



# Nikan

CEDO'S Path

January 2003

Vol. 1, issue 2

## Special features

- FNQLEDC's priorities!
- Evaluation of Community Economic Development program;
- Amalecite, a success story!

## Summary :

Training and services to members	p. 1
A more autonomous Commission	p. 2
Taxation file	p. 3
The Malecites, a success story...	p. 4
Evaluation of CEDP	p. 5
Training : are you registered ?	p. 5
Upcoming events	p. 6

COMMISSION DE DÉVELOPPEMENT ÉCONOMIQUE  
DES PREMIÈRES NATIONS DU QUÉBEC ET DU LABRADOR (CDEPNQL)

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

## Training and services to members !

On November 19 2002, the general assembly of the FNQLEDC took the decision not to host another annual symposium on economic development, based on the reason that all efforts will be concentrated to develop a continuous training plan and focused on the endeavours of the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission (FNQLEDC) to achieve this specific mandate.

Obviously, the needs of economic development officers are numerous and the efforts of the FNQLEDC's Secretariate must be concentrated amongst other things on the training of officers and the improvement of direct services to members. The FNQLEDC is still working at applying the strategic plan of development and is still at the implementation level, as a regional services organization. Therefore, the FNQLEDC must put in place efficient and recurring services for the economic development officers and representatives of the Inuit and Native communities.

In spite of this decision, the version of the 2002 symposium: *Concerted Economy – Together Towards A Common Goal*, unfolded brilliantly thanks to the presence of over a hundred participants and interveners. The presentations were all highly appreciated, but let us keep in mind those on the mining development of the *Labrador Torngait Ujaganniavingit Corporation*, by Ben Saimit and *Iroquois Water* by Dan Villeneuve. The symposium closed on a presentation particularly appreciated by the FNQLEDC members, with the presence of the director general of Société de développement économique Innue de Mashteuiatsh (SDEI), Ms Colette Robertson and of the Commissioner to the



Photo: Caroline Nepton Hotte

The director general of Société de développement économique Innue, Colette Robertson and the Commissioner to the development of territory of Centre local de développement, Mr. Gilles Potvin.

development of territory of Centre local de développement de Domaine du Roy, Mr. Gilles Potvin.

Ms Robertson presented some initiatives put forward by the SDEI and realized over the past years in collaboration with the CLD of her area. Amongst other things, Ms Robertson outlined the use of birch forests for traditional activities, the partnership with the *St.Felicien Zoo*, the setting-up of *Centre De Conservation De La Biodiversité Boréale* and also the Nature's Paths.

Most importantly, Ms Robertson stressed the importance for an economic development officer to share with the people and interveners of each region, to ensure the best community economic development of all. «Following the example of Quebec regions who claim more autonomy for the consolidation of their assets and exploit new paths, the First Nations wish to secure a prosperous future and control their development tools. Parallel objectives met through the same mean: concertation!» reminded Ms Robertson, without reservation.



## A more autonomous commission!

### Economic development officers Annual General Assembly

At their second annual general assembly, held on November 19, 2002 in Montreal, the officers and representatives of the Quebec and Labrador Economic Development took the opportunity to engage towards a more significant autonomy.

It has been the intention of the officers and representatives for a long time to come. Finally, they will have the opportunity to separate their financial management from that of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL). Therefore, the accounting system must be adapted to the managerial needs of the FNQLEDC, which will require some training at the level of the AFNQL administrators. Also, the audits will be conducted by *Laberge Lafleur*, a firm acting as auditors for the *Institut Culturel et Éducatif Montagnais*, the *Attikamekw-Montagnais Communication Society*, the *First Nations Business Association* and

many more. These first audits will be presented for fiscal year 2002-2003, ending March 31 2003.

Furthermore, the FNQLEDC Board of Directors did an overall modification of its document titled *Constitution and by-laws* and presented it to its members present at the assembly. About ten items were added to the document: the selection of voting members, the role and obligations of each member, the composition of the board of directors, the election process, etc. This document is available at the FNQLEDC for the Quebec and Labrador economic development officers and representatives of the native communities and Inuit villages.

Moreover, it is in accordance with these new by-laws that the FNQLEDC members proceeded to the election of its new board of directors, formed of one member per Nation. Thus, Mr.



Major Kistabish, secretary-treasurer and the new President of the FNQLEDC, Normand Bacon from the Société de développement économique of Betsiamites.

Normand Bacon of Betsiamite was elected as the President of the FNQLEDC; Mr. Alfred Loon of the Cree Nation, was elected vice-president and Mr. Major Kistabish of the Algonquin Nation was elected for another consecutive mandate as the secretary-treasurer.

Besides, Mr. Normand Bacon has strongly encouraged each and everyone to participate in the various activities of FNQLEDC. "It is to be hoped that the economic development representatives will get together and participate to regional activities. It would help in making their needs known to the government partners and bring out their genuine interests. The networking begins by a sharing of knowledge and the involvement of all communities!" reminded Mr. Bacon after his nomination.

The board of directors also includes Jeannette Boivin of Wemotaci, Diane Brière of the Malecite de Viger nation, Louise Mameamskum of Kawawachikamach, Denis Gill of Odanak and Réjean Gros-Louis of Wendake.

The FNQLEDC is waiting for the results of the Inuits, of the Mig'Maq and of the Mohawks before making the names of the three vacant positions official.

### Bill C-19

On December 2, 2002, Bill C-19 on the Financial Management and Accountability Code of the First Nations was tabled at the House of Commons by the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, Mr. Robert D. Nault.

In spite of the opposition of the National Assembly of First Nations Chiefs and the clear split of this assembly, in spite of the resolutions adopted by the Quebec Tribal Councils opposing definitely the tabling of this Bill, the Minister continues to go forward.

Furthermore, on November 28, 2002, at their annual general assembly, the Chiefs of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador (AFNQL) have drawn up a resolution, in which they categorically reject the federal initiative, from which one of the main consequences will be the municipalization of the First Nations communities.

For more information, please contact the AFNQL.

Telephone (418) 842-5020

## Taxation file

*Michael Benedict,*

*The Office of Fiscality of the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador*

Who loves the tax collector? In the opinion of many citizens, especially First Nations people, the worst swear word in any language is the word "tax"!

For many years taxation questions have become more complex and problematic for all the First Nations of Canada. According to the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), a new fiscal relationship should be established between the government of Canada and Aboriginal governments.

As First Nations people, we all know that the federal and provincial governments exploit our resources, without our consent, to amass capital in order to build the infrastructure necessary to deliver the essential services required by their non-aboriginal citizens. The services I am referring to are the services required by contemporary society such as sewage systems, paved roads, health centers, recreational centres, seniors homes, schools, etc.

Even though the federal government has a trust responsibility towards the First Nations of Canada in virtue of the Indian Act, treaties and our inherent rights as the first inhabitants of this country, it often acts in bad faith and does not respect its financial responsibilities and commitments.

We know that the amount of financial capital necessary for an autonomous government to give the above-mentioned services is clearly greater than what we receive in transfers from the federal government. The RCAP report shows the necessity for the federal government to substantially increase the revenues transferred to the First Nations so that our governments can respond to the essential needs of our citizens.

On January 7, 1998, the minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development at the time, Ms. Jane Stewart, and the federal spokesperson for the Métis

and non-registered Indians, Mr. Ralph Goodale (minister of Natural Resources Canada at the time), unveiled the program "Gathering Strength", the Canadian action plan for Aboriginal questions. One of this plan's sections was the taxation file.

In February 1999, the Assembly of First Nations of Quebec and Labrador implemented a task force on taxation. This group is made up of members from many of the First Nations of Quebec. On January 24, 2000, the AFNQL engaged the services of Mr. Michael Benedict in order to develop a detailed file on the main taxation questions concerning the First Nations of Quebec. The AFNQL Office of Fiscal Relations also opened its doors on January 24, 2000. It is located in the offices of the Grand Conseil de la Nation Waban-Aki inc. on the territory of the Abenaki First Nation in Wolinak.

It is to be noted that le Grand Conseil de la nation Waban-Aki inc. (GCNW) wishes to have our tax-exempt status respected by the government of Quebec. With the support of the law firm Hutchins, Soroka and Dionne, and the technical support of the AFNQL Office of Fiscal Relations, the Abenakis won two victories before the tribunals for the reimbursement on fuel tax.

In addition, in June 2002, the AFNQL Office of Fiscal Relations found that the ministère du Revenu du Québec (MRQ) is collecting Quebec Sales Tax (QST) to the amount of 5% on automobile insurance policies sold to Indians living on reserve.

Once more, the GCNW engaged the services of Me David Schulze of the law firm Hutchins, Soroka and Dionne, in order to show the MRQ and all the First Nations of Quebec that the collection of tax on a reserve is inconsistent with Article 87 of the Indian Act. Thus, it is an illegally collected tax.



Michael Benedict,

We believe that the Quebec government holds in its coffers several million dollars of taxes illegally collected from the First Nations of Quebec, their governments and institutions. We know that this file doesn't only concern the Abenaki Nation but all the First Nations of Quebec. This explains the adoption of a resolution adopted by the AFNQL Chiefs in support of a class action initiated by the GCNW. This class action aims at getting the reimbursement of fuel taxes and the Quebec Sales Tax illegally collected by Revenue Quebec.

The combined monetary value of these two files (feul tax and QST) could reach several million dollars. The Quebec government enters into negotiations with First Nations wishing to make sectoral and self-government agreements by using illegally collected monies to fund them.

Before we, the First Nations people, are inclined to talk about tax payment and collection, the federal and provincial governments should reimburse us for all illegally collected taxes.

For more information:

**Michael Benedict**  
Fiscal Advisor  
AFNQL Office of Fiscal Relations  
4680, boul. Danube  
Wôlinak (Québec) G0X 1B0  
Tel.: (819) 294-6190  
Fax.: (819) 294-1689  
E-mail: [mbenedict@vl.videotron.ca](mailto:mbenedict@vl.videotron.ca)

## The Malecites, a success story ...



In 1999, when the team of Mrs. Grand Chief Anne Archambault came in power, they were facing a deficit of 250,000 \$. The Grand Chief's team had to roll up sleeves and lend a hand equipped with paper and pencils. Diane Brière, Chief Councillor responsible for the economic development file knows what she is talking about when she tackles issues of community economic leverages. «It came very close that the Royal Canadian Mounted Police padlocked the Band Council's office» stated Ms Brière.

Today, Diane Brière is very proud of her contribution in the revival of her community. Water was the cradle of the Viger Nation and thanks to water again, the Nation was reborn. The Marshall ruling, a source of conflicting clashes, nevertheless allowed the birth and the blooming of that community who was battling with a near-absence of natural resources and means of income. In September of 1999, the Marshall ruling came out, bringing about many Eastern Mig'Maq and Malecite Nations to claim their inherent rights. We all remember the disastrous consequences on the Burnt Church community and the altercations between the Mig'Maq community members and representatives of Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

For the Malecites of Viger, time had come to make a move. In November of 1999, the Malecites attended a special consultation of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (FOC) and of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (DIAND), in Ottawa. «We were not invited. We were simply left behind», affirmed Ms Brière. But with the help of Mrs. Chief Anne Archambault, «we took our rightful place and they had no other choice but to include us, as we were signatories to the treaties in the past » explained Diane Brière.

With a Master in French literature, Diane Brière knew very little about fishing except mollusc fishing with her family. Curiosity pushed Ms Brière to find out everything about commercial fishing,



Photo : MVBC Archives

In March 2000, the Band Council decided to purchase a shrimp boat that was later modified to combine crab fishing and shrimp fishing. Here you can see Amalecite 2, the second shrimp boat of the Malecite's.

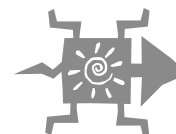
from the purchase of boats to fishing material: nets, rigging and permits; Ms Brière explored and visited the old seadogs. «*I could not rely on the first to come, because the fishermen saw me coming: a young native woman, knowing just about nothing, pockets full of subsidies. I chose to consult different people, alone, without a consultant. I finally met honest people, full of kindness and ready to help us*» recalled the Chief Councillor in economic development.

In January 2000, the Band Council did some research and was able to negotiate permits. In March 2000, the Band Council decided to purchase a shrimp boat that was later modified to combine crab fishing and shrimp fishing. In June 2000, less than ten months after the Marshall ruling, **AMALECITE 1** reached the open sea. Finally, there was an economic leverage to extricate the unique Malécite community from its financial difficulties.

On the first year of its operations, the Malécite Council chose to go slowly about it by fishing in zone #12, near Iles de la Madeleine, where conflicts were less apparent. «*It served no purpose to impose oneself to the other fishermen. It was our wish to be accepted respectfully by the other groups of fishermen, because*

*it is a tough world*» stated Ms Brière. On the second year, the Band Council acquired a second fishing boat and obtained a new fishing zone near Rimouski: Zone 17.

Today, Diane Brière is proud to say that the accomplishment of purchasing two crab boats and two shrimp boats was a team work. In fact, they have started a second fish farm business: **Nordik Aquaculture**. This new business, put in operation by fifteen financial partners or so of the Gaspé area, will allow an increased distribution of services by the Band Council to its members. «*Ever since the beginning of fishing, on each and every year, we exchange shrimps and crabs against different species of fish. Once packing is entirely completed, we distribute fresh fish and seafood to all the Malecite members of our community scattered throughout the province and wishing to receive some* », explained Ms Brière. «*It is their resources, it should be returned to them somehow!*».



## Evaluation of Community Economic Development Program



On November 19 2002, at the FNQLEDC annual general Assembly, representatives from *Groupe Éconov Développement Inc.*, a consulting firm contracted by the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada for the evaluation of the Community Economic Development Program, presented their work plan.

In an effort to answer the needs of community economic development officers and representatives (CEDO) of Quebec Native communities, *Groupe Éconov* brought some modifications to its work plan. Therefore, a questionnaire including 32 questions under four different themes was forwarded by mail to all CEDOs across Quebec and Labrador. This confidential document was to be returned to the secretariate of the FNQLEDC at the latest December

20<sup>th</sup> 2002 otherwise it would not be consider in the evaluation.

In spite of the low rate of participation, (seven questionnaires out of a possibility of 45 were received), the next steps will unfold all the same throughout the winter of 2003. Officials from Department of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada, -Quebec Region- will be interviewed, along with representatives of different Nations. A report on the program service delivery will be drawn up.

Further to answers gathered through the questionnaires, two typical profiles of economic development officers will be developed in order to proceed to a selection of individuals and eventually conduct on-the-field meetings with four community development organizations.

There is also a possibility of organizing focus groups either in Montreal or in Quebec.

According to Mr. Dal Brodhead of *Groupe Éconov*, all those procedures are requisite steps to conduct a proper evaluation of the CEDP. In fact, it is a matter of defining what works well and not that well for each community in the implementation of this program.

Answers from all concerned and their participation to the consultation process will allow Mr. Broadhead's team to make recommendations to the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs in March 2003 for the improvement of the CEDP. These modifications will be applicable only in 2005.



## Training : Are you registered?



Are you ready for the preparatory training session? This long awaited day has finally come for the community economic development officers and representatives (CEDO). It will be held on **February 19, 2003** at the **Holiday Inn Select** in **Montreal**. If you are an officer or representative wishing to register, please feel free to contact Lorraine Rhéaume or Caroline Nepton Hotte at the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador Economic Development Commission, in the best possible delays at (418) 842-5020. The necessary documentation and information will be forwarded to you with pleasure so that you can participate to this session, at low costs and learn a little bit more about the career you have been practicing in the Native and Inuit environment.

The FNQLEDC has transmitted by fax and by e-mail the necessary information to all CEDOs. Amongst other things, a mini-survey elaborated by the National School of Public Administration (ENAP) and a registration form were sent. If you have not received these documents and you are a community economic development officer, please do not hesitate to call us. This very simple mini-survey must be returned to the FNQLEDC office, **no later than January 24, 2003**. All it takes is 15 minutes to complete it.

Also, on **February 20, 2003**, a special and regional training will be offered free of charge, to everyone interested. Participants will hear about the **Wage Parity Training**. All Commissions under the First Nations of Quebec and Labrador and the First Nations Education Council are currently in the process of informing their respective members on this matter. Please do not hesitate to communicate with either one of these two organizations to register.

First Nations of Quebec  
and Labrador Economic  
Development  
Commission

250, place Michel Laveau,  
suite 202  
Wendake (QC) G0A 4V0  
Canada

TELEPHONE  
418- 842-5020

FAX  
418-842-2660

Email  
[cnepton@apnql-afnql.com](mailto:cnepton@apnql-afnql.com)

This newsletter is published  
four times a year by the  
FNQLEDC.

*No part of this document can be  
distributed without the written  
permission of the FNQLEDC.*



## Upcoming Events



**January 21 to 23, 2003**  
First Annual Conference  
and Health Fair of  
National Aboriginal  
Health Organization  
(NAHO)

«Health – Get with it»  
Ottawa Congress Center,  
Ontario  
Carolyn Hunter,  
conference coordinator  
Tel.: (819) 779-4610,  
ext. 14  
[www.naho.ca](http://www.naho.ca)

**January 24 to 26, 2003**  
Workshop on Indigenous  
Rights  
Aimed at youngsters  
between ages 17 and 30  
Montreal.

For more information,  
visit the following web  
site:  
[www.cssspnql.com](http://www.cssspnql.com)

**January 27 to 29, 2003**  
Conference on Indigenous  
Peoples leadership  
Shaw Conference Center,  
Edmonton, Alberta

**February 4, 5 and 6,  
2003**  
2003 Entrepreneurship  
Symposium  
- Role of schools in the  
apprenticeship of  
entrepreneurial values  
- Role of economic  
development agencies in  
the improvement of  
entrepreneurial training  
- Innovation Fair, etc.  
Hilton Bonaventure,  
Montreal  
[Fondationntrepreneurship.  
qc.ca](http://Fondationntrepreneurship.qc.ca)  
Tel. (418) 646-1994

**February 19 and 20,  
2003**  
Forestry Research Forum

Theme : Visions to share,  
resources in legacy  
Quebec Congress Center,  
Quebec  
[Carrefourrn.gouv.qc.ca](http://Carrefourrn.gouv.qc.ca)  
Tel.: 1-866-299-2003  
Quebec Natural Resources

**February 19 and 20 2003**  
National Business Summit  
Carried out by the Ontario  
Native Affairs Secretariate  
and  
The Department of Indian  
and Northern Affairs  
Canada,  
Toronto, Ontario

**February 19, 2003**  
Prep-training session  
Carried out by the First  
Nations of Quebec and  
Labrador  
Economic Development  
Commission (FNQLEDC)  
Holiday Inn Select Hotel  
Montreal (Quebec)  
Information:  
(418) 842-5020  
[cnepton@apnql-afnql.com](mailto:cnepton@apnql-afnql.com)

**February 20, 2003**  
Information session on  
wage parity in native  
environment  
Carried out by the First  
Nations Education  
Council (FNEC)  
Holiday Inn Select Hotel  
Montreal (Quebec)  
Information:  
(418) 842-5020  
[lrheaume@apnql-  
afnql.com](mailto:lrheaume@apnql-afnql.com)

**February 28 and  
March 1 and 2, 2003**  
Business World Fair  
Fair aimed at assisting  
Quebec's SMEs  
In their business strategies  
and at favoring  
Local and regional

development  
Place Bonaventure,  
Montreal  
Contact: Marc Baudard  
[Mbaudardartin-intl.com](http://Mbaudardartin-intl.com)  
Tel.: (514) 288-3931  
Information:  
Claire Tremblay  
[tremblac@acq.org](mailto:tremblac@acq.org)  
Tel.: (514) 354-0609  
ext. 237

**March 8, 2003**  
Conference-luncheon  
Le capital de risque en  
2003  
Pierre Brunet, Senior  
Vice-President Executive  
– Investment,  
Desjardins Investment  
12: 00 to 2:00 –  
Meal included  
Holiday Inn Select  
(395, de la Couronne,  
St-Laurent room), Quebec  
Contact: Ruth Sanssoucy  
[rsanssou@crim.ca](mailto:rsanssou@crim.ca)  
Telephone:  
(418) 648-8080

**March 28, 2003**  
«Teenagers and the  
Internet» Conference  
Hilton Quebec (Room  
Porte Saint-Louis),  
Quebec  
Contact :  
Mélanie Normand  
[Mélanie.normand@cefrio.  
qc.ca](mailto:Mélanie.normand@cefrio.qc.ca)  
Tel. : (418) 523-3746  
**CEFRIO**  
Pour information :  
Claire Tremblay  
[tremblac@acq.org](mailto:tremblac@acq.org)  
Tél. : (514) 354-0609  
poste 237

