First People's Business Association
at Hotel Loews Le Concorde Quebec (Quebec)
For complete information on the new categories or for any additional information : Toll free: (877) 699-5559 Tel.: (418) 843-4535 Fax: (418) 843-1529 Email: info@aappfpba.org

